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Friday, November 15, 2024

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# KHS Athletics honored with Michaels Cup



Courtesy

Members of the KHS VALT Program were on hand to receive the Michaels Cup for only the second time in school history during a ceremony in October.

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School was one of 28 schools honored with the Michaels Cup by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference in

October acknowledging the district's commitment to sportsmanship both on and off the field.

The honor was presented during the CIAC Sportsmanship Conference on Oct. 7 with 20 athletes from Killingly High Schools Varsity Athletic Leadership Team (VALT) Program on hand for the ceremony. Killingly was the only school in the Quiet Corner recognized with the Michaels Cup. KHS Athletic Director Jim Lackner celebrated the achievement with the Board of Education later that

month where he explained the significance of the award.

"It's about schools and their athletic programs promoting sportsmanship amongst their coaches, their players their fans, and their communities as a whole. The other part of it is doing things for the community — It's the first one we've received since 2016 and the second one in the school's history, so the kids are certainly proud of that," said Lackner.

A big part of earning the honor was credited to the VALT Program, a stu-

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## Charter Oak's grant kicks off funding for 2025 campers at Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp

POMFRET — We are very excited to report that we have just received a \$3,000 grant from the Charter Oak's Community Giving Grants Program to kick off our campership fundraising efforts for the 2025 camp season. These funds allow us to provide tuition support for qualified applicants to have a camp experience next summer who couldn't attend without it.

A week of summer camp can be a life changing event in a child's life, emotionally, developmentally and physically. The unplugged outdoor focused camp program at W-T 4-H Camp in Pomfret offers our "tied to technology youth" a connection to nature and a social experience that can really change their lives.

The next fundraising event to raise additional money for our Jim Logee Campership Fund for awards next summer is our annual Lunch with Santa event on Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at camp. Have lunch upstairs in the lodge or just come for a photo with Santa and avoid the lines at the mall. We offer a made to order Pasta Bar, salad, drinks and desserts (gluten free pasta available). Join us in making holiday crafts, cookies, S'mores and more and shop our selection of silent auction and raffle items. Tickets available ahead of time by calling 974-3379, email registrar@4hcampct.org or at the door. No reservations necessary. \$10 for children up to age eight, \$14 for those nine and older for lunch, 5 x 7 photo with Santa \$8.

Thank you, Charter Oak, for your support!

## Fire Department collects food for TEEG



Jason Bleau

Members of the East Thompson Fire Department and Thompson Fire Engine Company (Thompson Hill) came together for a food drive to benefit TEEG on Nov. 2.

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — For the third year, the East Thompson Fire Department and Thompson Fire Engine Company, also known as Thompson Hill, held a food drive on Nov. 2 to benefit TEEG during one of the agency's busiest seasons, Thanksgiving.

The two departments have made it a tradition in the 2020s to come together for a united cause to help the non-profit which serves the towns of Thompson, Pomfret and Woodstock through a variety of services including food security initiatives. One of TEEG's biggest annual events is their Thanksgiving distribution making November one of the most in-demand months for donations of food. Both East Thompson and Thompson Hill took it upon themselves to set up a donation station on the town green in hopes of alleviating some of those needs and helping TEEG prepare for the big day.

Kristal Simon, Assistant Chief at East Thompson Fire Department, said the day offers firefighters the chance to continue their mission of helping their community, but through something more positive rather than responding to an incident.

"Our goal is to try to fight hunger and make things a little easier for our community this holiday season. We see people on their worst days, so when we can see them on their good days, have regular conversations, share a few smiles and laughter, I think that goes a long way and warms the heart. I think the guys and girls at the departments really look forward to it," said Simon.

Thompson Hill Fire Chief Matt Grauer agreed, noting that many of their members look forward to the drive each year.

"The departments are here to help the community as it is, but it's obviously a very specialty thing we provide so this is an opportunity to provide something different to the community in need at a special time," Grauer said. "It's an important opportunity for us because fire departments usually only show up at your worst time so at this event, we actually get to see people at good times, and they get to see us out of uniform. It really gives us a boost."

The food drive was scheduled strategically to take place on the same weekend as the annual flea market and swap meet at Thompson Speedway when the center of town sees some of the most traffic of the year. Exact totals of food and financial donations collected throughout the day were not available for this story.

Those in Thompson, Pomfret and Woodstock in need of food security services or Thanksgiving meal assistance can reach out to TEEG at 860-923-3458.

## Quiet Corner incumbents see success on Election Day

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — The 2024 election is in the books with voters in the Quiet Corner showing significant support for incumbent candidates, especially those from the Republican Party, while the state as a whole remained a Democrat stronghold.

Connecticut overwhelmingly supported Vice President Kamala Harris in the national election although her opponent Donald Trump eventually won his second term in the nation's highest office, only the second president after Grover Cleveland to earn the seat in non-consecutive terms. Democrats were successful in maintaining their presence in Congress, albeit with little help from the Quiet Corner which voted predominantly Republican in most races.

Senator Chris Murphy maintained his seat after a challenge by Republican Matthew Corey. The rematch from 2018 saw Murphy easily retain his seat although Corey found a lot of support from Quiet Corner towns earning wins in Brooklyn, Eastford, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, Woodstock with Pomfret being Murphy's only victory in the region. Congressman Joe Courtney easily fended off Republican challenger Mike France for another term and was a little more successful than his Senate counterpart in the region earning wins in Pomfret, Putnam and Woodstock while France carried Brooklyn, Eastford, Killingly, and Thompson.

In the races for state Senate, the battle for the 29th District remained in question as of this story with Republican challenger Chris Reddy refusing to concede to incumbent Democrat Mae Flexer who declared her win the day after Election Day. Republicans sought to flip the seat for the first time since the '70s, and while Reddy lead through much of Election Night, Flexer made up the difference as final tallies were reported the next day. While Reddy won the most towns taking Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Putnam, Scotland, and Thompson, Flexer dominated in Mansfield and Windham, two of the largest voting bases in the district, and earned a victory in Pomfret. Reports from the Secretary of State indicated Flexer won the seat by 591 votes. Reddy has publicly refused to concede the race calling on the state to investigate what he considered "red flags" concerning over a thousand same-day election registration ballot potentially being filed improperly. He asked the Secretary of State not to certify the race until his concerns were investigated showing a willingness to accept the results only after those answers are provided. Regardless, as of this writing Flexer was considered the winner pending any further investigation. The other local race for State Senate was in the 35th District, with incumbent Jeff Gordon defeating Democratic newcomer Merry Gerrett who carried Eastford and Vernon while Gordon won every other town including Thompson and Woodstock.

Republicans saw great success in local State Representative races with one of the most watched being the 51st District

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## Early deadlines for Thanksgiving

The offices of Villager Newspapers will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

To ensure that our Nov. 29 editions arrive in subscribers' mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Friday, Nov. 22 at 4 p.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at [brendan@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:brendan@villagernewspapers.com).



# Thanksgiving in 1960

Note: The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society will be closed the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 27. It will be open as usual from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!



**KILLINGLY AT 300**  
MARGARET WEAVER

Killingly Grange Holiday Bazaar & Clam Cakes and Chowder: Killingly Grange #112, located at 801 Hartford Turnpike, will have a Holiday Bazaar, Saturday, November 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Crafts and more. Tables are \$20 each. For additional information call Charlotte at 860-377-1391. Beginning at 5 p.m., come for the clam cakes and chowder event.

The next Grange Bluegrass show will be Saturday, November 23. Doors

open at 6 p.m. Show starts at 7 p.m. featuring Sperry Creek along with Nick Anderson and Shady Creek. Donation \$15. Food and beverages will be available from the Grange.

I was again browsing through one of the notebooks of tidbits at the Killingly Historical Center. This one had copies of articles from 1905 through 1976 and included birth notices, engagements and weddings, obituaries and more. I came across a 1972 obituary/article on a local author whom I had not known about, but then I did not grow up in Northeastern Connecticut. Perhaps his name rings a bell. Patrick Meade, of Woodstock, was the author of hunting books in addition to being the owner of Eastfield Farms where he raised Guernsey cattle. "He had also been a host and lecturer at Old Sturbridge

Village since 1966. "Mr. Meade was born in Herts, Ireland in 1894. "He was a member of England's Criminal and Political Intelligence in the Singapore Straits Settlements from 1920 to 1928. He joined the U.S. Office of Strategic Services during World War II, and served in China, Burma and Malaya." He died at Day Kimball Hospital. (Windham County Transcript July 16, 1972, Tidbits Notebook).

I decided to see how local residents were celebrating Thanksgiving and picked 1960, so once again turned to the online editions of the Windham County Transcript, which can be found at the Killingly Public Library Web site (killinglypl.org). One of the first articles that struck my eye in the Nov. 17, 1960 Transcript was the following, "Church Council Thanksgiving Service Planned. The annual Thanksgiving service of the Danielson Council of Churches is to be held this year on Wednesday evening, Nov. 23, at 8 o'clock in the Federated Church of Christ in Brooklyn. The Rev. Charles E. Ihloff is the pastor of this church. The congregation of Beth Israel Temple of Danielson is expected to attend, and a leader from this group is expected to have a part in the service. Last year, the Thanksgiving service was held in Beth Israel Temple in Danielson and the attendance was so large that standing room only was available to some of the people attending the service. The service is open to anyone who desires to attend, but people are advised to come early so they may be sure of a seat." (WCT Nov. 17, 1960, p.1).

This event hits close to home since I am the secretary for the present Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council. The Federated Church and Temple Beth Israel Preservation Society will again have a joint Thanksgiving service this year. It will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at the Federated Church in Brooklyn. All are welcome! Please bring a non-perishable item to be donated to the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry.

If that event is not on your schedule, consider making a donation to the Friends of Assisi or other local food pantry this Thanksgiving season. It will be greatly appreciated.

If you grew up in Killingly and attended Killingly High School, you were probably looking forward to the annual Thanksgiving Day football game against longtime rival Putnam. In 1960, the game was scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at Alumni Field. (For those of you who are new to the area or are too young to recall, the Westfield Avenue High School with its football field had not yet opened).

I continued reading articles on the front page

of the November 17th, 1960 Transcript. Nov. 17, 1960 marked a milestone on Main Street with the ribbon cutting for the new Danielson Federal Savings and Loan building (now Key Bank). Attorney T. Emmet Claire served as master of ceremonies and spoke briefly to the approximately 150 people who gathered for the ceremony.

Like this year, 1960 was a presidential election year. The November 17th Transcript announced, "Kennedy Victory To Be Celebrated By Motorcade. A victorious torchlight motorcade, sponsored by enthusiastic Democrats from the towns of Killingly and Brooklyn, will be held tonight, to celebrate the history-making election of U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy as President of the United States of America. There will be two points of assembly, one in Rogers at 7 p.m. for those living in the Rogers, Dayville, Attawaugan, and Ballouville area and the other at Davis Park at 7:20 p.m. for those of the Danielson and Brooklyn area. Following the tour of the towns, the motorcade will disassemble at the Ballouville church hall where refreshments will be served for all those participating. Everyone--Democrats, Independents, and Republicans are cordially invited to join the motorcade."

1960 was before the days of regular recycling. Perhaps you saved your papers for a local paper drive. "The Knights of Columbus St. James Council No. 2882 of Danielson, will stage a paper drive this Saturday, November 19. Co-chairmen of the drive, Ken Cutler and Leo Poirier have stated that anyone with papers or cardboard to donate to the drive may deliver them to the K. of C. home on Broad Street or they may call Prescott4-9575 anytime after 9 a.m. Saturday to have their scrap paper picked up. All Knights who are available on Saturday the 19th by reporting to the K. of C. home by 9 o'clock." (Did you notice that the phone number still had Prescott?)

What do you recall about the fall of 1960? Please share your memories by emailing me or sending a letter to the Killingly Historical Center.

Margaret M. Weaver  
Killingly Municipal

Historian, November 2024. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

## KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

### Nov. 18 – Nov. 23

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS** (agendas and minutes at [www.killingly.org](http://www.killingly.org))  
Monday the 18th  
Vitis/Windham Energy Center Public Meeting (Killingly High School Auditorium) 7 p.m.  
Tuesday the 19th  
Housing Authority Meeting (Maple Courts II) 7 p.m.  
Wednesday the 20th  
Planning & Zoning Commission Workshop (Killingly Public Library Community Room) 7 p.m.  
Conservation Commission Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

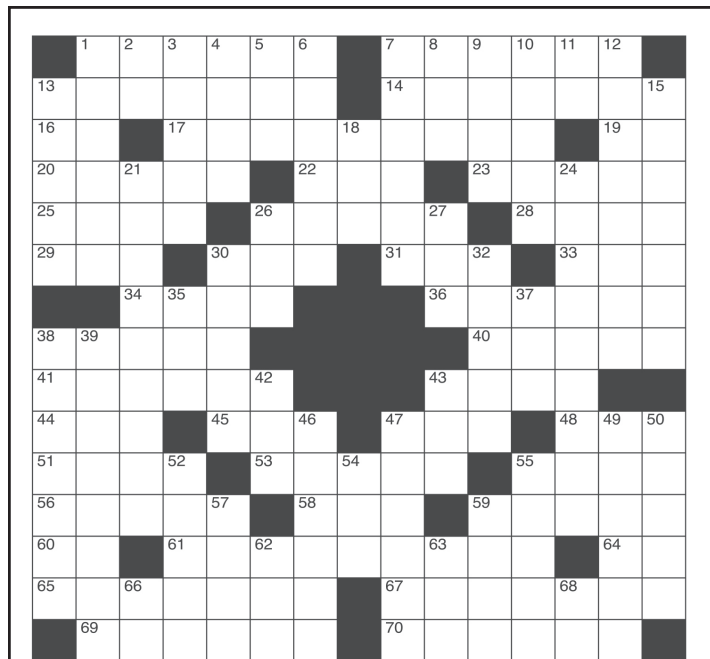
**COMMUNITY EVENTS**  
Monday the 18th  
An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day  
KPL Lit Talks (Library) All Day  
Wonderful Ones and Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
Homeschool Club (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon  
Monday Mystery Matinee (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.  
"Tree of Life" Rededication Ceremony (Davis Park – Killingly) 5 p.m.

Tuesday the 19th  
Teen Program Totes (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day  
Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
Chubby Chats (Ages 18 and up) (Chubby Dog Coffee) 10 to 11 a.m.  
Wednesday the 20th  
Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.  
Little Listeners (Ages two to five) (Library) 11 to 11:45 a.m.  
Adult Coloring & Greeting Cards (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.  
Let's Get Crafting (Ages 13-17) (Library) 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Virtual Author Talk: Mona Susan Power (Library) 7 p.m.  
Saturday the 23rd  
Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

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

Let's Get Moving November – Nov. 5 through Nov. 26 (Tuesdays) (Killingly Community Center)  
Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing – Nov. 18 through Dec. 2 (Mondays) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Relaxation and Guided Meditation – Session 2 – Nov. 5 through Dec. 17 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center)  
Virtual High Five 2024 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)  
Thursday Yoga with Mary – Nov. 7 through Dec. 26 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Getting in Line Beginner Line Dancing – Session 2 – Nov. 6 through Dec. 18 – Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Baseball Hit Club – Dec. 1 through Jan. 19 – Sundays (Killingly Community Center)  
Softball Winter Clinic – Dec. 1 through Jan. 19 – Sundays (Killingly Community Center)  
Senior Christmas Celebration – Monday, Dec. 16 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!  
For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at [www.killingly.org](http://www.killingly.org).

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Schoolhouse tool
- 7. Martens
- 13. Slags
- 14. One who scrapes
- 16. Centiliter
- 17. White wine
- 19. Of I
- 20. Former Syracuse great Warrick
- 22. Relating to the ear
- 23. Sandwich shops
- 25. Victories
- 26. White (French)
- 28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 29. Genus of parrots
- 30. Unhappy
- 31. Talk incessantly
- 33. Type of Squad
- 34. Unit of perceived loudness
- 36. Violent seizure of property
- 38. Agave
- 40. Sound units
- 41. Removes from record
- 43. Partner to Mama
- 44. Mythological bird
- 45. Dash
- 47. Hair product
- 48. Two-year-old sheep
- 51. Signs a deal
- 53. Conifer
- 55. Autonomous republic in NW Russia
- 56. Wife of Muhammed
- 58. British Air Aces
- 59. Ears or ear-like appendages
- 60. Not caps
- 61. Deep-bodied sea dweller
- 64. Rural delivery
- 65. Feeling
- 67. Study of relations of organisms to one another
- 69. Room to argue
- 70. Question

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Cream puff
- 2. Road open
- 3. Stressed syllable
- 4. Thailand's former name
- 5. Cologne
- 6. Recounted
- 7. Garment of cloth
- 8. Airborne (abbr.)
- 9. Reproduced
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 12. Smallest interval in Western music
- 13. Unstressed central vowel
- 15. Lives in
- 18. When you expect to get somewhere
- 21. Storage bags
- 24. One who covers with plastic
- 26. Cast out
- 27. Automobile
- 30. Repaired shoe
- 32. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 35. Possesses
- 37. Soda
- 38. Programs
- 39. In an unexpected way
- 42. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- 43. For each
- 46. Unbelief
- 47. Seized or impaled
- 49. Arrive on the scene
- 50. Especially happy
- 52. Classic western film
- 54. Split pulses
- 55. Frida \_\_\_: Painter
- 57. Start again
- 59. Employee stock ownership plan
- 62. Young women's association
- 63. Frozen water
- 66. "The First State"
- 68. Computers need one

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

E	R	A	S	E	R	S	A	B	L	E	S		
S	C	O	R	I	A	E	A	B	R	A	D	E	R
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**VILLAGER ALMANAC**  
*AT CT AUDUBON*

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Nov. 4: Saw-whet owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Harrier, Carolina Wren, Bluebird, Robin, Red-tailed Hawk, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Purple Finch, House Finch, Junco, White-throated Sparrow. Visit [ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home](http://ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home).

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# President Trump 2.0 and the markets

After a contentious campaign season, President-elect Donald Trump will become the 47th president of the United States. While some congressional election results are still trickling in, it's pretty clear that he will have a lot of latitude to govern given the Republicans have won control of the Senate and they may also have a majority—or close to a majority—in the House of Representatives.



**FINANCIAL FOCUS**  
LAURENCE HALE  
INVESTMENT ADVISER

Those who are disappointed by the election's outcome may be cheered to learn that stock markets have historically risen under both Democrats and Republicans during election years. Markets also love certainty, and now that the elections are over, we have a better understanding of the direction of economic, trade, and tax policy. Indeed, the Dow Jones Industrial Average soared 3.6%, or more than 1,500 points, on Wednesday.

Among the policies Trump floated while campaigning extending the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, increasing tariffs, and reducing corporate taxes could have an outsized effect on certain industries. Here's a look at what the future might hold during Trump's second time in the Oval Office.

### Prepare for tariffs.

President-elect Trump has been very vocal about his desire to impose tariffs of 10 to 20 percent on all goods manufactured overseas and imported into the US. He's also floated the idea of 60 percent tariffs on goods produced in China and 100 percent tariffs on goods produced in Mexico.

Domestically-produced steel, semiconductors and automobiles are among the products that could have a pricing advantage if competitors' foreign-produced goods face tariffs. The S&P 500 Steel industry stock price index rose 15.2 percent on Wednesday in the wake of the election. Conversely, US com-

panies that sell many of their products internationally, like Apple and Procter & Gamble, could come under pressure if foreign countries enact retaliatory tariffs on American exports. The S&P 500 Household Products industry's stock price index, which includes P&G, fell 2.8 percent on Monday.

High interest rates return. If Trump follows through with tariffs, it is possible they will spark the return of inflation. Tariffs could be paid for by foreign manufacturers or those manufacturers could pass on the cost of the tariffs on to US consumers, sending prices higher. Inflation may also return if Trump follows through with his promises to cut many taxes and that causes the economy to accelerate too much.

Inflation typically results in higher interest rates. As Trump's odds of winning the White House improved the yield on the 10-year Treasury rose, hitting 4.43 percent on Monday, Nov. 4, up from 3.62 percent on Sept. 16. Higher interest rates could benefit financial institutions, like banks, which fund themselves using short-term debt and generate revenue by extending loans with long-term maturities. The S&P 500 Diversified Banks stock price index rose 10.5 percent on Wednesday.

Conversely, higher interest rates could hurt companies selling high-priced products that typically require debt financing in order for customers to afford the purchase. For example, buying or renovating a home could get more expensive if interest rates on home mortgages or home equity loans rise. The same would hold true for anyone funding a car purchase using an auto loan. On Wednesday, the S&P 500 Homebuilding stock price index dropped 3.4 percent.

Expect fewer regulations. President-elect Trump has been vocal

about reducing the red tape created in Washington, D.C. that prevents companies from expanding. He has also railed against the environmental regulations put in place by the Biden administration. Both Trump stances are expected to benefit the oil and gas industry. Conversely, "green industries," like those manufacturing solar panels or installing wind turbines, could face headwinds if tax benefits granted under Biden are halted under Trump. The iShares Global Clean Energy ETF fell 2.1 percent on Wednesday.

Tax cuts on the way. Trump would like to extend the tax cuts included in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Many of them are due to expire after 2025. Moreover, he'd like to lower the corporate tax rate to 15 percent, down from 21 percent, and he'd like to end taxes on Social Security benefits and tip income. Consumers who have money in their pockets tend to spend it. That could be good news for a wide variety of consumer stocks, like retailers and restaurants. The S&P 500 Retailing Industry Group index jumped 2.3 percent on Wednesday.

No matter what the future brings under the new Trump administration, our team is here to help you navigate any changes affecting your portfolio. Contact us to discuss how we can help position your portfolio to respond to changes in the tax law. Call (860) 928-2341 or book a complimentary consultation on our website at [www.whzwealth.com](http://www.whzwealth.com).

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## Abington Social Library hosts first community art show

POMFRET — From Nov. 13 to Jan. 8, the Abington Social Library will host its first annual Community Art Show featuring many of Northeast Connecticut's working artists. The art show, titled "Gallery 1793" will take place in the historic Abington Library, 536 Hampton Rd., Pomfret Center, next to the Abington Congregational Church on Route 97. Visitors are welcome during library hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 3-6 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m.-noon. The public is welcome to meet and greet the artists and Abington Social Library Board members at an opening reception with light refreshments on Wednesday, Nov. 20 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

"Gallery 1793" will showcase the work of artists from The Quiet Corner, featuring a variety of genres and mediums. The goals of the art show are to promote local artists, contribute to art awareness in the community, and raise funds to support the Abington Social Library. The small library nestled in historic Abington is a community gem providing a variety of programs, events, and services.

The title of the Gallery/Art Show draws its name from the rich history of the Abington Social Library which has played a key role in the rural village since it was established in 1793 by Reverend Walter Lyon. Many of the movers and shakers of Pomfret lived in Abington, which was a thriving village of farms, mills and businesses throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Besides several subscription libraries, they established schools within the southern bounds of Pomfret, one of the first church choirs, and an Anti-Slavery Society which was active in the 1840's.

The Abington Social Library is the oldest continuously operating library in the United States. The original library was kept in the house of Reverend Lyon and consisted of philosophical and theological

books. By 1804, the local Young Men's organization established the Junior Library of Abington which included popular literary works. The Junior Library was kept in the house of John Holbrook. Not to be outdone, the women of Abington established the Ladies Library of Abington in 1813. It was the first female library in the United States. Those books were kept in the house of Alethea Lord, who was the first female librarian and the granddaughter of Dr. Elisha Lord. In 1879, the three libraries merged to become the Abington Social Library which erected its building in the historic village in 1886.

More than a lending library, the Abington Social Library also provides educational opportunities and programs for all ages including a children's chess club, backgammon, several book clubs, and a film noir series. The Library has collaborated with The Last Green Valley and Pomfret Historical Society in providing walking tours and lectures. We are pleased to host the Gallery 1793 Community Art Show and to celebrate the thriving arts and artists in the not-so Quiet Corner of Northeast Connecticut.

For more information, visit: <https://theabingtonsociallibrary.org/>.

## Friends of Assisi announces Thanksgiving food drive

DANIELSON — Autumn in New England. How blessed we are with the beauty of the season, as the trees transform into a vibrant show of color.

Here at Friends of Assisi, we are busily preparing for our 34th Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. We sure hope you will join us again this year Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 24, noon to 4 p.m. at 77 Water St. (home of Friends of Assisi); and Monday, Nov. 25, 4-6 p.m. at St. James Gym

Wish List: Apples, broth, quick bread mixes, pie filling, canned yams, rolls, boxed potatoes, gravy, fresh squash, pickles and olives, monetary donations and grocery store cards.

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 EDITOR

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Be careful what you wish for

To the Editor:

Like many people today, I immediately checked the polls when I woke up this morning. I was shocked and saddened by the results. Until that moment, I had hoped and believed that the American people would come through and common sense would prevail.

I have never been more wrong. America is no longer the land that I knew. Instead of choosing hope and opportunity, we have chosen greed and hatred. In a land that once welcomed immigrants who became the backbone and strength of our nation, we now vilify and denigrate them. Where once we strove with other countries to make this world a freer and more democratic place to live, we will now turn our backs on the allies who relied on our support and strength. In spite of the catastrophic weather the world has experienced in recent years, we have voted in an individual who denies global warming exists. For the first time in my memory, the U.S. will no longer be viewed as a

world leader, but will be seen as a nation that will allow our world to deteriorate.

The women of this country have fought long and hard for the freedoms and rights we now enjoy. These freedoms are already being stripped from us. Our right to make a decision about our own bodies is becoming a thing of the past. Will our voting rights be next? If this is a precursor of things to come then the Black, Latino, Asian and LGBTQ communities should take this election as a warning.

As a nation, we may not have agreed on who should lead this country. There have been good, bad and indifferent people in the White House but never one who so clearly has no respect for the Constitution, the electorate or anyone who disagrees with his opinions.

I have never been so heartsick as I am today for the future of this country. I have only one last remark.

Be careful what you wish for.

JEAN MCNALLY  
WOODSTOCK

### Woodstock is proud of its 'rocks'

To the Editor:

Last Sunday, I attended a meeting held in the Fireside Room at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Woodstock. The anniversary has passed now, but the celebration continues. Three hundred and fifty years ago this past September, John Eliot would hold a prayer meeting with the area's peaceful Indians. He would later translate the Bible into the Indian tongue.

I want to publicly thank the church and Rev. Do Hoon Kim for a presentation that was informative, interesting and very timely. I left that meeting with a new appreciation of what the early people coming to Woodstock believed in and achieved.

I have often told people about Woodstock, its people and history, and sometimes, I would brag a bit when I would say Plymouth has one rock, and they are proud of it. Woodstock has two, and we are very proud of them – Eliot Rock and Pulpit Rock. All three date to the 17th century. Both Woodstock rocks are located a quarter mile apart from each other. Eliot Rock is on Old Hall Road, and Pulpit Rock is on Pulpit Rock Road, close to the Woodstock Green. Visit them and become inspired.

I thank both the Covenant Church and Rev. Kim.

EDWARD BRADLEY  
WOODSTOCK

### A lesson learned again

To the Editor:

We've learned this lesson once again on how hard it is to overcome stupidity, ignorance and greed.

STEPHEN ETZEL  
PUTNAM

### They'll see

To the Editor:

Congratulations, America, you have set democracy back to the days of George. Rejecting a qualified presidential candidate who exudes character, who is honest, decent, and with a lifetime of service. Instead, we get a twice impeached convicted felon, of whom the word character is totally alien. Bravo.

True Americans are still reeling from the unimaginable actually happening: tens of millions of little Trumps putting a fascist, a lover of Hitler, back into the White House. King Trump. As anointed by the equally corrupt Supreme Court. Well, done indeed.

The so-called experts in Monday morning quarterbacking say it was all about the economy. Then again, unless you are blessed with wealth, we are all in the same boat. The economy? How about a healthy dose of racism, sexism, and misogyny.

I'll bet Trump has been laughing at all of you, too. He must be saying to himself "Thanks for the get out of jail free card. Now I know there are more suckers above ground than in all those military cemeteries." He does not need you anymore, nor does he care about you at all.

After he saw how President Biden promised Trump a smooth transition of power (remember 2021?), author John Meacham had this to say: "What we want in a President is someone who is fluent in the vernacular of grace as well as power, and I think we're going to miss this". Think Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, and Joe Biden...and then there's Trump, who couldn't carry Joe Biden's jockstrap.

I have not cried in 18 years since the death of my mother. After this election, I cried for the death of democracy.

The very notion of another presidency of a man who commits treason against his country brings shame and disgrace to our once proud nation. The Roman Empire fell, now we witness the fall of America.

Lincoln said, "Nations do not die from invasions, they die from internal rotteness." This rot starts right at the top. America being represented on the world stage, once again, by an admirer of dictators! What a sick nation! I am proud to be one of the "enemy within."

Kamala reiterated we owe loyalty not to a president or a party, but to The Constitution. Trump says "Whoa, not so fast." You can bet he knew she was speaking directly to him. Kamala Harris, a true American. Trump couldn't carry her hosiery.

Once again, author Meacham said, "It's time for the Republicans to step up and show what they will do with their power." Sidesplitting! Those Congressional pussies will do whatever Trump tells them to do, right Mikey Johnson?

Winston Churchill was right on the money when he said "Countries get the government they deserve." And you're going to get it.

Are you enrolled in The Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare? Well, you better stay healthy. Trump has a "concept" of

## American love letters

The election is over, and the political signs are largely gone. For several days, I did not listen to the radio or watch television and skipped the newspapers that come



NANCY WEISS

to my iPad every morning. I wanted to take a breather from it all. I was surprised at the outcome, as I believed the presidential race would be close. In the days before, I did what I could which was to donate, vote and support my candidates.

My husband and I engaged in early voting, largely to see how it worked. We went mid-morning a week before Election Day and followed an orderly procedure in the quiet rooms at our Town Hall. Once, I enjoyed the bustle and passion of elections, but this year, it seemed all I wanted, and perhaps all most people desired, was to get it over with and plan how to move on. The results indicate that we are a divided people with each side firmly entrenched. There's nothing kind or mannerly in any of it, but our voting experience was notable for its propriety.

I've been reading an excellent biography of Katharine S. White, "The World She Edited" by Amy Reading. White was a founding presence at the New Yorker Magazine and the wife of writer, E.B. White. EB White is best known for his work, "Charlotte's Web", but he wrote a variety of remarkable books, magazine pieces and essays. When I want to read something succinct I turn to EB White, who was also a farmer, lover of dogs, words, and Maine. White wrote about America from 1928 until the late 1970's with deep affection and plenty of wit. Writer Peggy Noonan just penned a piece referencing him, too.

Here's a quote from "On Democracy" by EB White: "to hold America in one's thoughts is like holding a love letter in one's hand- it has so special a meaning."

As adults, we have been holding America in our thoughts these last months. We've been told what to think and how by the media, our family and even our friends as we discuss the biggest questions humans ever face.

We pontificate about people we don't know facing problems we've never confronted, but in talking we try to gain some understanding. As it happens, our conclusions seem to be divided beyond mending, but that can't be how it all ends.

White's analogy of thinking about America as similar to the feeling of holding a love letter is a dated image. Who among us has penned a love letter recently or received one? We communicate on-line in short sentences that are easy to send and like emotions, flit away into the ether.

Love letters, real love letters, are written by hand on soft paper, or scrawled on the back of a napkin while waiting at a train station or a café. They are penned from the heart, just like love of country and the feelings, not easily described, are genuine and enduring. My love of country is similar to others, but perhaps built on different ideas of relationships. I know that what I think is the truth and what someone else believes may now be as discordant as the moment when a friend described a lover whom I knew was a cheater.

We don't tie up our elections in blue ribbon and hide them in the back of the underwear drawer like love letters. Our elections are public, discussed and analyzed, but emotions are fierce and not easily disallowed. America has a special meaning to each of us, and it needs unique love more than ever.

RICK ROCHELEAU  
DANIELSON

# The power of local politics: Building strong communities from the ground up

In an age where national politics often takes center stage, it's easy to overlook the importance of local and state government. Yet, these levels of government have the most immediate impact on our daily lives. From the roads we drive on to the quality of our schools and local law enforcement policies, our state and local officials play a huge role in shaping our communities.

One of the greatest dangers in politics is voting based on loyalty over logic. If we vote against our own interests or blindly trust politicians, we're risking the very issues we care about. Accountability is key; even if you supported a candidate, it's essential to pay attention to their actions in office. Politicians are human, and power can sometimes lead to decisions that may not align with the interests of those they represent. Voting for someone is not the end of the process—it's the beginning of our responsibility to stay engaged.

Local and state politics offer real opportunities for grassroots organizing and meaningful change. Working together to make our communities better strengthens the country from the ground up. When we invest time and energy into making our neighborhoods safer, our schools better, and our support networks stronger, we're not just improving our immediate environment; we're creating a stronger, more resilient nation. And kindness should be at the heart of this process. Community building is as much about empathy and understanding as it is about policy.

But kindness doesn't mean complacency. It's important to be vigilant and to speak up when policies go astray, even if it's uncomfortable. Sometimes we don't want to criticize the politicians we voted for, but staying silent when we see something wrong is like cutting off our nose to spite our face. If we care about our communities, we must be willing to demand accountability from everyone, regardless of party or personal preferences.

In the end, focusing on local and state politics, holding our leaders accountable, and committing to kindness and grassroots efforts can create the change we want to see. Real change starts with us, with our neighborhoods, and with our willingness to stay involved in the issues that matter. Together, we can make our communities and, ultimately, our country a better place for all.

**Letter submission policy**

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

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Time to show your neighbors the respect they've shown you

To the Editor:  
I'd like to offer my respectful congratulations to the Trump supporters in Northeast Connecticut. I hope the President-elect helps us all and does well by the country. I also think now would be a particularly good time for our neighbor on Joy Road in Woodstock to take down the "[expletive] Biden" sign (and any

similar ones elsewhere), which scores of bus-riding school children, my 103 year old mother, and many others have had to endure for the past four years. Your freedom of speech has been duly respected, and it is now your turn to respect your neighbors' sense of decency.

JANE DOYLE  
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

### Thank you from Jeff Gordon

To the Editor:

The 2024 election is over, and we can return to normalcy without campaign ads, signs, mailers, etc. People voted and their voices were heard. Every vote counts and every voter matters. This election once again proves it.

I am honored and humbled by the strong support given to me by people throughout the 35th District to re-elect me as their State Senator. Thank you! I am excited for the opportunity to continue the work that I am doing.

During the campaign, I spoke about the issues important to everyone, regardless of politics or partisanship. As a State Senator, I continue to fight on many fronts. Making CT more affordable for hard-working people, families, and retirees, including leading the charge to address sky-high electricity bills, and having been actively involved in passing historic income tax cuts and expansion of tax exemptions for seniors. Abiding by the bipartisan, state budget fiscal guard rails that have kept Connecticut on an even keel financially and that helps pay down the huge debt and pension liabilities.

Supporting the job-creating small businesses in our communities. Supporting K-12 public education and public higher education. Making neighborhoods safer. Defending all our rights and medical freedoms. Protecting local decision-making about our towns in the hands of the people who live in the towns. Helping local health care and our hospitals, as well as taking on insurance companies so that they cover the care you need when you need it and making access to health care facilities better for those with disabilities.

There is a lot more to do. I will keep listening to you, learning from you, and working for you to get good things done (and to try to stop bad things from happening). I don't see our communities as a "red" or "blue" paradigm. It is about people - all people - and I remind myself of that every day. I have faith in you, and I have faith in Connecticut, that we can get it done together using common sense and toward a common purpose.

SEN. JEFF GORDON  
WOODSTOCK

### Takeaways from a Trump victory

To the Editor:

I spent part of election day at polling places in Thompson along with some friends, waving flags and showing our support for Donald Trump. Yes, I showed my face in public, and I was proud of myself. And in addition to meeting with Chris Reddy and Chris Stewart, I reported in and got some airtime on WRKO radio, and when I mentioned that I was with my friends "Tim and Doug," the show host joked and said, "I hope you weren't with Tim Walz and Doug Emhoff." Priceless!

There are so many things that happened as a result of the 2024 Presidential election that I could gloat about, but Trump winning the popular vote was the icing on the cake. As expected, Connecticut went for Harris, but then Donald Trump took the Towns of Brooklyn, Killingly (which includes Danielson), Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock, and that essentially meant that all the TDS, anti-Trumping that constantly came from the usual Villager letter writers in those towns accomplished what? And if you're wondering why the Democrats are fighting so hard against voter ID laws, consider this - Harris took only two states where voter ID is required. She took 12 states where no ID is required, and four where a non-photo ID is required. Also, she got like 75 percent of the vote from those who identify as non-binary/other. But in the least, the Democrats can say "hooray" about something.

As soon as Donald Trump was declared the winner, the river of tears and the meltdowns started, and I loved it! In addition to the finger-pointing and playing the blame game, the left's news media cheerleaders, the Democrats and their sore-loser talk show hosts, continued regurgitating the same old worn out, and now ineffective, gloom and doom scenario predictions of what - if only in their minds - the future will bring. And if these clowns can predict the future, how about they give me some winning lottery numbers? There was even talk on CNN and from some Democrats that instead of blaming everybody else, they

should be blaming themselves - and how's that for a slap in the face dose of "reality?"

Harris and crew ran a hollow campaign that was based on nothing more than repetitive fear-mongering, accusations being thrown at the voters and avoidance, and the American people who became sick and tired of being called names soundly rejected her, and I'd say it was them that decided who the real "threat to our democracy" was. In her concession speech, Harris mentioned that she will continue the "fight" and that was accepted, but when Donald Trump mentioned that word after being shot at, the hypocrite democrats labeled it as a call for violence. (Again, they have short memories.) And as she rides off into the sunset in total disgrace, I wonder where it is that Harris is going to fight from? I also wonder how a campaign that raised one billion dollars ended up being twenty million dollars in debt? Yup, there certainly is no "joy" or cackling anywhere in Harris-ville today.

In what can be described as a "watch what you wish for" scenario, Number 47 will go back to "firing fake executives," but this time, he'll be firing those who served under Joe Biden. And did I hear that Jack Smith woke up on Wednesday (Nov. 6) and quit before our new President got the opportunity to fire him? It also looks like the paper that these witch hunts were written on are now bound for the "trash heap of history." Donald Trump hasn't even taken office yet and he's already bringing prices down, and the proof was in a picture showing a 75 percent off clearance sale on Harris wearing apparel.

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

### Putin is smiling

To the Editor:

After what seemed like an eternity, November's presidential contest finally came to a conclusion. As the fat lady sang (or in this case, the portly man danced), President Trump won the contest decisively as a majority Americans asked him to return to the White House for a second try. For those rankled by Mr. Trump's increscent lies, his brash and narcissistic demeanor, his petty name calling, his veiled threats, his sexual misconducts, his attempt to subvert the last election, or the fact that he is a convicted felon, the disappointment was both visceral and painful. He won fair and square and perhaps the majority of voters do wish for a more autocratic leadership style. More likely, though, it is an indication of an insipient electorate that is easily manipulated by recursive mistruths as well as gushing a sense of entitlement. In reality, though, the economy was and is quite sound, illegal immigrants are not rampaging through our streets, there is no such thing as the Deep State, and Kamala Harris is not a demon sent by the devil to subvert us. It also can be argued that Russia's ability to influence us is quite easy.

Inflation was top on the list for many who were irked by a sudden rise in prices 2 years ago and blamed the current administration's policy. But inflation is dictated by global market forces for which the White House has very little say. People seem to forget the sudden loss of jobs and the shuttering of multiple businesses during Mr. Trump's last go around due to Covid 19. Supply chains dried up overnight. Toilet paper became precious commodity as stores shelves became bare. Left to its natural course the world would have devolved into a depression had it not been for both government assistance and a coalition of world central banks dropping interest rates to zero in order to reignite markets. The downside of course was a sudden expansion as Covid was tackled and the sudden infusion of cash led to a rapid financial rebound. As hiring exploded and demand rose, there was also a sudden increase in labor costs as companies vied for a shrinking labor pool. But although we all were exposed to bad sticker shock, prices have stabilized, central banks are now easing interest rates, job opportunities still abound, and real wage growth is outpacing inflation meaning on average we have more money to spend even with higher prices.

Right wing sources would have one believe that Americans are poor, and our quality of living is plummeting when in fact the GDP per capita for our poorest state, Mississippi is just shy of Germany and higher than the UK. Indeed, Germany's median income is lower than every US state. America is one of the richest country's in the world. And growing. As the Fed begins easing interest rates and as the record stock market is predicting, we are about to enter another period of job growth and economic expansion. Mr. Trump will be blessed once again in inheriting a robust economy. His plan to place tariffs on overseas products is both not called for and if instituted will cost American pocketbooks and jobs. A similar tactic was tried in the 1930s and contributed to the Great Depression. Consider if the prices a TJ Maxx and Walmart, were suddenly similar to those at an LL Bean. Or automobiles which although assembled in the US but using overseas parts suddenly cost 20 percent more. At the same time other countries would also raise tariffs on US products, stymying American companies. Trade wars are dangerous. Part of the reason for global prosperity this century has been open markets as consumers benefit from inexpensive products manufactured abroad.

In addition, in order to fill menial labor jobs, America has historically taken advantage of hardworking immigrants who are willing to put in the long hours to pass on the American dream to their children. Illegal immigrants are concerning but are by far neither gangsters nor welfare queens. They are the ones working in our hotels, our farms, and our factories. Is a path to legal citizenship more desirable? Of course. But this is Congress's job. It will be sad to see the new administration round up those who are working and paying taxes just as a matter of principle. A more prudent approach would be to allow those who are working to obtain green cards. To kick millions out seems cutting one's nose to spite one's face.

A more ominous narrative is Trump's willingness to abandon our military allies. The history of the Western World is one peppered with constant warfare as European kingdoms were in a perpetual state of conflict. This culminated in WWII, when then US stepped in and fundamentally altered the playing field. In creating NATO the greatest military alliance in the history of the world, it checked Russian aggression, which ultimately along with a liberal economic policy led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Millions in Eastern Europe were freed.

Mr. Trump's isolationist policies risk a new change in the balance of power. Make no mistake, Russian bots were active in social media breeding social unrest and magnifying crazy conspiracy theories. An America which withdraws both its military and economic power from the west is just the void Mr. Putin, a former KGB agent, trained well in propaganda, yearns for. And Trump is no match for his Soviet counterpart. If I were Putin, and had Mr. Trump sitting across the table from me, all I could see in my head is a video of him performing oral sex on a microphone in front of an adoring crowd. This is hard for many to swallow.

Finally, there is the existential threat of climate change. As this writer composes his letter, it is November and in the 70s outside. There is a way to convert fossil fuels to reusable energy. But America needs to take the lead. Mr Trump wants to drill his way toward lower energy prices. Pursuing wind and solar will attain the same goal but not at the expense of the environment. We will not get a second try.

For those who have who have lived through the last 50 years, we have seen a world at relative peace, unparalleled economic growth and wealth due to the type of America envisioned by Ronald Reagan. We now see dark times ahead as our fellow citizens want to revert to a more totalitarian country. One where we turn our backs on the world, trample descension, attack women's rights, and even attempt to enshrine a single religion as the National one.

I was in Russia during the 1970's. The water and air were foul. The grocery shelves were bare. The people in the street were looking over their shoulders with a glint of fear in their eyes. Alexander Dugin, one of Russia's elites, wrote on X (Mr. Musk's mouthpiece), "We have won...Globalists have lost their final combat." Should Trump's plan to pardon the Jan. 6 insurrectionists and to fire federal employees who he deems unloyal on Day One of his new Presidency come to pass, it will solidify a philosophy of placing personal gain above that of the national interest.

Somewhere in the depths of the Kremlin, Mr. Putin is grinning.

LEE WESLER  
WOODSTOCK

### Trump is President again!

To the Editor:

I was the first one laughing at our new President of the USA when he ran last time. Who was this guy? A successful, motivated, clever, funny and caring human being. Accomplished, wealthy and applauded by everyone he came in contact with...the media, New York City project proposals, loved by staff.

Diverse like us, despite his wealth, properties and connections, this American President worked without pay for a full-term as President and laid the framework to Make America Great Again! He achieved our collective goals with strength and integrity. Not only did he deserve another term, the American people appreciated and voted for another term with his leadership too! God bless the USA!

TAMI JO WYKES  
BROOKLYN

Additional Letters  
To The Editor, See  
Page A-8



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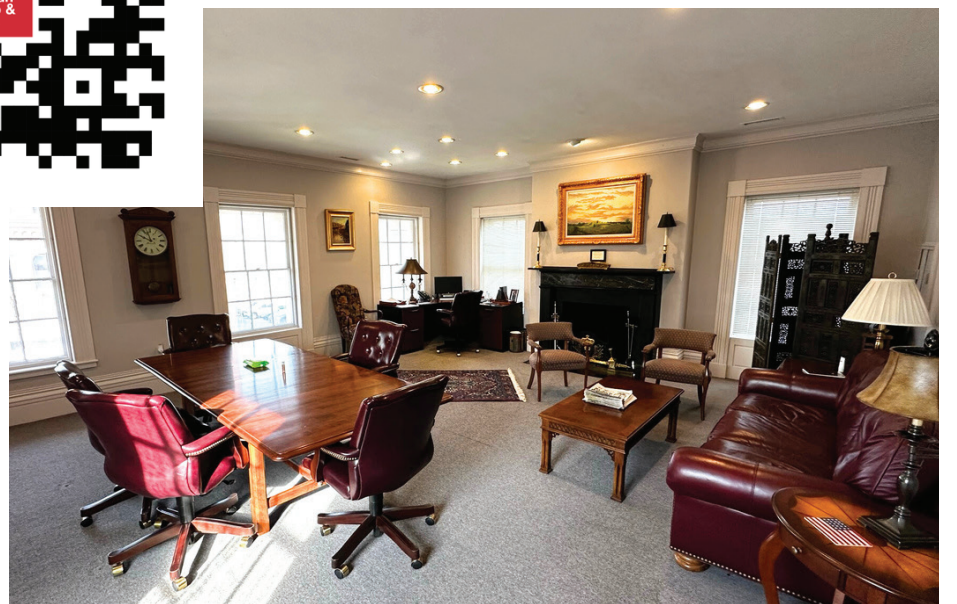


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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### It has never been more important to fight for the planet

To the Editor:

As of this day (Nov. 11), Gov. Lamont has increased our drought status to level two-of five possible levels. A ban on outdoor open flame burning is in effect, as I understand it, and two more firefighters in Massachusetts have been seriously injured fighting fires there.

This, following the tragic death of 66-year-old Robert Sharkevich earlier this fall as he responded to the Lamentation Mountain fire in Berlin, Conn. This fire consumed 127 acres, has lasted for over three weeks, and appears to finally be diminishing.

Over 100 brush fires have been reported in our state alone over this two-month-long drought period. And no rain yet today.

When I was growing up in South Killingly, we had a dug well, which often "went dry" during August. We took showers and borrowed water with the help of friends and family members. My dad, who could fix "anything except internal combustion engines" (his quote) dug an approximately 300 yard long trench from our well to a spring through the woods and down a big hill, ran plastic piping, surrounded the pipe with pine needles for insulation, and that took care of our water supply from then on. He somehow had a switch he could throw to change from the well to the spring water.

We were a large family, so my dad had help with this project! The trench was about six feet deep near our well, and thank the Lord, became more shallow about 50 yards into the woods. We had to line the deepest part with flat rocks, found around our property or donated by friends.

But the clearest memory I have of being part of this home improvement effort was gathering all those pine needles! Must have been millions of them. We loaded, by hand of course, my grandfather's dump body pick-up truck to the brim and haunted the South Killingly

woods of both our grandparents gathering pine needles. Weekend after weekend that was our entertainment and exercise, watching for snakes, spiders, and once running when my grandfather thought he heard a bear. (Whew, he was mistaken!). We then could ride on top of those pine needles (unheard of today, but just seemed like fun back then) in the back of the truck the short distance home to then load and spread them onto the pipe, filling the trench.

Finally, covering the trench ended our exciting adventure. Well, yes, I admit that was not how my sisters and I experienced it at the time. My dad would take us swimming or "pony back riding" to reward us for our hard work.

So, when/if wells and reservoirs start to go dry, if our Connecticut drought moves on to level three or four, how can we respond to those conditions? Inevitably, someone will figure out how to make tons of money over such misfortune. I hope we have in our futures the weeks of rain that are needed to replenish our parched forests, gardens and lawns.

Somehow, I don't think the solution my dad came up with will work for most of us this time. (Although, if you live near a spring...go for it!)

And we can thank Exxon-Mobil, Shell, BP, Citgo and other fossil fuel producing companies for helping create the conditions that have left us with a planet reaching record heat heights, year after year.

Can we please unite now to transition to renewable energy and stop fighting and finger-pointing about our plight? Oh, wait, just remembered that our new President-elect's promise is to "drill, baby, drill." It has never been more important to fight for the life of planet Earth. All non-violent ideas are welcome.

Respectfully,

CLAUDIA ALLEN  
THOMPSON

### A dark chapter begins

To the Editor:

Trump going back to the White House will start a dark chapter in our nation's history. For some reason, he stopped talking about how corrupt our elections are. I guess the system is only "rigged" when he doesn't win. Unlike the last election, you won't see a whiny sore loser orchestrate an attack on the Capitol, but what's headed our way could be much more ominous.

As a Vietnam veteran, it makes me sick to think of Trump as Commander in Chief of our armed forces. The way he has disparaged generations of veterans makes him unfit to be given that honor. And as someone who has witnessed authoritarian regimes in other countries firsthand, I'm very worried

about our country's future.

There's no mystery about who and what Donald Trump is. He's a lying, vengeful sociopath in a deteriorating mental state. The same people who questioned Joe Biden's competence have given this dangerous clown the most powerful job in the world. Millions of gullible Americans bought into Trump's BS and foolishly voted for him. All his supporters own the turmoil and chaos that's coming and deserve what they get as a result. The rest of us (especially our children and grandchildren) will have to suffer with the consequences of their bad decision in the voting booth.

TODD PATRIE  
POMFRET CENTER

### No, Chris Reddy, college students can, and should, vote

To the Editor:

Halloween was about two weeks ago, but Chris Reddy's mask didn't come off until after Election Day. Any semblance of a down-to Earth levelheaded individual has now gone away in a flurry of exclamation points and election denialism on social media, all seasoned with far too much hotheaded emotionalism. If losing to Mae Flexer by a few hundred votes gets him this worked up, I can't imagine how he'd handle Hartford.

At the core of all of this was college students voting in Mansfield, something I've now come to expect every time Mae Flexer runs for re-election. I don't know how many more times I'll get to see Republicans complain about UConn while not having a similar outreach to students there. I also don't know how many more times I'll see people imply that college students shouldn't vote who clearly have no idea how being a college student works.

College students can vote either where they're at or in their hometowns via absentee ballot, but not both. College is not like the military. There are no bases or desertion or applying for leaves in play. It's civilian life, and if you're not one of the spoiled party people trying to be a real-life Van Wilder and buy four more years of childhood it's the beginning of your life as a grownup. Civic duty should be part of that.

People are especially upset about Freshmen voting, but Freshmen will be the most affected by someone's term, speaking from experience. I was one of those Freshmen once who should have voted, but I was at Bryant instead of UConn. There were no vote buses available, and I had no idea where to even go to vote locally, nor how absentee ballots worked. I was one of many folks still getting used to college life who was scolded by one of my professors one morning because "that election you just missed is going to affect your entire college experience now."

I learned that lesson the hard way. I was a Computer Information Systems graduate out of Bryant's business program. Right after I graduated, pro-globalization policies sent many of the entry

### ELECTION

continued from page A1

being vacated by retiring Republican Rick Hayes. The seat will not only stay with the party, but also within the family as Hayes's son-in-law Chris Stewart won all three towns in the district, Killingly, Putnam, and Thompson, to defeat Democratic challenger Renee LaPalme Waldron. This turned out to be the only seat in the region to elect a new candidate

as three other contested State Representative battles were claimed by incumbent Republican. Anne Dauphinais earned her fifth term defeating Democratic challenger Samantha Derenthal in a landslide. Doug Dubitsky easily staved off a challenge by Democrat Aaron Spruance in the 47th District and the 52nd District will continue to be represented by Kurt Vail who defeated Democrat Ethan Westler. In the 50th District, Democrat Pat Boyd won

an uncontested reelection bid to maintain his seat in Hartford.

Statewide, Connecticut voters also decided on a ballot question that would permit the General Assembly to allow voting by absentee ballot for all registered voters through an amendment to the State Constitution. The measure easily passed, with more than 720,000 votes in favor compared to more than 551,000 votes against the amendment.

### KHS

continued from page A1

dent group comprised of athletes from different sports helping to promote positivity and continue Killingly High School's involvement in local community initiatives. The program is a rebrand of the Class Act group that Lackner said was an early priority when he was promoted to the position in 2023.

"I felt it was important to have representation from each of our sports. We currently have 22 members. The purpose of it is for the students to take ownership in the athletic experience. High School athletics is all about what we can do best for the kids so them having a say in their athletic experience is extremely important to me," said Lackner.

The group not only works to build pride around the athletic programs in KHS, but also spearheads initiatives to encourage proper sportsmanship among fans, athletes, and coaches alike. They also have a hand in

promoting those sports to get the public more involved in cheering on their local athletes and work to improve the overall experience through programs like special theme nights at games.

The group has also been involved in a number of community initiatives including participating in a can food drive for a local food pantry, Wreaths Across America, and Special Olympics Soccer.



The Michael Cup, presented to schools that put an emphasis on promoting sportsmanship in athletics, was presented to KHS for the first time since 2016.

## Managing anxiety in kids: Tools for a calmer childhood

Kids that have stress problems. Children that can't sleep. How can kids get stressed out? They only have to play and go to school, so what could cause them stress? Plenty, it seems.

Teachers and parents have reported stressed-out kids in record numbers. According to the CDC, 10 percent of children ages 3-17 have anxiety, 7 percent have behavior disorders, and 4% have depression. These conditions often occur together, with 37 percent of children with a mental health condition having two or more. Toxic stress can result from multiple factors, leading to changes in brain circuitry that negatively affect a child's physical and mental health. I would like to provide parents with tools to help children manage anxiety and build emotional strength.

Anxiety in children presents itself as a feeling of worry or fear that can cause problems in everyday life. A little anxiety is normal in certain situations, like rushing to get ready after getting up late for a school day or a new situation that a child has never encountered. Changes at home may cause stress like losing a family member, divorce, or moving to a new town.

You can see the signs of stress manifest themselves in several ways. Sleepless nights, headaches, stomachaches, and bad dreams can indicate an emotional strain. Kids and their parents may have a difficult time seeing that these negative symptoms are related to stress.

Healthy anxiety or anxiety disorder? Healthy anxiety may keep you safe. When kids encounter a new situation they may need time to get used to it. Healthy stress is staying away from the edge of a roof. We all have built in safety mechanisms that enable us to be cautious. As a person who studies the psychology of fear and building courage, I recommend a great book called "The Gift of Fear" by Gavin DeBecker which tells us our intuition should not be disregarded and very well might keep us safe.

The summer before seventh grade, my parents moved us to a new town where I was enrolled into seventh grade. Being at a new middle school can be scary enough, but being in a completely new environment, it was crazy stressful for me. I was mad at my parents, I had no friends and no bridge to my new neighborhood. I did not know one person in my new school and my anxiety was sky high. Most of the kids that arrived had known each other since kindergarten and I knew I would never fit in (but eventually I did!).

Bad stress. Addressing anxiety early helps in the development of emotional intelligence and teaches coping skills. There are 4 main types of anxiety disorders:

Separation Anxiety Disorder  
Social Anxiety Disorder

Selective Mutism (fear of speaking to certain people)  
Generalized Anxiety Disorder

Some events that trigger anxiety could be some of the following: going to school, going to other kids' houses for playdates, sleepovers, and falling asleep alone at night.

What can happen to kids when stress and anxiety become overwhelming? Several behavior disorders may surface, for example, withdrawal from certain

activities, emotional outbursts, and even wanting to skip school. It's up to parents to get to the root of what kicks off the stress. Seek out the triggers so you can address it head on.

Here are some great tools that may help reduce anxiety. There is no one single magic cure that will make it just disappear.

Connect with your kid. Make a comfortable judgment-free place for conversation and even share some of your own experiences as well. Make sure it is quiet, with no TV, and no electronic devices allowed. Use active listening skills like "When you say that (topic) it sounds like you are very upset about it". Help clarify the feelings and help the child know you empathize with them.

Breathing. When anxiety explodes in you, your breathing becomes short and fast, and your heart rate and blood pressure rise. A long, slow breath, inhaling through the nose and exhaling through the mouth is essential in bringing your heart rate lower and reducing stress and anxiety. In self-defense encounters for martial artists, the military and police rely on this breathing process to manage stress. Teaching your kids how to have an emotional time out is a great skill.

Visualization. Teach your kids how to visualize a positive outcome, not doom and gloom. Train your brain.

Routines equals predictability. Having routines makes us feel in control of our lives, keeping our minds more centered and peaceful.

Watch what you watch. There are so many acts of violence these days in TV, movies and video games that its easy to see children uneasy and uncomfortable.

Celebrate even small victories  
Give kids a chance to work through it. It's a journey not a destination. It's about baby steps. How many times would you let a toddler fail when it was trying to walk? It's the same here. In many cases anxiety can be manageable with these techniques.

P.S.: the book "The Anxious Generation" is highly recommended reading for parents due to its insights in rising levels of anxiety in today's kids.



LESSONS

FOR LIFE

MIKE BOGDANSKI

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# Holiday gift ideas for gardeners

It's time to begin tackling that gift list for the holidays. Consider gifting your favorite gardener something practical and attractive to enjoy for months and even years. No matter your budget, you can find the perfect gift to generate a smile immediately and throughout the garden season.

Stuff a stocking, pot, or decorative tin with small but essential items that are handy for any gardener. A can of twine that prevents tangling yet keeps it convenient is useful for securing plants, marking gardens, and much more. Include garden clips that secure plants, hold row covers in place, or serve as a third hand when tackling garden tasks. Every gardener needs a snip for deadheading and grooming flowers.

Encourage your gift recipient to stay healthy



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

when gardening. Gift a water bottle so they are more likely to stay hydrated. This is more important than ever with the increase in extreme summer temperatures. Consider gifts that protect eyes and skin from the sun's intense rays. Add a container of sunscreen or a wide-brimmed hat. Include a pair of tinted safety glasses that provide UV protection to help protect their eyes from dirt, pollen, sticks, and branches when gardening.

Keep them gardening longer with items that protect their joints and muscles. Protect knees

with kneelers or kneeling pads. The Burgon & Ball® Kneelo® Garden Kneelers and Kneeling Pads (coronatools.com) come in various colors that are easy to find in the garden or shed. Filled with a shock-absorbing foam sandwiched between two layers of memory foam, they will allow your gift recipient to garden longer. If they walk a lot in the garden, gifting kneepads with equally good cushioning and comfortable straps may be the better choice.

Encourage your gift recipient to protect and support their hands with gloves that fit, provide support, and are fashionable. Burgon & Ball® Love the Glove™ garden gloves come in various designs and more importantly, are durable and comfortable. The padded palm provides extra protection, and the two-way stretch keeps hands cool while improving dexterity. They are machine washable and don't get stiff after getting wet in the garden.

Add a hand pruner, a snip like the Burgon

& Ball® RHS® British Meadow Fruit & Flower Snip, and a weeding tool to the gloves and set them inside a small bucket to place near the front or back door. You'll save them time looking for tools and allow them to take advantage of small blocks of time to weed, deadhead, or pick a flower bouquet to enjoy.

You'll also find many options for the indoor gardeners on your list. Look for a quality houseplant pruner designed for isolating the leaf or stem to be removed. An attractive indoor plant mister from Burgon & Ball® is available in stainless steel, charcoal, or stone. It fits any décor and the spritz to their plants will wash off dust, discourage insect pests, and boost humidity.

And the gift of time is always welcome. Offer to help with garden cleanup, planting, or weeding. Together you'll create new memories while accomplishing items on their gardening to-do list.

Gifting items that last will remind the recipient of your friendship every time they put it



Photo

Courtesy - Burgon & Ball

Decorative kneelers, watering cans, and pruners are practical, must-have items for any gardener.

to work. And you'll be happy knowing you made it easier and more enjoyable for them to continue gardening.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"*

instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio* program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Corona Tools* for her expertise in writing this article. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## Phil Willis Fund Glow Golf Tournament raises more than \$25,000 to support student experiences at Woodstock Academy



WOODSTOCK — The first Phil Willis Fund Glow Golf Tournament, held on Oct. 18 at Roseland Park Golf Course, was a resounding success, raising more than \$25,000 to benefit the Phil Willis Fund for Student Experiences. The event drew community members together for an evening of friendly competition and fun, all in support of the fund, which enriches student experiences in athletics and Model United Nations programs.

Phil, a proud member of The Woodstock Academy's Class of 1977, was the dedicated parent of three WA alumni and a strong contributor to the school community. As a committed athletics coach and active member of The Woodstock Academy Foundation, he gave back to numerous programs that enriched his life and the lives of those in his family over the years.

Key sponsors of the tournament included Jason and Michele Woz, Bachand Longo & Higgins, Webco Chemical, Kent and Mary Weaver, and Bill and Kelly Bailey. Their generous contributions, along with the enthusiasm and support of all who participated, made this event especially impactful for students at The Woodstock Academy.

The Foundation extends its heartfelt thanks to Sarah Bentley and Stacey Willis for their dedication in establishing the Phil Willis Fund for Student Experiences, which will make a lasting impact by enriching the experiences of WA students.

The Phil Willis Fund remains open to additional donations, and contributions can be made online.

## Killingly Brooklyn Cheer teams shine in 2024 season finale

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Brooklyn recreational cheerleading season has wrapped up for 2024, capping a season of dedication and team spirit. Each squad recently competed in the Southern New England Youth Football Conference Competition, held on November 9 at Foxwoods, where they represented Killingly Brooklyn with pride.

The Minis squad celebrated a historic victory, securing first place—the first-ever championship title for the cheer league. Meanwhile, the Seniors team also excelled, earning third place in their division. Though the Micro and Junior squads did not place, they went head-to-head with some

of the region's toughest competitors, showcasing impressive effort and determination on the mat.

This year marked the first season for Jen Durand as Cheer Director, who also coached the Junior squad alongside Marcie Benjamin. Former director Kayla Mercado supported the league this season by assisting with the Senior squad and aiding Durand in her new role. The season's success reflects the dedication of the coaching staff, which includes: Mary-Beth Davis, Katie Nagle, and Annie Ferron for the Mini squad; Bre Meadows and Stephanie Bonner for the Micro squad; Jen Durand and Marcie Benjamin for

the Junior squad; and Melissa Burgess-Zadora, Avery Zanauskas, and Anna Garnsey for the Senior squad.

The 2024 season may be over, but the achievements and teamwork

displayed by these young athletes set a high standard for years to come. Registration for the 2025 season will open in the spring.

## 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.

## Tips to simplify your Thanksgiving dinner menu

Thanksgiving is a much anticipated and beloved holiday. Celebrated on the second Monday in October in Canada and the fourth Thursday of November in the United States, Thanksgiving in each country offers families and friends an opportunity to gather and break bread together.

Food is indeed a focus of Thanksgiving in both Canada and the United States, and that can be a little overwhelming if not intimidating for those tasked with hosting the celebration. Guests might come to expect certain Thanksgiving staples, including turkey and mashed potatoes. Such expectations can make it easier to plan a Thanksgiving menu, and sticking to Turkey Day standard bearers is not the only way to simplify meal planning on this beloved holiday.

- Accept help, but keep it limited. It's customary for loved ones invited to Thanksgiving celebrations to offer to bring a dish to dinner, and that can alleviate some of the work hosts are tasked with managing. However, hosts can keep things simple by asking only a small handful of guests to prepare a side dish. Once the quota is filled, politely decline any additional offers to bring food. It can be hard to find space on the table if too many guests bring dishes from home, and that can lead to hurt feelings if certain sides are ignored or left



on the kitchen counter due to a lack of real estate.

- Explain your desire to reduce food waste. Another way to simplify the meal is to avoid succumbing to the temptation to cook too much food. Guests may expect to go home with full bellies. Indeed, the Calorie Control Council notes that Americans consume between 3,000 and 4,500 calories during Thanksgiving celebrations. Such consumption is not only unhealthy for humans, but the planet as well. The U.S.-based nonprofit ReFED, which is devoted to stopping food waste, estimated that Americans would waste 312 million pounds of food on Thanksgiving

2023. Hosts who want to avoid cooking excessive amounts of food, much of which may eventually end up in the trash can, can simplify meal prep by cooking less and explaining to guests that they aspire to reduce food waste this Thanksgiving.

- Keep table settings simple. Unless you're planning to post photos of the family meal on Instagram this Thanksgiving, you can skip the more elaborate formal table settings in favor of a simple setup you might use on most nights when dining at home. Polishing the fancy silver and folding cloth napkins in a way that would impress a seasoned maître d' is a time-consuming task that can

complicate meal preparation. Keep it simple with less formal settings, which will allow guests to direct their focus to the task at hand: eating a delicious, homecooked holiday meal.

- Purchase a premade dessert. It might be tempting to try your hand at a homemade dessert, but it's far easier to purchase pies and ice cream from a local farmer's market in the days leading up to Thanksgiving. This approach ensures hosts have it a little easier once the main course has been served and consumed.

Hosting Thanksgiving dinner is no small task. However, hosts can take various steps to simplify Thanksgiving meal planning this year.



# OBITUARIES

## Joseph (J. Henry) Dauphinais



**DANIELSON** – The family of Joseph (J. Henry) Dauphinais, is saddened to announce his unexpected passing at age 82, on August 10, 2024. He was born in Killingly, CT on January 17, 1942, son of the late Alexander Dauphinais and Helen (Desjardin) Dauphinais.

J. Henry married Marilyn (Marcheterre) Dauphinais on October 7, 1961 at Our Lady of LaSalette Church in Brooklyn, and they shared their lives for 61 years, until her death in August 2022. He is also survived by his devoted children - his daughter, Karen Dauphinais of Meriden; Mark Dauphinais and his wife Jennifer (Page) Dauphinais of Brooklyn; and Craig Dauphinais and his wife, Karen Houle, of Danielson.

He was predeceased by his sister Claudette (Dauphinais) Disley in 2015, and his brothers Armand Dauphinais (2022) and Paul Dauphinais (2016). He is survived by sisters Irene Sanford Zabatta and Claire (Dauphinais) Lillie, both of Rhode Island, and his brothers Richard Dauphinais and Leo Dauphinais (Johanna) of Rhode Island, and Raymond Dauphinais and Albert Dauphinais (Maggie) of North Carolina, as well as numerous nieces

and nephews.

He is also survived by his grandchildren: Danielle (Dauphinais) Noonan and her husband Jeff Noonan, of Thompson; Braeden Dauphinais of Colorado; and Evan Dauphinais of Middletown. He also leaves his 6 year old great grandson, Jonathon Noonan, and 20-month old great granddaughter, Hailee Noonan.

Henry was a plumber and tradesman for many years, serving many regular customers who became friends. He belonged to the BPOE Lodge 1706, and looked forward to meeting his crew at the Elks Club on Fridays to share laughs and a couple cocktails. He loved flea marketing and had an affinity for clocks, as anyone who has been at the house knows by the number of clocks that adorn the walls!

J. Henry and Marilyn always had an open-door policy at their home, welcoming friends and family to "Home Base" for 54 years. It was a place of BBQs, pig roasts, birthday parties and holiday gatherings, and life will not be the same without the original hosts.

We invite you to raise a glass, enjoy good food, and share memories with friends and family in a Celebration of Life on Sunday, November 17th, from 1:00-4:00PM to be held at Black Dog Bar and Grille, 146 Park Rd, Putnam, CT. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Sylvia D. Bousquet

### 1930 - 2024



**Putnam** – Sylvia Bousquet, 94, formerly of 11 Maynard St., died Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at Manchester Manor Health Care. Born in Fiskdale, MA, she was the daughter of the late Eli Letendre and Florestine (LeClair) Letendre. She was the loving wife of the late Gerard W. Bousquet. They were united in marriage on September 6, 1958.

Sylvia was a Licensed Practical Nurse. She worked for Day Kimball Hospital and various local Doctors. She was also a stay-at-home mom who loved her children and grandchildren dearly. She and her family spent many summers enjoying their cottage on Quaddick Lake.

She enjoyed listening to all kinds of music, reading, and playing cards. She was an avid walker who could be found participating in many local charities walk-a-thons. She was a member of AARP, Putnam Seniors, St. Mary's League of Catholic Women, and Daughter's of Isabella. She was also a volunteer for the Ministry for the

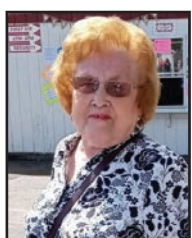
Elderly.

Sylvia is survived by her son, Wilfred "Willie" Bousquet and his wife Frances of Putnam and her daughters, Suzanne Bousquet and her wife Lisa Carrara of Wallingford and Leona McKay and her husband James of Manchester, and her grandchildren Stephanie Berenson, Brittany Osborne, Emily McKay and Kenneth McKay. She was predeceased by her brother Normand Letendre.

For the past seven years, she has been in the loving care of the wonderful staff at Manchester Manor Health Care Center. The Bousquet family would like to thank all the health care workers who provided care and comfort to their mother. They greatly appreciate all that you did for her and them.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Sylvia's family from 9:00AM to 10:00AM on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, in the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30AM in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery. For the memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Yvette Alice Dorothy Beaudreault, 90



**South Woodstock** – Yvette Alice Dorothy Beaudreault, 90, of Peake Brook Road, passed away on Monday, October 21, 2024 surrounded by her family. She was the daughter of Joseph and Melina Gagnon of Mechanicsville, CT. She was the wife of the late Norman D. Beaudreault of Putnam, CT. She was a graduate of St. Joseph High School, Thompson, CT.

She worked at Pratt and Whitney in Hartford, CT. American Thread in Willimantic, CT and Frito-Lay in Killingly, CT.

Yvette enjoyed traveling, taking cruises, shopping and spending time with her children, grandchildren and friends.

She is survived by her five children Norman Beaudreault, Jr. and his wife Cindi of Griswold, CT; Deborah Alberghini of Enfield, CT; Gail Jones of Vancouver, WA; Gary Beaudreault of North Grosvenordale, CT and Ann Page-Barrett and her husband Glen of West Springfield, MA.

A Calling Hour was held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 11:30 AM to 12:30PM at Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at 1:00PM at Most Holy Trinity Church, 568 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT, burial will follow at St. Mary Cemetery Putnam, CT. Donations may be made in her memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105. Share a memory at [www.smithandwalkerfh.com](http://www.smithandwalkerfh.com)

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

## John C. Crescimanno

Long term resident of Danielson, Connecticut, John C. Crescimanno passed away after an illness on October 31, 2024. He was born on December 2, 1948, the son of the late Benedetto and Rose (Pugliese) Crescimanno. John was predeceased by a brother, Anthony J. Crescimanno and a sister, Linda Theresa Crescimanno. He leaves a brother, Thomas C. Crescimanno of Danielson, CT and sisters Rosemary Kettelle of Danielson, CT and Gloria Anderson of Corona, CA. John is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

John attended Killingly High School and joined the United States Army in 1966 and served honorably, including a tour of duty in Vietnam where he served as a supply specialist attached to an artillery unit on various bases outside of Saigon.

Shortly after his military service,

he was employed by the town of Killingly as a driver-laborer for thirty-seven years, retiring in 2012.

In his retirement years, John enjoyed watching the Uconn Women's Basketball team and was an avid New York Yankees fan. He also had a passion for antique cars with his 1955 Chevy Bel Air being his prized possession.

He will be remembered as a person who was always willing to help family and friends.

A service to celebrate his life will be held at a time and place to be determined by his family.

Those who wish may donate in his memory to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



# The ego

I was conversing with a friend recently, and we found ourselves in a back-and-forth about ego. She thought focusing too much on accomplishments could lead to a big ego and that ego, in general, was bad. No one likes a self-centered person. But maybe not all egos are created equal. Maybe there's such a thing as a "good ego" and a "bad ego," or, in other words, a healthy ego versus an unhealthy one.

I give her an example: We know some foods are good for us while others aren't. Take sugar, for instance. Corn syrup, a highly processed sugar, can cause many health issues when we consume too much of it. But the natural sugars in fruits? Those come with fiber, vitamins, and antioxidants. They're better for us when eaten as nature intended.

Then there are healthy fats and unhealthy fats. Saturated and trans fats, found in things like fried foods and processed snacks, can raise cholesterol and clog arteries. But healthy fats—found

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TOBY  
MOORE

in foods like avocados, nuts, and olive oil—are essential for brain function and help keep our hearts healthy. So, while both types of fats might fall into the same category, they're worlds apart regarding how they impact us.

I reasoned that the same goes for ego: both types may seem similar, but one can serve as a motivator, while the other may lead us toward self-centered behavior that disconnects us from others.

Psychologists have studied the differences between healthy and unhealthy egos. Dr. Heinz Kohut, a psychoanalyst and founder of self-psychology, spent much of his career researching how people develop self-worth and the role that a healthy sense of self—essentially, a balanced ego—plays in our lives. He suggested that a strong, healthy ego helps us stay grounded and confident without needing to be the center of attention. Kohut saw this as a form of "healthy narcissism," where self-re-

spect and confidence help us be ambitious and resilient without becoming arrogant or overly self-focused. "People need a firm sense of self," Kohut argued, "but one that doesn't come at the expense of empathy for others."

On the other hand, Dr. W. Keith Campbell, a psychologist known for his research on narcissism and ego, warns about what he calls "ego inflation." When someone's sense of self becomes too inflated—think of the stereotypical "big ego"—it can lead to arrogance and isolation. Campbell explains, "While a strong sense of self can be motivating, an inflated ego can push us to focus too much on success, competition, and validation from others." When that happens, ego can overshadow values like compassion and humility.

So, what's the difference between a healthy and unhealthy ego? A healthy ego encourages us to take pride in our achievements, to be strong when things go wrong, and to find motivation within. It's like the "good fats" in our diets—

necessary, in moderation, for a balanced life. On the other hand, an unhealthy ego is like junk food; it might be tempting and even make us feel powerful temporarily, but it can leave us feeling unfulfilled and disconnected.

Another dimension to this is worth exploring, too—fear. I once read an article about engineers working to program fear into robots, which sounds strange at first. Isn't fear supposed to be a bad thing? Living in constant fear isn't healthy, but a

certain amount of fear is necessary for survival. Fear keeps us from touching a hot stove, reminds us to look before we step, and makes us cautious when handling sharp objects. This same idea applies to ego—it's possible that too much ego can cause problems, and a healthy amount can protect us.

I would argue that the goal is to cultivate a healthy ego—one that pushes us to achieve our best without making us lose sight of the bigger

picture. Appreciate others' contributions without feeling threatened. Like all things in life, it's about finding the balance.

So, whether it's our diet or our sense of self, it's not about cutting things out entirely but finding what truly nourishes us. By nurturing a balanced, healthy ego, we can see the strength to pursue our goals, connect meaningfully with others, and ultimately lead happier, more fulfilling lives.

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# LEGALS

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

**Donald Pusczyński (24-00454)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 5, 2024, 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:  
Andrew Pusczyński  
108 Christian Hill Road,  
Brooklyn, CT 06234  
November 15, 2024

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Wayne Richard Hendrickson (24-00446)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 1, 2024, 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:  
Donna R Hendrickson  
c/o IAN TYLER SULLIVAN, ST. ONGE  
& BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171,  
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
November 15, 2024

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

**Arlene Mae Skarani (24-00456)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 8, 2024, 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:  
Christopher Mark Skarani  
532 Taft Pond Road  
Pomfret Center, CT 06259

## TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On November 4th, the Inland Wetlands

& Watercourses Agency conditionally approved application: 09-24-36, 120 Beaver Dam Rd, Jose Macho, for shoreline repairs. The Wetlands Agent conditionally approved application: 09-24-42, 279 East Quasset Rd, Robert Smith, to rebuild terraced retaining wall within Upland Review Area. Bill Re-winski, Chairman; Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent  
November 15, 2024

## TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On November 7th, the Wetlands Agent conditionally approved application: 10-24-47, 11 Laurel Hill Drive, Daphne Smith-Naylor, to construct a fire pit, patio and rebuild steps within Upland Review Area. Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent  
November 15, 2024

# Putnam History Makers announce inaugural recipients



Tom Borner



Fred Hedenberg

P U T N A M  
— Historically the best

defined as “Resident or non-resident of Putnam, living or deceased, who made or is still making honorable and positive direct or indirect major impact through works, deeds and service in Putnam and/or globally with ties to Putnam, whether done in the spotlight or quietly behind the scenes.”

Two recipients will be chosen each year and will shine on the PHM wall in the Municipal Complex, upper hallway at the entrance to the AHS.

Without further ado, the inaugural Putnam History Makers 2024 Honorees are Tom Borner and Fred Hedenberg.

Tom Borner embodies a man who works quietly behind many scenes. Self-driven, focused and intent on giving back since early in his life, Tom’s career as an attorney (a Partner with The Northeast Law Center) and long tenure as CEO of Putnam Bank has touched many lives. His involvement with the Putnam Business Association (PBA), Hale & Greater Hartford YMCA, Putnam Area Foundation, Community Foundation of Eastern CT, Make a Wish CT, Day Kimball Hospital, and Habitat for Humanity are just the tip of Tom’s caring sense of community and family. His love for

his community is rivaled only by the love for his family as a devoted father and grandfather to Kalin, Kyle, Adam, Griffin, and Avery. Major cheers to the humble Tom Borner.

Fred Hedenberg left a legacy when he passed from this life in July 2024. From his early years serving in World War II with the Navy, to his newspaper and radio time (including WINY Radio talk-show host), involvement with Hospice of Northeast Connecticut, Red Cross, NDDH, Cub Scouts, and as a Putnam town selectman, Fred was a good-deed-doer, looking beyond himself. Yet that was still not enough. While serving as president of the AHS, Fred began renovation plans for Cady-Copp Cottage and established the Gertrude C. Warner Boxcar Children’s Museum, visited by people from all over the world. Fred is an example of making history one deed at a time.

The PHM ceremony will take place Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Putnam Elks; doors open at 5 p.m. Limited tickets are available (no fee) for this event at the Putnam Recreation Office, second floor of Town Complex, or by calling the Rec Department at 860-963-6811.



Courtesy

Danielson Martial Arts Academy extends their congratulations to their very own Lorelai Tyler for winning Grand Champion in forms competition at the Connecticut Yankee National’s tournament held on Oct. 6 in Waterbury. This year, DMAA is celebrating 50 Years of being in business. For more information regarding classes, please call 860-779-0699, or visit the Web site at DanielsonMartialArts.com.



Courtesy

### HELPING OUT

From left: The Putnam Rotary Club Interact Club’s co-presidents, June Ferraro and Sophia Thurber joined with two Centreville Bank employees, Erica Barbeau and Kerri Palmer, to sort clothing for the IHSP-NU-2 U Clothing Closet clothing giveaway. The giveaway is usually held quarterly and is open to all — all sizes, winter and summer. Every table in a very large room at the Living Faith Methodist Church in Putnam was stacked with clothing for those in need. There were also shoes, boots, socks and more.

The Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra presents an



Celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy”

Dance with Handel and Vivaldi and Brahms

Sing along with Leroy Anderson’s “A Christmas Festival”

At Clark Chapel, Pomfret School (on Rt.44)

Friday, November 22, at 7 pm  
Sunday, November 24, at 2 pm

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