



Funny how
time slips
away.

PUTNAM VILLAGER

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Friday, April 4, 2025

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Killingly Wrestling wraps successful season



KILLINGLY — Killingly finished another outstanding wrestling season at the New England Championships. Brady Zadora represented the team well, as he has all season. Brady added to his record breaking win total and will go down as having the most wins in Killingly’s history, with 187. The team placed in the top ten at the State Open, and again Brady Zadora led the way placing 3rd with a dramatic comeback victory in the 3rd place match. His teammates represented Killingly well and scored many points along the way to place in the top ten of all schools in the state.

This team showed outstanding grit and determination all year and no better per-

formance than at the Class S championships. Killingly captured its third straight title scoring 221.5 points and easily outdistanced the second place team by nearly 50 points. The week before the ECC championship was won for the 13th time by Killingly as they continue to dominate the tough ECC league.

Our 2 ½ year dual meet win streak ended with a 1 point loss in mid January. It is the second longest streak in Ct state history at 80. The streak started on Feb 6 of 2022 and was stopped on Jan 17 2025 this season.

Listed below are some of our individual honors won this season

School Record: Brady Zadora 187 wins and 123 pins for a career

STATE OPEN PLACE FINISHERS
3rd PLACE Brady Zadora

CLASS “S” STATE CHAMPION Anthony Oates.
2ND PLACE Bradey Jonasch, Brady Zadora, Exael Padilla, Aiden Mantia, Ron Wood
3RD PLACE Max Richardson, Gavin Jonasch

ECC CHAMPIONS Anthony Oates. Exael

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Lawmakers respond to “Signalgate” leaks

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Democratic lawmakers from Connecticut are calling for the resignation of Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth after the recent revelation that a journalist was included in a chat revealing sensitive information regarding a planned military strike in Yemen.

According to The Atlantic, the magazine’s Editor-in-Chief, Jeffrey Goldberg, was included in a Signal group chat that detailed a U.S. military attack plan in

Yemen including the type of aircrafts that would be used and the exact timing of airstrikes. The Atlantic published the details of the chat in the days following the revelation with the incident becoming known as “Signalgate” among many publications. Goldberg was inadvertently added to the chat by National Security Advisor Mike Waltz before discussion took place regarding the strike. The leak has led to criticisms citing national security concerns from both Republicans and Democrats includ-

ing bi-partisan requests for an independent investigation into the leak. Congressman Joe Courtney and Senators Richard Blumental and Chris Murphy are among the chorus of Democrats calling for an investigation and for Hegseth to step down or be relieved of his duties. Courtney, a senior Member of the House Armed Services Committee which oversees several elements of the military including operations and defense policy, released a statement criticizing Hegseth for putting the safety of military mem-

bers at risk. “President Trump’s top national security officials committed a shocking breach of basic security protocol that put at risk our airmen, sailors, and their mission. Fortunately, the Administration’s blundering did not cause serious harm of American servicemembers. Following new reporting from The Atlantic, it is clear Secretary Hegseth shared sensitive operational details including sequencing, targets, and weapons in an unsecure group chat with a journalist that has no

security clearance. Any member of the military, particularly in leadership, who shared this same information would be court martialed and discharged. Secretary Hegseth is not above the law. He needs to resign or be fired,” Courtney said.

Senators Murphy and Blumenthal, who serve on the U.S. Senate’s Foreign Relations Committee and Armed Services Committee respectively, joined 14 other Senators, all Democrats, in authoring a letter seeking an

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EASTCONN’s Arts at the Capitol Theater proud to present OHANA: DanceFest 2025

WILLIMANTIC — EASTCONN’s Arts at the Capitol Theater is proud to present OHANA: DanceFest 2025. Performances are April 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. in the David J. Calchera Theater at Arts at the Capitol Theater, located on 896 Main Street in Willimantic. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for Students, Children, Seniors and Military, and \$5 for ACT Students, Alumni and EASTCONN Staff. Call 860-465-5636 to reserve tickets or you can buy them at the ACT box office before the show.

Directed by Tiana Mancuso featuring cho-

Turn To **DANCEFEST**
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Courtesy

Audrey Houk (12, Coventry), Najah Wells (12, Norwich), Tatyana Winston (12, Lebanon), Juliana Margelony (12, Vernon), Caitlyn Kurcinik (12, Willimantic), Michaela LaFlamme (12, Willington), Prudence Canozza (10, Montville), Marielle Metivier (10, Meriden), Haley Rivera (11, Willimantic), Amaree McKnight (11, Willimantic), Eva Fleming (11, Mansfield), Jarynelis Rodriguez Luna (10, Willimantic), Tiana Mancuso, and Ashley Green.

Killingly announces new principals

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Public Schools announced two hires recently, securing principals for both Killingly High School and Killingly Intermediate School. The candidates were appointed after brief discussions in executive session and unanimous votes of approval at the public meeting of the Board of Education on March 26.

Carrie Apanovitch will now lead Killingly High School (KHS), while Matthew Sierakowski will be the new head of Killingly Intermediate School (KIS). Killingly Public Schools released individual press releases announcing the hires with both principals bringing decades of experience to their new roles in the district.

Apanovitch has a long history in school leadership starting as Social Studies Supervisor of Simsbury Public Schools from 2012 through 2014. She then worked as Assistant Principal of Hartford Public Schools from 2014 through 2016 before serving the same role with Windsor Locks High School from 2016 until 2022 where she helped implement mastery-based learning practices to address achievement gaps. She most recently served as principal of Suffield High School until 2024 where she worked to enhance the school climate and implement data-driven professional learning cycles.

“I am truly honored to join the Killingly High School community as principal,” Apanovitch said in a statement shared by the Killingly School District. “My goal is to cultivate a supportive, inclusive school culture where students are inspired to excel academically and personally, and where educators feel empowered to innovate and grow. Together, we will ensure every student has the tools and opportunities to thrive in an ever-changing world.”

As the new leader of KIS, Matthew Sierakowski brings more than 20 years of experience and leadership in education but it no stranger to the Killingly School District. Sierakowski most recently served as District Literacy Coordinator in Killingly and played a direct role in introducing new curriculum and contributing to Killingly Middle School becoming a School of Distinction. His history with KIS has seen him serve as ELA Instructional Coordinator and After School and Summer School Administrator where he implemented new programs to enhance student performance in reading and math.

“I am honored to serve as principal of Killingly Intermediate School,” Sierakowski said, also in a statement from the district. “My leadership philosophy is rooted in collaboration, trust, and active engagement with the school community. Together, we will create a supportive and dynamic environment where students thrive, and teachers feel empowered.”

Killingly Board of Education Superintendent Dr. Susan Nash-Ditzel expressed excitement for both principals in statements included with the press release where she praised Apanovitch as a “forward-thinking leader” and Sierakowski as an “innovative” and “proven” leader in the Killingly community.

Both appointments are effective July 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

EPA approves site cleanup for Ballouville Mill

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Cleanup efforts at the Ballouville Mill site are expected to commence later this year after Killingly received notification from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that removal action is

warranted on the property. Town Manager Mary Calorio provided an update to the Town Council on March 11 where she said her office has worked closely with the EPA and the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CTDEEP)

concerning the future of the property. The mill on the site burned to the ground in November of 2023 and the remaining debris has been left in limbo ever since. The EPA completed a preliminary assessment and site investigation last November.

“I did receive notification from EPA that they’ve determined that a removal action is warranted for abatement and debris removal,” Calorio told the Council. “The EPA is drafting

the action memo that actually will initiate that removal and we’re going to be coordinating with them.”

The news should help ease the frustrations of many locals who early last year urged the town of pursue quicker cleanup efforts due to the risk of exposure to hazardous materials on the property and the mill debris becoming an eyesore. At the time, town officials explained that they had little control over the cleanup effort and that the EPA had to follow its own process before removing the debris.

Now that the cleanup has finally been green lit, Calorio clarified that the EPA won’t be removing everything from the site, but whatever is left should be covered by part of an \$800,000 EPA Multipurpose Grant that was earmarked for the mill and other projects prior to the fire.

“It will probably clean up a large portion of the debris that’s there because what they’re looking at abating is in the debris pile. We’ve already had communications with EPA that it may not end up being a completely clear site, but

the \$800,000 grant that we received that was originally going to be doing a lot of work on that, we will likely be using some of that to be able to finish the cleanup and debris removal,” Calorio explained.

The cleanup will not be charged against the town as Calorio confirmed the EPA will be sending the property owner a bill for any cost of the removal action. Cleanup is expected to take place over the summer although an exact timeline was not presented to the Council.



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- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Narrow piece of wood
 - 5. African desert
 - 11. Waxy covering on birds’ beaks
 - 12. Sour
 - 16. Infrequent
 - 17. Former AL MVP Vaughn
 - 18. Policemen wear one
 - 19. Out of the question
 - 24. Used to chop
 - 25. Symptoms
 - 26. Not moving
 - 27. Folk singer DiFranco
 - 28. Comedian Armisen
 - 29. Quantitative fact
 - 30. Incline from vertical
 - 31. Scottish musician
 - 33. Rooney and Kate are two
 - 34. Positioned
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Unshaven facial hair
 - 2. More thin
 - 3. Show up
 - 4. Seethed
 - 5. Ancient Greek city
 - 6. Poisonous plant
 - 7. Hello
 - 8. College sports official
 - 9. Monetary unit of Russia
 - 10. Wings
 - 13. Take too much of a substance
 - 14. A citizen of Uganda
 - 15. Most appealing
 - 20. Atomic #18
 - 21. Global investment bank (abbr.)
 - 22. Jewish calendar month
 - 23. Popular sandwich
 - 27. Swiss river
 - 29. Incorrect letters
 - 30. Popular latrine
 - 31. Foot (Latin)
 - 32. A driver’s license is one form
- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 38. A very short time
 - 39. Tropical American shrubs
 - 40. Yemen capital
 - 43. Spanish municipality
 - 44. Medical professionals
 - 45. Fibrous material
 - 49. Confined condition (abbr.)
 - 50. Without covering
 - 51. “Mad Men” honcho Don
 - 53. Hockey position
 - 54. Taste property
 - 56. Fertile spots in a desert
 - 58. They precede C
 - 59. “Requiem for a Dream” actor Jared
 - 60. Try a criminal case
 - 63. Liberal rights organization
 - 64. Spoke
 - 65. Insect repellent

Carrie Fleetwood elected to membership into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Carrie Fleetwood of Putnam was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s

oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at University of Massachusetts.

Fleetwood is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is to “cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning.”

About Phi Kappa Phi
Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni annually. The Society has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society’s mission is to “cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning.” For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.



Courtesy

The Town of Pomfret Recreation Department is pleased to announce that the community has successfully met our goal of collecting 1,000 pounds of plastic, which will allow us to receive a new Trex bench for Pomfret Recreation Park. We sincerely appreciate the contributions from everyone who participated in this effort. A special thank you goes to Beverly Champany, a member of the Pomfret Recreation Commission, who led this initiative. Beverly dedicated countless hours sorting and coordinating plastic drop-offs at various collection locations. While we are no longer accepting plastic for this current campaign, we encourage continued recycling efforts. Plastic can still be dropped off at local Stop & Shop, Price Chopper, or Big Y locations. We plan to resume plastic collection in October or November, with the goal of acquiring another park bench for the community. Once again, thank you to all who contributed. Your support is truly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing the new bench at Pomfret Recreation Park in the near future.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for Week of March 24: American Woodcock, Robin, Tree Swallow, Bluebird, Turkey Vulture, Great Horned Owl, Wood duck, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Carolina Wren, Eastern Phoebe, Song Sparrow, Mockingbird, Common Grackle.

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Wolperdingers hosting open mic, poet

PUTNAM — Wolperdingers Bookends welcomes poet Jefferson Singer Saturday, April 5. Singer will take to the mic at 5 p.m., followed by an open mic from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Jefferson Singer is the Faulk Foundation Professor of Psychology at Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut, and a clinical psychologist with a psychotherapy practice in West Hartford. After a long career of publishing articles and books in the fields of personality, psychotherapy, and autobiographical memory, he has increasingly devoted himself to writing poetry and has had poems appear in Sixfold, The Raven’s Perch, Orenaug Mountain Poetry Journal, the Medical Literary Messenger, and the Winter Glimmerings anthology. In Common Things (Shanti Arts Press) is his first book of poetry. An avid hiker, he loves spending time on the trail with his wife, but also reading to his young grandchildren.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

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Friends of Learning in Killingly launches second quarter-century by awarding record number of enrichment grants

KILLINGLY — Friends of Learning in Killingly (FOLK) recently launched its second quarter-century of grantmaking with the awarding of a record number of annual enrichment grants to Killingly Public School educators. Official Reception Host Robert Beauregard, Co-chair of FOLK, along with several FOLK reviewers, school administrators, and other teacher supporters, honored this year's seventeen recipients on Wednesday, March 12 at FOLK's Annual Awards Reception, which took place at the Killingly Schools Central Office.

The 17 educators who were honored this year include Mandy Jarvis, Lorie Nordman, Tiffany O'Leary, and Brooke Salkiewicz of Goodyear Early Childhood Center; Lucille Garcia of Killingly Central School; Danielle Orbegozo and Kimberly Vincent of Killingly Memorial School; Allegra Plantier, Suzette Reading, and Patti Smith with Eric Bryant of Killingly Intermediate School; and Elizabeth Bauman, Jim Hutson, Nicole Kinsella, Robert Polsell, and Michael Wuensch with Abigail Durling of Killingly High School.

Their grants will help support a wide range of initiatives across the school district's five schools, including outdoor education, life skills, outdoor play supplies to foster gross motor skills in pre-schoolers, enriched seating options and tactile toys specifically designed for young neuro-diverse learners, enriched library offerings, local and global leadership skill development, visual and dramatic arts

support, robotics and technology support for both young students and advanced high schoolers, and fieldtrip support for advanced practice environmental and biological studies.

The old saying that success breeds success is strikingly evident among this year's recipients. For example, Lorie Nordman's 2025 grant will continue to support her efforts to transform Goodyear's school grounds into an enriched learning environment. This year, she will be installing three mobile trail cameras in the school's nature preserve to capture and share with her students the rich wildlife activity that occurs during undisturbed periods. Two 2025 grants awarded to Killingly Memorial's science teacher Kimberly Vincent will help her continue to expand robotics exploration in her science classes and after-school science club. Killingly Intermediate's educators Patti Smith and Eric Bryant will use their 2025 grant to support an ongoing peer mentoring program that fosters local and global leadership. Among the program's "global" fund-raising past achievements have been to fully fund two community bore-hole wells in two different Ugandan villages. Travelling on her own dime, Smith recently visited those sites, where she was warmly and formally welcomed by locals and saw with her own eyes the wonderful results of her students' efforts. For many years now, technology teacher Jim Hutson has been advising Killingly High School's Chapter of the Technology Student

Association. During that time, countless numbers of students have competed in, and often won, National and/or State competitions. His 2025 grant will continue to support his efforts. Hutson has also served as the State of Connecticut's official TSA Advisor for more than 25 years.

The FOLK Fund is a permanent educational endowment fund created in 1998 with \$10,000 that was donated by members of the KHS Class of 1966, to mark their own personal milestones of turning 50 years old. FOLK's mission is to inspire the love of learning in Killingly children and youth by supporting innovative school-based enrichment initiatives through annual grant awards to local teachers. To protect the value and encourage growth of the endowment, and to ensure that grants will continue in perpetuity, the Fund's guidelines permit four percent of its annual investment gains to be deployed for yearly grants. By 2000 the Fund was able to award its first annual grants, totaling \$935.

Through the years, many Class of '66 members as well as other alumni and friends have continued to help grow the Fund. As of this year - FOLK's 26th year of grantmaking - \$92,000 in grants for more than 230 enrichment projects have been awarded to date; and the endowment itself is currently valued at more than twentyfold its original size.

Several years ago, FOLK introduced its "Named Grant" option, wherein any group, family, or individual is

invited to create a permanent annual FOLK grant in their name with a minimum donation of \$10,000 to the endowment. Notably, In 2020 many members of the KHS Class of 1969 joined together to raise funds for FOLK with the goal of creating FOLK's first named grant: The KHS Class of 1969 FOLK Grant. The Class far exceeded the minimum requirement, raising \$35,000 for the FOLK endowment. Their efforts have translated into \$1,500 in annual grants awarded in their name. This year their Class supported three of the 17 FOLK grants: Outdoor play supplies to enrich play experiences of all Goodyear students; equipment to enhance robotics exploration at Killingly Memorial School; and support for a hands-on fieldtrip to the Connecticut Audubon Society Center in Pomfret, CT for Advanced Practice Science students.

Some Class of '66 founding members and other interested alumni serve as volunteer grant application reviewers; and reviewers who are able to do so also serve on the Advisory Committee where final grant decisions are made. FOLK is able to function as a 501(c)(3) charitable entity through its partnership

with Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF), which administers the Fund. All gifts to the FOLK Fund are therefore fully tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law; and 100 percent of gifts received goes toward the FOLK grants. The FOLK Fund also benefits from GWCF's legal oversight; investment

expertise; administrative support; and technical, operational, conceptual, and planning assistance. The FOLK Fund is charged an annual total fee of approximately two percent of the value of its endowment for these services. For more information on the FOLK Fund contact donorservices@greaterworcester.org.

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EDITOR

It's not laziness, it's something else

There's a word we employ for when we miss deadlines, when dishes stack up, when texts go unanswered, and projects sit half-done on the floor of our minds. We call it laziness. We mutter it in apology, hurl it in frustration, let it rot in our chests like guilt.

But what if we're using the wrong word?

Laziness suggests not caring. A lack of ambition. Disinterest. A shrug. But that's not what procrastination feels like at all. Procrastination is rarely about not wanting to do the thing, it's about not being able to start it. Or being so overwhelmed by the pressure to get it right that you spend hours, days, weeks doing mental gymnastics to avoid it.

It's not about being idle. It's about being stuck.

The problem is, procrastination looks like laziness from the outside. From the inside, though, it's a swirl of perfectionism, anxiety, fear of failure, fear of success, or just sheer mental fatigue. It's the kind of paralysis that doesn't come from not wanting to move, but from wanting so badly to do something well that it becomes impossible to even begin.

That's the difference. Laziness doesn't carry the weight of guilt or shame. Procrastination is heavy with it.

We beat ourselves up for not doing the thing, then beat ourselves up again for feeling bad about it. It's a loop. A cruel one.

Maybe it's time we give ourselves a little more credit. Maybe it's time to look at what's behind the delay before we call it a character flaw. What's going on beneath the surface? Is it fear? Burnout? Mental clutter? Maybe even grief? Because if we can name it honestly, we can start to loosen its grip.

And maybe the next time someone says they're lazy, we won't take it at face value.

We'll pause.
And ask what's really going on.
Because odds are, it's not that they don't care.
It's that they care too much.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Two billionaires working for free for America

To the Editor:

Who can say no to this? Apparently, many people here. In the March 21 Villager, Lee Wesler tried to take down Trump and Elon Musk. He did so with misinformation and horrible math. He acknowledging Elon Musk runs Tesla, the 8th most valuable company in the U.S. And Musk runs Space X - the company that just returned the Astronauts to earth after NASA and Boeing could not figure out a way to do this. Musk also runs Neuralink, xAI, and the Boring company. Then either through disinformation or ignorance Mr. Westler declared that X - formerly Twitter had lost 79 percent of its value since Musk took over. According to the Financial Times, as of my writing this, Twitter is now worth \$44 billion based on a secondary deal in March. The numbers quoted by Mr. Wesler are from December 2024. Accident or ignorance? Since Musk has aligned with Trump X's value is up 400 percent using December as a bench mark.

The Trump issue has been well covered. What you never hear mentioned is that when Trump ran in 2016, his financial disclosure listed over 500 companies run by the Trump organization. Each company is set up as its own entity. Only roughly 30 percent of new companies do not last 10 years. The six-bankruptcy number has been thrown around for years. but you never hear six out of 600 or 800 companies run by Trump. Also, in the same disclosure, the Trump Organization estimated they had 22,000 employees. Neither Biden nor Harris has ever employed anyone. They cashed government checks; they did not write pay checks.

Now to the math that should have caught everyone's attention. "Lay off a million workers who make \$100,000 per year apiece saves \$1 billion" - Lee Wesler. Multiplying numbers that start with 1 and end in "0" is easy. Just add the "0"s up. In this case the number is \$100 billion not \$1 billion. In a piece about business, it helps not to be off by 10,000 percent. Mr. Wesler did go on to talk about \$1

trillion in IRS fraud and another \$4 Trillion in off shore tax havens. Getting rid of Waste, Fraud and Abuse is what DOGE is trying to do. We cannot leave the people that ran up \$36 Trillion in charge of trying to eliminate the debt they caused.

Musk fired 80 percent of the people at Twitter when he took over. He asked Government Employees to name 5 things they did last week in an email. Some complied and some complained to their Union. When all of these employees are working at home, it very easy to watch in real time what they are doing on their government issued computers while being paid to work. If they are logging in at noon and out at 2 p.m., it is time to go.

I wrote in June of last year that Trump would win Windham County, lose Connecticut and win the General Election. For three years, Biden/Harris lied to the American People and said the border was secure while 10 million people passed through. Those supporting him said he was powerless and only congress could stop the flow. Border Crossing attempt were down 94 percent in February 2025 year over year according to US Customs and Border Protection.

Lastly, Elon Musk voted for Biden. Musk was "tricked" into allowing his 16-year-old son to have trans-gender surgery. That is when he promised he would destroy the woke virus. He moved his companies out of California and took Twitter private to return some sanity to the US. Maybe some day, Musk will invent a cure for Trump Derangement Syndrome. I think if people are honest, they are against men in woman's locker rooms and want violent criminals deported. Trump will soon end the war in Ukraine and the media will say Trump is Putin's puppet. Ukraine will have to give up the region that is 70 percent ethnic Russian. That will be called Trump "selling out" Ukraine.

TIM PIETTE
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Facebook is not the public square

To the Editor:

By now, I'm sure more than a few folks are wondering why on Earth I've noodled around on WINY's Facebook page like I have. I do realize Gary O. is responsible for his business' presence on the Internet, and there are tools that his folks aren't using to prevent his news department's stories from getting hijacked. I also know that the venom and bile spewed on his business' page directly contradicts the happy friendly community radio branding thing that he does on his morning show and with the station overall. Even if he finally decided to use the tools he has to turn his station's news posts into just news instead of a small news story buried in a bunch of conspiracy theory hissy fits and the like, I think that would just be a quick and dirty solution that would cover up the problem instead of calling it out head on.

I poked around in that mess because of the hysterical emotion-driven politics of Anne Dauphinais and other local MAGAs. You can only see disinformation burying everything so long before you decide enough's enough and start firing back. However, even as I've turned into something resembling a counter-troll to the dogpiling that routinely happens on those posts, it hasn't been all that different from other situations I've dealt with involving difficult people. The names and faces change, but the problems remain the same.

Facebook is the most successful social media platform in the world, but even in spite of that, Meta can't handle the monster that they've built. Nowadays they're fighting a losing war against spam, bots, AI, and sock puppet accounts. There are even "sponsored" ads that link to malware. On the video side of things, they're bigger than YouTube and Twitch, but fail to compete with either; instead limiting retention of Facebook Live events which now will hamstring every local organization that was using Facebook Live in lieu of YouTube to keep their archive of videos and meetings local. Bottom line - as the biggest social media platform in the world, Facebook can't handle its own success.

Social media has spent the last twenty years pitching itself as some kind of public square,

but the truth is that when you think you're being an activist or something on Facebook or some other platform, you're really doing it on private property, and you have no idea who the "people" around you really are. As much as there are bots, AI, spammers, and even professional troll farms run by foreign state actors who make fake pages to destabilize countries by pitting people against each other, even the real people who you know are actually real people on Facebook can still be suckered by all the fake stuff.

Now let's throw in the pitfalls of social media's business model, picking up where TV news left off with "if it bleeds it leads." Social media apps benefit from getting you worked up so you spend more time on the app, even if it's bad for your health to do so. Far from a public square, social media is a private war for people's eyeballs. The formal news organizations like Fox News or The Young Turks that piggyback off of this aren't helping, but they don't excuse anyone from getting to the bottom of this mass-hysteria hoax.

WINY's Facebook page is our local example of the Internet at its worst. I've done some poking around when people ran their digital mouths and the "audience" they appear to have via their follower count is really much smaller. Between search box trolls, pseudonym sock puppet accounts, and randos who appear to spend their whole day looking for things to freak out about on their phones, I have zero reason to believe the remaining real people are anything but brainwashed who chime in on a regular basis. They're taking social media's ragebait that is inherent to Big Tech padding their profits by selling ad space and harvesting data. The World Wide Web is roughly a generation old, but social media isn't quite there yet, so there's still an element of the Wild West out there to tame with this new technology. Give it time, and future generations will laugh at us for being so easily suckered by the internet.

As with other skepticism and keeping your head on straight, a little healthy skepticism goes a long way.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

Connecting to antiquity

For the past several weeks, I have been walking more than usual. I'm in training. I am leaving soon for a hiking trip from Collioure in southern France to Cadaques in Catalonia, a part of Spain that is always clamoring for independence. The hike winds along the Pyrenean foothills and the shimmering Mediterranean coast. Along the route, we will walk through towns and villages that were inhabited long before the Roman Empire fell apart and the Moors moved in only to be pushed out centuries later. We will tramp along paths that have been used by human beings since pre-historic times.

Until the first day of real hiking, the entire trip seems dream like to me. I bounce between feeling excited for another adventure, as this is the fifth time my friends and I have set off, and seeing myself from a birds-eye view and wondering what in the world a woman like me, i.e. of a certain age, is doing carrying a battered backpack and thumping along a dirt path with a paper map I can't really read. The tour company provides a book with written directions, such as this one: "cross a gravel apron to a curious bronze picture frame on top of three steps..." Fortunately, there are six of us to figure things out.

As a high school student, I whiled away the hours in my French class under the scrutiny of my heavy-browed teacher, Maurice Cloutier. Mr. Cloutier taught for many years and was an early adaptor of the language labs that sprang up at that time. Eventually, we all learned that the only way to gain proficiency in a foreign language is to listen, read, write, memorize, repeat, repeat, and pay attention. I later spent two college semesters in France and yet I know that on the upcoming trip, I'll forget how to say 47 for example or the future tense of the verb to be. Ashamed, I'll feel I've let Mr. Cloutier down.

I hike with a group of women who are professional librarians. Each worked in public and academic libraries and they naturally like research. They are frugal by nature and enjoy experiences more than things, which has led to quick shopping sprees on the last day at Duty Free in airports, when everyone wants to bring home a little gift for the dog sitter. Somehow, we each feel we have gotten away with something by traveling so merrily together.

This year I am wondering how we will be received as Americans. In certain parts of Europe there is a new animus toward tourists, but we are not visiting during the height of the season. If we do experience negativity, it will be for political reasons.

I've always felt good pulling out my American passport and stepping into the line at Customs, even when I was an exchange student during the Viet Nam War and Europeans were in opposition. Lingering memories of American bravery and generosity dusted our rebellious presence with affection from Europeans, but that is no longer true. I hope I get to talk with the locals to learn their opinions.

Hiking is slow. We walk about 10 -12 miles a day, stopping for water breaks and moments of awe. A few spasms of terror when we think we are lost erupt most days. We must reach our next inn before dark. We hit a measured stride after an hour or so and the talking stops. As I watch the terrain beneath my feet, a welcome peace comes over me. I am walking ancient paths that connect me to antiquity.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Let's work for all Americans

To the Editor:

Regardless of political affiliation, can Americans agree that:

- The Constitution of the U.S. is the law of the land.
- Our government is of the people, by the people, for the people. It is divided into three equal branches: the legislative, executive, and judicial to ensure that no one branch could become too powerful.

As Americans, can we agree on the premise of these principles?

- When working hard and playing by the rules, one should be able to pay rent or purchase a home and provide a comfortable living for one's family.
- Social Security is a benefit that is earned. (It's a payroll tax that was withheld directly from workers' paychecks. The federal government took 6.2 percent to cover Social Security and charged your employer a matching 6.2 percent.)
- Basic human rights for everyone.

- Affordable health care for all.
- Quality education.
- Reducing national debt.
- Reducing wealth disparity.
- Avoiding unfair tax increases.
- Comprehensive immigration policy.
- Medicare and Medicaid for those in need.
- Addressing climate change.
- Good must triumph over evil.

Let's work together for all Americans. Our communities and our country need us to get involved, volunteer, vote, run for office. I believe there is more we can agree on than disagree. "United we stand, divided we fall." "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Peace,

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Can’t make it up

To the Editor:

Courtesy of Rachel Maddow of MSNBC (that’s right), here’s a collection of headlines from the first two months of Trump’s monstrosity of an administration. Don’t peek at the end of this letter before you read it all. The end is the payoff. The news outlets that posted these are in parenthesis.

(Associated Press) “ Military helicopter and commercial airliner collide, crash into Potomac River” “Days before, Trump tries to buyout air traffic controllers.”

(New York Times) “Trump reverses course after crash.”

(Wall Street Journal) “DOGE staffer resigns after racist post.”

(Bloomberg) “DOGE staffer fired by private cyber security firm for leaking company secrets.”

(Wired)) “Musk gives him access to the U.S. cyber security agency.”

(CNN) “Trump fires nuclear staff not realizing they oversee weapons stockpile.”

(NBC News) “... then tries to un-fire them.”

(France 24) “Trump fires CDC disease detectives as bird flu fear rises.”

(NBC News) “...tries to hire them back.”

MSNBC) “Trump fires employees at National Parks, issues hiring freeze.”

(Washington Post) “...not knowing they hire seasonal employees during increased vacation season visitors.”

(Fortune) “FDA scrambles to re-hire entire team overseeing medical devises after DOGE cut them.”

(USA Today) “Musk says federal workers must report ‘What they got done last week’ or lose their jobs.”

(Washington Post) “ Administration officials tell workers not to reply.”

(DOGE website) Musk tells “How many billions they have found concerning fraud and waste.”

(Washington Post) “ DOGE quietly deletes the 5 biggest spending cuts it celebrated the week before citing math errors.”

(DOGE website) “Found \$2 billion in Veterans Administration fraud.”

(Washington Post) “Records showed contracts at issue included support for medical and burial services, cancer programs, and recruiting doctors for

Where was the concern for the jobs that Biden cut?

To the Editor:

The recently passed House spending bill included no tax on tips, overtime or on Social Security. In that voting, 217 Republicans voted “yea,” and 212 Democrats voted “nay.” Say what you want to about the issue, bring up the pros and cons, but in order for that to happen, our Congress would have to get involved. There is also talk about the possibility of DOGE savings being distributed back to taxpayers, and some going toward paying off the national debt, but then again, our Congress has to be involved, and my guess is that we won’t be heading to the bank anytime soon. How long have the Democrats been pushing that scare that the Republicans are coming for your Social Security and Medicare? However, both programs are still in effect and functioning just fine, now, aren’t they? And until I see some concrete evidence to the contrary, I’m not going to worry about it.

As for you dolts attacking Tesla cars and dealerships: Musk owns 12.8 percent of Tesla; the other 87.2 percent is owned by companies funding your 401k’s, and isn’t it odd that it took President Trump to get the democrats to now hate electric vehicles? Speaking of dolts, Tim Walz is cheering Tesla stock going down, all while the Minnesota state employees’ pension fund owns over 1 million shares.

Windbag Walz got himself called out when he said that he could kick Trump supporters butts. His claim was met with a response, and a proposed for charity wrestling match, from Glenn Jacobs, the former WWE star known as Kane, who is now the republican mayor of Knox County, Tennessee; and a Trump supporter. Because that contest wouldn’t even last 10 seconds, how about expanding the card to include a tag-team match pitting Harris and AOC vs. Linda McMahon and Pam Bondi? For a little Connecticut flair; how about adding Chris Murphy vs. Matthew Corey, with Murphy’s ex in his corner? (Ouch!) And for a two against one, handicap match: Dan Bongino vs. Judge Boasberg and Jack Smith? Also: Kash Patel vs. Adam Schiff, and add anybody who can put a “sleeper hold” on Jasmine Crockett. I’d say make it a 100 dollar a pop, pay-per-view event with all proceeds going toward paying off the national debt - Problem solved! (Where’s Vince McMahon when you need him?)

Did you know that George Soros

critical vacancies.” They soon reversed course.

(CNN) “Russia, China attempt to recruit disgruntled federal employees fired for no cause as intelligence assets.”

(CNBC) “Trump’s threats of tariffs on closest trading partners as Dow Jones market drops 600 points.” “ S&P 500 posts biggest loss since December. Trump says tariffs will still proceed.”

(Time) “Farmers fear more pain from trade war.”

(Wall Street Journal) “Tariffs inflict pain on home builders when they can least afford it.”

(Associated Press)) “U.S. factories likely to feel the pain from Trump steel and aluminum tariffs.”

(Reuters’) “Stock Market loses \$4 trillion in value as Trump plows ahead with tariffs.”

(MSNBC) “Trump uses military aircraft to deploy migrants.”

(Wall Street Journal) “U.S. suspends costly deportation flights using military aircraft.”

(Associated Press) “Defense Department drops photo of plane that dropped atomic bomb on Hiroshima because the name of the plane, ‘Enola Gay’, had the word gay in it.” By the way, Enola Gay was the name of pilot Col. Paul Tibbets’ mother.

(Associated Press) “FDA staffers returning to work in crowded offices, broken machinery and missing chairs.”

(Washington Post) “Pentagon set up briefing for Musk on potential war with China.”

(Wall Street Journal) “Next day, Trump says Musk won’t be getting briefing.”

(Washington Post) “Tax revenue could drop by 10 percent amid turmoil at IRS. \$500 billion in lost federal revenue, staff cuts, and disruption related to DOGE.

Here’s what you’ve been waiting for: the greatest President in history said “We have had two perfect months except for this (recent) military glitch. They made a big deal out of this because we’ve had two perfect months.”

Be proud Trumpers of these two months of perfection. Tell us what FOX’ impression of these two perfect months are. Can I guess? Witch hunt, more lies, ginned up, poor Donald, Biden’s fault...

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

“The Apprentice Takes Washington” season 1

To the Editor:

America’s latest reality show, “The Apprentice Takes Washington: A second try,” has taken the country by storm, as a collection of D list politicians and media personalities try their best to run some of the most important government organizations in the world, all under the watchful eye of real-estate mogul and erstwhile President, Donald Trump. Their zany shenanigans have all wondering who will be the first summoned to his Oval Office to hear his famous words “Your fired!” And if the last week is any indication, they all seem to be tripping over themselves to try and figure out exactly what they are supposed to do without drawing the big man’s ire. Sadly, it would take this entire newspaper to adequately review all the silly guffaws, so this writer will simply try to touch on some of the highlights of season 1, week 10.

First, there is amateur big game hunter and environmental lawyer, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who has been tasked with running the nation’s healthcare system, his only experience being his time in a drug treatment program for heroin addiction in the 1980’s. RFK announced a plan to cut 10,000 HHS employees (after 10,000 already left) to save \$1.3 billion (the HHS has a \$1.7 trillion budget). This will include eliminating programs researching among other things how to prevent another covid epidemic, childhood cancers and Alzheimer’s disease as well as slashing programs dealing with veteran’s illnesses. He hired David Geier, a non-physician who has been disciplined for practicing medicine without a license and published debunked articles attempting to associate vaccines with autism to run an HHS study to review this. So much for saving money as scientific literature has already settled the issue (IT IS SAFE). At the same time the FDA’s top vaccine official, and real doctor, Peter Marks, was forced to resign and issued a scathing letter citing “...it has become clear that truth and transparency are not desired by the Secretary, but rather he wishes subservient confirmation of his misinformation and lies.”

Not to be outdone, VP JD Vance (already a winner of most disliked VP in US history) with his wife in tow visited Greenland where no one there wanted to meet with him. This however did not stop him from rebuking Denmark for not doing enough for the Greenlander’s (who seem quite happy with their current status) and threatening the status quo after Mr. Trump stated that a US military invasion of the island is on the table.

Elon Musk continues to put his best foot (the one not in his mouth) forward in winning his case in Wisconsin allowing him to pay two voters \$1 million apiece to vote for the Wisconsin Supreme Court Republican candidate. Huh? Musk, the richest man in the world, who’s Space X company is poised to get a \$42 billion government contract after the Commerce Department changed prior rules which encouraged a more efficient fiber optic service to provide internet service to poor and rural areas of the country. Here’s hoping for no clouds...And luckily, Musk is not an elected official. That way he can continue to slash Democrat initiated programs and still manipulate elections in Republican’s favor. Genius like this most likely will not be fired in the beginning rounds.

Perhaps the most stunning misstep was our gaggle of top US national security officials outlining war plans on a non-secure internet app and then defending it as a normal procedure. To begin, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth texted that the line was secure and when confronted with an apparent goof, denied that they were war plans (read them yourself, they were war plans) and attacked the journalist, editor in chief of the Atlantic Magazine Jeff Goldberg, who was invited to the group chat, as a “.... deceitful so-called journalist, who’s made a profession of peddling hoaxes time and time again” (again not true). When asked about this by the press, Mr. Trump stated, “I don’t know anything about it. You, you’re telling me about it for the first time.” He then went on to criticize Goldberg, his magazine, and Democrats in general. National Security Advisor Mike Walz (also calling Goldberg names) spun this as a simple typo where the wrong phone number was put in. His defense seems to be we all do this by mistake. I nor any one I know has ever done this... In my mind announcing an imminent bombing campaign of an adversary over a non-secure line without the knowledge of the Commander in Chief, sounds about as incompetent as it can get. And what scares me even more, if this is normal how many other past and future plans will be open for our enemies to peruse. Anyone who has ever had to obtain a security clearance understands just what a horrendous breech of protocol this was.

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem was accused of having her travel expenses during the presidential campaign funded by S. Dakota taxpayers just at the same time when she flew to El Salvador where she staged a photo op at a brutal prison housing so called Venezuelan illegal immigrants wearing her \$50,000 Rolex watch.

Lastly, Mr. Trump himself continues his assault on America’s freedoms. In a meeting of auto executives, he admonished them to avoid raising prices even though his tariffs will shrink their bottom line. In response of course stocks in GM and Ford, as well as the broader market plummeted. The Commander in Chief apparently was also unaware that American soldiers in Lithuania had gone missing. His ICE men in black have been literally whisking foreign students who protested against Israel’s assault on Gaza off the street (yes, the students are wrong but still entitled to protest peacefully). Trump now has the FCC investigating Disney and ABC over their DEI hiring practices. These are private companies. Go investigate Hobby Lobby for not hiring LGBTQ. Private corporations should decide on their hiring criteria. ABC and Disney of course have been long time “enemies” of Trump. And to that I can only add.

Dear Prezident Trump. U iz the best. U ar very smart. I hear u lik Teslas. I want to by one but I don’t know if it is gas or diesel.


Insert smiley face emoji with Musk hat.

(Note: L. Wesler and his wife do own a Tesla and ask that you refrain from scratching, burning, blowing up or in any way dinging the car. It was purchased before they were aware Elon was a Sith Lord.)

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

Additional Letters to the Editor, see Page A-8





ARTHRITIS?

**Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be?
If not we may be able to help.**

**Osteoarthritis
of Hands - Knees- Hips.
Back and Shoulder Problems
Rheumatoid Arthritis
Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout**

Charles A. Birbara, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School
25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674
“Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis”

TOWN OF POMFRET

PART-TIME ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a pt (up to 25 hrs/wk) Assistant Town Clerk responsible to assist the Town Clerk in the administration and management of the municipal records of the Town, its minutes, agendas, licenses, and permits as required by CT General Statutes and to perform all duties for elections, primaries and referenda. Must assist the general public and work in cooperation with municipal officials. Must be able to work independently.

A minimum of a high school diploma required. Efficient knowledge of Microsoft Office including Excel and Word. One or two years of office or secretarial experience, or one year of office administration. Bookkeeping experience and previous CCMC certification or experience helpful but not necessary. CCMC certification would be required within 4 years of employment if not currently certified.

Salary commensurate with experience. Full job description available on the Town website: www.pomfretct.gov. Submit letter of interest, application and 3 letters of reference to: Selectman’s office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, Ct 06259. Position open until filled. EOE/AA

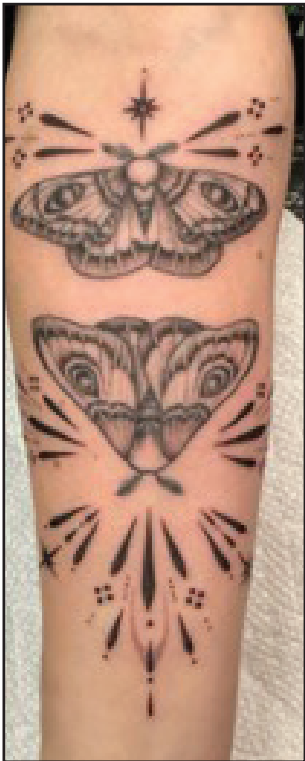
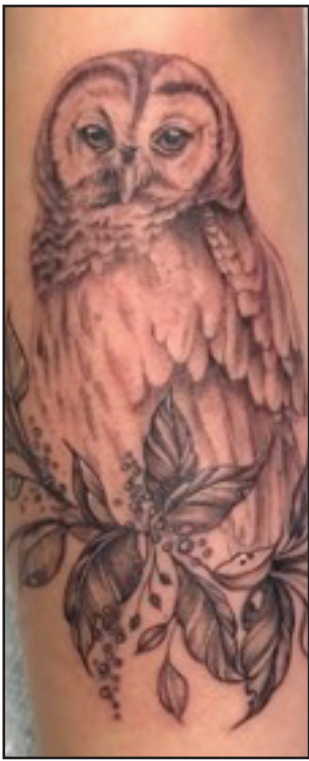
SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



brendan@villagernewspapers.com



In the Studio



“In the Studio” features artists from the Quiet Corner-home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this series, we’ll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We’ll also learn some terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those “artist words”. In this interview, we’re meeting with Quiet Corner tattoo artist Taylor Martin from Pomfret.

Hello Taylor. Your work is amazing, and I’m excited to learn about it in this interview. You apprenticed at Wakefield Tattoo in Rhode Island, and now work there full-time as a licensed tattoo artist. Can you describe that path for us?

When I was a senior in college, I started getting tattooed and thought it was such a cool art form unlike any other. I was pretty unaware of how to get into the field but, after talking with a couple of tattoo artists, I realized I would have to try to get an apprenticeship. Apprenticeships are particularly difficult

to get and aren’t offered lightly. The mentor or person taking you on as an apprentice needs to trust in your artistic ability and professional integrity; they’re investing in you just as much as you’re investing in your future as a tattoo artist. It took me awhile to find the right apprenticeship. After I graduated from UHART [University of Hartford] I taught art classes at my mom’s gallery, worked full time at my dad’s restaurant, and carved intricate pumpkins for the Jack-o-Lantern Spectacular at the Roger Williams Zoo. One of the tattoo artists and owner of Wakefield Tattoo, Zander, whom I had been frequently getting tattooed by saw my art and offered to train me. I had discussed possible apprenticeships with artists at different shops but at that point I had been a consistent client of his so I trusted and admired his ability to tattoo. My apprenticeship lasted a year and a half and, during that time I painted numerous flash sheets and learned ins and outs of tattooing through demonstration and practice. I’ve been licensed now for two years.

I took some images

from your Instagram page @tay_tattoos. There is quite a range in themes from nature, religious and memorial, to fantasy and Goth. Can you tell us about one or two of your favorites from this group?

I particularly admire the American traditional tattoo style; bold lines with simplified shading are really satisfying to me and maintain their shape well over time. My legs are heavily tattooed and that’s the style I prefer on myself. With that being said I really love doing fine line or micro-realism pieces for other people. I was classically trained in the fine arts and focused on realistic portraiture in college, so I always feel drawn to that style. I don’t foresee myself only tattooing one type of design; I really like the variety of what I’m doing

In the Studio



CYNTHIA SAARI

and it keeps things exciting for me.

When a new client comes in, what are the steps you go through in designing and executing a tattoo?

The majority of my booking I do over direct messenger on Instagram. When clients reach out to schedule an appointment, I have them send me as many reference photos as they’d like of the subject matter and style that they’re most drawn to so that I can get an idea of what exactly they’re looking for. Since I do multiple styles, these steps are super important to make sure that I’m creating the best tattoo for what they’re envisioning. I’ll also ask them the general size and location of the piece. I (literally) draw all of my appointments the morning of, and I allow the client time to modify the design if they would like at the

appointment. I typically book two or three months in advance and I’m at the shop Monday-Friday from 11-7.

At a recent exhibition at Silver Circle Gallery in Putnam, I saw this piece of “flash art” by you. Tell us about this.

The pieces that I submitted for the Silver Circle gallery are flash sheets that I painted during my apprenticeship. They are exact replicas of Sailor Jerry’s flash sheets. Sailor Jerry, or Norman Collins, is recognized as one of the most notable American Traditional tattoo artists and many of his designs are still used widely as tattoo flash. My mentor had me paint roughly 30 of sheets these to build a strong foundation for my own work, studying Sailor Jerry’s specific placement of shading which contradicts natural light sources. I used a traditional painting process called “spit-shading”, using my own saliva, to create gradients. It sounds gnarly but it is a common technique among Tattoo painters.

You have formally studied art with a BFA in fine arts. Is there any crossover between what you studied then and the work you are doing now?

Having a BFA definitely isn’t necessary to become a tattoo artist however I do believe it helped me tremendously. I had a particular interest in realistic portraiture in college using various mediums such as watercolors and graphite. This made painting flash come more easily to me, and generally helped me feel more comfortable tattooing anything realistic because of the years I focused on this style in college and teaching art classes afterward. When I first went to college, I didn’t exactly have a plan for a career in anything in particular afterward; I just knew I wanted to become the best artist I possibly could be. They don’t discuss tattooing as a viable profession in art school which was always odd to me, as it’s such an expansive field with rich history. Higher education definitely is not a prerequisite to tattooing and I know a lot of talented artists that didn’t go to college, however I’m grateful for making that decision and knowing that it ultimately helped further my career.

What is the most rewarding aspect of being a tattoo artist?

The most rewarding aspect of tattooing is definitely the personal experience with each of my clients. Tattooing can be a really therapeutic experience for people, whether it’s to process loss through a memorial tattoo or to come in for a monthly session to work on a sleeve. I feel like I’ve formed a strong connection with a lot of my clients, and I always look forward to learning about new ones. It’s a very humbling experi-



ence too to know that my clients trust my artistic capabilities enough to permanently put my art on them. I feel incredibly grateful that I get to tattoo for a living, and be surrounded by so many talented artists at Wakefield Tattoo.

Thank you so much for your time. I look forward to seeing more of your work!

Word of the day

Flash Art: sample drawings or prints of tattoos commonly displayed in tattoo shops on walls, in racks, or in magazines, they are used as examples of work possibilities or inspiration for custom designs.

Sleeve: a large tattoo or collection of smaller tattoos which covers

a significant portion of a person’s arm, typically from the shoulder to the wrist. There are also “half sleeves” and “leg sleeves.”



About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock) is a nationally recognized flame-work glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Significant projects include costume work for the Santa Fe Opera, and flamework demonstrator at the Peabody Essex Museum. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

**Glickman Kovago & Jacobs**

25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA



9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING
FOR SALE

- 
 - Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
 - Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
 - Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas
- 
 - Listing price: \$550,000
 - Building size: 9,536 SF
 - Lot size: 13,939 SF
 - Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
 - Basement: partial | Unfinished



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Hit the trail with a book

BY JARED JACAVONE
DIRECTOR
THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

One of the things I love about New England is the changing of the seasons. While winter can be bitterly cold, it makes the arrival of warm weather feel even more special. When the sun peeks out, the birds sing, and the flowers start to bloom, it’s time to pull out my hiking boots!

Did you know that Thompson has over 11 individual trails? One of these trails even leads to the Tri-State Marker between Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. If you go out to enjoy Thompson’s natural resources, why not take a book with you? Spring is the perfect time to find a quiet spot on one of these trails, take a break, and read a few

chapters while taking in Mother Nature’s beauty. If you do not know where to start, swing by the Front Desk—we have free maps and pamphlets with information on all the trails across Thompson.

Whether choosing your next read or planning your next hiking excursion, be sure to pop into one of our many upcoming programs! In particular, this week marks the start of the Community Art Show at the Thompson Public Library—please join us on Monday, April 7th at 6 PM for the Art Show Reception, where you can meet the artists and view Thompson’s amazing creative talent! Next week we plan to host story time, book club, and much more—check out the full schedule below:

Community Art Reception: Monday, April

7 at 6 p.m., open to all ages

Toddler Time: April 7, 8, and 10 at 10:30 a.m., open to ages four and under

Preschool Story Time: Tuesday, April 8 at 10:15 a.m., open to ages five and under

Sensory Play: Tuesday, April 8 at 11:30 a.m., open to ages five and under

Afternoon Book Discussion: Thursday, April 10 at 2 p.m., discussing “James,” by Percival Everett, open to ages 16 and older

Reading With Our Peeps Diorama Drop-off: Thursday, April 10 open to all ages

This is only the start of our springtime programming! We hope you can join us to enjoy the season and find the perfect book to take on your next outdoor adventure. Have a great week, and we hope to see you at the Library!

Putnam Rotary giving goes on for weeks



Linda Lemmon — Courtesy

Pastor Ross Johnson with Putnam Rotary President Doug Porter.

PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Club had so many donations to make that it went on for weeks. And still continues into April!

More than a dozen deserving organizations were invited to the Putnam Rotary Club meetings to receive donations to their organizations.

February and March donations were made to:

The Arc ECT, Community Café, Northeast Placement, American Red Cross, United Services, NOW, TEEG, the Pomfret-Eastford Little League, the Putnam Little League, Woodstock Little League, the Thompson



Sue Rochester-Bolen with Porter.

Little League and Tri-Town American Legion baseball.

Putnam Rotary Club President Doug Porter said: “The Putnam Rotary Club donates to more than 40 organizations, including social services groups, youth-focused groups, community projects, international projects and our main focus, local scholarships. During these months the club is pleased to honor these groups at our weekly meetings.”

President Porter said he was honored to present checks to these groups — and there are more coming in April. He also thanked the club members who work to

raise the money for these donations and the local community members who support the Rotary Club fund-raising efforts.

He added that the local community has been “very supportive” of the club’s two main fund-raising events, the Ronald P. Coderre Golf Tournament and the club’s 2/20 drawing.

“All the money from these events goes to support our donations and scholarships. Last year the club provided \$32,500 in scholarships to local high school students. In addition the club provided almost \$24,000 total for community projects, international projects, social service groups and youth groups,” he said.

Tips for leadership

When I look at my life, I look at what helped me form my internal motivation. Growing up, I was a shy and quiet kid, but I learned to latch onto ideas that moved me forward, especially when, as a teen, times were sometimes emotionally challenging. Over the years, I have found many great mentors and role models, but I learned the importance of driving myself internally to move forward. I have often been inspired by studying success stories and inspirational quotes that helped me push myself to higher levels of achievement. I have a personal library of inspirational sayings that I review regularly so I can better inspire myself and others who might need an emotional boost or a kick in the pants to help them through challenging days. When I was teaching martial arts, I often shared a story to help students learn life-enhancing success principles. I knew you might not always remember a quote, but the message from an emotionally charged story will stay with you for a long time.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS
MIKE BOGDANSKI

A leader who uses anger, fear, threats, harassment, and intimidation is using the push method. This person thinks people need to be pushed to get them moving and perform up to their standards. This bullying technique of the push method will gain results, but usually in the short term.

The pull method assumes the best about people. Lending a person your ear, connecting with them emotionally, and letting them feel like you walked in their shoes will help you build a relationship with someone on your team. I always assume team members are motivated to work, contribute, and make a difference. Speaking and listening to people as a team and leading the way by teaching people how to succeed is the hallmark of a pull leader. Setting goals, teaching perseverance, and a non-quitting attitude give people the emotional strength to achieve. The pulling leader inspires!

“You don’t lead by hitting people on the head - that’s assault, not leadership.”

Pushing from the back causes your shoelace and your team to bunch up with little progress. Members of a pushing team will always be worried about the leader jumping on them, criticizing them, and even competing against them rather than focusing on the group’s goal. The outcome of push culture is keeping your head down and trying to stay out of trouble.

A leader using the pull method understands Eisenhower’s quote and cultivates members’ desire and buy-in by keeping the organization’s vision clear, steady, focused, and always in sight. My best idea is to challenge people in a fun, mission-driven way that keeps morale high.

I have seen leaders employ both tactics, with varied levels of intensity and variations of style. However, all leaders tend to have a dominant style, and a push style and a pull style are definitely different. Both yield results but with different outcomes. Pull leaders inspire loyalty, while push leaders inspire fear. Remember, leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because a person wants to do it.

So try it: take a piece of string or yarn, push it, and teach this lesson to someone who might benefit from this wisdom. This incredible story affirms the premise of “lead from the front.” Ok leaders, remember “A rising tide lifts all boats” (one of JFK’s favorite quotes)

Mike Bogdanski is an Anti-bully activist and martial arts Grandmaster.



Porter, Diane Manning (United Services), Carl Asikainen (TEEG), Tayler Shea (NOW), Tim Kettle (NEPS) Kathleen Stauffer (Arc, ECT).



From left: Everett Shepard (Tri Town), Josh Kinsella (Thompson), Eric Mauer (Woodstock), Putnam Rotary President Doug Porter, Christin Martin (Putnam), Jill Olsen (Pomfret-Eastford).

I have often referenced this simple story by Dwight Eisenhower (World War II General and 34th President of the United States).

When Eisenhower was President, he spoke to a reporter about all his accomplishments as the Allied commander in World War II, head of NATO after the war, and then President of the United States. After the interview, the reporter had one last question to ask. What makes you such an accomplished and great leader?

He put a shoelace on his desk and extended it to its entire length. He asked the reporter to push the lace from behind. The string got bunched up and moved nowhere. Eisenhower then pulled the piece of string from the front, and it moved forward easily.

The President then passed on these words of wisdom — “Pull the string, and it will follow wherever you wish. Push it, and it will go nowhere at all.”

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*** June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier**

WEBSTER - 25 SLATER ST

ON DEPOSIT



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ON DEPOSIT



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Snug Harbor Villa!



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ON DEPOSIT

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Featured Listing!!



ON DEPOSIT

Webster Lake Waterfront 88 Union Point
Excellent opportunity! Natural Western Facing Shoreline- Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Utilize this one Bedroom Winterized cottage while making plans to construct your dream home! Or just live in, as is! Fireplaced living room ! 12 X 30 one car garage. Beautiful Pine trees at the water's edge! - **\$660,000**

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Webster Lake Waterfront Lots Bates Point Rd

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Lot# 1004R Natural Level Shore Line 5000+/- Sq Ft **\$350,000**

Lot# 1005R Natural Level Shore line 7800 +/- Sq Ft **\$380,000**



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't get distracted from the march toward autocracy

To the Editor:

April 10 of this year will mark the 100th anniversary of the publication of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby." Over the past few years, it has become something of a cliché to find meaning and quotes from the book which apply to the Trump Administrations, particularly the following: "They were careless people, Tom and Daisy — they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made." The quotation popped into my head recently when the Signal group chat fiasco was reported on March 24 by Jeff Goldberg, the Editor of the Atlantic Magazine. Somehow, Goldberg was mistakenly added to a chat between a group of leading Trump Administration officials discussing military plans. In it, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth revealed shocking details of an impending attack on Houthis targets in Yemen. Also on the chat were, among others, Vice President Vance, C.I.A. Director John Ratcliffe, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, and Steve Witcoff, special envoy to the Middle East and Russia, among others. Witcoff was actually in Moscow when the chat took place, receiving the texts on his cell phone, something which those in the national security realm are instructed not to do because cellphones are easily hacked. (In fact, Signal use for classified conversations is expressly forbidden because of "linked device" vulnerability and officials generally use it for making dinner plans, etc.) Initially, the Signal episode seemed a textbook case of "careless people" doing careless things: you had a bunch of very poorly qualified people strutting their stuff for each other, either unaware of or not caring for the tremendous danger they were placing pilots and on the ground assets in, and, in general, jeopardizing the success of the mission. If they had quickly admitted their mistake, and said what they were going to do to fix things and hold people responsible, it would have been perhaps easier to move on. But, that's not what happened. Trump's national security advisor immediately called Goldberg a "bottom scum journalist," Tulsi Gabbard the next day lied to a congressional committee that "there was no classified material that was shared." (Hegseth said on the chat: "1345: 'Trigger Based F-18 1st Strike Window Starts (Target Terrorist is @ his Known Location so SHOULD BE ON TIME)' — also Strike Drones Launch (MQ-9s).") Once outed, Hegseth called Goldberg "a deceitful and highly discredited so-called journalist who's made a profession of pedaling hoaxes time and time again... this is the guy that pedals in garbage." And Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, had the nerve to argue that Goldberg had admitted he had lied when he claimed that the chat discussed "war plans" when the headline over the Atlantic story referred to "attack plans." Lies and more lies. Which pretty much goes beyond the "careless people" designation. In other words, is the incompetence and carelessness a major feature, or just a bug in this Administration? I think that question has been adequately answered by the Administration as it attempts to shut off all avenues available to hold it accountable.

First, there are the multiple actions in which Federal funds are withheld or threatened to be withheld from colleges and universities unless they deal with demonstrations and protests on campus in a manner in alignment with the Administration's ideological beliefs. Second, there are the multiple examples of university students here legally from foreign countries being picked up off the street and either deported or dispatched to jails in other states with the intention of sending them home — all because they participated in a protests that did not align with the Administration's views. Finally, and perhaps most chillingly, there are actions taken by the Administration to take away the security clearances of lawyers in a number of law firms to keep them from entering government buildings, in effect squeezing off their ability to practice law. Several of the firms have cut deals with the Trump Administration and agreed to provide tens of millions of dollars in pro bono work towards causes favored by Donald Trump. But three firms are resisting the strong-arm tactics by suing the Administration. You add these things to an already well-under-way attack on the judiciary (threatening judges with impeachment and calling out the Trump minions on them) and it's not hard to see where this is going: autocracy in the style of Hungary with Viktor Orban, Russia with Vladimir Putin, or Turkey with Recep Erdogan — places that nominally have elections but where the result is a foregone conclusion. So, while the Keystone Cops vision of an Administration being run by a bunch of poorly qualified dunderheads (RFK, Jr.? Pete Hegseth?...et al), may be compelling, and we might well wonder why the President is crashing the economy straight into the ground, we should not let it distract us from what is really happening here: the steady erosion of our freedom and a march toward autocracy.

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

What does "Make America Great Again" really mean?

To the Editor:

"Make America Great Again" — a catchy sound bite that spawned the most divisive acronym ever created, but what does it really mean? Not much, apparently.

Americahasalwaysbeengreatforrichwhiteguys like Trump, but not for Americans being targeted by his anti "Woke" and "DEI" campaign. In reality, that's just a smokescreen for an agenda of racism, sexism, and homophobia. There's no "greatness" in this administration's attempts to edit and rewrite history to fit their extremist narrative. Eliminating fraud and waste in government is something we can all support, but gutting federal agencies simply for revenge and control are the actions of a power-crazy egomaniac. I doubt if the thousands of workers losing their jobs are feeling the "greatness".

There's also no "greatness" to be found in the endless executive orders that are causing chaos with our economy, setting back environmental protections by decades, undermining our public education system, and using Gestapo-like tactics for immigration enforcement ...the list goes on and on.

Around the world, Trump's foreign policy consists of "kissing-up" to murdering dictators while treating our allies like enemies. Generations of my fellow veterans who shed blood and died are rolling over in their graves. No "greatness" there either, but "President bone-spurs" can't possibly relate to that.

Donald Trump is a metastasizing cancer that's killing our great nation and everything it stands for. If he really wants America to be great again, he (and all his incompetent minions) should resign.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

The right to speak out

To the Editor:

Time to check in on what freedoms we have lost this week.

The Second Amendment seems more than intact, as many states (though not Connecticut) still protect the freedom to own military-style assault weapons. Countless assaults against ordinary citizens - and children - have not moved Congress to prohibit them.

However, the First Amendment is being severely crippled - The right to speak out. This freedom to speak out provides counterbalance to the current 'government-speak' which removes funding from education and research institutions, business, agricultural and even military/veteran concerns that do not silence opposing views, nor cancel programs associated with DEI values. It has also cancelled the "Voice Of America" radio program in regions of the world where oppressed people depend upon the USA perspective to give them hope and balance.

We are not 'taking the government back' as claimed by the MAGA supporters. Rather, the current regime is taking freedom away - particularly the freedom of speech.

This removes not only the 'opposition', but it removes our ability to make advances in science, medicine, the arts and in our humanitarian efforts. It instills fear in the hearts of all of us... Who will be next to lose their funding? lose their jobs? lose their medical benefits and social security? What will it take to put each of us on the 'Bad People' list?

Without the freedom to speak, to counter-balance, we live under an oligarchy, a king - or worse yet, the billionaires and extremists who hold the puppet strings of the king.

I encourage everyone to speak up, speak out, say no and demand our rights as citizens of this great country. We were once a beacon of light and justice in this world.

KAREN RYKER
WOODSTOCK

Grow, harvest, and enjoy all parts of cilantro

BY MELINDA MYERS

Growing cilantro is easy, but this cool-weather herb quickly flowers and goes to seed as temperatures rise. This can be frustrating as some vegetables typically combined with cilantro, like tomatoes and peppers, ripen during the warmer summer months. Try making multiple plantings, using all parts of the plant, or growing more heat-tolerant options to extend your enjoyment.

So w seeds every three to four weeks throughout the summer for continual harvests if your summers are relatively cool. Gardeners in hotter regions will have the best results growing cilantro in spring, fall, and even winter when temperatures are cooler. Grow cilantro in full sun or light shade as temperatures climb and in moist, well-drained soil for best results.

Mulching the soil with leaves or evergreen needles helps keep the roots cool and moist, helping delay flowering. Avoid overwatering, which can lead to root rot.

Cilantro grows quickly, and its leaves can be harvested when the plants are four to six inches tall. Harvest as needed and as much as a third of the plant at one time to allow it to keep producing. Or cut the whole plant back to an inch above the ground and wait for it to regrow. Cilantro should be harvested often to encourage new growth and before the plants flower for the best flavor.

Store freshly cut leaves like a bouquet in a glass of fresh water. Place in the refrigerator to use for the upcoming week. Hang leaves upside down to dry or freeze. Just wash the leaves, pat dry, and place them in a freezer bag or air-tight container in the freezer. Or chop up the rinsed cilantro into smaller pieces, place in ice cube trays, and top with a splash of water before placing in the freezer.

Don't be surprised as temperatures rise, the plant will flower and set seed. Look at this as an opportunity to utilize the other parts of this plant. Enjoy the beauty and flavor of the lacy white flowers that attract beneficial insects to the garden.

Seeds will appear after the flowers fade. Wait for the plants and seeds to turn brown if you plan to harvest and use the seeds, known as coriander. Cut off the seed heads, place them in a paper bag, and allow the seeds to drop to the bottom. The seeds are ground and used in

breads, cakes, pickling spices, and Asian food. Store in sealed containers until ready to use.

You can also let the plant self-seed. Allow the seeds to drop to the ground in the garden and grow new cilantro plants to harvest and enjoy. Cilantro seeds sprout readily when soil temperatures are 55 to 68° F and the plants can withstand a light frost.

Don't forget to harvest the roots. These have a strong peppery, citrus spicy flavor, so are often used for seasoning Thai and Vietnamese food. They taste best when harvest-

ed in the fall.

Extend the season by growing more heat-tolerant varieties that are slower to develop flowers and seeds like Slo-Bolt, Longstanding, Cruiser, and Santo. Papalo, also known as summer cilantro, has a similar but stronger flavor than cilantro with a hint of citrus and mint and thrives in hot weather. You will only need one or two plants since this annual grows up to five feet tall and several feet wide. Harvest young leaves for the best flavor and use only 1/2 or 1/3 the amount of cilantro called for in recipes.

Extend your cilantro harvest and enjoyment by utilizing every part of the plant. Adjust your cilantro growing techniques and plant selection to help beat the heat.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, *Revised 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* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Melinda Myers

Cilantro is a favorite ingredient in guacamole, tacos, rice dishes, and salsa, but as summer temperatures rise, cilantro quickly goes to seed.



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Financial impacts of Trump’s first 60 days in office

President Donald Trump has hit the ground running, announcing a myriad of new policies within the first couple months of his second term. So far, his plans for tariffs have created the most stock market volatility. Proponents hope tariffs will spur companies to shift overseas manufacturing to the US and prod other countries to lower their barriers to and tariffs on US goods. Naysayers fear tariffs will spark inflation, global trade wars, and slow the US economy. President Trump has also moved swiftly to cut federal jobs and waste and sharply reduce illegal immigration. Next up: President Trump plans to extend expiring tax cuts and implement new cuts. Here’s a look at some of the financial policies coming out of Washington DC and the volatility it has created.

Tariffs, tariffs and more tariffs

Many investment pros expected President Trump to use tariffs as a negotiating tool, but his tariff announcements



FINANCIAL FOCUS
• • • • •
LAURENCE HALE
INVESTMENT ADVISER

have been farther reaching than expected and sparked global backlash. Consider the global tit-for-tat surrounding steel tariffs. President Trump announced 25 percent tariffs on steel and aluminum imports as of March 12. When the European Union responded with tariffs on \$28 billion of US goods starting in April, Trump countered by threatening 200 percent tariffs on wines, champagnes and alcoholic products. Likewise, after Trump announced an additional 10% tariff on Chinese imports, on top of the 10 percent tariff he placed on Chinese imports during his first term, China responded by placing 15 percent duties on US farm goods. Sharp, unexpected changes in tariff policy have added to investors’

uncertainty. Trump’s 25 percent tariff on all imported goods from Canada and Mexico went into effect on March 4, but just two days later they were paused until April 2, while the parties negotiate. No doubt up for discussion will be Canada’s response to Trump’s steel and aluminum tariffs: Duties on \$20 billion of US goods. As of the time of this writing, the next date to watch is April 2, when Trump’s reciprocal tariffs on all goods entering the US begin. The United States plans to negotiate trade agreements individually with other countries, considering the barriers and tariffs each country imposes on US products. We’ll be watching to see if tariffs result in higher prices that could hurt consumer spending.

Up next: tax policy

President Trump will push to extend the expiring elements of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), signature legislation from his first term. If the legislation expires, individuals’ tax rates would jump, the child tax credit would shrink, and

the estate tax exemption level could be cut in half. President Trump would also like to increase the state and local tax (SALT) deduction, which was lowered under the TCJA, and he aims to waive taxes on tips, overtime, and Social Security payments. If he’s successful, this could put extra dollars in consumers’ wallets and boost consumer spending.

Stocks: looking beyond technology

The rapid changes coming out of Washington, D.C. have increased the stock market’s volatility, led to sharp declines in technology stocks, and left the stock market indexes in negative territory. But that doesn’t mean all stocks are falling. The S&P 500 Health Care stock price index has risen 6.4 percent so far this year (through March 20) and the S&P 500 Energy stock price index has climbed 8.0 percent. International stocks are having a banner year and value stocks are outperforming as well.

Take a strategic, balanced approach

Headlines and rapid

change can sometimes be scary. But that’s why it’s important to both be proactive and take a long-term perspective. Here at WHZ our experienced, seasoned financial advisors ensure that clients have balanced portfolios to weather the most volatile markets. We’ll be sure to keep up with all of the Trump administration’s policies and position our clients’ portfolios and financial plans accordingly, with consistent communication all along the way. If you don’t have an unwavering financial partner doing that for you and your own investments and financial plan right now, it’s a good time to get one. You can schedule a complimentary discovery session to see how we can serve you and your particular needs and goals on our Web site, whzwealth.com, or by calling us at (860) 928-2341.

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Mark Your Calendars: Saturday, May 3. Bev York will be the speaker at the Killingly Historical Society’s annual program at 1:30 p.m. at the Killingly Historical Center. Her topic will be Outhouses

and Their Role in the American Revolution. Discover the fascinating history about the “necessary”/privy and learn that human waste becomes saltpetre, the major component in black

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

April 7 through April 12

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at www.killinglyct.gov)

Monday the 7th

Inland, Wetlands and Water Courses Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 8th

Regular Town Council Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 9th

Agriculture Commission Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting (KPS Central Office – Conference Room A) 7 p.m.

Thursday the 10th

NDDH Board Meeting (NDDH) 3 p.m.

Public Hearing Re: Budget for FY 2025-2026 (KHS Auditorium) 7 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lit Loot Bag (Ages 13-18) (Library) April 1 through April 10

Monday the 7th

Wonderful Ones & Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Monday Mystery Matinee (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday the 8th

Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Bingo (Ages 18+) (Library) 2 to 3 p.m.

Wednesday the 9th

Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Virtual from KPL) 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Little Listeners (Ages two to five) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Chess Club (All Ages) (Library) 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday the 10th

Story Craft (Ages two to six) (Library) 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Afternoon Book Club (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 2 to 3 p.m.

Friday the 11th

AARP Tax Assistance (Library) 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday the 12th

Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

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

Virtual High Five 2025 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

Get in Line Beginner Line Dancing – Session 4 – March 5 through April 16 (Wednesdays) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Relaxation and Guided Meditation – Session 4 – March 11 through April 15 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Beginner Salsa Dancing – May 5 through May 19 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Outdoor Spring Strength and Conditioning – March 11 through April 22 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

55+ Chair Pound for Seniors – Session 2 – April 28 through June 9 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Mystic Village/Mystic Luxury Cinemas Trip – April 17

Field Hockey Clinic – May 27 through May 30 (Grades 5-8) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Big Red Basketball Camp – June 23 through June 26 (Grades 3-8) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Red, White and Blue Fireworks – Owen Bell Park – Friday, June 27 (Rain Date – Sunday, June 29)

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

For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at www.killinglyct.gov.

powder. All are welcome! Refreshments!

Killingly Grange #112 Fish Fry: Friday April 4, 11, 18. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Fried or baked fish, French fries or baked potato. Coleslaw. \$16 per dinner. Clam chowder sold separately, \$5 per bowl. Dine in or take out. Contact Terry at 860-884-1813 or tmbartonkillinglygrange@gmail.com for additional information and to make reservations. Limited number of meals.

The Global Maritime Industry: By Christopher J. McMahon (Rear Admiral, USMS-ret.) A deep dive into the maritime industry and merchant marine (the backbone of world trade), and a look at the ships that make it possible. Wed. April 16 & 23 6-7:30 p.m. 200 School St., Putnam. (Attend one or both). His book Into a Gale’s Fury will also be available for sale.

Recently, I read “Dear Cousin Eb,” transcribed by Mary Brown and facilitated by John Charest. The book contains transcripts of letters from Harriet and Elizabeth Putnam (daughters of Major Daniel Putnam* and granddaughters of Gen. Israel Putnam) to their cousin Ebenezer Grosvenor, whose mother Eunice was Daniel Putnam’s sister. Cousin Eb was a lawyer thus sometimes was referred to as Esquire or Squire. Harriet married “Cousin Eb” in 1817. Although that relationship is too close for marriage, it was not uncommon for first cousins to marry in those days. The letters begin March 27, 1812 and continue throughout the year. The events the sisters described, and their flowery phraseology, intrigued me and revealed moments in the lives of the elite of Pomfret. Mary Brown discovered a short diary (at Yale) which Cousin Eb kept during that same time frame which only added to the mental pictures that came to mind. The young ladies lived in a house which is still standing on Church Street in Brooklyn--the Elms. Cousin Eb lived in Pomfret, possibly in the Abington section. I will provide extracts of a few of the letter transcripts and diary entries. Harriet’s middle name



KILLINGLY AT 300
• • • • •
MARGARET WEAVER

was Wadsworth so she sometimes went by Waddy or Wad. *Harriet was born Sept. 27, 1792; Elizabeth was born September 24, 1794; Cousin Eb was born July 26, 1788).

That the sisters were well-read and educated (home schooled) young women quickly shows through from their letters. In the first letter to Cousin Eb, dated

Friday, March 27, 1812, “Wad” (Harriet) speaks of her reading. “I have read Cowper since you were here and have been very much pleased with him. I have marked and written some in the book which I hope will not afford so much laughter as my writing in the Rural Visitor has done; every time Papa ad Betty find any of my remarks there I am sure to suffer by it...though I think his letters very good I must confess they do not appear to me to equal his poetry. I should have liked him better had he said less about his Homer...” I hadn’t heard of Cowper (1731-1831), so did a quick search for a little about him. He was an English poet and Anglican hymn writer...He also wrote a number of anti-slavery poems including The Negro’s Complaint (1788) which was often quoted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” (Wikipedia).

The fall of 1812 Harriet and her sisters began the study of Latin with Cousin Eb. Eb found numerous opportunities to visit the Putnam home. Was he already “court-ing” Harriet? Never once in his diary does he refer to Daniel Putnam, the girls’ father; as “Uncle”. Instead, he refers to him as “Major.” Daniel Putnam had served with his famous father General Israel Putnam during the Revolution. “I went to Maj. Putnam’s--Spent sociable evening- heard Harriet’s Latin lesson.” (Diary Thursday, Oct. 29, 1812). That was after a day of fox hunting. Yes, fox hunting. Apparently, Eb and others in the family found it quite an enjoyable sport.

The two previous days, he had gone hunting. On October 27 Eb wrote, “In P.M. we went through Larned Meadow to the Ledges-up river to Indian Burying Ground where the dogs started a fox (-) had a fine chase--part of it plain sight of us and toward sunset he earthed--We stopped him in and came home.” The following morning Eb “went with Thomas

and Peter Grosvenor in the morning to dig the fox which earthed last evening--but on arriving at the burrow found that he had obligingly anticipated us and dug himself out and made off--we returned home--At office all day and evening.” Eb was not only a lawyer but also taught school during the time covered in the diary.

Keep in mind that the year is 1812. Tensions continued to increase between the United States and Great Britain. Eb’s diary entries reflect the repercussions here in Northeastern Connecticut. “Monday, Sept. 7, 1812...The militia of the State are this day called out for exercise. Three companies met in this village. I dined and spent most of the day at Cunninghams. Hitherto I have felt no very great inclination to learn anything military. I begin to feel some more martial blood in me because I think there is a prospect that martial blood will be needed ere long among us. I am now ready to devote some of my time to military affairs-and must begin at the very rudiments-if I being I shall try to be a good soldier.” Considering that his father Lemuel had fought in the Revolution (with General Putnam), I found it quite strange that Eb waited this long to have military inclinations. Then on Sept. 14th he wrote, “In P.M. rode to the Landing where there was a sort of association forming for the purpose of being better instructed in military discipline that hitherto-a military spirit being to be awakening among the folks since we are fairly engaged in war...”.

Within a few days militia were gathering in larger numbers and companies were becoming more organized. On Thursday, September 17th Eb wrote, “David Holmes of Woodstock was appointed Brigadier General at the last Session of the Assembly-and in

order to distinguish himself in some way or other from his predecessors he has called his Brigade together at Brooklyn--this day or tomorrow--I rode on horseback accompanied by Capt. Elderkin to Maj. Putnam’s where we dined --then went to the parade--The regiments were inspected this day but this line of the brigade was not formed--The crowd and bustle around the meetinghouse was great --and very little gratification was to be found there--Capt. E. and myself sent our horses to Pomfret and returned to Maj. Putnam’s and lodged. William Putnam was also there.” “Friday, Sept. 18th, 1812. The line of Brigade was to have formed at 5 this morning but the rain fell copiously-and the weather not being pleasant in forenoon we continued at Maj. Putnam’s--and rode down after dinner to the parade where the brigade was formed--the appearance of the troops was very respectable--and their evolutions were done in better style than I had feared and the whole affair was much more interesting than I had expected...About 2000 troops on the field.”

Dear Cousin Eb is available for use at the Killingly Public Library from the genealogy section. Copies can be purchased at the Killingly Historical Center. They are available for \$20 during regular business hours (Wednesday & Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.).

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, March 2025. Special thanks to Mary Brown for Dear Cousin Eb. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.

Spaghetti dinner to send Putnam Cub Scouts to summer camp

PUTNAM — Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam will host its spring spaghetti dinner, including meatballs, sausages, salad and garlic bread, on Saturday, April 26, from 4 until 6 p.m., at the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523, 207 Providence St., Putnam. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children 12 and under eat for free. Take-out or eat-in. There will also be a bake sale and raffles. Advance tickets are available at the VFW Post and at Joseph’s Jewelers, 153 School Street, Putnam, or by calling (860) 928-5873. Please leave a message when you call. Proceeds will benefit the Cub Scout Pack 21 Summer Camp Fund, to send our Cub Scouts to this year’s summer camp.

WRESTLING

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Padilla, Gavin Jonasch, Ron Wood
2ND PLACE Max Richardson, Brady Zadora, Brady Jonasch,
3RD PLACE Aiden Mantia
5TH PLACE Zach Phillips, Mason Connetti

6TH PLACE Peter Manfredro
CAPTAINS: Brady Zadora and Anthony Oates
ECC SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD: Max Richardson

ALLCONFERENCE:1st Team- Ron Wood, Aiden Mantia, Exael Padilla, Gavin Jonasch, Brady Jonasch, Brady Zadora, Anthony Oates, Aiden Mantia
Team Records
Established: School Record 80 match win streak.
School Record 32 wins in a season
School Record 13th ECC Championship
School Record 8th STATE Championship
School Record 3rd Championship in a row
Coach Bowen 733 career wins. Ct state record.



KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.
The following Killingly High School seniors achieved High Honors in Quarter 2: Abigail Anforth, Dakota Bourbeau, Olivia Bowen, Kloe Guertin, Caydan Jonasch, Addison Montville, Phillip Purcell, Usa Sacksith, Ivan Tang.
First Honors: Robert Alves, Olivia Andrade, Mia Ayotte, Alekos Basley, Lila Beaudreault, Dani Carlsen, Courtney Courtemanche, Jacqueline Creswell, Kailey Crump, Kylie Day, Grace Deslauriers, Emma Desrosiers, Kayden Dessert, Celeste Dietlin, Atila Dos Santos, Lilah Dunn, Philip Fernandez Garcia, Emily Fulton, Rebecca Gardner, Alayla Gebo, Kayson Gile, Natalie Guzman, Casey Hamilton, Soudachane Khaomongkhoun, Kylie Lawrence, Landon Manzi, Lilah Moran, Sasha Noury, Luca Oenning, Alleah Owen, Ada Sandberg, Katie Smith, Lucy St. Germain, Antonio St. Jean.
Second Honors: John Archambault, Preston Bellerive, Morgan Blanchard, Sage Bukowski, Andrew Carlson, Lilyanna Coporale, Joseph Cozza, Olivia Denaker, Kathrin Fischer, John Fitzgibbons, Zachary Fucci, Gianna Henson, Cheyanne Kerrigan, Addison King, Elisabeth Lamirand, Hayden Larrow, Shyla Lopez, Chloe Magao, Emily Mancini, Ella Marceau, Madison O'Donnell, Rachael Owen, Madison Paquin, Reko Patterson, Trent Pichie, Emma Rainville, Noah Reinhart, Annabella Sengvilay, Russell Sharpe, Hailey Shippee, Skylar Simmons, Corey Stevens, Cameron Stravato, Alyssa Wade, Lincoln Waterman, James Watson
The following juniors achieved High Honors in Quarter 2: Michael Allen, Ezekiel Benoit, Gavin Bessenaire, Samantha Bourque, Michael Fabiano, Kane Geddis, Melody Hutchinson, Emerson Joly, Evan Kozey, Cheyenne Reynolds, Riley Ritchotte, Tyler Smith, Samantha Smyth.
First Honors: Amirah Alston-Madison, Jayden Alvarez, Jace Basinet, Isaiah Benoit, Alena Clayton, Jayden Durand, Ethan Hall, Hannah Highley, Aiden

Lamotte, Miguel Morente Uz, Alex Murdock, Walter Okoney, Talia Santese, Brian Smith, Amaya Spadola, Wesley Sprouse, Quinn Sumner, Calvin Vandale, Mariette Vien, Logan Zajac.
Second Honors: Layla Adams, Peityn Adams, Aliza Asselin, Aniyah Basehore, Emma Belliveau, Jaliyah Blair, Brezlin Brown, Elizabeth Carlson, Hailey Collins, Chase Conklin, Madison Cote, Morgan Deojay, Kalynn Dombkowski, Ella Dunn, Alizah Estevez, Roman Garcia Colocho, Ian Gaudet, Brianna Gervais, Christopher Graff, Matthew Guenette Jr., Kristine Hamilton, Angelina Hitchew, Panayiotis Kazantzis, Adam Klosowski, Savannah LaFlash, Isaac Lake, Lindsay Lemery, Dakota Loring, Joseph Mackie, Ryder Maguire, Grace Main, Chloe Moniz, Ella Moyer, Owen Murray, Lily Peckham, Ella Pereira, Zachary Phillips, Elizabeth Poplawski, Mackenzie Pothier, Kaedynce Reggione, Klaus Resulaj, Kendall Rosen, Callan Senecal, Sebastian Sierakowski, Preston Suprenant, Caralyn Tellier, Sophia Tomany, Catrina Turgeon, Loghan Voghell, Ryleigh Zachow, Hugo Zayas.
The following sophomores achieved High Honors in Quarter 2: Logan Brooks, Chloe Cesolini, Tomas Gutierrez, Addyson Larkin, Alisa Libby, Riley Nolin, Elijah Poh, Edward Purcell, Jaiden Rickell, Allegra Turbayevskiy, Claire Zachow.
First Honors: Shai Baker, Zachary Blanchard, Quin Crowley, Willow Deary, Felicia Desabota, Kayla Drinkwater, Attilea Jarvis, Zoe Labonte, Emilie Lecrone, Trevor Remillard, Maximus Shafer, Sophia St. Germain, Cydney Thompson, Richard Turcotte, Samphina Zinnah.
Second Honors: Aiden Anforth, Rhylee Boulrier, Isamileny Busanet, Alexia Collazo, Gaighe DeBella, Kaden Dupuis, Logan Durand, Demetri Ennis, Savannah Frias, Hailey Gluck, Dannielynn Gonzalez, Joseph Gordon, Christina Green, Owen Hartley, Aveion Janton-Adams, Kaydence Kent, Glen Leveille, Selena Lopez, William Mancini, Esme Miller, Austin Newman, Sarah Owen, Maia Pacheco,

Viviana Pearson, Dylan Pedersen, Arionna Pepin, Matthew Poirier, Alexa Rodriguez, Crystal Rondeau, Stella Seney, Freja Spjut, Kendall Ternowchek, Hailey Tursi, Abigail Vose, Jake Voyer, Roman Walsh, Presley Waterman, Jessie Williams, Mason Yuill.
The following freshmen achieved High Honors in Quarter 2: Riley Anderson, Graciella Baublitz, Alexandria Caisse, Hazel Campbell, Kate Crowley, Ty Crowley, Corinne Daniels, Ev Dos Santos, Shakira Doyle, Ava Ellis, Marika Exarhoulias, Vivien Fisher, Rowan Frazer, Madison Hardy, Lianna Hutchinson, Jake Jaworski, Zachary Lackner, Benjamin Lemery, Peyton Loeber, Samairy Madera, Sophia Moran, Nina Purcell, Kalia Rosado, Daphne San Souci, Satya Thongsouvanh, Arianna Turner.
First Honors: Alan Abbott, Ella Adams, Claire Antunes, Isabella Baker, Jake Beaudreault, Harris Benjamin, Samuel Berube, Bridget Brown, Christopher Caron, William Clayton, Jake Costello, Arya Davis, Bryce Dumeer, Bethany Garvey, Michael Gottlieb, Aaden Khamphoukeo, Max Kinsella, Liam Lamotte, Loretta Lannon, Victoria Liguz, Jacob Long, Jaynie MacQuarrie, Greyson Marquez, Lillian McDonald, Graham Milot, Jackson Olson, Ava O'Rourke, Jon Palmer, Reese Ritchotte, Lyla Rondeau, Gianna Sanchas, Jackson Santese, Alizah Soto, Makayla Stubbs.
Second Honors: Gabriella Adams, Kylie Anderson, Serenity Ashun, Julia Asselin, Jaden Barnett, Jacob Belliveau, Hannah Bourque, Andre Cardona, Delia Chmura, Adisen Clark, Lylah Connetti, Caitlyn Cote, Michael DeAngelis, Kyla DeJesus, Antonio Demaio, Gabriel Dombkowski, Elijah Johnson, Isabella Jolley, Scarlett Laws, Deven Mix, Monty Niyomkham, Haley Nolet, Maximus Normandie, Loxley O'Leary, Naitik Pandya, Rigel Pelletier, Kaiden Perkins, Madeline Plumadore, Jeddriel Ramirez, Violet Schaefer, Jean St. Jean, Shealyn Stephenson, Giselle Wolfenden, Sofia Zira

Local residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON, Mass. — The following local residents have been named to the 2024 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.
Olivia Sczuroski, Pomfret Center
Avery Halloran, Woodstock
To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.
About Simmons University
Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering nearly 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended formats, or entirely online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/>.

OBITUARIES

Joan Lillian Rechner, 94



Joan Lillian Rechner, 94, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2025. She was born on May 20, 1930 to Elsie and Russell Miller in Belrose, Long Island where she grew up until she met and married the love of her life Stephen Rechner on June 18, 1955. Joan was an accomplished artist and her beautiful watercolor and oil paintings grace the homes of her family and friends. An active member of the Woodstock, Ct. community for 49 years Joan and her husband enjoyed many years volunteering at Roseland Cottage and running the senior exercise program at the town hall.

She attended St John's Lutheran Church and in her later years St. Emmanuel's Lutheran Church. Joan was an involved member and enjoyed hosting numerous church teas and organizing the after-church coffee hours. Joan is survived by her children, Kathleen Swatkoski and husband Bill and Stephen Rechner, one grandchild, Peter Wacelitz IV and wife Jamie, and two great-grandchildren Aly and Noah. We thank everyone for all the love and friendship you gave her during her many years on Perrin Rd. in Woodstock, Ct. Joan will be laid to rest next to her husband of 70 years in Bay Pines National Cemetery, St. Petersburg Fl. on May 20th 2025, her 95th birthday. Truly a day to celebrate her life!

SIGNALGATE

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investigation into the leak as a threat to national security. The letter asks the U.S. Senate's Armed Services Committee, Select Committee on Intelligence, and Foreign Relations Committee to

investigate the situation which they called "reckless" and "careless." "This gross mishandling of highly classified information has weakened our national security and could have put at risk American lives, particularly the men and women involved in

the military strikes in Yemen," the letter reads. While many have called of President Donald Trump to act, the President has not indicated that he will fire the Secretary of Defense or any other individuals involved in the leak.

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

LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK IWWA
On March 27th, 2025, the Agent for the IWWA approved application #03-25-10, with conditions: 1918 Route 198 (MBL 5709/01/18-1A), Benjamin Marinelli, Underground propane tank within Upland Review Area. Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent April 4, 2025

105 Tripp Hollow Rd., Brooklyn, CT 06234 April 4, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Mary Brodeur (25-00124)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 21, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim. Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk The fiduciary is: Mark R Brodeur, 379 Woodstock Ave., Putnam, CT 06260 Michael Paul Brodeur,

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Frances C Gesualdi (25-00127)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 25, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim. Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk The fiduciary is: Joseph A Surozenski c/o FRANK GERARD HERZOG, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE,LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260 April 4, 2025

BOROUGH OF DANIELSON ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
The legal inhabitants of the Borough of Danielson Qualified to vote at Borough meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Danielson Fire Station, 47 Academy Street, Danielson, Connecticut on April 7, 2025 at 7:00 pm for the following purpose to witt:
1. To hear and act upon the report of the President.
2. To hear and act upon the report of the Fire Chief.
3. To hear and act upon the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 as presented to the meeting.
4. To see if the voters will vote to authorize the President and Treasurer to borrow money, if required, upon notes of the Borough, whether funded, floating, emergencies or of any other nature during the ensuing year.
5. To do any other business Proper to be done at said meeting.
Dated March 19, 2025 - Borough of Danielson Administrator

	2024-2025 Approved Budget	2025-2026 Proposed Budget
REVENUES		
General Fund		
Property Taxes	842,917	833,818
PILOT Money	17,461	17,000
Telecommunications Tax	950	
1,600		
LOCIP Grant	3,028	4,411
Fire Protection Services	22,000	24,000
Interest Income	64,000	60,000
General Funds	40,000	39,500
Total Revenues	990,356	980,329
EXPENDITURES		
Fire Department		
Operating Expenses		
Allotments	27,200	27,200
Fire Chief Salary	8,200	8,200
Duty Shift Allotment (M-F 6am to 6pm)		32,636
35,000		
Annual Member Recognition	3,000	2,500
Capital Expenses	89,900	80,589
Operating Expenses	115,375	117,750
Retention/Recruitment	40,000	25,000
Total	316,311	296,239
Other Expenses		
Building Maintenance	39,000	36,225
Building Capital Improvement	60,000	40,000
Building Reserve	20,000	15,000
Facility Infrastructure Reserve	20,000	15,000
Fire Truck Loan Payment	62,540	62,540
Fire Truck Reserve	30,000	30,000
Hydrants	150,000	170,000
Insurance	60,000	77,000
Total	441,540	445,765
Total Fire Department	757,851	742,004
General Government Expenses		
Attorney	7,500	
Auditing/Accountant	18,000	18,000
Borough Office Expense	7,500	4,900
Borough Administrator Salary	20,500	21,525
Council Contingency	200	200
Council Expense	200	1,700
Election	1,000	2,000
Insurance	18,000	24,000
IT Data Tech Services	15,000	16,000
Legal Notices	7,500	5,000
Payroll Taxes	10,255	8,000
President's Salary	2,050	2,100
Sidewalk Repair	20,000	20,000
Sidewalk Reserve	30,000	30,000
Stipend for Council	1,400	1,400
Street Lights	60,000	60,000
Tax Collection Services	12,400	15,000
Tax Refunds/Liens	1,000	1,000
Total General Government Exp	232,505	238,325
Total Expenses	990,356	980,329
March 28, 2025		
April 4, 2025		

Marilyn G. Tarr, 93



Marilyn G. (Marshall) Tarr, 93, died March 25th in Dayville, CT surrounded by her loving family. Marilyn was born June 1, 1931 in Chepachet, Rhode Island, to Alexander and Pauline (Denoyelle) Marshall. She cherished a close relationship with her parents and was a dedicated daughter until their deaths in 2000 and 2001, respectively. Following her graduation from high school and a brief career in Providence, she married Carroll R. Tarr on July 12, 1953. They settled into life on Tarr Farms in Pomfret, CT, where they raised two daughters. Marilyn worked at home supporting her family and farm life for many years. Later, she contributed to the operations of a family trucking business, C.R. Tarr Inc, with behind-the-scenes administrative tasks. A lifelong believer in education, she supported her daughters in becoming first-generation college graduates. Marilyn was a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. She enjoyed square dancing with her husband and friends and had a particular love for gift giving at Christmas. Marilyn assisted with care for her young grandchildren and

prioritized home and family, providing decades of unconditional love and support. In their retirement years, Marilyn and Carroll enjoyed traveling to destinations such as Hawaii and Mexico, as well as attending their grandchildren's sporting events, concerts, plays, and other milestones. Marilyn was predeceased by her parents, Alexander and Pauline Marshall; her husband, Carroll R. Tarr; her brother, Robert Marshall; and her son-in-law, Richard Morrill. She is survived by her daughters, Cynthia Morrill and Pamela Billings (Lionel); her grandchildren Paige Billings (James), Alexander Morrill, and Colin Billings (Alexandra); her five great-grandchildren; her sister-in-law, Lurena Heath; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral was held on Friday, March 28, 2025 at 1:30 PM at Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT, a calling hour was held from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. Burial to follow in Grove Street Cemetery, Putnam, CT. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Windham County 4-H Camp, 326 Taft Pond Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 (4hcampct.org) to honor her legacy of love and care for children and animals. Share a memory at Smithandwalkerfh.com

DANCEFEST

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reography from Ashley Green, Therese Weigand-Watkinson (Class of 2018), and ACT Principal Sarah Mallory. DanceFest 2025 is a showcase of collaborations and choreography that highlights the dance department's spirit of Ohana that has been cultivated over the past 22 years under the direction of Mancuso. Her pieces, "Stronger In the Broken Places," "Power of the Wheel," and "Find Your Tribe," highlight the journey of community and reflect the heart she has brought to the school in her tenure.

"Stronger In the Broken Places" follows a group of friends as they navigate through the ups and downs of life and relationships. We watch the dancers in moments of conflict and personal struggle as others simultaneously support and fight to save each other and their friendship from themselves in this contemporary piece.

Inspired by Ugandan folk art, "Power of the Wheel" is a testament of the country's rich cultural heritage and artistic expertise. Dancers follow the rhythm of daily life and work among African women, showcasing both

collective energy and the cultural significance of women working together to build community and family through modern dance.

In collaboration with the senior ACT dancers, Tiana Mancuso brings the playful and athletic energy to life honoring the unique energy of this year's graduating dancers. "Find Your Tribe" highlights the individuality of each dancer through their different strengths while also showing their strength and solidarity as a group of friends who found their tribe in each other.

Ashley Green's choreography in "Strangers to Sisters" looks back on the dancers' earlier selves. Reminiscing on the challenges and triumphs that have shaped them into their present selves, this piece celebrates their growth and their memories together, while honoring the lasting impact they've made on each other.

Therese Weigand-Watkinson's "Hype Girl" showcases the confidence of individuality alongside the power of inclusion. Energy radiates from the community of dancers as they explore the Ohana values

of unity, friendship and sharing.

Sarah Mallory and the ACT dancers choreographed contemporary ballet pieces as an ode to hope formed within relationships, human connections in "Beacon." The dances demonstrate what family means; those who "fuel your fire, and fuel your light." This piece features a collaboration with Creative Writing III showcasing a collaborative poem titled 'Hope is a beacon.'

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students/children/seniors/military, and \$5 for ACT students/alumni and EASTCONN employees. For questions or to reserve by phone please call 860-465-5636. Tickets can be purchased at the door with cash or check only. The box office opens one hour before each performance and will close 10 minutes after the performance begins.

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

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Funeral Homes and Crematory
"Living Up to a Tradition Started 100 Years Ago"
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