



Many didn't even wait for the event to begin. Walkers were seen on the track even half an hour prior to opening ceremonies. Jason Bleau

Putnam hosts rain-shortened Relay for Life

Donald Hoenig, Sr. named Thompson's Veteran of the Month

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — While the Relay for Life of Northeastern Connecticut may have been severely shortened due to rain, that did not stop supporters and survivors from turning out to embrace their annual push for a cure.

Relay for Life returned to Putnam for a third year on May 31, its second year at the St. Marie-

Greenhalgh Sports Complex, with a new theme of "Turning the Tides Against Cancer" with teams embracing underwater and nautical concepts in their campsites. Ironically wet weather would cancel the event only hours into the relay, but not before supporters had the opportunity to partake in opening ceremonies and take to the track for laps in honor of survivors, caregivers, and those we've lost to cancer.

Whitney Pynn, a Co-Chair of the Relay for Life of Northeastern Connecticut, said the event is an important day for many as they make a local push to help find a cure for cancer and support those stricken with the disease.

"It's very important to us. We really like to focus on 'celebrate, remember, and fight back.' We want to celebrate everyone who has overcome in battling with cancer. It's really amazing to see the whole community come together, even on a rainy day like this," said Pynn.

Gretchen Hess, a teacher in the Putnam School District and a member of the Event Leadership Team for Relay for Life of Northeastern Connecticut, said having her students involved and bringing the event to Putnam has been a rewarding experience for all.

"It's wonderful to have it on Parks and Recreation land surrounded by our school site. It feels like such a central location to bring together Putnam of course, but also just members of the communities beyond that. To have access to a space of this size and be able to host all of the wonderful people here to help us fight cancer is just remarkable," said Hess.

Relay moved to Putnam High School in 2023 as an emergency indoor location due to smoke

Turn To **RELAY** page **A9**

NECCOG "shrinking" animal control operation to focus on member towns

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) has long incorporated some form of animal control and over the years more and more communities have turned to the Council to provide the service. Under the new leadership of Executive Director Jim Rivers, NECCOG plans to change its approach to providing animal control by focusing more on its member towns while asking outside communities to pay their fair share.

Rivers met with the Killingly Town Council on May 13 to provide an update on NECCOG's initiatives where animal control became a primary topic of discussion. NECCOG plans to "shrink" the service according to Rivers but that does not mean the program will be disappearing. The changes are more focused on providing good service to member communities while asking outside communities to pay more for having NECCOG manage their animal control needs.

"Right now, we have 24 towns and entities. I think it's 21 towns, the sub-base, and the two casinos. We have lost a few of the towns to a new facility being built in Montville so some of the towns to the south are joining Montville. Great for them, great for us. I have notified Norwich after discussions with them over the last few months that this will be the last year we serve Norwich. I've also raised their fee up by \$110,000 because that's what it costs to run that place and we're not going to run it with Council of Governments money because they're not on our council. I don't mind putting extra money in the animal control if it's just the towns that we serve," said Rivers.

Additionally, starting in July of 2026, other towns that are not members of NECCOG will have a base fee on top

Turn To **NECCOG** page **A9**

Killingly High School holds Career Pathway celebration

KILLINGLY — Last morning, 74 Killingly High School Seniors were recognized for completing 109 Career Pathways in six career clusters at the 21st Annual Career Pathway Celebration. Pathway completers and their guests were treated to breakfast at the high school, followed by the ceremony in which they received plaques and certificates.

At graduation, pathway completers will also receive a pin to wear on their gown to signify their pathway(s). The six Career Clusters include Agricultural Education, Arts and Communication, Business and Finance, Construction and Industrial Design, Government and Public Administration, and Education & Human Development. Lila Beaudreault earned 4 different pathways in Business Management, Hospitality, Marketing, and World Language. Each pathway completer is also required to complete a job shadow in their pathway during their junior or senior year. The Career Center at Killingly High School has partnered with many businesses and organizations, including members of the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and Killingly Business Association, to provide this opportunity.

Keynote speaker and Learning for Life founder, Michael Herklots, addressed the audience and praised this year's completers.

His message was "It is the responsibility of a community to ensure that the experiences and opportunities for those who follow us exceed those that were afforded to us. As evidenced by the successes of this year's completers, this community is living up to that responsibility."

Herklots challenged students of the graduating class of 2025 to "start their first day of community citizenship, you inherit the same responsibility this community has lived up to for as long as you've been in school."

He also urged students to "not hold [themselves] hostage to some predetermined destination, like a specific job title or dream car, or city where you want to live. Rather, recognize how far you've come. Realize how much you've evolved, developed."

Turn To **CELEBRATION** page **A9**

Woodstock author to launch latest book June 28 at Booklovers Gourmet



Karen Warinsky

WEBSTER, Mass. — Woodstock author Karen Warinsky will launch her new book of poetry at Booklovers’ Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, Mass., on Saturday, June 28 from 1-2:30 p.m. This

event is free and open to the public and will include a limited open mic and a raffle.

Titled “Beauty & Ashes” (Kelsay Press), this is her fourth collection. Warinsky has published poetry since 2011 and her books are “Gold in Autumn” (2020) and “Sunrise Ruby” (2022), both from Human Error Publishing, and “Dining with War” (2023 Alien Buddha Press). She is a Best of the Net nominee and a former finalist of the Montreal International Poetry Contest and won First Place in 2024 for her poem “Mirage” from the Ekphrastic Poetry Trust. She coordinates spoken word/poetry events in Massachusetts

and Connecticut under the name Poets at Large, and currently holds readings at Roseland Park in Woodstock and The Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret. Warinsky and her husband have lived in Woodstock for 34 years where they raised their three children, and she is retired from careers in journalism and teaching.

Lee Desrosiers, editor and publisher of The Naugatuck River Review and Wordpeace, wrote in her blurb for the book: “In these poems you will find a celebration of wom-

anhood and self-love, a carillon, meditations on aging and mortality, gardens and lakes, marriage, a folder for death, junkmen “with their scrappy junkyard no-name cat / and their watchful, blank blue-eyed German Shepherd,” and much more, which together make Warinsky’s collection well worth reading.”

James Penha, managing editor for The New Verse News, writes: “‘Beauty & Ashes’ ... follows the seasons of the year as an allegory, of

course, for the trajectory of a human life. But the book’s calendar ends in spring, the season of beginnings (!) despite our learning earlier from a speaker that Death ‘is sometimes there / lounging in my poems about nature and spirit... / he wants to take me home.’ And so, I reread these poems earnestly wondering where we have been and where we are headed. And I do mean we, for although the poems are personal and autobiographical, I recognize in all of them a corre-

spondence and often a congruence with my own experience of beauty and ashes. I think every reader of this collection will as well.”

This event is suitable for ages 14 and up. Books will be available for purchase. People should call (508) 949-6232 to sign up for the open mic. Warinsky’s books are also available at Tidepool Bookshop, 372 Chandler St. in Worcester, and at A Great Notion, 65 Southbridge St. in Auburn, as well as on Amazon.

Pomfret Historical Society to host benefit concert featuring music from Revolutionary War

POMFRET — On June 14 at 6 p.m., the Pomfret Historical Society will hold a benefit concert at the Old Town House titled “Washington’s Favorite, The Nation’s Guest: Songs of Lafayette’s Time in America” with Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle.

In 1824, the Marquis de Lafayette returned to tour the nation he had fought years earlier to establish. He received a celebrity’s welcome, visited all 24 states, and was honored as a surviving hero of the Revolutionary War. This program includes songs that were popular during Lafayette’s participation in our war for freedom as well as songs composed to celebrate his triumphant return in 1824.

Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle perform a series of theme-based music and history programs. They present songs that give cultural insight into interesting times, places, and events in American history. Rick and Dawn carefully craft their vocals and accompaniment to sound as true to a song’s era or style as possible. Their vast repertoire includes music from the Colonial era to the present day. They use these songs to illustrate the evolution of our nation’s culture and history in an informative and entertaining way.

The proceeds from the concert will help Pomfret Historical Society to fulfill several initiatives in its mission to acquire, preserve and promote Pomfret history including the maintenance

and stewardship of the Old Town House and the curating and preservation of archives and artifacts.

The program begins with refreshments and a meet & greet at 6 p.m. and concert at 7 p.m. Space is limited and it is recommended to reserve tickets which can be purchased at the door for \$25. Contact Pomfret Historical Society Program Director Donna Dufresne to reserve tickets: 860-465-7228 or email windsong@snet.net

“Songs of Lafayette’s Time in America” was generously sponsored by Centerville Bank. Thank You!

Access Housing Education & Counseling Center hosts Homebuyer Readiness Resource Fair

DANIELSON — Thinking about buying a home? Already own one and want to level up your knowledge? Then don’t miss the Homebuyer Readiness Resource Fair, hosted by Access Housing Education & Counseling Center (HECC) on Friday, June 20, 2025, from 4-6 p.m. at the Killingly Public Library Community Room, 25 Westcott Rd., Danielson!

This exciting event is free and open to the public, and packed with valuable resources, tools, and tips to help you confidently navigate the journey of homeownership. Whether you’re dreaming of buying your first home or already have your keys in hand, this fair is your one-stop shop for guidance, answers, and inspiration.

Meet the experts! Check out our incredible lineup of community vendors:

- Northeast Early Childhood Council
- Access Community Action Agency
- Jewett City Savings Bank
- Centreville Bank
- Girls N Tools
- Brunet and Company Real Estate
- North Star Home Loans
- Habitat for Humanity
- Liberty Bank
- Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHEFA)
- Eastern Insurance Associates

Get your questions answered, pick up helpful materials, connect with lenders and service providers, and leave feeling empowered to take your next steps in homeownership!

Want to learn more? For more information about the Homebuyer Readiness Resource Fair or HECC, email Helen Scanlon, Program Manager, at helen.scanlon@accessagency.org

Let’s turn those homeownership dreams into reality—see you there!

Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency for northeastern Connecticut. We are committed to providing food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable, limited-income families and individuals throughout the region.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

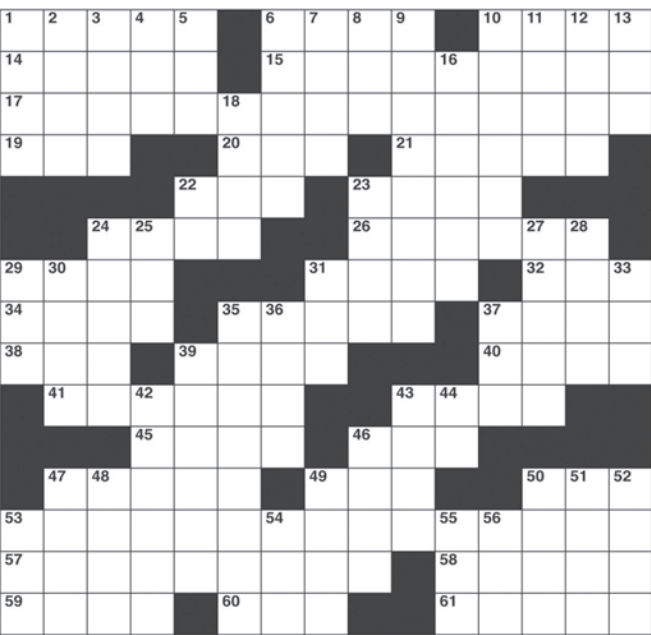
WOODSTOCK — An open Al-Anon meeting meets at the East Woodstock Congregational Church every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

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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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Marsh plant
- 6. Southern constellation (“The Peacock”)
- 10. Fogginess
- 14. Home to Fools’ Day
- 15. Absence of the sense of pain
- 17. Popular November holiday
- 19. Consume food
- 20. Buddy
- 21. Long-haired goat-antelope
- 22. Japanese honorific
- 23. Actor Malek
- 24. One point south of southeast
- 26. Illegal acts
- 29. As fast as can be done
- 31. Prevents harm to young
- 32. Exclamation of satisfaction
- 34. African nation
- 35. Slow-moving animal
- 37. Oh, goodness!
- 38. A team’s best pitcher
- 39. Cleanser
- 40. Radioactivity units
- 41. Expectorated matter
- 43. Cover a wide range
- 45. The central area of a church
- 46. California capital (abbr.)
- 47. Dutch painter Klaver
- 49. 007’s creator
- 50. Impression of dishonesty
- 53. Northeastern sports rivalry
- 57. Cloths
- 58. Stalin’s police chief
- 59. Hosteleries
- 60. Bitterly regret
- 61. Anwar __, Egyptian statesman

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Satisfy
- 2. European health advocate
- 3. Expression of annoyance
- 4. Strong liquor
- 5. Large red deer
- 6. Holder of less common religious beliefs
- 7. West Indian shrub
- 8. Family of proteins
- 9. Wealthy, influential business leader
- 10. Low spirits
- 11. Approves food
- 12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman
- 13. Mary __, cosmetics
- 16. Expressed in pithy maxims
- 18. Relaxing spaces
- 22. The NFL’s big game
- 23. Proof of payment (abbr.)
- 24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers
- 25. Indicates near
- 27. Minneapolis suburb
- 28. Herring-like fish
- 29. Doctors’ group
- 30. Pouches
- 31. Bread dipping in sauce
- 33. Commercials
- 35. A reminder of past events
- 36. Affected by injury
- 37. Geological time
- 39. Stationary part of a motor
- 42. Brings together
- 43. Of sound mind
- 44. Personal computer
- 46. Without (French)
- 47. A bank might give you one
- 48. Agricultural testing organization
- 49. A small island
- 50. Type of gene
- 51. Murre
- 52. Card game
- 53. A measure of human health
- 54. Australian airline (abbr.)
- 55. One point south of due west
- 56. Affirmative

PUZZLE SOLUTION



VILLAGER ALMANAC AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 26: Bobolink, Northern Harrier, Eastern Meadowlark, Blue-winged Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Purple Martin, Common Merganser, Tree Swallow, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Warbler, Wood Thrush, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Orchard Oriole



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WPI students complete intensive capstone research projects

WORCESTER, Mass. — Almost 1,200 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) completed a senior capstone thesis that is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university’s distinctive project-based educational experience. Known as Major Qualifying Projects (MQP), these are professional-level research experiences in the students’ fields of study that challenge students to solve the kind of problem they would typically encounter in their professional discipline.

“It’s inspiring to see the creativity and skills that our students bring to these hands-on projects, as well as the professionalism with which they present their research,” says Arne Gericke, interim dean of under-

graduate studies and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. “Their experience managing a major project like this—including identifying a problem and researching all of the implications and possible solutions while also managing team dynamics over an extended period of several months—sets them up well for success not only in their first jobs after graduation but throughout their careers.”

WPI’s innovative undergraduate education is centered around project-based learning, a hands-on approach that requires students to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real-world, open-ended problems. During their time at WPI, all students complete two significant

research projects that produce tangible results and often affect the quality of people’s lives. These projects change both the student and their world.

MQPs are usually team-based and often focus on specific issues or needs of an organization that has partnered with the university to sponsor the students’ work. In addition to providing practical work experience that proves valuable to future employers, MQPs often lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at regional and national conferences, patents, and entrepreneurial ventures. Others become useful innovations and products for their corporate sponsors.

The following students completed an MQP:

Brooke Peloquin from Putnam, majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Physics, completed a project titled “Design and Fabrication of a Small-Scale RCV Engine.”

John Steglitz from Thompson, majoring in Biomedical Engineering, completed a project titled “A Flow System For In Vitro Artery Models.”

Connor Quinn from Woodstock, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled “Handheld Safety Assessment Device (HSAD).”

John Peabody from Woodstock, majoring in Biomedical Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled “Developing AI Algorithms for Ultrasound Diagnostics.”

Eliza Dutson from Woodstock, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology,

class of 2025, completed a project titled “Artemisia sp. vs ART Compounds in Dermal Fibroblasts.”

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI’s continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI’s project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor’s, Master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

Roseland Cottage hosting Open House June 7

WOODSTOCK — Free tours of Roseland Cottage, 556 Route 169, Woodstock, CT, will be offered on Saturday, June 7, in celebration of Historic New England’s Open House day. Tours are offered on the hour, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., with the last tour starting at 3 p.m., and are on a first come, first served basis.

Other upcoming events include a Bridgerton-inspired croquet tea on June 8 at 1 p.m. (reservations required), and free Twilight Lawn Concerts on June 21 at 6:30 p.m. featuring Dynamite Rhythm, June 29 at 5 p.m. featuring the St. Luke Steel Drum Band, Aug. 1 at 6:30 p.m., featuring Amy Gallatin and Stillwater; and on August 15 Wooden Horse will play at 6:30 p.m.

Known locally as The Pink House, National Historic Landmark Roseland Cottage is one of the finest remaining examples of the Gothic Revival style which was popular in the 1840s, when Roseland was built. It served as the summer home of prominent 19th-century businessman and abolitionist Henry Chandler Bowen and his wife Lucy Tappan, who entertained many luminaries at Roseland, including four US Presidents. The picturesque landscape includes the original boxwood parterre garden, which is planted with over 5000 annuals each spring, an icehouse, aviary, carriage barn, and,

Pet Pals to hold low cost rabies clinic

DANIELSON — Pet Pals Northeast, a local animal welfare organization, is holding a low cost rabies clinic at the Quinebaug Valley Veterinary Hospital, Route 12, Danielson/Plainfield town line on June 21 from 2 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$15 cash per animal. Pre-registration and appointment is required. No walk-ins, please. For information, registration and appointment, contact Pet Pals at 860-317-1720. This is the last clinic until October.

Get your dancing shoes on and come to the Sock Hop!

PUTNAM — Get your Rock and Roll dance shoes on and get ready to hit the dance floor with Elvis, on Wednesday, June 11 at the Putnam Elks Club!

If you haven’t saved the date for the Viva Las Putnam senior dance, please be sure to mark your calendars!

For those who have paid for their ticket already there is early admittance, otherwise attendees can pay \$10 at the door.

See you at the Sock Hop!



remarkably, the nation’s oldest surviving indoor bowling alley. The Pink House is as beautiful inside as out, with elaborate wall coverings, heavily patterned carpets, stained glass, and furnishings in the Gothic Revival style that date back to the construction of the house in 1846. Roseland Cottage will be open in 2023 from June 1 to Oct. 15, Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tours are always free for Woodstock residents and Historic New England members and for all visitors on June 7. Please call 860 928-4074 for more information, or to arrange group tours.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Pride Month — a celebration of freedom, love, and basic human respect

Pride Month isn't about parades for the sake of spectacle, or some imagined political agenda. It's about something much deeper and far more American: the right to live freely, love openly, and exist without fear.

At its core, Pride is a celebration of freedom of expression, a reminder that all people are created equal, and a protest against the idea that anyone should feel ashamed of who they are or who they love.

It's wild, honestly, that in 2025 we still have to say this out loud: LGBTQ+ people have every right to exist, to love, and to thrive just like anyone else. But the hate, the violence, the bullying is still happening. Most of it comes from people who seem to be bothered by lives that have absolutely nothing to do with them.

What makes someone furious about two women holding hands? Or two men building a life together? Why do some people fixate on other people's relationships as if they were their business to approve or condemn? It's strange, and it's telling.

A big part of it comes down to representation. For so long, gay couples and anyone who isn't straight were invisible in media, ignored in history, and left out of the everyday story society tells about itself. And when something seems different or unfamiliar, some folks decide it's wrong. But different doesn't mean wrong. It just means different.

Pride Month is about countering that invisibility. It's about creating a world where LGBTQ+ people don't have to wonder if they'll be safe in public, or if their identity will cost them their job, their family, or their lives. It's about telling the kid in the small town, or the adult who's finally coming out later in life: you are not alone, and there is nothing wrong with you.

Pride isn't about sex. That's a tired excuse opponents use when they don't want to confront their own discomfort. Pride is about love, the right to love without shame, without silence, and without asking permission.

LGBTQ+ people are more than who they love. They are teachers, veterans, parents, artists, first responders, elected officials, neighbors, and friends. They contribute to society in every way imaginable. The idea that some people's lives matter less because of their identity is not just wrong, it's un-American.

Pride Month is a time to honor courage, community, and the hard-won right to live authentically. It's also a time to remind ourselves that no one's existence is more important than anyone else's. We're all just trying to live.

And for those who still feel the need to tear others down because of who they love, perhaps it is time to ask what that says about yourselves, not 'them.' Because live and let live isn't just good advice — it's one of the bedrock principles of a civil society.

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

Vote your support for Woodstock's children

To the Editor:

I'm extremely disappointed with the Board of Finance and lack of support from the people of Woodstock to properly fund the K-8 school system. The proposed budget was voted down at the referendum on May 20 by only 25 votes (589 to 564, only 17 percent of registered voters). The budget that didn't pass included massive cuts to the K-8 school systems and will be reduced again as there's only two places that the budget can be reduced, Town Services and K-8 Education (Woodstock Academy Tuition is not negotiable).

The initial budget, a 12 percent increase from last year, provided by the Board of Education included new staffing for two para-professionals, two media clerks, a half-time custodian and a Spanish teacher, along with new software implementations and long overdue maintenance projects. The BOE revised this down to a 9 percent increase, creating one new position for a math coordinator, absorbing the \$90,000 cut from federal grants, scaling back repair/maintenance items, and creating a Special Education contingency fund of \$150,000. Not as great as the initial budget, but there's no loss of positions or educational services.

The Board of Finance further reduced the BOE's budget to an increase of 4.33 percent, which resulted in the elimination of 8 positions at the elementary and middle schools, both certified and uncertified, and all requested services from the initial budget. After the failed referendum on May 20, the BOF revised the BOE budget to an increase of just 3.96 percent, eliminating yet another position in the classroom.

If you are counting, that's now a total of nine classroom positions eliminated from the K-8 schools, almost 10 percent of the current staff! This is in addition to the following positions that have been eliminated in recent years: WES Librarian, WES Computer Teacher, WES Permanent Substitute Teacher, WMS Computer Teacher, WMS Spanish Teacher, WMS Gifted Teacher, Math Coordinator, Language Arts Coordinator, and Technology Coordinator. The elementary

school hasn't had a librarian for years and the middle school librarian position will be eliminated with the current budget. If things continue at this rate, there won't be any teachers left to educate our children, who represent the future and deserve a proper education.

I have to wonder why some people in Woodstock don't seem to want to support and fund our children's education. Out of 169 Towns in Connecticut, Woodstock ranks 147th in Mill Rates and 143rd in Per Pupil Expenditures at \$18,742 vs the state average of \$29,721. The Town of Woodstock's median income is 10 percent higher than the state average, yet we rank abysmally low in education spending and have one of the lowest mill rates in the state, why is that?

One of the big draws when my wife and I moved to Woodstock was the school system. We only heard good things and assumed all the schools were good. As it turns out, this isn't the case. The Woodstock Academy's reputation as a world class high school eclipses the elementary and middle schools. Hampered by Prop 46 for decades, the lower school system's budgets have repeatedly been reduced and positions/services cut. I fear that continued cuts to the education system will result in people looking to move their children out of the lower schools, whether for homeschooling, private school, or leaving town altogether.

I would like to thank all the staff at Woodstock Elementary and Middle schools for all they do for the children, especially with such limited resources and support from the Town. I hope in the very near future we can provide the budget and support that is greatly needed for the K-8 schools.

I implore the people of Woodstock to consider thinking of the children and voting yes on the budget referendum on June 10. The BOE has stated that any further cuts may require the end of programming in areas such as art, music, and sports.

AARON FARBO
WOODSTOCK

People over party, please

To the Editor:

If you care about education in Killingly, please make sure your representatives on the Board of Education understand that we expect them to put people over party; in this case, to prioritize our children over party loyalty. Because of the passing of Democrat Danny Rovero, there is currently a vacant seat on the board. The Killingly Democratic party has nominated two qualified candidates to fill that seat, but the four Republican board members have voted them both down. In the meantime, it is difficult for the board to pursue its mission, as there are four members from each party with no one to break any ties.

In November 2023, Killingly voters made it clear that they preferred a Democratic majority on our Board of Ed. I would also argue

that the current stalemate dishonors Mr. Rovero's legacy of doing what's best for the kids and for Killingly's future. The Killingly Democratic party has recently selected a third candidate, one with proven qualifications, for the board to consider. I can think of no good reason to oppose this new candidate.

This nomination will be voted on by the BOE at their June 11 meeting. Please make sure all the members know that we expect them to put aside prejudice and party rivalry, and to seat this candidate immediately. Emails for the entire board can easily be generated by clicking one button at <https://www.killinglyschools.org/about-us/board-of-education-2>. Thanks very much.

ROBIN LOFQUIST
DANIELSON

Congress must stop Elon Musk's power grab!

To the Editor:

Elon Musk bought the presidency for \$290 million, give or take. But it looks like he took more than he gave. His so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) promised to cut \$2 trillion from the federal budget. So far, DOGE claims \$175 billion in cuts (a far cry from \$2 trillion) but even those DOGE cuts lack documentation to verify them.

In reality, those "savings" may end up costing taxpayers. CNN's Zachary B. Wolf reports that DOGE gutted the enforcement wing of the IRS and slashed jobs at national parks, two sectors that generate revenue. Max Stier, head of the Partnership for Public Service, estimates DOGE's cuts could cost Americans \$135 billion, just to rehire and retrain the workers they fired. He called it "arson of a public asset."

Meanwhile, Musk used his time in government to kill investigations into his companies, lock in government contracts, and pressure foreign nations to adopt his Starlink satellite network as a condition of tariff talks. According to Forbes' John Hyatt, Musk's alliance with Trump has made him \$170 billion richer.

To make matters worse for Americans, DOGE operatives have embedded themselves deep inside federal agencies. They're siphoning Americans' data to build a massive "master database," a surveillance system that can find and sort individuals with precision. David Pepper, former chair of the Ohio Democratic Party, called it exactly what it is: "a full-scale redirection of the government's digital nervous system into the hands of an unelected billionaire."

Do you trust Elon Musk's AI company, X, with your personal data? With your medical records? Your financial life? Your family's privacy?

We shouldn't trust him! He takes more than he gives to the public good.

Unregulated AI poses massive risks: unauthorized surveillance, misuse of private information, identity theft, and widespread data breaches. And with Musk's empire now wired into the government itself, the threat is no longer theoretical.

Congress must act now. Americans deserve airtight protections for their data and their privacy. We didn't vote for this surveillance state. We didn't consent to our information being mined. And we didn't elect Elon Musk.

It's time to take our digital rights back—before we lose them for good. Recently, MSNBC reported that the Trump Administration "appears to be building an unprecedented spy machine that could track Americans."

Tell Congress our data is not for sale. We need legislations that protects Americans' privacy from unaccountable AI giants. Ban mass data collection without consent. Block private companies from building surveillance tools with public infrastructure. And hold Elon Musk, and anyone like him, accountable.

The fight for privacy is the fight for democracy.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Join the Killingly Public Library for a summer filled with reading adventures!

BY CLAUDETTE STOCKWELL
DIRECTOR
KILLINGLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

We have a variety of story times and engaging activities lined up, including our weekly Have You Seen Gordon Challenge?, scavenger hunts, tabletop games, and a life-sized book character game! When you visit the Killingly Library beginning Monday, June 16, young readers will receive a special summer reading book bag and can choose a prize from our Mystery Prize Box—one prize per child each week! Meanwhile, teens and adults will have the chance to roll the dice for a shot at winning our weekly giveaway, featuring a gift certificate to a local Killingly business.

Special June events

Don't miss our latest GIANT Room Challenge. Help us create a deck of "Would you rather" questions. Submit a question that makes you reflect on your emotions, brings a smile with a rhyme, creates a little ickiness, sparks a debate, or brings on the giggles! Feel free to include a drawing for each option. Each question will be printed on its own card and included in a game book. Funding made possible by the Connecticut State Library and Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds that are provided through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Join us on Wednesday, June 18 at 6 p.m. for a talk by Ginny Apple, CT DEEP's Master Wildlife Conservationist. She will discuss black bears, covering their natural history in Connecticut, habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction, and ongoing research efforts. Ginny will also share practical tips for coexisting with our black bear population and will present black bear artifacts for the audience.

On Thursday, June 19 at 10 a.m., get ready for the Energy in Action Mobile Exhibit, offering interactive energy-based fun! Explore the Energy Grid, a Plasma Tube, the Thermal Tunnel, The Generation Station, Wind Power, a Light Wall, and much more!

Finally, join StoryFaces with Agostino Arts on Thursday, June 26 at 1 p.m. for an engaging show where audience volunteers will bring their faces painted to have stories to life. Enjoy tales from various cultures, including new twists on Aesop's Fables and legends like Punia and the King of the Sharks. After the performance, kids can create their own stories in the DIY Amazing Face Story Activity.

Thank you to the Friends of Killingly Public Library for supporting our summer reading program.

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Leveraging your emergency fund to help fuel your goals: Tips for 2025

When it comes to emergency funds, the age-old advice has been to keep three to six months' worth of expenses in a basic savings account. However, with the evolving interest rate environment and changing market conditions, many savvy investors are asking: what is the best investment option for an emergency fund that could allow for greater growth of those funds while still balancing safety and keeping the funds liquid so they can be easily tapped if needed?

Why emergency fund strategy matters now
At WHZ, we often remind our clients and readers that creating a financial strategy isn't much use if you don't stick to it and stay on top of it. This principle is especially true of an emergency fund. Not only is it your financial safety net, it could also represent a significant portion of your portfolio as part of a strategic financial plan.

The changing interest rate landscape

The Federal Reserve cut interest rates in 2024 to help bring down inflation, leading investors to rethink their emergency fund allocation. However, the Federal Reserve has indicated it will slow its rate-cutting pace this year because the economy has been stronger than expected. This shifting landscape means that yesterday's emergency fund strategy might not be optimal for today's market conditions. It also means that you should be careful to stay on top of how these changes affect your current emergency fund strategy so you can keep optimizing in real time.

That being said, here are some options that could help to maximize returns on your emergency fund while still keeping those funds available to you should you need them.

Best emergency fund investment options for 2025

FINANCIAL

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JONATHAN
MATHEWS
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

1. High-yield savings accounts: High-yield savings accounts remain one of the most popular emergency fund options, and for good reason. They offer competitive interest rates as compared to regular savings accounts (many above 4 to 5 percent), as well as easy online access to your funds. They are also FDIC insured up to \$250,000 and pose no risk from the financial markets.

However, it's important to remember that many of these accounts also impose monthly transaction limits (usually limited to six per month), the favorable rates may decrease with Fed rate cuts, and some charge fees if your balance drops below a certain threshold.

2. Money market mutual funds: Like high-yield savings accounts, money market mutual funds offer higher yields than traditional savings accounts and remain liquid so you can easily tap into them when needed. They are also professionally managed and retain a stable value. Cons include the fact that they do have minimum investment requirements, the yield will fluctuate with rates, and the funds are not FDIC insured.

3. Treasury I bonds (for Portion of Emergency Fund): Remember that your emergency fund doesn't have to be contained within just one account – you can diversify it the way you do the rest of your portfolio. Treasury I Bonds are a good option for this approach. Placing a portion of your emergency funds in this type of bond offers protection from inflation while also offering government-backed security as well as tax advantages, as they are federal tax-deferred and state tax-free.

On the other hand they do carry a \$10,000 annual purchase limit. They must be held for a minimum of 12 months and a three-month interest penalty is applied if held

for less than five years, reducing the liquidity of the funds. This is why this option should only be considered for a portion of your emergency fund and not the entire thing.

4. Short-term CDs and CD ladders: Short-term certificates of deposit (CDs) and CD ladders offer returns that are both predictable and higher than basic savings. They are also FDIC-insured and can be "laddered." A CD ladder is a strategic savings method where you buy multiple CDs with staggered maturity dates instead of putting all your money into a single CD. This creates a "ladder" of maturity dates that provides both higher interest rates and more flexible access to your money.

Cons to short-term CDs include early withdrawal penalties, less liquidity than savings accounts, and the fact that rates are locked in, meaning you will miss out on higher rates of return if interest rates rise during the term of the CD.

Historical performance: Why stocks aren't suitable for emergency funds

While the S&P 500 rose more than 20 percent in 2024, bringing its two-year gain to roughly 50 percent according to WHZ's market analysis, this level of volatility demonstrates why equities aren't appropriate for emergency funds. Emergency funds need to be available during market downturns – precisely when stock values may be at their lowest.

Asset class performance during emergencies

Historical data shows that during financial crises, funds allocated in the savings vehicles outlined above provided a stable and critical cushion when stocks were performing poorly:

During the 2008 financial crisis, the S&P 500 lost approximately 50 percent of its value from its peak in 2007 to its trough in March 2009¹, while high-yield savings accounts and money market funds remained stable as they

were FDIC insured and not subject to market volatility.

In March 2020 when COVID-19 crashed the markets, the S&P 500 plunged 34 percent in just 33 days, making it the fastest bear market in history¹, while money market funds remained accessible when many needed emergency funds.

During the stagflationary period of the 1970s and early 1980s, the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury fell in nine of the 11 years leading up to 1982², as high inflation eroded the purchasing power of bonds' future cash flows. However, high-quality bonds have historically been reliable in periods of economic weakness³, and bonds tend to perform better during a recession than stocks⁴ due to investors seeking safety and the Federal Reserve typically cutting rates during downturns.

Strategic allocation for modern emergency funds

Given current market conditions, consider a tiered approach:

Tier 1: Immediate access (one month of expenses): High-yield savings account or money market account; must be accessible within 24 hours.

Tier 2: Near-term access (two to three months expenses): Money market mutual funds or short-term CDs; accessible within two to three business days

Tier 3: Strategic reserve (Remaining emergency fund): Treasury I Bonds (if you can wait 12 months); CD ladder with staggered maturities; series EE Bonds for very long-term emergency planning.

Implementation tips for 2025

Review account restrictions: Before opening any emergency fund account, understand withdrawal limits, minimum balances, and fee structures.

Automate your savings: As Leisl Langevin recommends in her financial planning advice, automate contributions to ensure consistent funding.

Regular rebalancing:

With the Fed's continued rate adjustments, review your emergency fund allocation quarterly.

Consider HSAs: If you have a high-deductible health plan, maximize your HSA contributions first – they serve as emergency funds for medical expenses while offering tax advantages.

The bottom line

The best investment option for your emergency fund in 2025 isn't a single product but rather a strategic mix that balances safety (capital preservation), liquidity (quick access when needed), and return (competitive yield in the current environment). What's more, your emergency fund strategy should align with your overall financial picture. Whether you're in your "Balancing Act Years" building wealth while managing family responsibilities, or in your "Next Chapter Years" preserving wealth for retirement, your emergency fund needs to support your broader financial goals.

Don't let your emergency fund sit idle in a low-yield account when there are other options available. Review your current emergency fund allocation and consider whether it's optimized for today's interest rate environment.

If you need help to optimize your emergency fund strategy as part of a tailored and comprehensive financial plan, contact us for a complimentary consultation at whzwealth.com or call (860) 928-2341. Our "Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well."TM process can help you create a complete financial strategy that includes smart emergency fund allocation.

Authored by WHZ Associate Vice President, Wealth Advisor Jonathan Mathews. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. Investments are subject to risk, including the loss of principal. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Securities and advisory services offered

through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

An investment in a money market fund is not insured or guaranteed by any governmental agency; although the fund seeks to preserve the value of the investment at \$1 per share, it is possible to lose money.

I bonds do not offer regular investment payments but instead provide principal and interest at maturity, or when cashed out. They do not offer daily liquidity and have a variable interest rate.

Certificates of deposits (CDs) typically offer a fixed rate of return if held to maturity, are generally insured by the FDIC or another government agency, and may impose a penalty for early withdrawal.

All indices are unmanaged, and investors cannot actually invest directly into an index. Unlike investments, indices do not incur management fees, charges, or expenses.

SOURCES:
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Over the years, I have not missed even one American Idol show. You might think it's because I love listening to music and watching performances, but I see so much more going on in the show. The most satisfying portions of Idol are when a slightly talented singer goes through. Over time, the performers may evolve into world-class singers and, week by week, will make their mark on the American public. It is a process that unfolds before our eyes and is a wonder to behold. I want to dig into the eight personal traits these individuals share -- traits that undeniably increase their odds of success. At the beginning of their journey, if they make the cut to go to Hollywood, they must experience a significant boost in confidence simply by being selected as a high-level performer from a field of thousands that apply. Then, little by little, we see the metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly. But besides their natural gift as singers and entertainers, what other intrinsic skills do they have to push them along?

1. First, I think- passion. These performers have probably honed their love of music since they were small children singing in the living room with



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

MIKE BOGDANSKI

their parents. They sing with purpose and passion, and the music is in their soul. It infuses every aspect of their lives. They sing in the car, in the shower, and probably every day without thinking about it.

2. Confidence Confidence comes from setting and achieving small goals. Over the years, I have often used the phrase, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." I still find it very useful to break things down into small pieces, which enables me to see the finished product and goal better.

3. Focus You can't fake consistent excellence. You must put in the work every day, every week, and every month. It takes years to get to a high level of performance. I watched a biopic of the Jackson 5, and it was reported that they practiced singing and dancing three times a day for at least three to four hours. They continued to do so even after they had succeeded in the entertainment field (achieving a whopping 21 Gold and Platinum certifications for their songs and albums). If it's not broken, don't fix it.

4. They connect To grab the audience, you can practice connecting with people. It's a skill you can acquire to make people feel special, as if they were the only person in

the room. The technique of charm and charisma can be learned, but it's not easy. When I was in college, I had a friend who oozed charisma. At first, I tried to copy some of the traits he used, but in time, I understood that he had honed a specific technique all his own. I learned to model his style of charisma and interaction until I could develop my own personal version. Your ability to connect can bring people in when you come across as genuine and interested.

5. Have a strong work ethic and be coachable. The Idol winner must have an indomitable spirit that enables them to fight through any obstacle. These Idols will regularly see challenges as detours, not barriers. Find a coach who believes in you and can teach you to take occasional criticism and feedback. But you also have to believe in your coach/mentor. If you are unsatisfied, search for someone who is a good fit.

6. Evolve. The American Idol judges told the contestants that they were consistently evolving. You can't be the same person tomorrow if you want to make improvements. Just keep on keeping on. Also, know that there will be days when you take one step forward and two steps backward. Successful people have this winning attitude - "What was good enough today is not good enough tomorrow."

7. Show perseverance. Don't dwell on failure. When I had students superload on pushups, I taught them that the one that makes you stronger is not the first; it's the last one, the one you must push hard to finish. Like that previous challenging pushup, reaching a worthwhile goal will be hard, but I will tell you now: it will be worth it.

8. You need strength.



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Woodstock hosts Business Expo

WOODSTOCK — The Town of Woodstock put its many businesses front and center on May 31 hosting the Woodstock Business Expo at the Loos Center for the Arts on the south campus of Woodstock Academy. The main lobby of the center was filled with businesses representing every facet of Woodstock’s identity from construction and real estate to a local winery and farms and everything in between. The event allows locals to learn about both the well-known and hidden gems in the community and the businesses that help make Woodstock a great place to live and work.



A face paint artist provided some fun for the little ones during Woodstock’s Business Expo.



Fairholm Farm greets a visitor at their booth where they provided information on their products farming techniques.



Jason Bleau

The Quiet Corner Garden Club was well represented showing off their programs and looking to recruit new members.



Boston Millinery showed off some wonderful head-wear for all occasions and styles.



The Golden Key Team of William Reveis Real Estate pose for a photo at their booth during the Woodstock Business Expo.

Local students named to Assumption Dean’s List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Assumption University has announced that Audrey DeFilippo, of Thompson, Class of 2028, and Avi Miller of Danielson, Class of 2027, have been named to the University’s Dean’s List for the spring 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean’s List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

“Earning the right to be named to the Assumption University’s Dean’s List is an extraordinary accomplishment and we congratulate those students who demonstrated exemplary academic excellence this semester,” said Assumption University President Greg Weiner, Ph.D. “These students have demonstrated a deep commitment to the pursuit of truth in the company of friends that lies at the heart of the Catholic liberal education Assumption provides.”

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is a premier New England university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption’s graduates are known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and devotion to the common good. The University offers 37 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing, professional studies, and other areas, as well as graduate degrees and professional credentials. For more information about Assumption University, please visit assumption.edu or follow us @AssumptionUMA.

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The Arc of Eastern Connecticut was on hand to spread the word about their programs and gave out cookies for hungry visitors.



he crew at CR Premier Properties speaks with a visi-tor about their real estate services.

Pomfret voters sign off on town, school budgets



POMFRET — It was standing room only at Pomfret’s 312th Annual Town Meeting. Close to 300 residents filled the cafeteria at Pomfret Community School to vote on the 2025-2026 General Government and Board of Education Budgets. There were many questions and clarifications about the budgets and impact of the property revaluation that severely impacted property assessments this year. All items on the call of the meeting were approved.

The vote on the two budgets was held by paper ballot, and 282 residents voted. The General Government budget passed by a vote of 210 yes to 72 no. The budget is \$3,437,510, an increase of \$54,414, or 1.61 percent, over the current fiscal year.

The Education budget passed by 190 yes to 92 no. The \$11,722,872 spending plan is a 3.72 percent increase of \$371,633. The ballot had advisory questions and space for comments for the Board of Finance.

The proposed mill rate is 19.89 mills, a decrease of 7.27 mills from the current rate, but as a result of reval, this is not a decrease in taxes. The municipal mill rate will be added to the Pomfret Fire District mill rate of .835 mills for a total mill rate next year of 20.75 mills. The resulting tax increase on the median home in Pomfret would be \$740 per year.

The mill rate was reduced by almost a mill by using funds from the Board of Education non-lapsing fund and the Town’s general fund in the amount of \$455,000.

First Selectman Maureen Nicholson expressed her appreciation for the healthy turnout and opportunity to address residents’ questions, noting, “We try to get the budget information out to residents through budget meetings and workshops, social media, press releases, The Pomfret Times, and on the town’s website. The more informed our electorate is, the better prepared they are to understand the spending plans and participate in the conversation. This was a difficult budget year and I’m sure future budgets will be challenging. We have to start now to find ways to control future spending. The tax increases are not sustainable.”



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²Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.

*2024 Andersen brand survey of U.S. realtors.

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,



first influence was my father, who was very seldom without a camera at family gatherings and vacations. I remember his Argus C3 rangefinder film camera, nicknamed “The Brick” and made



Reykjavik Harbor



Volpaia



Amsterdam Centrum



evening canal



accordionist – Piazza dell’Anfiteatro

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 photographer Carmine Angeloni.

Hello, Carmine. I understand from your website that you were introduced to photography at a young age by your father. That would have been in the time of film photography and darkrooms, correct? Tell us about using your first camera. First, thank you, Cynthia, for the opportunity to get my work out to your readership.

Photography certainly appealed to we original STEM kids back in the 1960s. I guess my

famous by the legendary WWII photographer, Tony Vaccaro.

Photography was perfect for me; math equates chemistry lab. The magic results of regulating lens opening, the speed of a shutter curtain, and the light sensitivity of coated celluloid film. My first serious film camera was the Pentax K1000 that I used throughout my late twenties, processing my own film and prints in home and school darkrooms. The K1000 had a simple design, was fully manual, the light meter was a built-in feature; the camera was perfect for my early black and white experimentation.

In looking at your website (cangeloni.zenfolio.com) I’d like to ask you about some images. Tell us about Reykjavik Harbor.

I visited Iceland in mid-September of 2018. The country is famous for its 104 lighthouses situated along the rugged coastline; each one is distinctive. This particular small lighthouse is tucked safely inside the harbor of the capital city of Reykjavik. The image was shot handheld with a wide-angle lens in the late afternoon to capture the warm saturated light reflected from the setting sun.

Your travels show us some beautiful scenery. Where were you when you shot “Volpaia”?

I spent a couple of months of 2023 planning a tour of the Tuscany region and, at some point, became totally obsessed with the origin story of one particular restaurant owner in a tiny village located in the hills of the Chianti Region of Italy. The owner, a sixty-three-year-old woman named Paola Barucci, had spent her entire life in this town to now honor the service tradition of her deceased parents. So, in true bucket-list fashion, I scheduled a detour to Volpaia, population 44, on my return drive from Siena to

Florence, at the back end of my trip. Paola’s joyous and humble personality instantly warmed us at the door; and through our wonderful translator, Leonardo, she was easily convinced to recount much of her story. This woman, who had spent her entire life in this small town, wept like she was reuniting with family. It was, honestly, one of the most magical moments of my life. This shot, hand-held with normal settings, depicts, for me, the special contrast of flora and stone; a recurrent theme throughout the country of Italy.

What do you like best about these three photos? Amsterdam Centrum, evening canal, and accordionist - Piazza dell’Anfiteatro.

Amsterdam Centrum is an early morning tripod, slow shutter-speed shot featuring the contrast between natural sunrise light and the warm incandescent shop illumination. This image is linked to evening canal, another tripod night capture, which itself features the lights along a canal bridge arch.

“Bikes at rest” is the theme linking both of these images, the quiet hours before and after of the chaotic bicycle theater that is daytime in the city of Amsterdam. As for the image, accordionist – Piazza dell’Anfiteatro, I happened across this musician in the so-called “amphitheater” district in the walled city of Lucca, Italy. He is a very serious man. He reminded me of my own grandfather, who liked to entertain the family with his accordion playing, and who was born in an Italian town along the Adriatic Sea. These three seemingly disparate images are linked by a single commonality: the distinctive experience and expression of the photographer.

Does earlier technical training experience relate to or inform your current digital work?

Let me think about this a minute. The guiding principles of camera

photography have never changed—reflected light passing through a lens aperture, controlled by a shutter, acting on a light-sensitive substrate. What has changed, however, is the substrate itself. Since the early 19th century, photographers have been coating a variety of materials, including glass, metal, and celluloid film, with light-sensitive emulsion to produce images. Of these I can only speak to film, but my experience with the so-called “wet process” of film imaging has given my digital editing a strong baseline for creative growth.

What makes you decide to shoot in monochrome vs. color for a given image?

Such a great question! When I first started shooting, it was mostly black and white film because I did not have a lot of money and rolls of Tri-X, and later Tmax, were pretty cheap. And since necessity has always been the mother of invention, light patterns and contrast were the elements that I favored in these monochrome images. The move to digital would immediately allow more flexibility, in that I could shoot more color. And although I missed the deeper grain texture, and softer feel of the color saturation and contrast that you get with film, the improved dynamic range and the consistency of color across each digital frame, and from shot to shot, was hard to resist. So, my go-to became the color image and, generally, what doesn’t work in color will be black and white. However, that could change next week.

Any words of advice for new photographers?

- 1) Shoot more,
- 2) Look at many photographs. Remember the words of Picasso, “Good artists copy, great artists steal” referring, of course, to finding new creative techniques (what did you think he meant?),
- 3) Meet and shoot with other photographers, and
- 4) Did I say shoot more?

Thanks again, Cynthia, for this opportunity.

Thank you so much for your time. I look forward to seeing more of your work at the upcoming Putnam CT Fine Arts and Crafts Festival, June 21 & 22 at the Putnam Municipal Complex in Putnam, CT. Readers can check out your website for additional events.

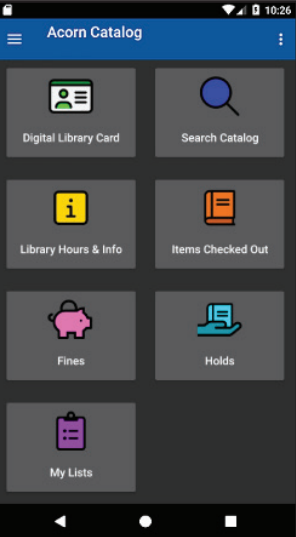
Word of the day

STEM: education for children integrating science, technology, engineering, and math into early learning.

Monochrome: a photograph or picture developed or executed in black and white or in varying tones of only one color. [Oxford Languages]

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 demonstration at the Peabody Essex Museum. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

Introducing the Acorn Catalog App



BY JARED JACAVONE
DIRECTOR
THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

At the Thompson Public Library, we are excited to announce a new digital service you can enjoy on the go or from the comfort of your home! Thanks to the technology wizards at Bibliomation, accessing your library account is easier than ever before with the new “Acorn Catalog” mobile app. Available for free through your app store, all you need is your library card number and account password to log in and enjoy Acorn Catalog’s fantastic features for managing your account. Forgot your password? Call the Front Desk at 860-923-9779 and our team can reset it.

Once you are logged in, be sure to explore everything Acorn Catalog has to offer! Here are some of my favorite features: Digital Library Card—Looking to check out an item from the facility but forgot to bring your card? You can open up your Acorn Catalog app and pull up a digital barcode! The app also connects to the general information in your account, offering a convenient way to review which items you currently have checked out, when they are due, and more. Catalog Search and Holds—Using the app to browse the catalog at home or on the go? You can place a hold at the tap of a button! Acorn Catalog also has a notification feature to let you know as soon as your on-hold item becomes available for you to check

out. Borrowing History—Want to find out if you’ve already read a particular title or watched a certain movie? Looking for a way to keep track of where you are in a series? You can opt into the borrowing history feature to keep track of everything you’ve checked out since downloading the Acorn Catalog app. Facility Information—Looking for the Library’s hours and upcoming holiday closures? General information and updates are displayed right in the app in addition to our website and our social media pages.

The coolest feature in my opinion is the new barcode catalog search option. Browsing a book store and want to know if a title is in the Library’s collection? Just scan the ISBN barcode normally located on the back of a book with the Acorn Catalog app to find out! If the book is in the collection, a record will appear with a convenient option for you to place a hold right then and there. The scanner is a new feature, so you might have to hold the book a couple of feet away from your device’s camera for it to fully focus.

Please do not hesitate to drop by or call the Library to learn more about this new digital resource. Do you have other computer questions? Call us to schedule an appointment for a one-on-one technology seminar! Special thanks again to Bibliomation and our partners for making these library services accessible at home. Remember, libraries are places to access resources and gather as a community, but are especially where we can continually learn and grow. So be sure to stop by if you would like to borrow a new book or movie or participate in our programs, but also if you need help conducting a job search, navigating web forms, learning about online safety, acquiring technological skills for the workplace, and so much more! Have a great week, and we hope to see you at the Library!

Area students named to UConn Dean’s List

STORRS — The University of Connecticut congratulates the following students on being named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester of 2025.

Brooklyn
Ella Anderson, William Carver, Julie Carver, Christopher Dooley, Cole Lavigne, Kayleigh Murray, Sai Patel, Julia Purcell

Danielson
Evelyn Allen, Laney Dunn, Ross Hill, Drew Noble

Dayville
Anabelle Bergstrom, Abby Card, Jaime Chase

North Grosvenordale
Zeynep Acun, Alexis Elkinson, Hanna LeClaire

Plainfield
Asfandyar Ali, Maxwell Cleaveland, Rachel Harris, Olivia Lamoureux

Pomfret
Maya Bullied

Pomfret Center
Claire Anderson, Meredith Bergendahl, Anastasia Serating, Camryn Woodin

Putnam
Nicholas Candow

Thompson
Avery Butler, Eric Levesque, Madison Toutant.

Woodstock
Morgan Bentley, Hannah Darigan, Anya Farutin, Eva Farutin, Paige Owens, Evan Rhault

Woodstock Valley
Olivia Grant, Melinda Morin, Kadin Shepherd

RELAY
continued from page A1

from the Canadian wild-fires impacting local air quality and found a new home officially moving to the St. Marie-Greenhalgh Sports Complex in 2024. Event leadership estimates Relay has been a local staple for roughly 30 years and the national Relay for Life celebrated 40 years in 2025.

Jennifer Cabrera, a Development Manager with American Cancer Society and Staff Partner for the Relay for Life of Northeastern Connecticut, praised the Quiet Corner's long history of supporting the American Cancer Society

and its mission.

“Everyone comes out of the woodwork and it’s wonderful, even on a rainy day. There’s hope, and that’s the whole thing about this event is that there’s hope. You see nothing but positivity, encouragement, and hope and dreams walking around the track. Putnam and the surrounding communities have been so supportive of Relay for Life,” said Cabrera.

Money raised by the national Relay for Life movement helps the American Cancer Society pay for a variety of causes including research, prevention, treatment, and patient support programs.



Cancer survivors check in at a booth prior to the official opening ceremonies for the 2025 Relay for Life of Northeastern Connecticut.

HOENIG
continued from page A1

of a long life well lived, respected and loved by everyone he ever came in contact with. A life balanced by his ability and competitiveness on the golf links, and combining that as one of the most successful business persons every to grace Northeastern Connecticut. Over his long golf career, he designed and constructed five golf courses, most notably Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton, Mass., Heritage Golf Club in Charlton, Mass., and his own Thompson Raceway Golf Club. He built his very first golf hole in the mid 1940’s, when he constructed what is now hole number 16. He and his dad finished the other eight holes in 1947, when they opened for public play. Don reminiscing about that for a moment and stated proudly that the cost for nine holes of play was 50 cents on weekdays and 1.00 on weekends and holidays. Times have certainly changed.

In 1949, just before joining the Air Force, Hoenig won the National Juniors Championship at Medinah Country Club in Illinois. He had previously won the New England Junior Championship to qualify for Medinah. There are way too many to list all of his golf achievements, but to highlight, a few were the wins at the Massachusetts State Open Championship in 1961, the Connecticut State Championship in both 1956 and 1957, the New England Amateur Championship in 1959, four time Rhode Island State Championship in 1951, 1954, 1955 and 1961, five time medalist in the New England amateur Championship, three time medalist in the Anderson Memorial at the famed Winged Foot Golf Club, in Mamaroneck, New York, and qualified for 5 U.S. Amateur Championships and four U.S. Open Championships. Don also played in 3 United States Open Championships, at Baltusrol in New Jersey, at Southern Hills in Tulsa Oklahoma and at Olympic Golf Club in San Francisco.

Hoenig turned Professional in 1962, and continued to win many tournaments. Among those included five Connecticut Senior PGA Championships, three Connecticut Senior Open Championships, the New York State Senior Championship, and played in 5 U.S. Senior Opens and five National Senior PGA Championships. In 1987 and 1988, Hoenig qualified with total exemption for the National Senior PGA Tour.

Hoenig’s great longtime friend, William (Billy) Chvirko, nominated him for this award. Chvirko was also Hoenig’s caddie around

the country on many of those memorable championship events. Among other achievements, Hoenig held the course record in the Insurance City Open, now named the Travelers Open in Wethersfield, shooting a round of 64. Up until that time, the course record had been 67. That was later broken when his good friend Tom Bolt shot a 63.

Hoenig has been inducted in four Golf Hall of Fames for his brilliant golf career. One of Don’s great memories of his golf career was when he played at the U.S. Open at Olympic Country Club in San Francisco, and his locker was adjacent to one of the all-time golf greats Hall of Famer Ben Hogan. They talked golf and shared many stories as they played golf together at the U.S. Open that memorable weekend in 1955. Mr. Hogan lost the Open in an 18- hole playoff to Jack Fleck in a Monday finish.

As a businessman, Hoenig was the owner and operator of the very first paved race track in the Country that his Dad had built in the late 1930’s. The very first race took place on May 15, 1940. Shortly after its grand opening the United States Government shut down the operations at the track during World War 11. It remained closed until the end of the war.

In 1964, Hoenig took over full control of all operations of not only the historic Thompson Speedway but the Thompson Raceway Golf Club & Restaurant. The subsequent 60 years or so are historic in terms of the longevity and uniqueness of all three major operations. The lives and events that have taken place at one or more of those operations under his leadership are countless. We have all been touched by attending numerous events, weddings, dances, fund raisers, conventions, meetings, golf outings, races around the oval or the long track, the Great Thompson Fair, and so much more. The Hoenig compound on East Thompson Road is so much more than a couple of businesses. It is a major part of many, many lives for those of us that have had the privilege to attend events there for generations. For that we are all very grateful and thankful for your wisdom, energy, perseverance and ingenuity.

Hoenig has four adult children, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He shares his home with his partner Mary Ann Rossi on their beautiful East Thompson property. Mr. Hoenig, you are a truly quiet, reserved and honorable gentleman and an inspiration to all.

NECCOG
continued from page A1

of their per-capita fee meaning they’ll pay more for NECCOG’s services. Rivers said this is all part of doing right by the member communities while also acknowledging how difficult and intense animal control has become.

“It’s ugly. Animal Control is law enforcement. It’s not taking care of animals. We do have to take care of the animals, rescue them, board them. It’s a consequence of the law enforcement action because they don’t make bail. We take animals out of a bad house or a bad situation. They don’t have anybody to help them but us – We have 150 animals right now in Norwich and Killingly and it’s a job taking care of those animals,” said Rivers.

CELEBRATION
continued from page A1

oped, learned, and consider all destinations as viable options. Open your mind as wide as your eyes and your hearts and be thoughtful in considering all opportunities.”

In 2005, along with long-time Career Center Director Bob Brennan, they created the Killingly High School Learning for Life Fund. This fund, generated through annual birthday fundraisers and gifts from generous friends and colleagues, has raised nearly half a million dollars to support Career Education at Killingly High School. Herklots also presented six \$300.00 scholarships to students attending CT State Community College, Quinebaug Valley. The Adriaan R.J. Herklots Scholarship recipients were John Archambault, Courtney Courtemanche,

While animal control might be “shrinking” that’s an important distinction from “downsizing.” The animal control department is actually growing in its own way, adding more personnel since Rivers started with NECCOG in September. Currently the program includes seven animal control officers, an administrator, and five kennel cleaners which Rivers estimates is double the staff compared to the start of his leadership. NECCOG does not utilize volunteers for animal control due to liabilities.

Rivers said he sees the new approach as a positive for not just the animal control staff, but the NECCOG towns as a collective.

“As a business guy I’m looking at the financial risk and liability. We’re shrinking it down and we’re going

to serve our towns that want to be served,” he said.

The news was welcomed by the Killingly Town Council who said that animal control has been one of the biggest concerns from citizens regarding the town’s relationship with NECCOG.

“It’s great for me to hear you’re doing something with animal control, making changes, because that’s one of the biggest complaints I’ve heard in relation to NECCOG,” said Town Council Chair Jason Anderson. “I’m glad to hear it’s going to be shrinking. I’m glad to hear towns that aren’t part of NECCOG are going to have to pay their fair share now.”

Information regarding NECCOG’s programs and services can be found at nec-cog.org.

Jacqueline Creswell, Kylie Lawrence, Madison Paquin, and Jaxsun Smith.

Katie (Molodich) Patton was inducted into the Killingly High School Career Pathway Hall of Fame. A 2012 graduate, Patton was an Agricultural Education Pathway Completer in Plant Science. During her years at KHS, Katie became an active member in the FFA, where she served two years as chapter officer, completed in CDE events and attended many leadership events. Her FFA journey led her to serving as the State FFA Vice President, earning The FFA American Degree, the highest award possible. After graduation, Patton attended the Ratcliff Hicks School of Agriculture at UConn, earning her associates degree in Ornamental Horticulture. After graduating college, she became the other half of Betsy’s Stand, working besides her mother; they have grown the roadside stand into a success-

ful business, expanding to farmers markets throughout Northeastern Connecticut. Katie is an active member of the Ekonk Grange, Sterling Agricultural Commission, and the Killingly FFA Parents & Alumni. Above all, she is very appreciative to have the opportunity to be the fourth generation to work the land that has been in her family for 102 years.

Karen Lagace, Principal and former Career Center Coordinator, was also recognized for her commitment to the students and community at Killingly through her various roles for the past 20 years. Lagace will be retiring at the end of this school year and was instrumental in the success of the Career Pathway Program.

Killingly Public Schools and the Career Center are proud to recognize these great achievements of our students and alumni.

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Hiking the region’s historic ruins

Wednesday, June 11. 6-7:30 p.m. “Connecticut Military Heroes” Book Series; Iraq and Afghanistan by Jeffrey DeWitt. Author Talk & Book Signing. Putnam Municipal Complex. Sponsored by the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society.

Saturday, June 14. Connecticut Open House Day. The 1771 Congregational-Unitarian meeting house in the center of Brooklyn will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. General Israel Putnam of Revolutionary War fame led the movement to build it. Seriously damaged in the 1938 hurricane, it was mostly restored to its colonial grandeur between 1961 and 2007. The Rev. Samuel May led social reform efforts there from 1821 to 1836. Celia Burleigh became a minister there in 1871, the first woman ordained in Connecticut, and the first woman Unitarian minister in the country. (No charge)

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

I had the plea-

sure of attending the 150th anniversary Mass and luncheon for St. James School on Sunday, May 25. Pete Gerardi shared memories on behalf of students who had attended the school. I’ll pass a few on. (I tried to extract a few memories that weren’t mentioned before). “What was it like to be a student at St. James School in the 1960’s?” Pete was enrolled as a first-grade student in September 1960 and graduated in June 1968. Sister Rose Genevieve was his first-grade teacher. He “learned early on about being responsible and accountable...could not get away with anything... If something out-of-the ordinary happened at school, for sure the consequences were going to be executed on site. While at home that evening you could be sure the phone was going to ring and the ‘unacceptable behavior’ was going to be shared with either Dad or Mom. I thought ‘double jeopardy’ was against the law. Oh well, you all know how that went.”

“Heading into grade 5 I had the opportunity to be an altar server. I was told that the very first requirement was that I had to learn all the prayer responses in Latin. (How many remember the Latin Masses?). At that time I for sure was not very proficient in the English language as yet!

I studied hard and did meet the requirement. I then had to learn the specific duties for serving mass. What to wear, where to be, and what to do throughout the mass. Over time I was deemed suitable. I also had to learn the duties of serving funerals and weddings. It was amazing because those involved in the event would thank me for the service with a cash gift.”

This was really a busy but very interesting week, as I also attended a book signing and presentation by Nick Bellantoni, Connecticut State Archaeologist emeritus, on Saturday, May 31 at the Putnam Municipal Complex. I’ve known Nick for many, many years and know his presentations will always be excellent. He has co-authored a Falcon Guide entitled “Hiking Ruins of Southern New England”---a Guide to 40 Sites in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Several of the hikes are right here in Northeastern Connecticut. Each hike site contains detailed hiking information, a map, and an historical write-up.

Nick showed sites from



KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER

a hike is in the Phoenixville section of Eastford, in the Natchaug State Forest, the Nathaniel Lyon Homestead and Amasa Lyon Sawmill. The hike begins at the Nathaniel Lyon Memorial State Park on Kingsbury Road in Eastford and is an easy 2.13 mile out-and-back hike. You can view the enormous chimney stack, which remains from the Lyon homestead, and continue on to the sawmill. On the return trip, follow Kingsbury Road back to the starting point and pass the “Natchaug Ranger’s Headquarters and the former CCC Camp Fernow. There are standing CCC camp structures as well as foundation ruins on the ground.”

If you have not heard of Nathaniel Lyon, you have missed out on an important personage from our past--the first Union General killed in the Civil War. Nathaniel was born July 14, 1819 when Phoenixville was still part of Ashford, the son of Amasa Lyon who had the sawmill on Beaverdam Brook. Nathaniel “impressed many in the local community, who recom-

mended him to U.S. Representative Orrin Holt for appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1837. Nathaniel Lyon graduated from West Point, fought in the Mexican American and Seminole Wars...Lyon also seized and secured the federal arsenal in St. Louis, Missouri, before armaments could be commandeered by Southern sympathizers, hence keeping Missouri in the Union when the Civil War commenced. He was one of the best officers in the Union Army. Mounted atop his steed on August 10, 1861, during the Battle of Wilson’s Creek (Missouri), rallying his Iowa troops forward into the overwhelming force of the Confederated Army, General Nathaniel Lyon received a mortal rifle wound to the chest. He was the first Union general to die in battle in the American Civil War. The nation mourned. The special train carrying Nathaniel Lyon’s mortal remains made ceremonial stops in St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York City before reaching Connecticut’s capitol where the general laid overnight in the Senate Chamber. The next day a 300-wagon procession brought the nation’s hero home to his final resting place in

the family plot at the Old Phoenixville Burying Grund, less than a mile from his birthplace. There 20,000 people attended the funeral and solemn military burial” (pp.151-155).

Next week, I’ll talk about two additional local walks which are included in the guide. One is also in Natchaug State Forest and is called Ashford Woods. A second is in East Thompson and is entitled Tri-State Trail. Both have much history in addition to fascinating historical ruins.

“Hiking Ruins of Southern New England” by Nick Bellantoni and Barbara Ann Kipfer, a Falcon Guide, is available through Amazon and Barnes and Noble for \$25. Even if you don’t plan to hike, the history and photography are well worth the purchase.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, June 2025. Special thanks to Pete Gerardi and Nick Bellantoni. 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.

Local residents receive degrees at WPI’s 156th Undergraduate Commencement

WORCESTER, Mass. — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated its 2025 Commencement with a series of ceremonies honoring the achievements of graduates across all degree levels. For the second year, commencement exercises were held at the DCU Center, where WPI conferred 1,298 bachelor’s degrees representing a diverse range of disciplines in science, engineering, technology, business, and the humanities. President Grace J. Wang, PhD, and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the 156th Commencement exercises on Friday, May 16.

Wang told members of the Class of 2025 they are entering a changing world filled with competing visions for how to solve challenges and advance society. But, she said, along with knowledge and technical competence in their chosen fields of study, WPI graduates have been equipped with the ability to think critically, to be resilient, to work in teams, and to do it all with a sense of ethics and global responsibility.

“Outside these walls today is a world that needs you,” Wang said. “Not just because of what you have learned to do in your chosen field, but because of who you are, and also because of the leadership qualities you built at WPI.”

Delivering the undergraduate Commencement address, Michelle Gass ’90, president and chief executive officer of Levi Strauss & Co., reflected on her journey from student to global business leader to inspire the Class of 2025. Gass said she’s often asked how a chemical engineering graduate from WPI became CEO of one of the most iconic apparel companies in the world. The answer, she told the graduates, lies in a handful of guiding principles she started refining in her years on the WPI campus.

“I’ve realized that to the extent I’ve been successful and able to engineer the kind of life I wanted for myself and my family, it’s largely because I learned

how to approach problems and moments intentionally and productively, while keeping real people in mind at all times,” Gass said.

Gass and Mark Fuller, chair and treasurer of the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, a significant supporter of WPI, received honorary degrees as part of the ceremony.

Student speaker Dhespina Zhidro, a biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering double major, reminded fellow graduates about the community they formed for themselves, shaped by a collective experience that included struggle, doubt, and, ultimately, achievement.

“WPI has given us more than an education,” Zhidro said. “It has given us a blueprint for how to live, how to lead, create meaningful change, and leave every place we enter better than we found it.”

The following graduates earned BS degrees: Benjaminh Brodeur from Putnam majored in Mathematical Sciences

Brooke Peloquin from Putnam majored in Mechanical Engineering and Physics

John Steglitz from Thompson majored in Biomedical Engineering

Connor Quinn from Woodstock majored in Electrical and Computer Engineering

John Peabody from Woodstock majored in Biomedical Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute
WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of

solving real-world problems, WPI’s continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI’s project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor’s, Master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

Woodstock’s Jeffrey Susla honored by Nichols College

DUDLEY, Mass. — Jeffrey Susla of Woodstock was recently honored by Nichols College in Dudley, Mass. for his contributions to the College’s teaching mission.

In addition to teaching first-year and second-year composition courses, Susla created two critical writing courses at the College; The James Bond Phenomenon, and Murder, Mayhem, a la Hitchcock. Prior to his current position, Susla taught at Woodstock Academy, and was an award-winning adjunct at Quinebaug Valley Community College and taught at the University of Hartford.

LEGALS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Pamela Ann Dombrowski
(25-00232)**
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 28, 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:
Ann Krischus
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS,
168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
June 6, 2025

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Michael G Houghton,
AKA Michael George Houghton,
AKA Michael Houghton (25-00222)**
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 27, 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:
Heather Dietz-Millette,
18 Laurel Drive, Woodstock, CT 06281
June 6, 2025

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
David A Beland (25-00218)**
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 16, 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:
Jessica M Hills
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS,
168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
June 6, 2025

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Stephen R Magaw, R (25-00207)**
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 27, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Sarah P Blanchard
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS,
168 MAIN STREET,
P.O. BOX 528,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
June 6, 2025

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Stephen J Jones (25-00181)**
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 278 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.

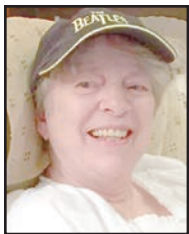
Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Brien A Roche, Esq
c/o MATTHEW-ALAN HERMAN, LAW OFFICE OF ALAN SCOTT HERMAN,
16 SOUTH MAIN ST. P.O. B, P.O. BOX 663, PUTNAM, CT 06260
June 6, 2025

TOWN OF KILLINGLY SEWER ASSESSMENT LEGAL NOTICE
Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00-4:30pm, Tuesday 8:00-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. Also by mail, online, or in our drop box.
Sewer assessment bills are due June 1, 2025 and becomes delinquent on July 2, 2025 and subject to interest from the due date. Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month with a minimum interest charge of \$5.00.
Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killinglyct.gov.
April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
May 23, 2025
June 6, 2025

OBITUARIES

Karen M. Eddy, 74

Karen M. Eddy, 74, passed away on May 27, 2025, in Putnam, CT. Born on November 13, 1950, Karen lived a life full of growth and learning. She had a deep passion for genealogy and served as her family's historian, preserving stories and memories that will continue to be cherished by Flanders, Fisk, and Keniston generations to come. Her love for The Beatles and The Moody Blues was known to all,



and she made it her mission to collect every Abbey Road picture and meme she could find. Her family and friends on social media were greeted everyday with her "Good Morning, World" posts, often with a sly pun or corny joke. Karen is lovingly remembered by her daughter Susan and son-in-law Jason; her grandsons Nathaniel and Gabriel; her son Steven; granddaughter Juliette; and countless 1st, 2nd, 3rd and beyond cousins. She was predeceased by her son Christopher. A private memorial will be held at a later date.

James Walter Stuyinski, 92

James Walter Stuyinski, 92, of Brooklyn passed away peacefully at home on Thursday May 29, 2025, with his family by his side. Jim was born in Danielson on August 1, 1932, son of the late Walter H. and Anne (Urban) Stuyinski. He was a graduate of Killingly High School and Mt. San Antonio College in California. He served in the US Airforce from 1951-1955. He married Lucy (Rundell) Stuyinski on June 6, 1959. Jim was a police officer in Monterey Park, California for seven years, and a Connecticut State Trooper retiring as a Sergeant in 1987. He was also employed as a Stockbroker retiring in 1997. Jim was a member and past president of the Brooklyn Historical Society, on the Board of Directors of the Clark Medical Center (now Abington Family Practice). He served as a Justice of the Peace for the Town of Brooklyn. For many years he belonged to the Killingly Rifle Club, NRA, and chairman of the

Southeastern CT Bottle Collectors Club. His Hobbies included hunting, fishing, golfing and collecting antiques. Besides his wife he is survived by his two sons Dave R. Stuyinski and his wife Eileen (O'Brien) Stuyinski and Dann A. Stuyinski all of Brooklyn. Three grandchildren, and sister-in-law Joyce Stuyinski. He was predeceased by a baby brother, a sister Ann (Stuyinski) Allard, and brother-in-law Norman "Joe" Allard, and a brother George Stuyinski. He also leaves several nieces and nephews. Calling hours will be held on Friday June 6, 2025, from 5-7PM at Tillinghast Funeral Home 433 Main Street Danielson. A graveside service will be held on Saturday June 7, 2025, at 11:00AM at Packerville Cemetery, Plainfield with full military honors. In lieu of flowers donations in Jim's Memory may be made to the Federated Church of Christ PO Box204 Brooklyn, CT 06234.



Leon G. Blain 1943-2025

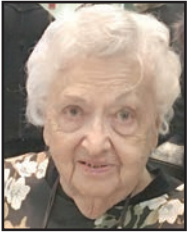


North Grosvenordale - Leon G. Blain, 81, died Monday, May 26, 2025, in Day Kimball Hospital. He was the son of the late Gaston and Lillian (Laurion) Blain. Leon served in the Army National Guard during the Vietnam era. He started his truck driving career working for Wajer's Express, including many area trucking companies then retiring from Benjamin Moore Paints. He was a member of the Teamsters Union and was an avid car enthusiast. In his spare time, he enjoyed going to the beach. Leon is survived by a niece, Lynda Nedzweckas, and her husband Peter of North Grosvenordale; his nephews, Kenneth M. Ware and his wife Maria of South Carolina, George W. Ware and his wife Jessica of North Grosvenordale, and David R. Ware and

his wife Michelle of Bozrah; his special friends Lucille Paquette, and Darcy & Kent Davey; as well as many cousins and friends. He was predeceased by sister, Dolores Ware, Brother-in-law, William R. Ware, Jr. Relative and friends were invited to visit with Leon's family from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm on Friday, May 30, 2025 in the Valade Funeral Home, 23 Main St., North Grosvenordale, followed by a Funeral Mass of Christian Burial at 1:30 pm in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St, North Grosvenordale, CT. Burial with Military Honors followed in St. Joseph Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.



Vivian Boucher Borovsky July 4, 1929 – May 25, 2025



Pomfret Center - Vivian Boucher Borovsky, 95, of Pomfret Center, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 25, 2025. Born on July 4, 1929, in Bristol, CT, she was the daughter of the late Eva (Chapin) and Frank Boucher. A graduate of the Waterbury Hospital School of Nursing, Vivian was a devoted and compassionate Registered Nurse who cared deeply for her patients. Her kindness, empathy, and quiet strength touched the lives of many. She is survived by her daughter Laura and her husband Christopher Roethlein of Pomfret Center; five grandchildren, the absolute joy of her life: Aubrey Waz-Grant and her husband Gabriel Grant, Samuel Waz, Matthew, Nathan and Zachary Roethlein, god-daughter, Debbie Wood, and nephews Randy and Jim Borovsky. She was predeceased by her beloved daughter, Dianne Borovsky and nephew, Thomas Wood. She raised her family in New Britain, CT, and in 2004 moved to be near her cherished grandchildren, who brought her immeasurable happiness. She was a long-time resident of Seely-Brown and a parishioner of Most Holy Trinity. She was a true American, born on the Fourth of July and passing on Memorial Day weekend.

Vivian was a woman of many talents. In her younger years, she enjoyed horseback riding, especially her race-horse. She had a beautiful singing voice and was an accomplished pianist, sharing her musical talents at home, with friends, and in performances both in New York City and at her local church, St. Francis of Assisi, in New Britain. In her 80s, she discovered a new creative outlet in painting. A nurse by profession and caretaker by nature, Vivian lived her life with patience and compassion, always ready to help anyone. While she was deeply devoted to her work and raising her daughters, Vivian found her greatest joy in being "Nana". Her grandchildren were the center of her world, and she treasured every moment spent with them - whether playing Scrabble, tackling crossword or jigsaw puzzles, going for ice cream, or cheering them on at school events and sports games. To them, she was not just a grandmother, but a constant source of unconditional love, encouragement, and warmth. Her legacy lives on in the memories they shared and the deep bond they created together. Services for Vivian were held on May 31, 2025. Her final resting place is with her daughter, Dianne, at Maple Cemetery in Berlin, CT. Donations may be made in her memory, in honor of Dianne, to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

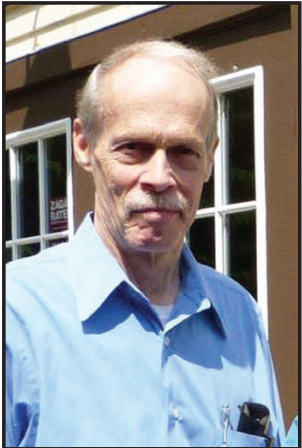


Courtesy

The Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam, along with historians Mike Bogdanski and Jeanne Benoit are producing a video series called "Memories of the Flood" creating a documentary of Putnam's 1955 flood. To be included please call Jeanne Benoit at 860-942-9170. Pictured: Jeanne Benoit and interviewee Paul Desautels.

Friends of Stephen Magaw

are invited by his family to gather for a celebration of his life
Sunday, June 29
at 1:30 pm
Room A-200 at
Woodstock Academy
Rte. 169, Woodstock, CT



For more information:
Joan (802)748-9638 or Sarah (919)961-9989



Richard E. Tremblay 1940-2025

Pomfret Center - Richard E. Tremblay, 84, of Brook Front Lane, passed away on Friday May 30, 2025, at Westview Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center. He was the loving and devoted husband of the late Lorraine H. (Tercjak) Tremblay for 57 years. Born in North Grosvenordale, he was the son of the late Ralph E. Tremblay, Sr. and Anna (Demers) Tremblay. Mr. Tremblay worked for National Propane as a truck driver. He was an Army Veteran stationed in Germany for two years. Richard was a life-long fan of all New England sports teams and rarely missed watching the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots which he enjoyed doing with his son. His knowledge of sports trivia was unmatched. He was a past-president, coach, and umpire of Thompson Minor, Little, and Senior Leagues, having been a mentor to many young players throughout his years of dedication. One of his favorite things to do was to take in a Pawsox game with his wife, family and friends, and nothing gave him greater joy than going out to dinner and sharing a meal with those he loved. Prior to health issues, Richard and Lorraine travelled extensively throughout the United States and Canada. They held these memo-

ries dear to their hearts. Richard had an uncanny knack for remembering the names of anyone he met and was interested in learning all about them. As much as he would not want it stated here, that was part of his incredible charm and humor! He made a lasting impression on everyone he met. He is survived by his son Todd Tremblay, and his partner Anne Douglas of Thompson, his daughter, Tracy Tremblay, and her partner Paul Brockett of New London; his sister-in-law, Pauline Laprade, and her husband Norman of Washington, NH, and a grandson. He was predeceased by his brothers, Ralph Tremblay, Jr. and Ronald Tremblay. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, June 6, 2025, at 10:00 am in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. Burial with military honors will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. Richard's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kerri Sauer, Dr. Botta, and the devoted staff at Westview Healthcare for their exceptional care and love that they showed him this past year. Many became like family over the years that their mother resided there, and this past year Richard was in their loving care. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

SMITH AND WALKER
Funeral Home and Cremation Service
148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT 860-928-2442
www.smithandwalkerfh.com

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GAGNON AND COSTELLO
Funeral Home and Cremation Service
33 Reynolds Street, Danielson, CT 06239 860-774-9403

Funeral Directors
Timothy Farner, Steven Farner, Andrew Farner
Serving ALL Faiths with Dignity

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~ Bob Fournier



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