



PUTNAM VILLAGER

©2025, Issue #29

Serving Putnam since 2005

Friday, July 18, 2025

Complimentary to homes by request

Putnam Police honored by American Legion



Courtesy

Putnam Police Chief Chris Ferace accepts the Award from John DeBisschop, Commander of the American Legion, Department of CT.

PUTNAM — The Putnam Police Department has been recognized by the American Legion as the 2024-2025 Police Department of the Year for the entire State of Connecticut.

This prestigious award was presented to Putnam Police Chief Christopher Ferace at the American Legion Department of Connecticut's 106th Annual Convention at

the Trumbull Marriott Hotel, Trumbull, on Saturday, July 12. Presenting the award was John DeBisschop – commander of the Department of Connecticut.

In appreciation, Chief Ferace said, “I am so humbled to accept the award, it would not be possible without the outstanding and dedicated work the men and women of the Putnam Police Department do daily, they deserved the recognition. I am privileged to lead and work with such an excellent team in a great community.”

According to Post Commander Michael Rocchetti, “The American Legion makes this award annually to that Police Department of any town or city, or State Police Barracks, that brings credit to that Police Department for performance in the field of Children and Youth, Drug Education, Community Awareness Projects, and participation in Patriotic Observances.”

Past Putnam Post #13 Commander Brian Maynard had this to say about the Putnam Police in his award citation: “It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I write to

recommend the Putnam Police Department for the American Legion Police Department of the Year Award. The Putnam Police Department exemplifies the very essence of community policing, consistently demonstrating professionalism, dedication, and a deep connection to the residents and visitors of our thriving town.”

Throughout the year, the Putnam Police Department goes above and beyond their duty to ensure the safety and well-being of our community while actively engaging in meaningful ways. They raise funds for local charities, participate in numerous community events, and foster a spirit of unity that strengthens the bond between law enforcement and the people they serve. These efforts reflect not only their commitment to public safety but also their understanding of what it means to be integral members of our community.

The Putnam Police Department continues to support and protect our children and youth by working directly within our school systems. They ensure safety in these critical environments while also engaging with students on a positive level, building trust and serving as role models for the next generation. This proactive involvement underscores their commitment to the future of our town.

Putnam is a town known for its vibrant events, which often see our population double as tens of thousands of residents and visitors come together. Managing such large crowds in a small town is no small feat, yet the Putnam Police Department rises to the challenge time and time again. Year after year, they ensure that these events occur safely and successfully, a true testament to their professionalism, expertise in policing, and unwavering dedication to our community's well-being. Furthermore, the Putnam Police Department, without hesitation, ensures that events hosted by our American Legion Post and other military organizations—such as the recent Henry Breault ceremony—are safe and secure. These events are often attended voluntarily by our Police Chief, Captain, and other officers, demonstrating their heartfelt support for our military and veteran community.

The excellence of the Putnam Police Department is further evidenced by the numerous letters of praise they receive throughout the year, such as those submitted for Officer Ustin and others. These commendations highlight the consistently high standards and exceptional service that have become synonymous with our police force.

Maynard also noted, “For these reasons, I wholeheartedly and without reservation recommend the Putnam Police department for the American Legion Police Department of the Year Award. They embody the ideals of service, professionalism, and community partnership that this recognition seeks to honor.”

Commander Rocchetti added, “We are so proud of our Police Department – they keep us safe, and they help make Putnam a great place to live.”

Killingly provides update on Ag Education revenue

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Following concerns over revenue losses in the Killingly School District's Agricultural Education department due to new state limits on tuition, district Superintendent Susan Nash-Ditzel has revealing that parts of the state budget will allow them to recover those losses through a grant rather than revenue.

A talking point during a long budget season in town was the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in projected revenue from the Killingly Agricultural Education Program, a longstanding part of Killingly High School that allows students from other communities to attend the school albeit with a tuition fee.

During a meeting of the Killingly Board of Education in June, Superintendent Nash-Ditzel noted that legislation passed in 2024 capped tuition for magnet schools and agricultural science programs with the estimated revenue loss to Killingly totaling around \$400,000. The Superintendent sought to put the minds of the taxpayers at ease noting that a state bill will replace that lost revenue through a longstanding grant program. House Bill 5048, “An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025,” will ensure that districts are held harmless for the lost revenue by funding the gap through the Agricultural Science and Tech Ed Operation Cost (ASTE) Grant.

“It means funding to ensure towns receive the same level of state support that they would have prior to the cap's implementation, keeping the town's revenue whole and not causing harm based on that legislation, and also maintaining or enhancing access to agriscience and magnet programs for students without creating a financial disincentive for towns,” Nash-Ditzel explained. “I know that came up at the town meeting. Some people were concerned about the financial burden. Typically, through the ASTE Grant that kind of offsets any tuition concern we have.”

The Superintendent further explained that they couldn't provide many details about the situation during town budget meetings as it was still pending on the state level. Their 2025 revenue estimates did not include the new appropriation, but Nash-Ditzel said Killingly will not lose any money. It will simply be allocated through

CT DEEP to sample Killingly wells for PFAS

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, better known as CT DEEP, has begun the process of seeking testing sites to determine any possible contamination of PFAS in private wells in the area of the Dennis R. Lemery Fire Training Center in the Rogers section of town.

The process is a proactive attempt to detect any contamination and perform corrective action where necessary. It is not the result of any already determined PFAS detection in the area.

PFAS is a “forever chemical” resistant to oil, water, heat, and other forms of cleaning and disposal often associated with firefighting material. Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF), a substance often used at firefighting training facilities, is known to have a high level of PFAS making the properties around the Dennis R. Lemery Fire Training Center an increased risk for contamination. The goal of the program is to get ahead of any potential problem.

Acting Town Manager Francis “Buddy” Conroy told the Town Council on July 8 that he recently held a kickoff meeting with the Department of Health and DEEP concerning the program, providing a copy of a presentation from CT DEEP for the Council to

Witness Stone installed at Old Trinity Church



Courtesy

Four Witness Stones installed at Old Trinity Church.

BROOKLYN — Old Trinity Church was the scene of a recent Witness Stone Project installation, commemorating the lives of two enslaved persons, Jenny and Sias, owned by church builder Godfrey Malbone. The church, now on the National Historic Register, was constructed in 1771 with slave labor.

The day began with a Eucharist, which included a psalm, collect, poem

and sermon written by parishioners for the occasion.

Later, dozens gathered outside for a ceremony led by priest-in-charge, Rev. Dr. Gretchen Grimshaw.

Shesaid, “As a Christian church, committed to lifting and spreading God's dignity written on every human heart, this was a little bit of what we needed to grapple with this history.”

Martha Schwarzkopf shared a brief summary of the research done by church members on the Malbone family, one of the richest families in New England in the 1700s, who settled in Brooklyn, then part of Pomfret, with 27 enslaved persons. She said their purpose in the project was not to focus on blame but to learn about their history and remember those who built their community.

Invited guests included Brooklyn First Selectman Austin Tanner, Windham Willimantic NAACP President Leah Rolls, and Witness Stone Executive Director Pat Wilson Pheanious, who said the WSP research had helped her learn the history of her enslaved family.

Also in attendance were WSP member Liz Lightfoot and local historian Donna Dufresne who worked with church members on the project.

The Witness Stone Project is a “non-profit, community initiative whose mission is to restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities.” Their website is <http://www.witnessstoneproject.org>.

Earlier students from Killingly High School also installed two Witness Stones.

The church plans to continue the project, researching the lives of other Malbone enslaved persons.

The church's Web site is <http://www.trinityepiscopalchurchbrooklyn.org>, with services on their Facebook page.

Hearing details bridge replacement on Kenyonville Road

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) held a virtual public information meeting on July 8 to detail the specifics and timeline of an upcoming bridge replacement over Still River in Woodstock scheduled to commence in 2027.

The project will see the complete replacement of the bridge on Kenyonville Road, which sits over Still River south of Route 171 and west of Route

198. Installed in 1947, The structure has far exceeded its expected lifespan and has shown signs of deterioration, including cracks in the concrete. The hearing lasted roughly half an hour with some participants posing questions about traffic detours and other impacts of the construction. Most of the meeting was focused on the finer details of the project and what the new bridge will look like when it is finally installed.

Dionys Quezada, a Project Manager for the bridge replacement,

explained that several parts of the current bridge failed inspection in 2024. The bridge is also unable to manage heavy loads. Its replacement will resolve the issue currently plaguing the aged structure.

“The project purpose and needs are to increase the load capacity of the bridge to avoid weight restrictions as they are today, address the poor condition of the deck and superstructure, improve hydraulic adequacy and performance, eliminate scour susceptibility, increase the roadway width from 20 feet to 24 feet, and replace the bridge and approach rail system to meet current safety standards,” Quezada explained.

The replacement bridge will be twin box culverts good for at



Courtesy


The Kenyonville Road bridge over Still River will be replaced in 2027.

least 75 years, the same maximum life expectancy of the current bridge which has been in service for 78 years. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2027 and last roughly eight months. One lane will remain open during

the school year with a full road closure during summer vacation months. A 4.8-mile detour will take commuters through Eastford Road, Westford Road, and Crystal Pond Road.

The project will cost \$3,460,000 covered by 80

percent federal and 20 percent state funds through the Federal Local Bridge Program with no cost to the town of Woodstock. Project plans and maps as well as a recording of the public hearing are available through the CTDOT Web site.

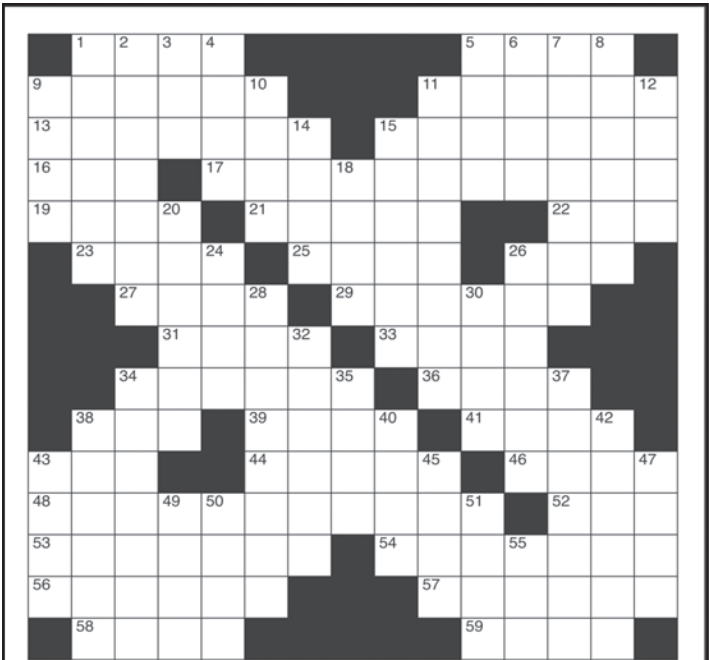


ARTHRITIS?

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

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

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



- CLUES ACROSS
1. Resorts

5. One point south of southwest

9. Musical performances

11. Matched

13. Four-footed animal part

15. Express severe disapproval of

16. Type of leaf

17. Preparatory

19. Walk heavily

21. Succulent plants

22. Rectangle of grass

23. Lump in yarn

25. Too

26. Foot (Latin)

27. Afflicts

29. Smoothed

31. Mind (Greek)

33. Tampa ballclub

34. Semitic language

36. Sheltered sides

38. Ocean

39. Electronic point of sale

41. Thrust a knife into

43. 12th month (abbr.)

44. Ringworm

46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)

48. Fighting back

52. Cease to exist

53. Insects in adult stage

54. Freestanding sculpture

56. Caps

57. Repents

58. Brown and Wallace are two

59. Moved quickly

- CLUES DOWN
1. Goes bad

2. Yard structure

3. They ____

4. Marine invertebrate

5. European river

6. Office supplies firm

7. Physically abused

8. Service stations in Australia

9. Kills

10. Liquid body substances

11. Particular to a given individual

12. Brave or noble act

14. Sicilian city

15. Conqueror

18. Elected officials

20. Type of “pig”

24. Drop of viscous substance

26. Monetary unit of Spain

28. Guarantees

30. Coloring materials

32. Reddish browns

34. Square measure

35. Will not

37. Canned fish

38. Appeared

40. Six (Spanish)

42. Took off

43. Negligible amount

45. Posts in a Greek temple

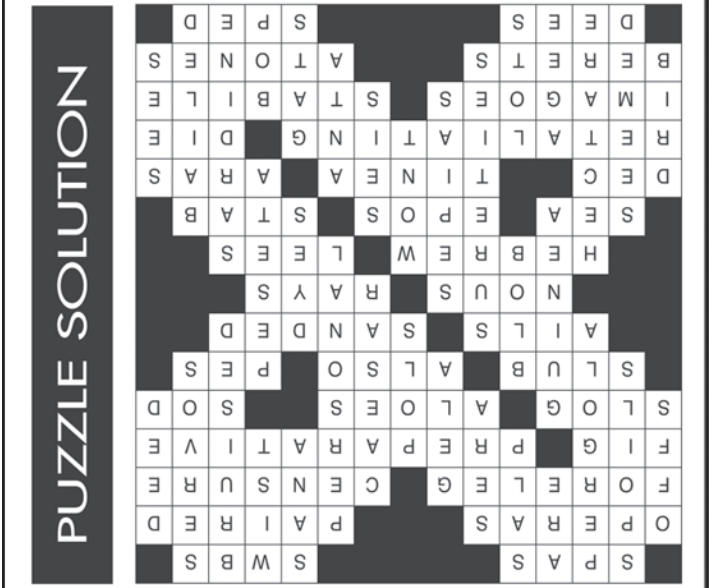
47. Witnesses

49. Phil ___, former CIA

50. Places to park

51. Guns

55. Dance to pop music



Five Below shows support for Paws Cat Shelter

KILLINGLY — Five Below at Killingly Commons will donate 10 percent of all purchases to Paws Cat Shelter from July 27 through Aug. 2. You must present a coupon at time of purchase. Coupons can be obtained at the shelter, 74 School St., Putnam, or any Paws events.

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

VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Week of July 7: Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Common Yellowthroat, Wood Thrush, Veery, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Red-winged Blackbird, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Catbird, Turkey Vulture, Wild Turkey, Carolina Wren, Eastern Phoebe

THE SIDING STORE INC.

Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms

SPRING SPECIALS

NOW IN EFFECT

\$\$\$\$

Financing available to qualified customers!

thesidingstoreinc.com

860.423.7771 860.963.9035

860.886.1718 860.564.7088

References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe

We take pride in our customer service!

AFFORDABLE!

VISA MCGOVN

For Advertising Information
Call 860-928-1818 Ext. 326
email: mikaela@villagernewspapers.com



TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD:
MIKAELA VICTOR
RETAIL ADVERTISING
860-928-1818 EXT. 313
mikaela@villagernewspapers.com
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
KERRI PETERSON
860-928-1818, EXT. 303
kerri@stonebridgepress.news
TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:
E-MAIL
obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 860-928-4215
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: OR PRESS RELEASE
E-MAIL:
brendan@villagernewspapers.com
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
Frank@salmonpress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DiNICOLA
508-764-6102
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
860-928-1818 x 323
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

The Woodstock Villager (USPS 024-999) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, 10A Beeches Ln, Woodstock Ct 06281. Periodical postage paid at Putnam, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to Villager Newspapers c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Woodstock Legion post hosting open house Saturday

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugel Post 111 American Legion, Inc. invites the public to our free open house and breakfast on Saturday, July 19 from 8-10 a.m.

Come to our post, located at 22 Stone Bridge Rd., Woodstock, to see what we do for our veterans and the community and see our newly renovated post home. We are always looking for new members and due to the LEGION Act of 2019 all veterans who have served since Dec. 7, 1941 are eligible to join.

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.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



brendan@villagernewspapers.com



Local student completes degree at Wichita State University

WICHITA, Kan. — More than 1,950 students completed a total of 2,122 degrees and certificates at Wichita State University in spring 2025, including Ronald N. DeGray of Woodstock, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Sport Management, Magna Cum Laude.

The breakdown of degrees and certificates

granted includes:

Undergraduate: 1,430 degrees and certificates for 1,340 undergraduate students

Graduate: 692 degrees and certificates for 611 graduate students

For Bachelor's degrees, honors were conferred to the following:

Summa cum laude: 108 students

Magna cum laude: 425 students

Cum laude: 336 students

Undergraduate students who have attained a grade point average of 3.9 out of a possible 4.0 received the summa cum laude award; those with an average of 3.55 received the magna cum laude award; and those with an average of 3.25 received the cum laude.

About Wichita State University

Wichita State University is Kansas' only urban public research university, enrolling more than 23,000 students between its main campus and WSU Tech, including students from every state in the U.S. and more than 100 countries. Wichita State and WSU Tech are recognized for being student centered and innovation driven.

Located in the largest city in the state with one of the highest concentrations in the United States of jobs involving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), Wichita State University provides uniquely distinctive and innovative pathways of applied learning, applied research and career opportunities for all of our students.

The Innovation Campus, which is a physical extension of the Wichita State University main campus, is one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing research/innovation parks, encompassing more than 120 acres and is home to a number of global companies and organizations.

Access to host free emergency & disaster preparedness workshop

WILLIMANTIC — Are you prepared for severe weather events? Would you know what to do if disaster strikes? Join Access Housing Education and Counseling Center for an important and timely Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Workshop on Thursday, July 24, from 3 to 4 p.m. at Access

Community Action Agency, 1315 Main St., Willimantic.

This free workshop will be led by Marc Scrivener, retired Willimantic Fire Chief, who served the community for 26 years—15 of those years as chief. Chief Scrivener brings decades of experience and real-world knowledge to help byou and

your family prepare for emergencies of all kinds, from severe storms to unexpected disasters.

Participants will learn:

How to prepare before an emergency

What to do during a disaster event

How to create a personal or family emergency plan

Being prepared is key to staying safe. Don't miss this opportunity to learn practical, life-saving skills from one of the region's most respected emergency professionals.

To sign up, contact Helen Scanlon, Program Manager at the Housing Education and Counseling Center, at helen.scanlon@accesshousing.org.

This event is free and open to the public. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

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.

Join Postal Service at Putnam Town Hall Job Fair July 21

PUTNAM — On Monday, July 21, the Postal Service in Putnam is offering extra support for

those interested in a postal career at a Putnam Town Hall job fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Postal Service offers competitive wages and benefits, and career advancement opportunities. Accepting a position with the United States Postal Service is the first step to starting a long,

Sydney Rosen of Brooklyn graduates from Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, R.I. — Roger Williams University is proud to announce that Sydney Rosen, of Brooklyn, graduated with a B.S. in Marine Biology, and a B.A. in Aquaculture and Aquarium Science in May as part of the Class of 2025.

About RWU

Roger Williams University is a comprehensive university with a liberal arts core and professional programs, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the state capital of Providence, Rhode Island. Across eight schools of study, we provide real-world learning focused on social and environmental justice, small classes, and direct access to faculty and staff. Our students create powerful combinations of degrees, credentials, research and internship opportunities, study-abroad programs, and involvement in clubs, student organizations, and athletics. Our Northeast location facilitates a strategic network between New York and Boston for community-engaged research and career opportunities for our students and alumni. Graduating with a unique skill set and the passion to make an impact in their careers, our students become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

New Al-Anon meeting in Pomfret

POMFRET — The recently formed Together We Can Do It Al-Anon Family Group is meeting at Christ Church in Pomfret (Route 169) on Tuesdays at noon. This is an open meeting, meaning not only family and friends of people suffering from the effects of addiction are welcome, but also professionals who may have clients they would like to recommend attend the meetings.

Al-Anon is a worldwide program for people just like you, who are worried about someone with a drinking problem. This Pomfret group will also welcome folks concerned about someone suffering from drug addiction.

Utilizing the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, the group will discuss the Steps, Concepts, and Traditions as well as offer support for your specific situation. No advice is given; understanding and support in a confidential setting are the largest benefits of membership in the group.

For more information about Al-Anon, visit www.al-anon.org. For information about the meeting in Pomfret, call 203-561-7954.

Putnam Town Hall is located at 200 School St., Putnam.

The job fair aims to fill immediate openings for rural carrier associates with a salary of \$20.38 per hour paid bi-weekly. Part-time or full-time positions are available.

Applicants can begin the process at www.usps.com/careers and must have a valid U.S. driver's license for at least two years (unrestricted).

TREE SERVICE

AERIAL TREE SERVICE

Complete Site Work
Including:
Excavating • Bulldozing • Trucking
• Demolition • Stump Removal
• Timber Harvesting
• Yard Expansions & Tree Removal
• Lot Clearing • Cellar Holes
• Septic Systems • Lawn Installation
• Retaining Walls • Fields Made
• 40,000 lb excavator with jack hammer for rent
860-382-5071
Field Stone and Firewood for sale

WANTED TO BUY
Antiques & Old Stuff

•Bottles • Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry • Pottery •Toys
• Games • Glassware •Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold
• Silver Plated Items •Watches •Typewriters •Sewing Machines
• Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns •Lamps • Kitchenware
• Cookware •Knives •Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
• Fire Dept • Advertising Signs & Much More
CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396

Enjoy Life with Better Hearing!



Call 860-315-9656 to schedule a hearing evaluation.

amplisound

HEARING CARE CENTERS


Does your insurance cover hearing aids? Let us check for you. We work with Anthem BCBS, United Healthcare, Hearing Care Solutions, Amplifon, Nation's Hearing, American Hearing Benefits, and CT Medicaid.

19 Quinebaug Ave, Putnam
351 Merline Road, Vernon
www.amplisound.com



Hearing Solutions for all Lifestyles and Budgets since 1981

Insightful Approach



WHZ, With you I have a trusted team, which means I can focus on running my restaurant without worrying about my financial plan and investments.


Thank you!

Jimmy


Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

Visit whzwealth.com to read more about Jimmy's story

(860) 928-2341
697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259
392-A Merrow Road, Tolland, CT 06084



This statement was provided 3/7/2024 by Jimmy Li who is a client. The image shown is a model and not the actual client. This statement may not be representative of the experience of others and is not a guarantee of future performance or success. For additional reviews, search us wherever local businesses are reviewed. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor.



P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818
FAX: (860) 928-5946
WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Hhaving a pet might just save your life

There’s nothing like coming home to someone who’s actually happy to see you. Not out of obligation, not because they want something, just pure, tail-wagging joy that you exist. That’s what a dog gives you. That’s what any pet can give you, really. They don’t need you to have your life figured out. They just want to be near you.

Lately, we have been thinking a lot about how much pets do for us. Without fanfare, especially when life’s been heavy.

If you have ever gone through a hard time, grief, illness or heart-break, you know what I mean. There’s this moment when the people fade out a bit. They get busy, they don’t know what to say, they pull away. But the dog? The cat? They stay. They sit right beside you when you’re too tired to talk. They follow you from room to room like your little emotional support shadow. They just know.

Having a pet means someone’s always keeping watch. Someone’s listening to the silence with you. Someone’s there when the world doesn’t make sense.

They remind you to take a walk. To go outside and to get up. To feed them, which sometimes is the only reason you feed yourself. They force you into a rhythm when everything feels offbeat. Plus, they make you laugh, even when you think you forgot how.

There is a kind of healing that comes from being needed in the most simple, unconditional way. Pets don’t care what your job title is or whether your life is falling apart. They just want to sit beside you on the couch and maybe steal your blanket.

And science backs it up! Petting a dog or cat has been shown to lower cortisol (the stress hormone) and raise oxytocin, the same hormone that helps us bond with other people. Just spending time with a pet can lower blood pressure, ease anxiety, and even reduce feelings of loneliness. Some studies show that dog owners, in particular, are more likely to reach recommended physical activity levels, just from walking their dog.

So no, they are not just pets. They are therapy. They are family. They are the ones who show up every day and ask for nothing but your presence.

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

I still believe in the city on a hill

To the Editor:

Let me preface this letter by stating that no one has a gun to my head. Nor are there ICE officers outside the house threatening my daughters with deportation. With that said, it pains me to admit that the scenario now exists which could make President Trump the greatest president in our nation’s history. Big pause... Please understand that this is a very big could, but through what seems to be the most brilliant of schemes, Trump could alter the role of President so that hundreds of years from now, Americans looks back at the current administration as the one that changed our country’s dynamics forever. One that all future presidents may appreciate as giving them their unbridled political dominion. Whether it is a good thing or a bad thing, only our children and children’s children will be able to answer.

What was once a system made up of three equal branches of government, different in their roles but equivalent in power, is being transformed as the Executive branch, and more importantly, the head of the office, has made a mockery of the last 249 years of America’s principles. This was not done without a careful plan. As this writer predicted several years ago, placing likeminded jurists on the Supreme Court in Trump’s first administration was step one. Step two was hijacking Congress by bolstering MAGA loyalists to take over the House and the Senate. Lastly, step three was Mr. Trump’s triumphant return to the White House. He deftly employed a tactic familiar to autocrats throughout history, namely find a scapegoat. In this case undocumented immigrants were the perfect fodder. Without evidence he painted oppressed men, women, and children as horrific dangers to American society. He then aligned himself with the largest religious organizations in the country, by championing their causes. This included limiting abortion rights, restricting LGBTQ freedoms, and reversing DEI policy. He also championed limiting what can be read and what can be taught in schools. He campaigned to place anti vaccine and anti-science individuals to run vital government agencies.

Once elected, he has continued to institute measures needed to solidify a despot. He has strongarmed the free press with unwarranted lawsuits in an effort to suppress facts and allow his lies to become truths. He has attacked private law firms who would bring him to court as well as any public attorneys who crossed him. In sending the DOJ after prior the FBI and CIA chiefs Mr. Comey and Brennan for simply doing their jobs, he has politized government beyond anything seen before. Threatening Mr. Musk and Mr. Mamdani with removal of citizenships merely for disagreeing with him is fundamentally anti-democratic. Now he is even bullying longtime nemesis Rosie O'Donnell, a born in America citizen, with exile for criticizing him. He is instituting ridiculous tariffs on Brazil for investigating their former President Jair Bolsonaro for attempting a coup. He is decimating the Federal work force making the litmus test for employment not allegiance to the country, but fealty to Trump. He has also pardoned the Jan. 6 extremists as well as personal friends and contributors to his election. Just last week he had his lackey, Pam Bondi dismiss charges against a plastic surgeon who forged covid vaccine cards, destroyed vials, and injected saline into patients. Flaunting the law does not make one a hero and the President’s role is to uphold regulations, not interpret them. He is disregarding the fact that his job is to look after all Americans, not only those who

purchase MAGA gear.

Trump has also created what seems to be a secret police force. ICE men with face masks continue to ransack businesses, churches and schools to find illegal immigrants despite actual citizens being arrested merely for not being white. They are showing up at little league games. It would not be a leap of faith to see political opponents targeted next.

Is a transformation to an authoritative ruler inevitable? The answer is no. For Trump to succeed, his MAGA Republicans must retain Congress in the 2026 election. Looking at current poll numbers, this may be a bit of a longshot. But if Trump can come up with some sort of election decree, he could game the system in his favor. Already he has asked Texas governor Mr. Abbott to push for a reorganization of election districts to favor GOP candidates. If other states impose similar gerrymandering trickery and Trump’s SCOTUS upholds it, opponents may find it impossible to change things.

In addition, he must reckon with former partner, Elon Musk. Mr. Musk wants to form a new political party and oppose incumbents who voted for the Big Beautiful Bill. In retaliation, Trump not only wants to give him the boot, he also wants to cripple Musk’s private companies, Tesla and Space X. But even if deported, Musk under current election laws could still flood the election landscape with his hundreds of billions of dollars.

Can an authoritative system actually be a viable American future? We can look to the past and the Roman Republic which only achieved world dominance after Julius Caesar birthed the Roman Empire. Under centuries of an Imperial rule, Rome became the most powerful and the richest country this planet has ever seen. Having an American King was also desired by some of the founders; it was George Washington who said no to that.

At this point, it’s impossible to say whether continuing our prior system of checks and balances, and a President needing to practice within these confines is the way to navigate a successful future. Maybe China and Russia do know better and limiting human rights is the only way to survive. Perhaps the role of the American leader must forever be changed to give one man unrestricted power. Tomorrow may be a great game of Risk with Russia taking over Europe, China absorbing Asia and America commanding the Americas (with Africa up for grabs). I hope not. The saying that absolute power corrupts absolutely seems to be an historically normal pattern. Thus far, the way Mr. Trump has been profiting reeks of abuse. Between his mega airplane gift, his Trump phones, his cryptocurrency businesses, his easing of tax laws on the wealthy, and his social media website (to mention a few), I’d say things look pretty corrupt.

Either way, one must give Trump a tip of the (red) hat for getting close to pulling the impossible off. This is a complex and devious agenda that so far seems unstoppable. If he pulls it off, the role of President is forever transformed into an all-powerful dictator. I still believe in Ronald Reagan’s vision of America as the “city upon a hill.” A beacon of freedom and democracy. And I pray that the phrase “all hail Augustus Trump” will never be uttered.

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

A “no” vote will not save Thompson’s residents anything

To the Editor:

Some thoughts about Thompson’s budget voting crisis. Yes, a crisis because about 17 percent of property owners in my town have decided that it’s just fine to furlough 21 workers, reduce library hours, and limit my ability to bring my refuse to the Town transfer station from 30 hours to only 15 hours two days per week. How many working people can get to the transfer station within these week-day-only hours?

And if this next vote — our fourth referendum — also rejects whatever budget cuts the Board of Finance requires, will we have any means to plow and sand our roads this coming winter? And why have a library/community center building with no public access to books, children’s and adult reading programs, art shows, bingo, senior lunches, or recreation activities? Will Thompson residents be forced to contract with private trash haulers whose trucks will bring even more damage to our roads? And, paying \$75 to \$135 annually for a transfer station sticker

sounds like a bargain when compared to private haulers’ fees.

The poor voter turnout is a factor here in the dominance of “no” votes. It is my understanding that less than one-third of eligible voters in my town put aside an hour — at most — to drive to their voting location. And the whole town will suffer from the virtually anonymous opposition, who only seem to want to break things.

You are not cutting waste, fraud and corruption in Thompson by voting “no.” You are cutting town services that every resident has a right to expect. Or maybe those who are rejecting the budget would rather have State of Connecticut mandates kick in?

Don’t let the destructive example at the federal level decide how we will be living in our small town. Think for yourself, bring your neighbor with you, and I urge Thompson voters to vote “yes.”

ROMAN JAMIESON
THOMPSON

Summer treat

In the implacable heat, the sad news from the



NANCY WEISS

Texas floods, and conversations about politics, we need to think about something happy. We need to eat something that makes us happy. We need a product that we can easily obtain on hot July nights and we have plenty of it. We have ice cream! We are fortunate to have ice cream places scattered all over our region and they are jumping with business. I know because I go with my daughter and grandchildren to a number of them. I can’t eat the stuff myself, except for soft serve, but I love it. It makes people happier than anything else I know.

For many years, the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, as it was once called, offered courses in ice cream making and was the launching pad for famous students who went on the excel in the business. Among them was Stu Leonard, Sr. of grocery store fame, whose family still makes and sells ice cream across New England.

The UConn Dairy Bar, which is booming nearly all year round was part of a chain of land-grant colleges that made a variety of products from the cows on the farm. It competed with Penn State Berkey Creamery for the title of best ice cream, with the honors moving lickety split between them. Penn State offered a correspondence course, which a bit of research reveals was taken by two creative fellows – Ben and Jerry. I can’t help but mention that when I retired from UConn, they named an ice cream flavor in my honor – Weiss Cream, which was a mix of vanilla, blue berries and a swirl. It didn’t last on the menu, but it was the best retirement gift I ever had.

From hard work and creativity, Linda Poitras Rich has developed We-Li-Kit in Abington into one of the most remarkable ice cream places ever. It is a destination for many and offers giant servings. The rural location and the cute animals add to the charm just as they do at Buck’s Soft Serve in Woodstock Valley. After a disappointing effort on my part at the driving range, Bogey’s at Thompson Speedway, is a nice change.

I haven’t visited Ra Ra’s at Bell Park in Dayville or Sweet Cheeks in Brooklyn, but I love their names. I go to Farm to Table in Woodstock and Woodstock Creamery with our family and love the energy of being on working farms. At Riverside in Putnam I look for the heron who sits across the river disinterested in ice cream and people. We miss the Ice Box in Brooklyn. Before the end of summer, I’ll order soft serve from Tee Rex Mini Golf in Thompson, which has 24 flavors of soft-serve and consider that my dinner. Alamode in Thompson looks good too.

Even the most disciplined person will eat a dripping ice cream cone. After counting carbs and intermittent fasting, who can deny themselves a summer treat that recalls childhood while also feeling like a taste of forbidden fruit? Ice cream is probably more comforting than therapy and far less expensive.

The line at Deary Bros. Mike’s Stand snakes in front of the building as people ponder carefully their choice of scoops. Inmates ordering their last meal probably make of their minds faster. The well-trained teens taking their orders smile patiently and dig into the hard ice cream to present a cone with the same flair Jannik Sinner grabbed the Wimbledon trophy. Smiles all around as people take that first lick of the best moment of a summer night.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let’s not take Thompson backward

To the Editor:

The Town of Thompson is struggling because of the lack of tax revenue in the new fiscal year, after voters rejected our most recent budget proposal. Without an approved budget, our town has no funds coming in to support its expenses and has to dip into contingency funds, which won’t last long and doesn’t cover everything we need.

Because of this financial situation, we’ve already seen a lot of important services cut back. For instance, the transfer station is now only open two days a week instead of four, making it hard for residents to throw away their trash and recycle. Many residents, including those who vocally called for rejecting the budget, are complaining about this cutback, since they paid for a permit; however, the cost of the permit fee only covers two days of the transfer station operations. In other words, transfer station users are now getting the level of service they paid for. The library, which is a great resource for many families and senior citizens, now has limited hours. This impacts families with children on summer break and seniors who attend enrichment programs at the Library. Plus, 21 workers have been furloughed, many of whom are local residents.

If we keep rejecting the budget, we could see even more cuts to services that our community depends on. This could really hurt us in ways we can’t afford. The current cuts are supposed to be temporary, while the Town works to cover the lack of income that should be coming in by now. Any budget passed that cuts more from the budget is likely to mean that some or all of those cuts

Vindictive furloughs have alienated Thompson’s employees and taxpayers

To the Editor:

With almost \$3 million in the rainy-day fund, a responsible and reasonable town government would have set a temporary mill rate of 19.0 mills and sent out tax bills. This would ensure the continuation of services until the final budget was adopted, while allowing the taxpayers to gauge the effects of revaluation on their total tax bill, for the average taxpayer, at a mill rate of 19.0, their property taxes would go up \$359.53, or 8.1 percent, while their motor vehicle taxes would go down \$91.10 per vehicle. This allows taxpayers to be more informed when voting on the next budget. Property taxes can be adjusted when the second payment is due next January, motor vehicle taxes can be adjusted with next year’s payment.

An unreasonable and vindictive town government would take a completely different approach; it would look to cut services that would punish their citizens for not voting for the recent budget proposal. Cancelling concerts and senior lunches saves a little money, a minor amount compared to how much the government spends each month, but it lets the citizens know who is in charge. Can’t legally shut down the recycling center? Well, let’s close it on the two busiest days, when it affects the greatest number of users, even though the cost per day to run is the same. The whole point is to create strife in the town and convince voters that they should get in line and vote yes at the next referendum, no matter how it affects them personally.

Thompson, what type of town government do you have?

What’s next? The Board of Finance will meet, and set a new budget for consideration, The Board of Selectmen will announce a date for a referendum for the following month, and the taxpayers will vote again. Next month, if the budget passes, the town will set a mill rate and send out tax bills. If the budget fails again, the town will then

become permanent.

I know that a lot of people, including myself, dislike the idea of taxes going up. But, in a recent informational session and Q&A before the third referendum, it was made clear that nearly 60 percent of Thompson’s taxpayers actually would have seen a reduction in taxes, once the reduced motor vehicle assessments were factored in. The vocal faction in Thompson that is lobbying against passing the budget is led by a person who isn’t even a permanent resident in town, he is an out-of-state resident with no interest in our future success.

Also, it’s important to point out that about 73 percent of eligible voters didn’t vote in the last budget referendum. This shows that there’s a big opportunity for those who care about our community’s future to have their voices heard. I urge everyone to participate in the upcoming vote. Your vote counts and could make all the difference in securing the funding we need to keep our important services running.

Let’s come together as a community and support a budget that helps restore and protect the services we all value. It’s important for our kids, families, and most importantly the future of our town.

Let’s not go backward. I hope everyone thinks carefully about supporting our next budget vote. Together, we can make sure our town remains a great place for everyone.

Sincerely,
GEOFFREY BOLTE
THOMPSON

have to go down the temporary mill rate route, set a temporary mill rate and send out tax bills to cover expenses until a budget is passed. Either way, the damage has been done. The town has unnecessarily alienated its employees and its taxpayers by its actions.

BILL WARNER
THOMPSON

ICE — the secret police force of the United States

To the Editor:

Across Connecticut and the nation, a terrifying shift is happening. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is targeting non-criminal migrants with growing aggression. According to Connecticut Public Radio, arrests of undocumented people with no criminal history are on the rise. In Southington, four migrants were arrested at a car wash. In New Haven, a mother was taken into custody while dropping her kids off at school. Nationally, ABC News reports nearly half of recent ICE detainees have no prior charges or convictions. These arrests are not targeting violent criminals.

This isn’t law enforcement. This is a campaign of fear. Raids on farms, hotels, and construction sites are creating labor shortages. Crops are rotting in fields. Prices at the grocery store are expected to rise even more. Entire industries are under siege, not to uphold the law, but to terrorize people.

ICE agents are raiding homes and workplaces, arresting people without warrants, and disappearing them into a vast, unaccountable detention system with facilities that look like concentration camps. They’ve detained U.S. citizens, the spouses of military personnel, students, workers, and parents, ripping them from families without due process, oversight, or justification.

Newsweek reports ICE is set to become the largest law enforcement agency in the U.S., with \$170 billion in funding, more than many nations spend on their military. That taxpayer money is fueling mass detentions: over 750,000 people, including children, are being held in isolated facilities, many with proven histories of abuse, neglect, and death.

The Republican Big Ugly Bill’s newly allocated funds have supercharged and expanded ICE’s powers. Here are a few examples of where our money is being spent:

- \$45 billion to expand detention to 100,000 beds
- \$8 billion to hire 10,000 new officers
- \$14 billion for deportation operations

According to MSNBC, the Trump administration has reshaped ICE into a loyal paramilitary force, unbound by law or public accountability. ICE agents now operate masked and unbadged,

in plain clothes. They detain people in unmarked vans. They conduct warrantless raids. There are no body cams. No oversight. No accountability. This is authoritarianism.

A woman was punched, robbed, and sexually assaulted by a man posing as an ICE agent. In a system with no transparency, predators exploit the fear ICE creates. Citizens aren’t safe. There are increasing reports of people being arrested based solely on race, language, or occupation. That’s racial profiling. That’s unconstitutional.

A federal judge recently ruled ICE’s “roving patrols without reasonable suspicion” violate the 4th Amendment. Denying detainees access to legal counsel violates the 5th Amendment. These are not small overreaches, they’re direct assaults on our rights.

Migrants are not the only people at risk. ICE’s unchecked power threatens everyone. Once the agency runs out of people of color to target, its tools of surveillance and force can and will be turned on anyone the Trump Administration deems “undesirable.”

White House border czar Tom Homan said ICE doesn’t need probable cause to question or detain civilians. They can do it based on an individual’s appearance. That is against the law! That is fascism at its core.

Congress ultimately is responsible for our immigration crisis. It has failed to act for decades on immigration reform, and we are paying the price for it. Most Americans are not on board with what is happening across the U.S. According to a June Gallup poll cited by Forbes, 78 percent of Americans support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Polls find support for ICE is falling.

We are at a dangerous moment in our country. ICE’s power is expanding while our rights are shrinking. The next person detained could be your coworker. Your friend. Your neighbor. Your spouse. Your child. Or you.

Speak out. Know your rights. Call your representatives. Demand they take back/withhold taxpayer funds allocated for the ICE paramilitary force. This must not become our new normal.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

WE DON’T JUST WORK
IN YOUR COMMUNITY
WE ARE YOUR
COMMUNITY

At Day Kimball Health, our mission is meeting the health needs of our community. And with the hospital, four healthcare centers and medical group offices conveniently located in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam, we pride ourselves on achieving the highest national standards. That’s Day Kimball Health.

Healthcare in motion.

DKH DAY KIMBALL HEALTH
daykimball.org



SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



brendan@villagernewspapers.com





RIDICULOUSLY



Superior Products. Exceptional Service.™

WINDOWS & DOORS

**Buy now,
pay down
the line!**



Sale ends July 31

SAVE \$600

on every window¹



SAVE \$1,500

on every door¹

NO money
down

NO payments

NO interest

for 18 months² if paid in full

Interest is billed during promo period but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before 18-month promo period expires.

More Ridiculously Great Info!

- Get new windows and doors now and **pay NOTHING until January 2027. Zero! Zilch! Nada!**
- Our Design Consultants, measure techs, Certified Master Installers and customer service staff are all **local and ready to serve you!**
- We have **the most 5-star reviews** among leading full-service window replacement companies.*
- You get much more than just an exceptional product and service. We also provide the **Nation's Best Warranty!**[†]

Evening and weekend appointments available!



RENEWAL
by ANDERSEN
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT



959-456-0067

²Plan 4531. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 13.63% - 19.90% 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.

Business owner’s mid-year gut check: Balancing business growth with personal financial security

As a business owner, you face a constant balancing act: how much should you reinvest in your business versus extracting wealth for personal financial security? This tension becomes even more complex in 2025’s economic environment, with tariff implications, potential tax law changes, and an evolving competitive landscape demanding both strategic investment and prudent personal financial planning.

Midyear 2025 presents a critical inflection point for business owners to reassess this balance. Let’s explore how to navigate these competing priorities while building both business value and personal wealth.

The reinvestment vs. extraction dilemma: Every dollar you leave in your business is a dollar that’s not diversifying your personal wealth. Conversely, every dollar you extract is potentially one less dollar working to grow your business value.

The case for reinvestment: Reinvesting in your business can generate higher returns than traditional investments, especially during growth phases. Strategic reinvestment can significantly increase your business’s terminal value.

“The key is to grow profit, especially EBITDA [Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization] since that is what buyers pay for,” notes Kevin Lewis, Principal at Rocklobs Advisory, a consultancy that guides business owners in maximizing business value and securing their legacy in the years leading up to the sale of their business. “To do that, it’s also important to identify investments that create sustainable competitive advantages. I often see business owners chase revenue growth without considering whether those investments actually improve their company’s salability and long-term value. But that strategy concentrates your wealth in a single asset—your business—creating concentration risk.”

The case for wealth extraction: Extracting wealth, or swelling your



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

business, allows you to diversify your holdings, reducing dependence on your business’s success. It enables you to build retirement funds, create emergency reserves, and pursue other investment opportunities.

Navigating 2025’s economic landscape

Tariff implications and supply chain considerations

The evolving tariff environment has created both challenges and opportunities. Some sectors face increased input costs, while others benefit from reduced foreign competition.

Strategic responses include:

Supply chain diversification: Invest in supply chain flexibility to reduce dependence on affected imports

Operational efficiency: Reinvest in technology and processes that improve productivity and offset higher input costs. Consider how AI might be leveraged to make your operations more efficient and resilient as well.

Cash flow management: Maintain higher cash reserves to navigate potential supply disruptions

“The businesses that will thrive in this tariff environment are those that view these challenges as opportunities to strengthen their competitive position,” observes Lewis. “Taking action now to leverage AI agents to automate processes and better leverage data to adapt to change. These kinds of smart reinvestments in operational efficiency and supply chain flexibility now will pay dividends for years to come.”

TCJA expiration considerations: With key Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provisions set to expire Dec. 31, business owners face potential increases in both corporate and personal tax rates, creating urgency around tax plan-

ning strategies. Strategic recommendations for current economic climate

The hybrid approach: Systematic wealth building: Rather than an all-or-nothing approach, consider implementing a systematic strategy:

1. Establish a wealth extraction floor

Determine a minimum annual amount to extract for personal wealth building, regardless of business opportunities.

2. Create investment hurdles for reinvestment Establish minimum return thresholds for business investments. Only reinvest when opportunities exceed these hurdles.

Lewis advises: “I tell my clients to set a ‘personal wealth extraction floor’—a minimum percentage of free cash flow that always goes to personal wealth building, regardless of business opportunities. This forces discipline and ensures you’re building wealth outside your business consistently.”

3. Implement tax-efficient extraction strategies

Given potential tax changes, optimize how you extract wealth through salary vs. distributions, retirement plan contributions, and deferred compensation strategies.

Terminal value vs. personal financial security

Understanding your business’s terminal value: Your business’s terminal value represents a significant portion of your potential wealth. However, this value is uncertain, illiquid, and concentrated.

“Most business owners significantly overes-

timate their company’s terminal value,” warns Lewis. “They assume linear growth will continue indefinitely and that buyers will pay premium multiples. The reality is that business valuations can be volatile, and timing the market for a sale is just as challenging as timing the stock market. It’s also critical to keep size in mind. Companies need to be big enough to get a multiple larger than two at the time of sale.”

Building parallel wealth streams: Smart business owners build wealth both inside and outside their businesses. Inside the business, reinvest to grow terminal value; build recurring revenue streams; and strengthen competitive positioning. Outside the business, maintain diversified investment portfolios and healthy retirement accounts.

Framework for decision making

Assess your business’s growth trajectory: Evaluate potential reinvestments based on ROI, risk-adjusted returns, strategic value, and market conditions.

“Business owners often get caught up in the excitement of growth opportunities without properly vetting them,” explains Lewis. “I recommend applying the same analytical rigor to business investments that you would to any major financial decision. Ask yourself: does this investment make my business more valuable and more attractive to potential buyers, or does it just make it bigger?”

Evaluate your personal financial position: Before making reinvestment

decisions, assess your personal financial security including emergency reserves, retirement readiness, family obligations, and risk tolerance.

Planning your business exit strategy

For business owners considering selling their business in the next 3 to 5 years, now is the time to begin maximizing your company’s value and preparing for a successful transition. The decisions you make today about reinvestment, operational improvements, and financial structure will significantly impact your ultimate sale price.

Kevin Lewis and the team at Rocklobs Advisory specialize in helping business owners navigate the complex process of preparing for and executing business sales. “The most successful exits begin planning years in advance,” Lewis explains. “We work with business owners to identify value drivers, address potential buyer concerns, and structure deals that maximize both financial returns and preserve the owner’s legacy.”

The path forward

Successfully balancing business growth with personal financial security requires ongoing attention and strategic thinking. The current economic environment makes this balance more critical than ever.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, our “Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™” process helps business owners develop strategies that support both business growth and personal financial security. Ready to discuss how to balance business growth with per-

sonal financial security? Contact us for a complimentary consultation at whzwealth.com or call (860) 928-2341. Let us help you create a strategy that provides Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

If you’re a business owner considering selling your business in the next three to five years, reach out to Kevin Lewis of Rocklobs Advisory at rocklobs.com for specialized guidance to help maximize your business value, ensure your legacy, and make the sale transition with confidence.

Authored by Senior Managing Partner, Chief Strategist James Zahansky, AWMA® with commentary by Kevin T. Lewis of Rocklobs Advisory. AI may have been utilized for some research and initial drafting of this piece. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

PFAS

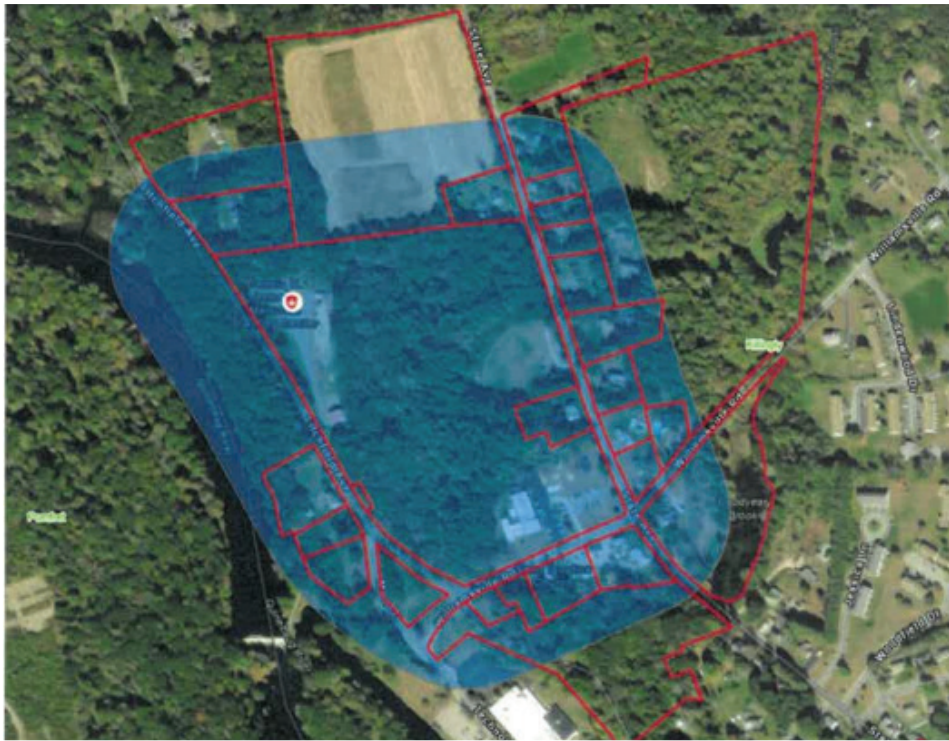
continued from page A1

review.

“They’re looking at every fire training facility in the state. They’re not going to wait for somebody to have water issues so they’re going to start doing it proactively,” Conroy said.

The process will examine wells within a 500-foot radius of the training center to determine any increased levels of PFAS and help mitigate any contamination as necessary. Any PFAS contaminated households would be provided with water and a filtration system to resolve the problem, at least temporarily. Conroy said the radius may expand, including to the Quinebaug River; if they find enough contamination to warrant further investigation.

Currently, the process is in its beginning stages which involves working with local officials and property owners to begin sampling, identi-



Courtesy

The approximate testing area in Rogers as presented by CT DEEP.

fying stakeholders, and collecting data. Conroy indicated that CT DEEP is ready to initiate testing soon. The agency will attempt to contact

owners within the 500-foot radius three times to seek participation which is completely voluntary and not required. The testing results will then

be communicated with the property owners, the town, and health officials to determine next steps.



Community Connection

Morin JEWELERS

Fine Jewelry & Gifts

The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs

All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS™

BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA

morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250

Located at CVS Plaza

Crooked Creek Farm

East Brookfield, Massachusetts

Stock up now!

Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!

To purchase your meat packages

CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308

www.CrookedCreekFarmMA.com

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

Find Us on Social Media

Cormier JEWELERS

42 Central St. Southbridge

Owned and operated by the Cormier family since 1947.

Free jewelry inspection!

Jewelry repairs on-site!

Custom jewelry design!

Jewelry appraisals!

We buy gold!

ONLY IN SOUTHBRIDGE!

www.Cormiers.com

Call or Text (508)764-7415

Pathfinders

I'm sure by now most of you have heard that Killingly has a new mascot—the Trailblazers. You might wonder why such a name might be appropriate. Those of you who have been following my column might be able to name a few "pathfinders," pioneers in their fields, trailblazers, who have come from Killingly or lived in the town. I'll mention just a few in this column, beginning back in the 18th century.

First was Manasseh Cutler, a clergyman, physician, and U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts. He was instrumental in gaining the passage of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and "wrote the section prohibiting slavery in the Northwest Territory." (Wikipedia). Manasseh Cutler, son of Hezekiah and Susannah (Clark) Cutler was born May 28, 1742 in a section of Killingly that is now part of Putnam. His home was located on the north side of Five Mile River Road not far from the Rhode Island border. It is no longer standing, but there is a marker. As a teen Manasseh and several other youths were prepared for college by Aaron Brown, minister of the First Congregational Church of Killingly, which was located on Killingly Hill (now Putnam Heights). Brown's circa 1745 parsonage, where Manasseh was tutored, is still standing. Called the Cady-Copp Cottage, the gambrel-roofed dwelling is owned by the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam and is on the National Register of Historic Places. (Photos of Manasseh Cutler, and much more biographical information, are easy to find with an internet search). Cutler died



KILLINGLY AT 300
• • • • •
MARGARET WEAVER

July 28, 1823 in Hamilton, Mass. N e x t in the timeline was Mary Dixon Kies/Keyes, considered by many to be the first woman in the United States to be granted a patent in her own right. Her 1809 patent was for a woven fabric of straw with silk. (Straw bonnets were quite fashionable at the time). According to Windham County historian Ellen D. Larned, Mary Kies received a congratulatory letter from First Lady Dolley Madison, wife of President James Madison. Oh, to have a copy of that letter! The daughter of John Dixon and Janet (Kennedy), Mary was born March 21, 1752. She married first Isaac Pike to whom she had a son Isaac who was born Dec. 27, 1770. According to Oscar J. Harvey's Dixon Genealogy (1889), Isaac, Sr. died about 1772 leaving Mary a young widow with a small child. Within a few years she married John Keyes (Kies) and had additional children--Daniel, John, Samuel, Harvey, Abigail (Nabby), and Mary. Larned noted that unfortunately, fashions changed (Dolley Madiso loved turbans), and the family lost a considerable sum of money on the cottage industry. It might not have helped that Mary's husband John and son Harvey passed away in 1813 and daughter Nabby died in 1814. Mary Kies died in 1837 and was interred next to her husband in the South Killingly Cemetery without a marker. In 1965 the Killingly Grange #112, under Grange Master Mervin Whipple, erected a marker in her honor. The Killingly Historic District Commission will

dedicate a bench in Lion's Park honor of Mary Dixon Kies on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 11 a.m. All are welcome. A third trailblazer was Charles L. Tiffany "an American businessman and jeweler who founded New York City's Tiffany & Co. in 1837. Known for his jewelry expertise, Tiffany created the country's first retail catalog and introduced the English standard of sterling silver in imported jewelry in 1851." (Wikipedia). Charles was born February 15, 1812 in Killingly, most likely on present-day Maple Street across from the former mill, the son of Comfort Tiffany and Chloe Draper. His father, an investor in the first Danielson cotton mill (ca.1810), opened his own mill on the Brooklyn side of the Quinebaug River about 1827. Tiffany Street in Brooklyn is a reminder of the famed family. Charles worked in the company store and would travel to New York City for merchandise. His Killingly friend, and future brother-in-law, John B. Young was already living there. "In 1837, with \$1,000 borrowed from his father, Tiffany and a school friend, John B. Young, set up a small stationery and gift shop in New York City. Their first day in business brought only \$4.98 in sales, but two years later they were still in business, selling glassware, porcelain, cutlery, clocks, and jewelry. The store expanded in 1841, when the owners changed its name to Tiffany, Young, and Ellis. The store established a reputation for selling only the finest goods and specialized in Bohemian glass and porcelain. It also began manufacturing its own jewelry. Tiffany pioneered several retail innovations, including the introduction of the first retail catalog in the United States in 1845, known as the Blue Book,

which is considered the first direct-mail catalog to bring fine jewelry to American doorsteps. [6] In 1848, when political unrest in Europe depreciated the market in precious stones, Tiffany invested heavily in diamonds, which were sold at a great profit a few years later." The store became Tiffany & Company in 1853 and has been renowned for the quality of its merchandise for many years. Charles married Harriet Olivia Young, sister of John B., and became the father of six children including the renowned artist Lewis Comfort Tiffany. (See Wikipedia and other sites for photos and additional information). Let's not forget William Torrey Harris, philosopher, educator, and United States Commissioner of Education from 1889-1906. With Susan Blow Harris brought the novel idea of kindergarten to St. Louis, Missouri, where he was Superintendent of Schools. The concept quickly spread. (https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/william-torrey-harris/). Harris was born September 10, 1835 in a part of Killingly that is now in Putnam. He died November 5, 1909 in Providence, Rhode Island. I love the story of Emeline Roberts Jones, credited with being the first female dentist in the United States while she was living in Danielson. According to the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, Emeline became her husband's dental partner in 1859 after performing numerous fillings and extractions on her own. (https://www.cwhf.org/inductees/emeline-roberts-jones). Being a woman, she had a rocky road to travel to reach that point. When Emeline expressed an interest in dentistry, her husband did not agree. "Although

he loved and respected his wife, Dr. Jones shared the belief that dentistry was not a suitable profession for women. Refusing to be deterred, Emeline watched him work for a while. Then she collected teeth that he had extracted and discarded and practiced filling them. Once she had filled a two-quart jar with samples of her work, she showed them to her husband, who was impressed enough to reluctantly allow her to work on some of his patients. Although influenced by convention, he also realized that his wife had genuine talent. Encouraged, Emeline began studying anatomy and related subjects to deepen her scientific knowledge. By 1859, four years after she began practicing dentistry, she had become proficient enough to transition to full-fledged partner at her husband's practice. Her reputation as a skilled dental practitioner grew." (/dew.life/2018/10/01/history-women-dentistry-emeline-roberts-jones/) "When her husband died in 1864, Emeline Jones was left with two young children. Nevertheless, she bravely carried on alone in order to support her family, traveling with her portable dentist's chair to eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island. In 1876, she moved to New Haven, where she established a successful practice, which she maintained until her retirement in 1915. Her son Daniel, who graduated from Harvard Dental School, soon joined her in practice. Daniel also had his MD from Yale.* In a career that spanned six decades, Emeline Roberts Jones received numerous awards and honors. In 1893, she served on the Woman's Advisory Council of the World's Columbian Dental Conference. She was elected to the Connecticut State Dental Society in 1883, and in 1914, she

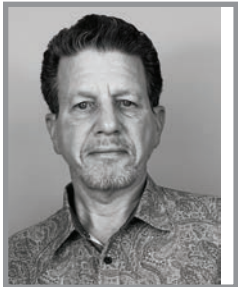
was made an honorary member of the National Dental Association." (https://www.cwhf.org/inductees/emeline-roberts-jones). (*https://dew.life/2018/10/01/history-women-dentistry-emeline-roberts-jones/) Emeline was born in New Hartford, Litchfield County, Connecticut in 1836 and died in 1916 in New Haven, Connecticut. Her husband Daniel Jones died June 25, 1864 and was buried in Old Westfield Cemetery, Danielson, Connecticut. Emeline married as her second husband dentist Horace S. Young. In November, 1884 she was granted a divorce from Horace on the grounds of desertion, and changed her name back to Jones, which is on her tombstone. (The Morning Journal-Courier, Friday, Nov. ;7, 1884, p. 2; Newspapers.com). She is buried in the East Lawn Cemetery in East Haven, Connecticut. (FindaGrave). The above individuals are just a few of many with Killingly connections who have been trailblazers in their fields. I will do a few additional trailblazers in a future column. Please feel free to contact me with names of other individuals who paved the way. If you are a Killingly student, perhaps YOU will go on to be a Trailblazer in a future endeavor. Remember---never give up!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, July 2025. For additional information email me at margaret-mweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main Street Danielson Wednesday or Saturday 10-4 or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killingly-historicalsociety

The ultimate therapist

Emotional healing requires openness, vulnerability and intimacy. Like heart surgery, it is sometimes invasive and requires skilled assistance. But it always starts with opening up to the God, the Great Physician. We find some good examples of this kind of praying in the Psalms of David. He was hurt by his brothers, his boss, his wives, those he ruled and his children. He was also hurt by bad choices he made. Listen to this prayer found in Psalm 13 MSG:

Long enough, GOD—you've ignored me long enough. I've looked at the back of your headlong enough. Long enough I've



BEYOND THE PEWS
• • • • •
BY BISHOP JOHN W. HANSON ACTS II MINISTRIES

carried this ton of trouble, lived with a stomach full of pain. Long enough my arrogant enemies have looked down their noses at me. Take a good look at me, GOD, my God; I want to look life in the eye, So no enemy can get the best of me or laugh when I fall on my face. I've thrown myself headlong into your arms—I'm celebrating

your rescue. I'm singing at the top of my lungs, I'm so full of answered prayers. David knew how to be vulnerable with God. This included being honest. Here are a few things about which we all need to be honest: Life is brutal. Everyone gets hurt. God can handle honest conversations. Many times healing begins with confession and obedience. We need to worship Him even when we hurt and do not understand. Like other kinds of healing, emotional healing may take time. Again, it is much like recovering from heart surgery.

Henry Ford Health says "Patients recovering from open-heart surgery typically attend up to three cardiac rehab sessions per week for three months. They recommend that patients reset their lifestyle habits. During recovery, take the opportunity to adopt healthy lifestyle habits. They further recommend a heart healthy diet, that includes avoiding foods high in sodium and saturated fat." Emotional healing starts with diagnosis. When you see symptoms of emotional issues, it is important to talk to God about your thoughts and feelings. In response, God will often begin showing you the source of the symptoms and the path to

healing. This initial stage of healing may happen through a sermon, book or traumatic event. Some issues may require major surgery. You may need to spend a significant amount of time in prayer and Bible reading. God will often use spiritual advisors in your life for this kind of ministry. That means that you may need to ask for help and then get honest with your counselor. Sometimes God will also ask you to make some adjustments, ask and give forgiveness, and apply other biblical principles to your situation. He may also do some instantaneous healing, especially in times of prayer and worship. Many times, people are healed in

stages; that is why it is important to keep going to God until you can tell the healing has taken place. Finally, there may be a season of recovery when you can reset thought patterns and emotional habits. God will provide the direction if you will pay attention and stay engaged in prayer, counseling and church attendance. Be patient and responsive to God – your therapist.

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



Buy Local • Dine Local • Invest Local • Think Local • Support Local

SHOP LOCAL

SHOP KILLINGLY

TAILORED KITCHENS

by Ann-Marie

Planning your new kitchen? Give us a call!

We offer all-wood cabinetry, countertops, tile, plumbing fixtures, bar stools and more. Great service too!

STARMARK CABINETRY

Jolley Commons Plaza
144 Wauregan Rd (Rte. 12) • Danielson, CT • 860.774.5554
TAILOREDKITCHENSANNMARIE.COM

GLOBE

508-764-9400

TRANSMISSIONS

Transmission Specialists

405 E. Main St. (Rt.131)
Southbridge, MA

Proudly Serving Our Community for 23 years!

Transmissions

Foreign & Domestic
4WD & AWD
Front & Rear Wheel Drive

Differentials	Brakes
Transfer Cases	Suspension
U-Joints	Exhaust
Axle Shafts	Oil Changes
Front End Work	Tune-Ups

Transmission and Engine Computer Scan

Road Test and Lift Inspection

Harvest garlic and replant with quick-maturing vegetables

Get the best flavor and longest storage life from your homegrown garlic with proper harvesting, curing and storage. Then fill that space with a quick-maturing vegetable for a tasty fall harvest.

Harvest garlic when approximately one third, but less than half of the leaves turn brown. Start by digging one plant to check the garlic for maturity. Cloves should be plump and fill the skin.

Immature garlic does not store well, while over-mature bulbs are more subject to disease. Don't discard but rather use immature garlic as soon as possible.

Cure the garlic you plan to store for three to four weeks in a warm, well-ventilated location. Once dried, remove soil, long roots and only the damaged outermost layer of papery skin with a brush of your gloved hand. Cut off the tops being careful not to damage the papery covering that protects the cloves.

Store the garlic in a cool location with good air circulation and out of direct sunlight to prevent resprouting. Properly

harvested and cured garlic will last for up to eight months.

Garlic can also be frozen. Place the whole bulb, individual cloves, or peeled, chopped cloves in a single layer in a plastic freezer bag. Use frozen garlic to flavor your favorite recipes within three to four months for the best flavor.

Once harvested, prepare the area for another planting. Spread a layer of compost over the area or incorporate an inch of compost into the top six inches of soil and fertilize if needed.

Calculate the number of frost-free days remaining in your growing season. Simply count the number of days from planting to the date of the average first fall frost in your area. Select and plant vegetable seeds and transplants that will be ready to harvest before the first killing frost in fall. Check the back of the seed packet or plant tag for the number of days from planting to harvest. If there is enough time for the summer planting to grow and produce before the first

killing frost, they can be added to the garden. Or extend the season with cold frames and floating row covers to protect plantings as needed from killing frost.

Depending on the variety, cucumbers and bush beans are ready to harvest in as few as 60 days. Enjoy great flavor from summer plantings of broccoli and cabbage transplants harvested during the cooler months of fall. Sow seeds of radishes, beets, carrots and other quick-maturing vegetables for a fall harvest.

Once your seeds and transplants are in the ground, be sure to water properly. Keep the seedbed and roots of transplants moist for the first few weeks. Gradually reduce watering frequency as seedlings sprout and grow and transplants become established. Help keep the soil cool by mulching plantings with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic mulch.

Enjoy the rewards of all your planning, planting and care with bountiful harvests now through



Melinda Myers

Garlic is ready to be harvested when the cloves are plump and fill the skin.

the end of the season.

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



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

WILLIMANTIC — More than 800 Eastern Connecticut State University students received undergraduate and graduate-level degrees in the 2024-25 academic year, which culminated this past May with two commencement ceremonies at the conclusion of the spring 2025 semester. Among the graduates are:

Jordyn Poole of Putnam, who received a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences.

Kassidy Stewart of Putnam, who received a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Lauren Deery of Putnam, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology.

Emma Rudman of Putnam, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Sociology.

Emily Carita of Thompson, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology.

Nicholas Prouty of Thompson, who received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

Makayla Tackson of Thompson, who received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Mathematics.

Zachary Willard of Thompson, who received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Michael Flaherty of Danielson, who received a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education.

Nikki Flynn of Danielson, who received a Bachelor of Science in Communication.

Joshua Larkin of Danielson, who received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

Iris Bazinet of Pomfret Center, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Art.

Adam Schimmelpfennig of Pomfret Center, who received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

Sarah Tuttle of Pomfret Center, who received a

Bachelor of Arts in History and Social Science.

Megan Franzino of Woodstock, who received a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Brynn Kusnarowis of Woodstock, who received a Bachelor of Science in Communication.

William Minkema of Woodstock, who received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

Sierra Bedard of Woodstock, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Philosophy.

Caleb Hall of Woodstock, who received a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Geoffrey Vallone of Brooklyn, who received a Master of Science in Accounting.

Allison Capuano of Brooklyn, who received a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Sierra Girard of Brooklyn, who received a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Makenzie Metivier of Brooklyn, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology.

Joseph Schley of Brooklyn, who received a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Michael Flaherty of Danielson, who received a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education.

Nikki Flynn of Danielson, who received a Bachelor of Science in Communication.

Joshua Larkin of Danielson, who received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

Katelin Briere of Dayville, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Music.

Cailey Fay of Dayville, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

Kassidy Walden of Dayville, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology.

From first-generation college students to seasoned professionals pursuing advanced degrees, the graduates reflected the breadth and diversity of Eastern's public liberal arts mission. They ranged in age from 20 to 72, representing nearly all of Connecticut's 169 towns, 19 other U.S. states, and more than 30 foreign countries.

The graduates went through the University's School of Arts and Sciences, School of Education and Professional Studies, and Graduate Division. Popular undergraduate majors included business administration, psychology, health sciences, sociology, and communication. At the graduate level, degrees were awarded in fields such as accounting, education (early childhood, elementary, secondary), management, applied data science, special education, and educational technology.

During her keynote speech at the May 20 undergraduate commencement ceremony, Dr. Mary Grant, president of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, applauded the graduates for their resilience, especially as the first class to attend college following the initial shutdown of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In a world that sometimes chooses fear over hope, choose hope," she said. Drawing on her own liberal arts background, she emphasized the enduring value of skills like critical thinking, creativity, and ethical reasoning. "These aren't soft skills," she said. "They're essential skills-skills that all employers want."

President Karim Ismaili echoed that sentiment, commending graduates for transforming through their college years into effective communicators, problem solvers, and thoughtful citizens. "You've matured, you've discovered new passions, and in many ways, you've changed," he said. "These skills will serve you no matter where life takes you."

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong spoke at the graduate-level ceremony on May 17, where he was awarded Eastern's inaugural Distinguished Public Service Award. Reflecting on his upbringing as the son of Chinese immigrants working in a family-owned restaurant in Wethersfield, Tong said, "There are a lot of people who feel invisible. I want to help them because I know what they're going through."

He encouraged graduates to recognize shared humanity and stand up for marginalized communities. "See the people who don't look exactly like you; they're your people too," he said.

During her graduate ceremony remarks, student speaker Shellena Pitterson '25 highlighted the personal sacrifices and late-night study sessions that defined the graduate journey: "We've navigated assignments, exams, late nights, and - let's be honest - the occasional existential crisis."

At the undergraduate ceremony, Senior Class President Felishka Ramirez '25 thanked the "Eastern village" of faculty and staff who invested in students' growth. "They didn't just teach us; they believed in us. They taught us how to think critically, how to persevere, and how to believe in the power of our own voices," she said.

Speaking on behalf of alumni, Ellen Lang '81 spoke at both ceremonies to welcome new graduates into Eastern's alumni family, now more than 40,000 strong. "You are now connected to a powerful and supportive network of leaders, changemakers, and lifelong learners," she said. "Once a Warrior, always a Warrior."

Quantum field!

Imagine if you were shrunk down to the size of a molecular particle. You wouldn't see walls, chairs, or solid objects anymore; you'd see millions of other particles flying around, darting in every direction. It might look a bit like the inside of a Champagne glass—millions of tiny bubbles, jittering, popping, shimmering in and out of view all around you at the quantum level.

right here. It's the invisible fabric reality is made from—and you are made from it, too.

Your body, your brain, and even your thoughts are built from particles that rise up from these fields. Every atom in you—carbon, calcium, oxygen—comes from ripples in those same invisible fields.

through the two slits, and something unexpected happened.

When no one was watching, the electrons didn't behave like particles at all. Instead, they landed on the wall behind in a wave pattern—just like Young's light. It was as if each single electron somehow went through both slits at once.

their own.

We all live our lives with an underlying expectation of what we think will happen. We expect certain outcomes in our relationships, our work, our health—even without realizing it.

If you expect failure, you'll probably see it. But if you expect success, and you are present, focused, and emotionally aligned with that outcome, quantum physics suggests that you may literally begin to tune into a version of reality where that success starts to show up.

Just as the observer changed the outcome of the particle's path, quantum physics suggests your awareness and expectation will shape the path of your own life.

The Quantum field is not distant. It's all around us, it's inside of us.

We are not separate from it; we are expressions of it.

We are constantly sending signals into the field—through our thoughts, our emotions, and our beliefs. Put those three together, and you get expectations.

The Quantum world is telling us something. It's not just what we see, but how we see, that shapes our reality.

What you're seeing at this microscopic level isn't just a bunch of particles—it's the pixelated foundation of reality, like the tiny dots that make up an image on a screen. Up close, you'd see individual pixels—red, green, or blue lights—but when you zoom out, they blend into the full picture. In the same way, these particles are the smallest "dots" that build everything you see in the world around you.

Every type of particle comes from its own field. There's an electron field, a photon field, and a quark field—These fields overlap and interact with one another constantly, forming a unified foundation to everything. Together, they make up what scientists call the Quantum Field—a single, connected fabric made from many invisible layers.

How do we know?

In 1801, physicist Thomas Young ran a simple experiment with light. He shined it through a single slit, then through two narrow slits, and observed the pattern it made on a screen behind.

If light behaved like tiny particles—like little bullets flying through the slits—he would've seen just two bright spots. Instead, he saw something strange: a series of bright and dark bands.

This experiment became one of the first major clues that light behaves like a wave.

Years later, with the rise of quantum mechanics, scientists ran a modern version of the same test—not with beams of light, but with individual particles, like electrons.

How did the scientists figure this out?

They tracked where each electron landed. And over time, instead of forming two neat lines, the electrons built up a pattern of light and dark bands—the unmistakable fingerprint of wave behavior.

But then came the twist.

When scientists watched the particles pass through the slits, the particles behaved exactly as expected—like little bullets passing through one slit or the other. But when no one was watching, the particles behaved in a completely different way.

The only thing that changed... was the act of observing.

When the particles were observed, they behaved the way the scientists believed they should. When not observed, the particles had a mind of

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Email Us @

brendan@villagernewspapers.com

SEND

OBITUARIES

Hazel M. Johnson



It is with heavy hearts that the family of Hazel M. Johnson announces her passing, which occurred on July 1, 2025 peacefully at her home.

Hazel attended Willimantic State Teacher's College and began her teaching career in Guilford, CT. For much of Hazel's career, she taught grade 4 mathematics at Sayles Elementary School in Baltic, CT.

Hazel is pre-deceased (pre-maturely) by her loving husband Mike Blake where they designed and built their own home and raised their 2 sons in Norwich, CT.

She spent the second half of her life married to Carl Oden Johnson (deceased), living in the tranquility of Coatney Hill, Woodstock, CT. Upon retirement, they travelled extensively across the USA, Canada and Europe.

Hazel very much enjoyed gardening, classical music, travel, swimming, nature and reading. Her greatest joy, however, was becoming a grandmother

to 2 Granddaughters in her late 60s

She is survived by her beloved sons, Mark and Dana (Patti) Blake, and her cherished grandchildren Madison (Logan) and Laura Blake as well as her great granddaughter Avi Blake Vanderlaan. She was blessed with numerous nieces and nephews. Hazel also is predeceased by siblings Jean (Tim) Buckley and George (Jeanette) Merrell.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to Dr Botta, Dr Trevor Vanderlaan and caregivers, Joy, Faye and Shakira. Mark and Dana are forever grateful to their cousin Cathie Beausoleil for her love, support, guidance and keen navigation of the health care system. A special thanks to Pastor Phil Cannistraci for his visits and fellowship.

Online condolences can be sent to Smith and Walker Funeral Home (full obituary). A Christian service and celebration of life will take place at her family home on August 23 at 10:30. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the local animal shelter at <https://neccoanimalservices.org/how-to-help/>

Michael P. Olson 1946 – 2025



Thompson, CT – Michael P Olson, 79, passed away on July 8, 2025. Michael was born in Southbridge, MA on June 14, 1946, son of the late William and Bridget (Hmay) Olson, Sr. also of Southbridge, MA.

He attended Southbridge schools and was a graduate of Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, MA, where he earned his associate's degree.

Michael served honorably in the United States Navy during the Vietnam war from 1965 to 1971; he also served four years in the Massachusetts Air National Guard, in Worcester, MA, during the late 1970's.

He worked for the telephone companies of central Massachusetts for 31 plus years.

Mike was a devoted husband and father, doting over his two daughters and five grandchildren. He and his wife, Linda, enjoyed motorcycling and traveling, taking many trips with family and friends. Archery and hunting were also passions he pursued. Michael was a member of the American Legion Post 67 in N. Grosvenordale, CT, for most of his adult life. He was also a "Tin

Can Sailor" member and a member of the USS Compton DD705 Association.

Michael leaves behind his loving wife Linda (Winchester) Olson, married for almost 58 years; his two daughters, Jessica Mongeau and her husband Christopher of Danielson, CT and Alycia Godzik and her husband Matthew of Putnam; his five grandchildren, Xavier and Luna Mongeau and Sophie, Gretta, and Theodore Godzik, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his only brother, William Olson, Jr.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit with Michael's family on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM in the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home 48 School St., Webster, MA 01570. For a memorial guestbook please visit www.shaw-majercik.com, where you may offer condolences, share fond memories, or light a candle in his memory. Michael's wishes were donations to be made to the Day Kimball Hospital, Oncology Department, 320 Pomfret St., Putnam, CT 06260.



Paul Donais, 74

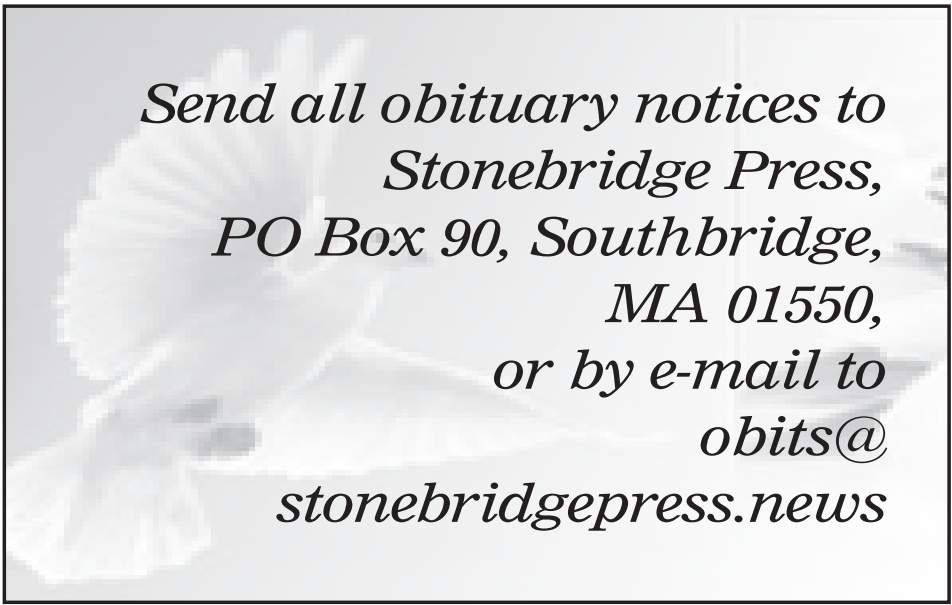
Paul Donais, 74, of Dudley died Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at Harrington Memorial Hospital of Southbridge, MA. Paul was born October 16, 1950 in Southbridge, MA. He is the son of the late F Wilfred and the late Eleanor (LaFlamme) Donais. He Lived in Dudley most of his life.

He is survived by two brothers: Donald Donais with whom he made his home of Dudley, MA and Ronald Donais of Springfield, VA, several dear cousins who helped him and Donald

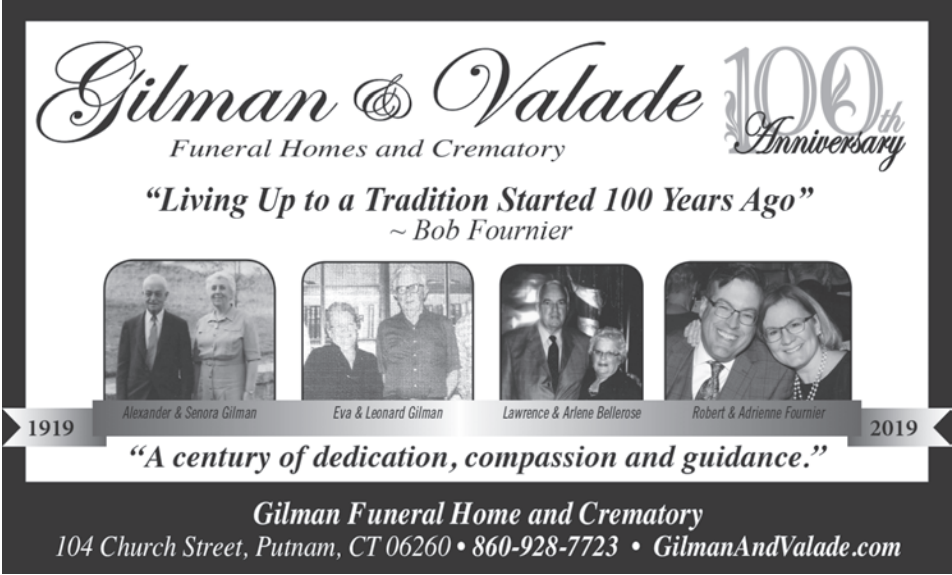
over the past years.

He was employed as a Quality Control Manager in the Plumbing Industry .

A memorial Mass will be held 10:00 am on Friday July 18th at St. Josephs Church 18 Main St. North Grosvenordale Burial will follow be in the family plot at St. Joseph Cemetery, North Grosvenordale Ct. Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel33 Schofield Ave. Dudley is directing arrangements. Leave a condolence at www.bartelfuneralhome.com







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



Gilman & Valade 100th Anniversary
Funeral Homes and Crematory

"Living Up to a Tradition Started 100 Years Ago"
~ Bob Fournier



1919 2019

"A century of dedication, compassion and guidance."

Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory
104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260 • 860-928-7723 • GilmanAndValade.com

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

~ ~ ~

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

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
THE PUTNAM FARMERS
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION,
INCORPORATED
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF
SHAREHOLDERS
REGARDING PROPOSED
DISSOLUTION

To Whom It May Concern:

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the shareholders of **The Putnam Farmers Cooperative Association, Incorporated**, a Connecticut specially chartered corporation (the "Corporation"), will be held on **July 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** at the offices of **FOSKETT EQUIPMENT, 187 Peake Brook Rd, Woodstock, CT 06281** for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposed-voluntary dissolution of the Corporation pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 33-881, et seq.

It is important that all of the Shareholders participate whether by voting in person or by using a proxy which is available from the Corporation.

Shareholders of record as of the close of business on June 30, 2025 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. If the proposed dissolution is approved by the shareholders, the Corporation will file a Certificate of Dissolution with the Secretary of the State of Connecticut and will thereafter wind up its business, liquidate its assets, pay or make provision for payment of its obligations, and distribute any remaining assets to its shareholders.

Any persons claiming an interest as a shareholder who have not otherwise received direct notice are hereby requested to promptly contact **JOHN WHITE at 860-942-7650 or gwhite0439@gmail.com or via mail at 80 Front Street, Putnam, CT 06260.**

Dated: July 1, 2025

By Order of the Board of Directors
RICHARD NORMAN, President
The Putnam Farmers Cooperative Association, Incorporated
80 Front Street
Putnam, CT 06260
July 18, 2025

LIQUOR PERMIT
Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I, Helly Patel, 75 Elm St., Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Have filed an application placarded 07/16/2025 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a GROCERY BEER PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 1394 Thompson Road, Unit A-B, Thompson, CT 06277

The business will be owned by: H & V CONVENIENCE, INC

Objections must be filed by: 08-27-2025

Visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/remon-stance> for more information

H & V CONVENIENCE, INC

July 18, 2025
July 25, 2025

The Pond and Lake Connection will be making an aquatic pesticide application to control algae and/or aquatic weeds on or around 7/23/25 at the Little Pond- Thompson, CT. The following permitted herbicide may be used: Pro-cellaCOR

Do not use the water for the following purpose(s) for 14 Days: Irrigation

No restriction: Livestock Watering, Drinking, Swimming, Fishing, and Boating

Information on the application may be obtained from the person names below:

The Pond and Lake Connection
Brookfield, CT 06804
www.thepondconnection.com
July 18, 2025

Town of Woodstock IWWA

On July 7, 2025, the Town of Woodstock Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency made the following decisions:

- Approved with conditions, permit #06-25-28, 23 Hiawatha Heights (MBL 7272/34/0D15), Wesley Smith & Susan MacMillan, Shoreline wall repair
- Approved with conditions, permit #06-25-26, 0 Andrews Road (MBL 5171/16/19A), Shane Pollock, 2-Lot subdivision in Upland Review Area
- Approved with conditions, permit #06-25-32, 276 Senexet Road (MBL 7282/55/18) Senexet Retreat House LLC, Upland review ruling for clearing of debris, invasives, tree removal, and stumping

Details of these approvals may be obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at landuse@woodstockct.gov

July 18, 2025

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETINGS of the Corporators of The Woodstock Academy on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. and of the Trustees of The Woodstock Academy on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Meetings of the Corporators and the Trustees of The Woodstock Academy will be held on August 12, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Loos Center on South Campus. Julie Woodland, Executive Assistant to the Head of School The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees

July 18, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Bruce S Benkhart (25-00270)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 8, 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:
Nancy Borner
c/o THOMAS A BORNER,
c/o CAROLINE ELISABETH DEMIRS, CUMMINGS & LOCKWOOD LLC, 75 ISHAM ROAD, SUITE 400, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107
Alexander B Benkhart
c/o CAROLINE ELISABETH DEMIRS, CUMMINGS & LOCKWOOD LLC, 75 ISHAM ROAD, SUITE 400, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107

July 18, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Michael Oakes (25-00253)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 8, 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:
Jeffrey Lashua
c/o MICHAEL H CLINTON, LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL H. CLINTON, LLC, 212A NEW LONDON TURNPIKE, GLASTONBURY, CT 06033

July 18, 2025

For Legal Advertising Information, Call 508-909-4127 • email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

Woodstock Building Associates leads remodel & expansion of WHZ’s Pomfret headquarters

POMFRET — On June 26, members of Woodstock Building Associates attended a ribbon cutting for the remodel and expansion of WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors Pomfret headquarters. WBA led this carefully designed project, which was completed this June.

The Pomfret headquarters was transformed and expanded to better accommodate clients for in-person and remote meetings. Woodstock Building Associates was responsible for preserving the historic charm of the building while integrating cutting-edge technology throughout.

“WBA is thrilled to have partnered with WHZ on this exciting addition and renovation project,” said Steven Keene, WBA Principal and Team Leader. “This endeavor will serve WHZ well and benefit the broader community through future wealth management opportunities. Collaborating with the WHZ team was seamless—they were



From left: Jeff Kimball (Carpenter), Glenn LaPointe (Production Manager), Doug Porter (Managing Partner), Jim Zahansky (WHZ Senior Partner), Peter Trudo (Construction Superintendent), Deb Porter (Project Administrator), Jordan Couture (Assistant Office Manager), Joshua Jacques (Lead Carpenter), Sarah Blake (Senior Designer/Estimator), Laurence Hale (WHZ Senior Partner), Steven Keene (Principal-Team Leader).

Courtesy

professional, communicative and a pleasure to work with throughout. Our staff at WBA did an exceptional job bringing the project from design through construction to completion. We’re excited to see the impact this project will have in the years ahead.”

According to WHZ, the remodel/expansion was the latest advancement to continually elevate the client-centered experience at the core of its mission. Improvements included an expanded footprint with state-of-the-art conference room, ADA-compliant accessibility features, modernized advisor offices, and dedicated collaboration spaces.

“This renovation reflects our unwavering commitment to providing an exceptional wealth management experience at every touchpoint,” said Laurence Hale, Senior Partner and Chief Investment Officer. WHZ is an independent investment and fiduciary asset management firm serving clients in 25 states from its offices in Pomfret and Tolland.

Roger Williams University announces Dean’s List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Spring 2025 Dean’s List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean’s List that semester.

Cameron Loeber of Brooklyn
Sydney Rosen of Brooklyn

About RWU
Roger Williams University is a comprehensive university with a liberal arts core and professional programs, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the state capital of Providence, Rhode Island. Across eight schools of study, we provide real-world learning

focused on social and environmental justice, small classes, and direct access to faculty and staff. Our students create powerful combinations of degrees, credentials, research and internship opportunities, study-abroad programs, and involvement in clubs, student organizations, and athletics. Our Northeast location facilitates a strategic network between New York and Boston for community-engaged research and career opportunities for our students and alumni. Graduating with a unique skill set and the passion to make an impact in their careers, our students become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

Dean’s List honors announced at Tufts University

MEDFORD, Mass. — Tufts University recently announced the dean’s list for the spring 2025 semester. Dean’s list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Ben Gordon, Class of 2026, of Woodstock
Shawn Mentzer, Class of 2027, of Pomfret Center
Zachary White, Class of 2026, of Pomfret Center

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university’s schools is widely encouraged.

WESTVIEW SPORTS MEDICINE

Introducing: Leah Kelleher, PT, DPT and Equestrian

We are excited to introduce Leah Kelleher, PT, DPT who recently joined our outstanding team of physical therapists at Westview Sports Medicine in Dayville. Leah is a graduate of the University of Hartford where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Health Sciences and Doctorate in Physical Therapy, and has practiced in both acute care and outpatient physical therapy settings.

Leah is committed to helping individuals of all ages optimize their physical function and overall well-being. Across a lifetime of personal and professional experiences, Leah has accumulated a wealth of treatment knowledge; aiding patients recovering from strokes, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and vestibular impairments including a nuanced understanding to treat infants, toddlers, and adolescents with a varied set of diagnoses.

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



In her spare time, Leah is an equestrian and rides competitively while also cherishing her family life with her husband and three children.

If you are interested in working with Leah for your recovery, please call us at 860-774-8574, and we will do the rest.

*Back in the Game...
by Way of Westview!*

