

THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Putnam declares March 8 Henry Breault Day



Jason Bleau

Henry Breault, a Putnam native who became the first and only enlisted submariner to receive the Medal of Honor.



A wreath is dropped into the Quinebaug River in a ceremony recognizing Breault for his service and sacrifice.



State Senators Mae Flexer and Jeff Gordon were on hand to recognize the occasion including providing a citation from the Senate Floor.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The Town of Putnam has continued its annual tradition of honoring notable veterans who hailed from the town and contributed to the wellbeing of not only their own community, but the nation at large. In a special ceremony on March 8, Putnam officially designate the day as "Henry Breault Day" in honor of its namesake U.S. Navy veteran who holds a special place in the history books as the only enlisted submariner to ever win the Medal of Honor.

Breault, who was born in Putnam, served in the United States Navy for 20 years before passing only days before the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. He etched his name in history through an act of bravery on Oct. 28 of 1923 while serving on the submarine USS O-5. The submarine sunk after a collision in the Panama Canal and rather than escape Breault chose to assist a shipmate, remaining with his fellow submariner inside the craft until they were rescued more than a day later. For this act, Breault became the first and only enlisted submariner to receive the Medal of Honor, presented with the award by President Calvin Coolidge in March of 1924. His legacy has made him an everlasting piece of Putnam's vast history of military service with the town naming a foot bridge after him in 2003, and now an entire day forever dedicated to his memory.

A special ceremony on March 8 hosted representatives of Putnam, several state veterans organizations and agencies, and state legislators as well as many citizens who turned out for the occasion. A pre-ceremony playing of "Taps" and a wreath dropped into the Quinebaug River served as a tribute to Breault's life.

Among the speakers for the day were State Senators Mae Flexer and Jeff Gordon, who considered it an honor to be a part of the ceremony recognizing a man who went above and beyond to save a fellow submariner and put his own life on the line to do what he felt was right.

"Putnam is so incredible in the way that is con-

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Little Theater anticipates 2025 to be final year on Broad Street

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — Work continues at Killingly's old high school on Westfield Avenue to convert it into a community center which will serve as the new home to many recreation programs including a town staple, the Little Theater.

The Little Theater is currently housed in the town's current community center on Broad Street, thus the venues official title, "The Little Theater on Broad Street." The venue will move to 79 Westfield Ave., along with the rest of the recreation department likely within the next year or two reusing the old high school auditorium for its productions.

The auditorium itself will have a new name, the Killingly Performance Arts Center, or "KPAC" for short, and will host a variety of programs and events in addition to serving as the Little Theater's new official home. Killingly Recreation Director Bucky Lohbusch believes the 2025 season will likely be the last for the theater at its current location although an exact schedule for the move remains in flux as the renovations progress.

The move will allow for increased capacity from the theater's current 220 seats to around 900, as well as a larger stage and a larger parking lot. Lohbusch said it will also open the theater up to hosting a variety of programs outside of their traditional theatrical lineup.

"It's not just the increased capacity of the theater, it's the revenue stream opportunity that we're going to have to bring in concert acts, dance recitals, and anyone that is looking to rent that space. For the future, we're looking to also having some sort of theater manager or director who would be scheduling obviously our plays but also all of these different events that we could have in that theater which is going to be a huge revenue stream for us moving down the line," said Lohbusch.

With the impending move, the Broad Street part of the Little Theater's name will be obsolete. A new name will likely be adopted, however no official titles have

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Quiet Corner mourns passing of Danny Rovero

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DAYVILLE — Veteran, Mayor, State Representative, husband, father, mentor, friend. These are just a few titles that Danny Rovero was known for during his decades of service to his community and country.

The longtime public servant passed away on March 5 at the age of 87, leaving behind a legacy that few could ever hope to achieve in their lifetime.

Rovero was a Korean War veteran who later owned and operated many businesses in the region before turning to politics. For 14 years, he served as Mayor of Putnam, where he was born, establishing the longest tenure of any mayor in Putnam's history. He was later elect-

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Danny Rovero

EASTCONN drivers aid in late-night evacuation of seniors following power Outage



Courtesy

Kimberly Bush (EASTCONN Director of Transportation), Matthew Bernier (EASTCONN Driver), Michael Hall (EASTCONN Driver), Eric S. Protulis (EASTCONN Executive Director).

THOMPSON — In the early morning hours of Sunday, February 16, EASTCONN transportation staff played a crucial role in evacuating dozens of elderly residents from a Thompson senior living community after a car accident left the complex without power and created potentially dangerous electrical conditions.

The incident began around 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, when a vehicle struck a utility pole at the corner of Riverside Drive and Route 200 in Thompson. Later that evening, residents at Gladys Green and Pineview Court Apartments began experi-

Turn To ***EASTCONN*** *page* ***A10***

Connecticut family-owned home care agency earns triple crown of industry accolades



Courtesy

Assisted Living Services, Inc. recently earned three major industry accolades- the distinguished 2025 Best of Home Care® –Leader in Experience Award, Best of Home Care® - Provider of Choice and Best of Home Care® - Employer of Choice from Activated Insights, the leading firm in experience management for post-acute care. The recognition is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in ten or more quality metrics. Family-owned Assisted Living Services is now recognized among the top 10% of home care providers in the nation.

PUTNAM — Assisted Living Services, Inc. today announced that it has received the distinguished 2025 Best of Home Care® –Leader in Experience Award, Best of Home Care® - Provider of Choice and Best of Home Care® - Employer of Choice from Activated Insights, formerly Home Care Pulse, the leading firm in experience management for post-acute care. Specifically, the Leader in Experience Award is the highest recognition bestowed by Activated Insights and is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in ten or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Experience, Assisted Living Services is now recognized among the top 10 percent of home care providers in the nation.

This accomplishment demonstrates Assisted Living Services' long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this award, 10 percent of the company's clients and caregivers were interviewed each month by Activated Insights. Over a 12-month period, Assisted Living Services received high client and caregiver satisfaction ratings in areas such as caregiver training, compassion of caregivers, communication, scheduling, client/caregiver compatibility, and more. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from Activated Insights, the company's management team set goals to reach the highest level of Experience possible.

"As a family-owned and operated business for nearly 30 years, we truly view all of our employees and elderly clients as an extended family, so earning these prestigious awards is very fulfilling to us," said Mario D'Aquila, MBA, chief operating officer at Assisted Living Services, Inc. in Cheshire, Westport and Putnam. "As we continue to grow in both size and locations, our underlying commitment to providing excellent in-home care will always remain our primary purpose."

The Best of Home Care® – Leader in Experience Award highlights the top-performing home care businesses in the nation. Activated Insights believes that by honoring these providers, families looking for in-home care for a loved one will be able to recognize and choose a trusted home care provider.

"At Activated Insights, our mission is to help post-acute care businesses create an experience that goes beyond client and caregiver expectations; ultimately improving outcomes for all stakeholders in the care continuum," says Bud Meadows, chief executive officer of Activated Insights. "When we see agencies like Assisted Living Services that have so effectively provided outstanding care and employment experiences, we know that we're on the right track. The management team has worked extremely hard to prioritize high-quality care and employment, and their work hasn't gone unnoticed. This award allows them to show proof of quality to potential clients and caregivers."

To find out more about Assisted Living Services' commitment to experience, please visit www.assistedlivingct.com or call 203-634-8668.

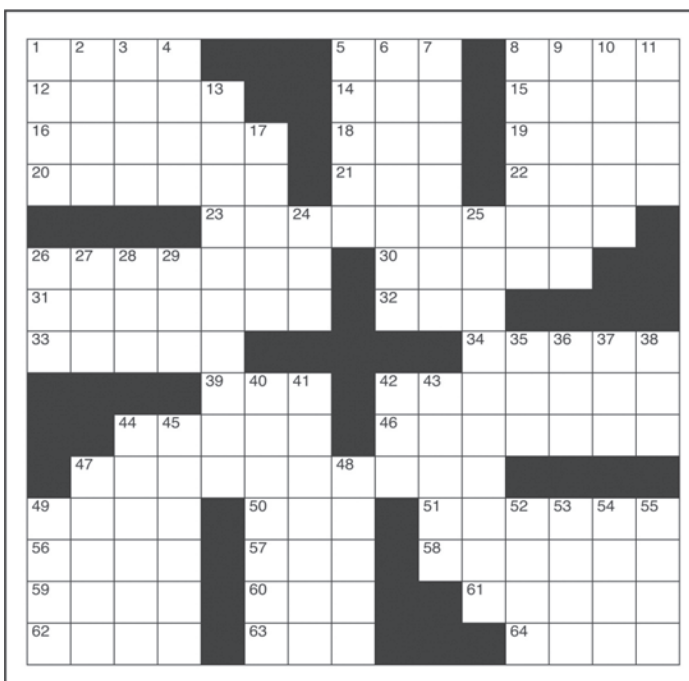
About Assisted Living Home Care Services

Since 1996, family-owned home care agency Assisted Living Services, Inc. in Cheshire, Westport and Putnam has provided quality senior care to residents across Connecticut with its more than 700 employees and caregiving staff. The company's unique CarePlus program blends personal care with technological safety and monitoring devices from sister company Assisted Living Technologies, Inc. The company was ranked on the 2020 Inc. 5000 list of fastest growing companies and recognized by Home Care Pulse® as a "Best of Home Care Leader In Excellence", a designation given to the best home care providers in the nation. Learn more by visiting www.assistedlivingct.com, www.assistedlivingtechnologies.com or calling 203-634-8668.

About Activated Insights

Activated Insights enables long-term care and post-acute care providers to optimize every interaction with employees and clients. By offering comprehensive capabilities in recruitment, training, retention, and experience management, we enable organizations to enhance care quality and boost employee engagement. Our data-driven approach, including industry benchmarking and recognition programs, helps providers improve satisfaction, reduce turnover, and achieve operational excellence. Activated Insights is dedicated to elevating the care experience across the continuum of home-based care, senior living, to post-acute care. For more information, visit www.activatedinsights.com.

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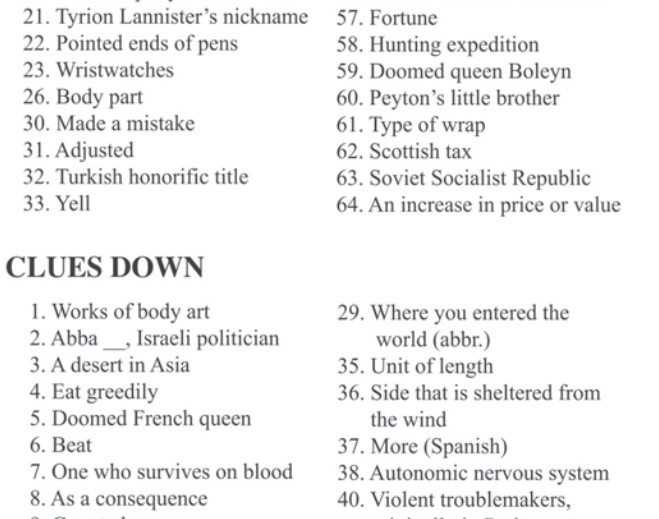


CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concerning
14. Expression of recognition
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. An iPad is one
18. Adult beverage
19. Manning and Wallach are two
20. Makes a petty verbal attack
21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Wristwatches
26. Body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. Turkish honorific title
33. Yell
34. Historic Alabama city
39. Cub
42. Type of sea bass dish
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Former OSS
51. Open spaces in a forest
56. Innermost brain membranes
57. Fortune
58. Hunting expedition
59. Doomed queen Boleyn
60. Peyton's little brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Scottish tax
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. An increase in price or value

CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art
2. Abba __, Israeli politician
3. A desert in Asia
4. Eat greedily
5. Doomed French queen
6. Beat
7. One who survives on blood
8. As a consequence
9. Counted on
10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science
11. Unclean
13. One who does not drink
17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago
24. __ student, learns healing
25. Bacterial skin infection
26. Expresses surprise
27. What one says on a wedding day
28. Crony
29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
35. Unit of length
36. Side that is sheltered from the wind
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
41. Statements that something is untrue
42. Greek alphabet letter
43. Suspends from above
44. Popular types of cigars
45. Girls
47. U.S. philosopher and logician
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian
54. Amounts of time
55. Trigonometric function



Concert to celebrate life of Pete Seeger March 30 at Woodstock Congregational Church

WOODSTOCK — The tenth annual tribute concert dedicated to the memory of folk icon, Pete Seeger is scheduled for Sunday, March 30, 4 p.m. at the Woodstock Congregational Church, Route 169, Woodstock Hill. Tickets are available at the door for a donation of $25.

The event, affectionately called For Pete's Sake, is hosted by former State Troubadour Sally Rogers of Pomfret, and Leslie Sweetnam of Woodstock, joined by a host of area song leaders, including Bill Harley, Howie Bursen, Jeff Perskins, Sandy Pliskin, Carol Rossetti, and Claudia Schmidt, who will present the songs while lyrics are projected for all to join in.

Seeger is best remembered for touring with two groups, the Almanac SIngers and the Weavers in the 1940s and 1950s, and is credited for leading folk music's revival and survival in the 1960s.

He had a string of hit records during the early 1950s as a member of the Weavers, most notably their recording of Lead Belly's "Goodnight, Irene," which topped the charts for 13 weeks in 1950.

Seeger was one of the folk singers responsible for popularizing the spiritual "We Shall Overcome" that became the acknowledged anthem of the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

Other hits written by Seeger, some recorded by other artists, include "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"; "If I Had a Hammer"; and "Turn, Turn, Turn." He also popularized Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land." Many of these will be performed (with audience participation!) at the March 30th concert.

Seeger was a prominent singer of protest music in support of international disarmament, civil rights, counterculture, and environmental causes. As a social activist, he supported progressive causes such as racial and religious inclusion which influenced his work.

A fact not well known about Seeger is that he was a U.S. Army veteran, having served in the Pacific during World War II. He was trained as an aircraft mechanic but later assigned to Special Services where he entertained his fellow troops with his banjo and songs.

After the war, he worked on the Civil Rights History Project at the Library of Congress, which no doubt influenced his songwriting and social activism.

Admission is a $25 donation per person to benefit the Community Kitchens of NE Connecticut, which have fed hundreds (if not thousands!) of hungry local people here in the Quiet Corner, especially active during the COVID Crisis. Hot delicious meals are prepared by volunteers and are still being served at their locations in Woodstock, Central Village, Danielson, Thompson. To volunteer or to find out about their serving times, contact: communitykitchensnect@gmail.com or call them at 860-779-2465.

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VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS
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President and Publisher
Frank G. Chilinski
860-928-1818 ext. 103
frank@villagernewspapers.com

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

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www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

Walmart named Brooklyn Business Association's "Business of The Year" community involvement

BROOKLYN — The Brooklyn Business Association recently named the Walmart Supercenter located at 450 Providence Rd. the recipient of its first annual Business of the Year award in recognition of the store's community involvement.

Brooklyn Business Association President Keith Gosselin presented the award to store manager Marchelle Savage, a dedicated Brooklyn community advocate, during the organization's town hall meeting earlier this month.

The Brooklyn community is very familiar with Savage's hard work to serve others. In December, she organized two weekend events including a toy drive with the Brooklyn Parks and Recreations Department and a "Holiday Extravaganza" to celebrate the season of giving. The Holiday Extravaganza featured food trucks, local businesses, local leaders, and elected officials and invited the community to join in, shop, and celebrate.

"This town has been the most exciting place I've ever worked in my career," Savage said. "This community means everything to me and my role demands a lot of hard work, but it's meaningful work. It's heart work."

"We're proud to have found our place in the Brooklyn community," said Walmart Senior Manager of Community Relations Francisco Polanco. "As the community champion for her store, Marchelle is dedicated and committed to uplifting and supporting her community, always going above and beyond. She brings so much joy and happiness to everyone around her."

Savage joined Walmart from Sam's Club 24 years ago. Following the loss of her father, she relocated to the area to support her mother. She recalls her Walmart colleagues attending her father's funeral and later joining her back at her home for a cup of coffee. This gesture reinforced her commitment to the store and the communities it serves.

Over the past two decades, Savage has worked at 12 Walmart locations, including building out the Lisbon, Connecticut store early on in her career. She has been called upon not just to aid in building up brick-and-mortar locations but also to build meaningful relationships with each community, just as Walmart had done for her in her darkest moments.

"Walmart means everything to me," Savage said. "When my parents passed away, they were by my side. I earned my degree thanks to Walmart. We have the potential to do so much more for ourselves and our community. That's the spirit Sam Walton embraced. I hope to bring that same vision to Brooklyn every day."

Savage earned her Business Management degree from American Public University through Walmart's Live Better U program. This initiative is designed to help Walmart and Sam's Club employees pursue higher education and equip them with skills to advance in their careers. By obtaining her degree, she feels more prepared to take on her role as Store Manager, leading nearly 250 associates and setting goals to positively impact the store and the community.

Through Savage, Walmart has cultivated strong relationships with Brooklyn Elementary and Middle schools and the Brooklyn Cares Community Center, which she considers her two most significant accomplishments. From filling a school bus worth of supplies, fundraisers, to offering a helping hand to the Community Center, she notes the importance of ensuring every little bit helps.

Brooklyn has come to know Savage for her enthusiasm, particularly around holidays, as evidenced by her Halloween and winter holiday costume events. Year-round, Brooklyn shoppers can expect the same joyous, community-first atmosphere they've come to revere.

About Walmart

Walmart Inc. (NYSE: WMT) is a people-led, tech-powered omnichannel retailer helping people save money and live better - anytime and anywhere - in stores, online, and through their mobile devices. Each week, approximately 255 million customers and members visit more than 10,500 stores and numerous eCommerce websites in 19 countries. With fiscal year 2024 revenue of $648 billion, Walmart employs approximately 2.1 million associates worldwide. Walmart continues to be a leader in sustainability, corporate philanthropy, and employment opportunity. Additional information about Walmart can be found by visiting corporate.walmart.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/walmart, on X (formerly known as Twitter) at twitter.com/walmart, and on LinkedIn at linkedin.com/company/walmart.

About Walmart in Connecticut

Walmart Inc. (NYSE: WMT) helps people worldwide save money and live better – anytime and anywhere – in retail stores, online, and through their mobile devices. In Connecticut, we serve customers at 32 retail units and online through Walmart.com. We are proud to employ 8,572 associates in Connecticut. Walmart supports local businesses, spending $1.3 billion with Connecticut suppliers in the fiscal year 2023 and supporting 27,610 supplier jobs. Walmart continues to be a leader in employment opportunity, sustainability, and corporate philanthropy. In fiscal year 2023, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation contributed more than $3.4 million in cash and in-kind donations to local nonprofits in Connecticut. Learn more at corporate.walmart.com.

Garden longer with less muscle strain and fatigue



Garden Moments

MELINDA MYERS

That first full day in the garden may find you tired, sunburned, and stiff. Whether you are a young or young-at-heart gardener, include some strategies to help extend your enjoyment and reduce fatigue and muscle strain so you can keep gardening longer each day and for years to come.

No matter your age, it's important to protect your joints when gardening. Use a kneeler pad or knee pads to protect your knees. Knee pads secured to your legs allow you to conveniently and comfortably protect your knees as you move from one garden bed to another.

If you need help kneeling, consider a garden kneeler with handles. The handles provide needed support when kneeling and standing up. The ones that can be flipped over and used as a garden bench provide double the benefit. The seating position reduces bending and helps minimize the need to kneel.

Elevating your garden can also help. It is a great way to save space and eliminate the need to bend when planting, weeding, and harvesting. Elevated gardens and raised beds also offer a place to garden where planting space is limited or nonexistent. You'll enjoy planting and harvesting with minimal weeding needed. Just be sure to monitor soil moisture and water as needed. Use self-watering containers, add irrigation or employ water-extending products to help lengthen the time between watering.

Further expand planting options by dressing up walls, fences, and more with vertical gardens. Monitor soil moisture in wall-mounted gardens regularly as many have limited soil that dries out quickly.

Clean and sharpen your tools, including pruning equipment, digging and weeding tools. This allows you to make cuts more easily and dig into the soil and weed with less effort.

Consider investing in ergonomic tools designed for comfort to help prolong your time in the garden. Select lightweight tools with non-slip comfortable grip handles aligned to keep your wrist extension straight, which helps reduce muscle strain.

Use pruners with ratcheting, compound, or Dual Link action for more cutting power with less effort. You'll be able to spend more time pruning with less muscle strain and fatigue. Consider investing in shovels with an anti-skid plate above the blade, providing more foot support for more digging power. Or retrofit an existing shovel with a commercially available anti-skid foot plate.

Don't overlook the importance of protecting your hands as well when gardening. Quality gardening gloves provide support and protection when digging, planting, pruning, and more.

Start with some preseason training. Every gardener knows gardening is a workout and often involves different motions and muscles than other exercises. Always warm up your muscles and do a bit of stretching before getting out in the garden.

Enlist the help of wheeled carts and wagons to move plants, mulch, soil, and other heavy loads. Don't be afraid to break heavy loads into smaller batches or ask for help. You'll spare your muscles and probably save time in the long run.

Wear a pair of safety glasses to protect your eyes and don't forget the sunscreen. Take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water.

Preseason planning and preparation can help reduce muscle strain as the garden season begins. You'll boost your enjoyment and be able to garden longer.



Melinda Myers

Kneeler pads provide comfort and protection for knees

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Revised Edition, and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Eastern student Sophie Hanlon of Woodstock inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa honor society

WILLIMANTIC — Thirty-one students and two faculty members at Eastern Connecticut State University were inducted into Eastern's chapter of the Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Leadership Honor Society on March 2 in the Student Center Betty Tipton Room. The inductees were chosen based on their commitment to leadership within the campus and in their own communities.

Among the inductees was Sophie Hanlon of Woodstock, a senior majoring in Communication and Accounting.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-25 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

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

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

This moment will never come again

It's easy to rush through the day, to get caught up in schedules, responsibilities, and the endless loop of what's next. But the moment you are in right now will never happen again. It will pass, just like all the ones before it, and once it's gone, you don't get it back.

We think we have time. But the truth is, life isn't a dress rehearsal. This is it. The way you show up today, the way you treat people, the way you spend your time, it all matters, because every single second is a version of life you'll never live again.

Some moments seem small standing in line at the store, a conversation with a friend, a quiet drive home. But even that matters. Every interaction, every choice, every seemingly unremarkable moment adds up to the story of your life. Are you making it a story you'll be proud of?

It's not about perfection, it's about presence. It's about choosing to be where you are, instead of always looking ahead to where you think you should be. It's about speaking up when something needs to be said, reaching out when someone needs you, and appreciating the good that exists right now, even if it's not the moment you expected.

If today were the last time you had this exact moment, how would you show up for it? Would you listen more? Laugh harder? Say the thing you've been holding back? Would you let the small stuff go and focus on what actually matters?

The seconds are already slipping by. Make them count.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Come and Enjoy! Soup by the People, for the People!

To the Editor:

You are invited to our annual Souper Supper hosted by the Woodstock Democrats on Saturday, March 22, from 5 – 7 p.m. at the East Woodstock Congregational Church!

Souper Supper is a community celebration of our democracy and its democratic electoral process, so please come on out and join us for a wholesome, hometown, sit-down dining experience. All are welcome!

Soup by the people, for the people, is our theme. If you love soup or just want to try a certain variety, here's you best chance! Our menu will include many of the crowd favorites from years past. Our "first ten" include Broccoli Cheddar Soup, Kielbasa and Cabbage Soup, Fish Chowder, Chinese Soup, Spicy Taco Soup, Hamburger Soup, French Onion Soup, Pumpkin Chili, Tuscan Bean Soup, and Corn Chowder. And at lest six more varieties are expected! Try as many as you want. The menu also will include appetizers, bread and butter, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages.

It's affordable, too. Ticket prices are $10 for adults and $25 for families. Get your tickets at the door Saturday, March 22, or call me (860-928-0773).

All soups are donated by volunteers. To ensure public health and safety, all food is prepared in a kitchen inspected and certified by the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH).

The Souper Supper has been serving since 2001. This is Souper Supper XXIII. We hope you'll help keep it going strong. I know you can't wait to hear me announce, "Soup's on!" I'll see you on the 22nd!

PEG WILSON
SOUPER SUPPER CHAIR
WOODSTOCK

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are losing

To the Editor:

I've not written for some time now, seeing as how my cohorts in reason have been ably documenting this unfolding political disaster foisted upon us by so many fools (and billionaires).

When I see we have a cheerleader from Brooklyn saying "We won" and "We are winning," and then having the temerity to say she loves her country, well, here goes. Let us take a brief look at how all her countrymen are winning with Trump and Musk at the helm, gutting these agencies. And where are all these "savings" going? Into the pockets of all their billionaire buddies with another tax cut.

Firing 17 Inspector Generals, independent watchdogs in charge of identifying, auditing, and investigating fraud, waste, embezzlement, etc. This is attack on transparency and accountability. Even with them doing their jobs, it's difficult to uncover all the deeds of unscrupulous men and women. Must be part of Trump's revenge tour since he led a life of fraud and deceit. "We win."

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau roots out unfair, deceptive, and abusive acts or practices by supervising companies. Purveyors of dishonesty say "We win."

USAID (created by President Kennedy) provides humanitarian assistance and is a key component in preventing disease outbreaks and epidemics in underdeveloped nations from reaching the U.S. Without USAID, diseases now under control could begin to spread out of control (remember Covid). Without nutritional aid, children suffering from malnutrition will surely die. It was said Musk could easily cover the cost of this program without batting an eye. But "We are winning," some of us not in conscience.

Health and Human Services has 11 Agencies under HHS umbrella including The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Institute for Health (NIH), and the Agency for Healthcare, Research, and Quality to name a few. Without these Agencies running at full capacity healthcare will suffer. To make matters even worse, the head of this conglomerate is the woefully unqualified heroin addict RFK, Jr. You cannot make this up. Win, win, win!

I suppose we are all winning by now being embroiled in a trade war with our former friends in Canada and Mexico. Guess who signed the "fantastic" Trade Agreement, "The United States-Canada-Mexico Agreement" in 2018? That's right, President Douchebag himself, and now? Get your head out of the hole and see all the products coming from our former trade partners we'll be paying more for. Add China to this mess as well.

Trump has turned our backs on our former ally Ukraine, and now says they started this war. He joins the side of Putin and calls Zelensky the dictator and we are winning? This is madness and right thinking people know it. Even Brian Kilmeade of FOX says Putin is the bad gut!

FOX had one amusing clip I saw a part of. You've all heard about Republican. Representatives being crucified by their constituents for their cowardice back home during town hall meetings? Idiot Jesse Waters says those meeting halls are filled with paid Democrat Operatives! Yeah, I'm watching the wrong news.

I don't make a habit of bullying women, but as a Trumper that makes you fair game. I am glad you didn't need a full or half page because you don't have enough nonsense to fill no more than a few lines. If any Trumper thinks we are winning by losing our standing with the rest of the world, then you are as much an ignoramus as Trump is.

RICH ROCHELEAU DANIELSON

No, inflation is not a big bad government thing

To the Editor:

Inflation is not a big bad government thing. The Federal Reserve can cause inflation by increasing the money supply, but the Federal Reserve is about as federal as Federal Express. Government can cause inflation via policies and their unintended consequences, but the private sector is far more than capable to doing the same thing - and does so, because capitalism is vulnerable to that sort of thing.

Inflation is too much money chasing too few goods — the end. Anybody can do it, including you if you have something that a lot of people want, but depending on the circumstances, you might get the government stomping out your efforts via price-gouging laws because in America, we stomp on the little guy trying to make extra money because of market conditions, but big corporations and rich political donors easily get the brainwashed half of the country to make excuses for them if they do the same thing.

At the core of inflation is the simple difference between costs and prices. Costs are incurred. Prices are set. If I want to sell something, it's worth whatever I can get someone to pay for it. How I do that is my problem. I can chart out demand curves and look at numbers to sell more, or find the sweet spot between selling a lot of stuff and making more per sale, but ultimately it's my choice. Even the "inflation" that cable news talks about is often based on the consumer price index. Oh wait. That P-word again. Pricing, a.k.a. the private sector.

The problem with trickle-down economics is that it assumes businesses will be altruistic, and that idea is just plain Marxist. Unless your business is explicitly a nonprofit or charity, I'm going to assume you're not putting yourself through the meatgrinder of running and growing your own business out of the goodness of your heart. There is no "from each according to their ability to each according to their need." You're going to want to make something for your efforts. Larger businesses introduce fiduciary duty to shareholders, an official legal responsibility to only be as altruistic as whatever makes money for the shareholders. Companies are not in it for you, and when they look like they're being nice to you, it's just guerilla marketing to get you to buy more stuff from them.

Trickle-down economics just drives up deficits by starving countries of funds and makes America more like a third world country, and if you hate government and want to live somewhere where the central government is impotent and private interests, cartels, buddy groups, and warlords really run things you have plenty out there to choose from.

Government can contribute to inflation, but we do ourselves no favors by trying to make it look like inflation comes squarely from Washington. In recent years, we've seen Covid supply chain disruptions raise prices, but I don't expect them to come down again until companies finally decide to do so. You can verify this for yourself by looking at Federal Reserve data on corporate profits after tax. Every "crisis" we've had in the past 25 years has been thoroughly milked by Wall Street.

We know how to make money in this country — no matter what. We need to acknowledge that and work with it instead of sending tra-la-la DOGE know-it-alls to butcher the IRS.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

America joins the Axis of Evil

To the Editor:

In just two months, Donald Trump has repudiated American ideals and values, mouthed Russian lies, orchestrated a shameful berating of the democratically elected president of Ukraine, and aligned the US with Russia in its war of aggression in Europe. In doing so, Trump has rejected spectacularly successful US foreign policy that has resulted in eight decades of relative stability and peace, unprecedented prosperity, and an increase in freedom around the world. Trump's America has joined what George W. Bush termed "the Axis of Evil."

Trump's stupid actions made it clear to allies and adversaries alike that the US is no longer the Leader of the Free World. Allies can no longer rely on the US to keep its commitments, and enemies know that the US is unlikely to come to the defense of our friends. They know that America and its President are weak bullies. Why is Trump siding with brutal war criminal and dictator Putin, who invaded Ukraine, which posed no threat to Russia? The US gave Ukraine security guarantees in exchange for giving up its nuclear arsenal after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The world now knows that America's word is worthless.

Why is Trump betraying our neighbor and reliable ally, Canada, by imposing tariffs that will damage the economies of both nations and raise prices for folks who are already struggling? Trump boasted that the USMCA, the trade agreement he signed in 2020, was, "the best agreement we ever made," but last month, he said, "Who would ever sign a thing like this?" Why would he punish the country that has lost lives fighting our wars and whose diplomats risked their lives to get Americans out of Iran after our embassy was taken over in 1979?

If he were anyone else, Trump's flip-flops and constant lies might be attributed to dementia. But his obsession with vengeance may be a better explanation. Zelenskyy rebuffed Trump's effort to extort him in exchange for making up damaging evidence on Biden so Trump would do anything to exact revenge. The same thing he is now doing to the American people for electing Biden.

The bigger question for me is how long will the public continue to repudiate the Enlightenment values that guided Jefferson, Hamilton, and Franklin and we used to claim we held so dearly. Truth, reason, and belief in the scientific method seem so passé.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Remember the Alamo!

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

My dad was obsessed with the Battle of the Alamo, which fell in the early morning hours of March 6, 1836—nearly 189 years ago this week.

His passion for this pivotal moment in history shaped some of my earliest memories. The first time I ever traveled on a plane was when he took me to San Antonio, Texas, just to see the Alamo.

He'd guide me through every historical marker, narrating the story with the enthusiasm of a historian. After dinner, we'd walk back to the Alamo and just stand there, staring at its walls for hours. I was only six years old, and even then, I was intrigued—less because of the battle itself and more because of how much it meant to him.

His obsession ran deep. He owned every book ever written on the Alamo, studied every account, and took us back to San Antonio many times over the years. And if there was one night in that story that truly defined his fascination, it was the final night—the moment when the walls were breached.

For 12 long days, a small band of Texan rebels, including legendary figures like James Bowie, William B. Travis, and Davy Crockett, had held off the massive Mexican army led by General Santa Anna. Despite being vastly outnumbered—fewer than 200 men against thousands—not a single defender had fallen during the siege. But in the early hours of March 6, under the cover of darkness, the Mexican forces launched their final assault.

Wave after wave of soldiers stormed the mission, scaling ladders, battering gates, and overwhelming the defenders with sheer numbers. In less than an hour, the Alamo was overrun. Every last Texan fighter was killed, their sacrifice becoming the rallying cry of the Texas Revolution.

"Remember the Alamo!" became more than just words—it became the battle cry of those who would go on to win Texas its independence. And for my dad and so many others, the Alamo wasn't just history—it was a symbol of defiance, courage, and an unwavering stand against impossible odds.

I read one of my father's old articles that he wrote about the Alamo and he said something in that article that struck a chord with me—something that transcends the Alamo itself.

Reflecting on the Alamo defenders, my father said, "Heroes are important. No human being today can hold up to the scrutiny we give them, but we need someone to emulate."

Having someone to admire and emulate is important, especially when that person excels at something we aspire to do ourselves. It's natural to be drawn to greatness, to want to follow in the footsteps of those who have achieved something remarkable. But that admiration can sometimes turn into idolization, and that's where things get complicated.

I once idolized an Olympic swimmer. He was a powerhouse in the water, someone I wanted to be like. But after getting to know him, I realized that while I respected his skill, I didn't necessarily admire his personality. And that's when it hit me—people are just people. Even those we put on pedestals.

Great people, even those with strong moral convictions, have made mistakes. And when those mistakes come to light, they can shatter the illusion we've built in our minds. The question isn't whether our heroes are perfect—they never are—but whether we can still draw inspiration from the best parts of who they were while understanding that they, too, were human.

No one is perfect, and if we expect our heroes to be,

Turn To **POSITIVELY** *page* **A5**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will Trump, Vance, and Musk end up in Hell?

To the Editor:

For some time now, I have struggled to understand the attraction that evangelical and some other Christians have had for Donald Trump and the MAGA movement.

Now, following the Trump Administration's decision to terminate 90 percent of USAID's foreign aid contracts, including the universally praised PEPFAR (President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief, created by President GW Bush) and the cutting of some $60 billion in funding destined for hospitals, health clinics, medicine, education, and food aid, I have had an even harder time reconciling these actions with the deafening silence coming from Republicans in general and evangelicals in particular. There was some murmuring following the USAID funding freeze by executive order on Jan. 20, followed by an awkward attempt by Vice President JD Vance in early February to argue for a "Christian concept" that, as Greg Sargent wrote in the New Republic, "orders our ethical obligations in a series of concentric circles, starting with love of family, then out to love of neighbor, then to community and nation, and only then out to the rest of the world." Wrote Sargent, "Vance claimed the left has 'inverted' that, casting Trumpism as more faithful to the allegedly Christian notion he'd outlined because 'it puts American citizens first.'" Vance further defended this concept by referring to "ordo amoris," or the "order of love." In a letter on Feb. 10 to U.S. Catholic bishops, Pope Francis slammed JD Vance's citing of "ordo amoris" to justify any number of Administration actions, especially the suspension of all refugee admissions to the country, the ending of protected status in the U.S., and the deportation of millions of people who are not serious or violent criminals. In particular, he targeted Vance's interpretation of "ordo amoris" as an actual obligation — due to his love of U.S citizens — to deport those who were not citizens, as well as, by implication, to save the 1 percent of U.S. tax dollars that were being used for humanitarian aid reasons. The Pope's words speak for themselves: "Christians know very well that it is only by affirming the infinite dignity of all that our own identity as persons and as communities reaches its maturity. Christian love is not a concentric expansion of interests that little by little extend to other persons and groups.... The human person is a subject with dignity who, through the constitutive relationship with all, especially the poorest, can gradually mature in his identity and vocation. The true ordo amoris that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the "Good Samaritan," that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception. But worrying about personal, community, or national identity, apart from these considerations, easily introduces an ideological criterion that distorts social life and imposes the will of the strongest as the criterion of truth." Vice President Vance's attempt to sprinkle a little Catholic pixie dust ("ordo amoris") belies the brutal truth behind the "America First" movement: the value of non-American life is nothing — the children and pregnant women who need anti-retrovirals from PEPFAR don't exist in the equation - many will end up dying; the more than 1 million people in Ethiopia dependent on U.S. food assistance don't exist in the equation - many will end up dying; the tens of thousands of people in Senegal receiving support to prevent malaria do not exist in the equation - many will end up dying; the 220,000 displaced people in Yemen receiving critical maternal health care as well as protection from violence and rape treatment do not exist in the equation - many will end up dying. The list goes on and on...

And, (need it be said?), the people of Ukraine do not now exist in the equation. The ambushing in the Oval Office of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy by Donald Trump and JD Vance was horrible. As Charlie Pierce, an Esquire columnist, wrote in his newsletter last week, the ambush was "appalling in the fullest sense of the word." Said Pierce: "It was cheap. It was beneath the dignity of the office of the president of the United States. It was beneath the dignity of the most corrupt precinct captain in the history of Chicago. It was beneath the dignity of a French Quarter dumpster the morning after Mardi Gras." Asked by Zelenskyy what he would do if Vladimir Putin broke a ceasefire agreement, the president responded, "What if anything? What if a bomb drops on your head right now? OK? What if they broke it? I don't know, they broke it with Biden because... Putin went through a hell of a lot with me. He went through a phony witch hunt where they used him and Russia, Russia, Russia, Russia. You ever hear of that deal? That was a phony. That was a phony Hunter Biden, Joe Biden scam. Hillary Clinton, shifty Adam Schiff..." The through line is clear — the Administration's "America First" means: 1. We will abandon our long-standing European democratic allies in favor of the Russian oligarchy and other autocratic countries. 2. We will push around friendly, but weaker countries like Panama, Greenland, Canada, and Mexico. 3. We will cozy up to the brutal, powerful countries of the world. 4. We will always, always pick short-term gains and benefits over longer-term goals with greater reward (see especially climate denial and the pushing of fossil fuel). 5. Domestically, we will prioritize tax cuts and deregulation for rich people and corporations over any effort to decrease income disparity and strengthen the safety net. 6. We will make sure that no other country in the world has a reason to trust us, because we will have no loyalties whatsoever — short-term transactions will be our stock-in-trade. 7. Non-American lives are worthless. There are, of course, many problems with this, but a major one is that the previous 80 years of an open international system has led to a remarkable stretch of peace and prosperity. In the 100 years before WWII, there were about 150 territorial conquests — aggression, taking of territory, legitimization of new territory. Since then, there have been almost none. Our current open international economy has led to easy travel between countries, plentiful trade, a respected patent system, among untold other benefits. It is remarkably easy, as we are seeing, to destroy things; it is quite another to have the wisdom, skill, and foresight to build something better. If only the America Firsters could see where what they are doing will lead, and, if only they had true Christian ethics...

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

Woodstock Spring Budget Season

To the Editor:

Before I start on the totally ludicrous budget proposals that are to be presented on March 11, before you even get to see this, I want to take a minute to thank William Hull for his letter in last week's Villager. After three-plus months of TDS where much of the left has lost their minds, it was a refreshing read. Very well put; thanks, Mr. Hull.

At this writing, the Woodstock Board of Selectmen and Board of Education are scheduled to present their initial budget proposals for the '25-'26 fiscal years. Now, these proposals are always way out of line with reality, more so since the Board of Finance has failed to even provide guidance since the days of Dave Hosmer – guidance which was rarely followed but gave some sense of order, but with the repeal of Prop 46 a couple of years ago the insanity has reached new heights, as was expected.

Over the last two years, Woodstock has seen a compounded increase in property taxes of nearly 14 percent, a lot more for some as assessments were "adjusted" and affected the lower end more than the upper – it's the market, and yet not nearly enough for the spenders. The proposed town budget is up 5.88 percent before accounting for the reduction in debt service, which brought it down to 5.18 percent. One of the goodies in there is a 13 percent salary increase for the first selectman – imagine that; life must be tough in the contracting business. The selectmen's overall budget is up just under 17 percent, the Assessor's budget just over 17 percent.

The BOE budget gets even sillier. On its face, it is a 9 percent increase, but if you take out the HS and HS special education funding, primarily Woodstock Academy (which goes up only 1.8 percent), pre-K through 8 increases 11.5 percent. Too bad we don't have Prop 46 to put some kind of lid on this, or have a town DOGE to actually track and understand where money is going. Last year, two of the members of the BOF actually stated that education was under funded and not keeping up with inflation – actually way over twice the rate of inflation with declining enrollment. Maybe Woodstock Academy could make available a couple of seats in their remedial math class for the BOF. Maybe we need to review WPS staffing for say the last ten years while test scores and enrollment dropped. There will be a follow-up meeting of the BOF on March 18 and a public hearing on April 8, so you still have time to speak up but most important is to show up and vote during the referendum. Unless the public starts just saying "no" emphatically and repeatedly, this will not stop. They never get tired of spending your money. One last thing, be on the lookout for a new bond issue – a few million more... Probably after the budget – don't want to scare anyone.

DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

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.

POSITIVELY

continued from page A14

we set ourselves up for disappointment. The truth is that greatness and imperfection exist side by side. A person can make mistakes and still leave behind something worth admiring.

Maybe we've become too harsh on our heroes, or maybe we've been too unrealistic about what it means to have role models in the first place.

Admiration doesn't require blind devotion; learning from someone's greatness doesn't mean ignoring their flaws. Because if perfection is the requirement for being worthy of admiration, we won't have any heroes left at all.

Our heroes, past and present, aren't meant to be untouchable figures. They're reminders that even flawed people can do extraordinary things. And maybe, that means we can too.

Additional Letters To The Editor,

See Page A-8

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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



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MORE INFO:







JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

508-769-5007
jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

508-868-3765
jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

Financial empowerment tips for women business owners



FINANCIAL FOCUS

LEISL L. LANGEVIN

As a business leader and woman in finance, I've witnessed firsthand how female entrepreneurs are transforming the business landscape. But while women business owners now represent more than 40 percent of U.S. businesses1, many still aren't taking full advantage of the resources and opportunities available specifically for woman owned businesses.

Through strategic planning and partnerships, you can leverage these opportunities to help build both business success and personal financial security. In this article, I'll share a host of resources designed to help female entrepreneurs thrive, along with some tips from female business leaders here in Connecticut. Let's dive in...

Strategic steps to financial empowerment

Whether you're an established woman business owner or just starting your entrepreneurial journey, here are key strategies to strengthen your financial foundation:

1. Access available resources

Many woman business owners aren't aware of the numerous programs designed specifically to support them. For example, woman owned business certification programs (federal, state and private sector) can help you access government contracts set aside for certified women owned businesses.

Other resources include woman owned business grants and funding opportunities, special lending programs for women owned businesses, and mentorship programs connecting experienced female entrepreneurs with newcomers. Here in Connecticut, the Women's Business Development Council (WBDC) provides a wide range of resources and supports such as these.

2. Build strong financial systems

As women business owners, we often focus on serving clients and growing revenue while postponing important financial infrastructure. But that's a big mistake that could cost you a big chunk of your hard-earned profits.

To avoid this, make sure you: establish separate business and personal banking accounts; create clear accounting and financial tracking systems; build business credit independently from personal credit; document all business processes and procedures; and maintain organized records for certification and funding applications.

3. Develop multiple revenue streams

Smart female entrepreneurs diversify their income sources. Core business services or products will likely make up the bulk of your income, but also look into passive income opportunities, strategic investments of business profits, complementary business ventures, and intellectual property licensing.

4. Plan for long-term success

Looking beyond day-to-day operations is crucial for women business owners. To begin with, create a clear growth strategy – you can start by building out a five-year plan for your business. Next, work on building systems for scalability. Plan for business succession so you can continue to benefit from the business you worked hard to build even after you retire. Develop retirement savings outside of the business and be sure to protect your business through proper insurance and legal structures.

"I became a self-employed marketing consultant seven years ago. When it came to business planning, at that time I was basically building the plane while flying it, so to speak," says Laura Dunn, CEO of Dunn Marketing, a Killingly, Connecticut based marketing agency.

"But when I grew from solopreneur to a full-fledged agency, I immediately knew I had to get more strategic and think longer-term with my business planning and finances. I began working with WHZ on a strategic financial plan that considered both my business and personal financial goals, and I also reached out to organizations like the Women's Business Development Council. Those partnerships and resources have made all the difference in my ability to be confident in the growth of my business," Dunn says.

(This statement was provided Feb. 20, 2025 by Laura Dunn who is a client and a marketing services business partner of WHZ. 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.)

5. Partner with strategic advisors

Successful woman owned businesses, like all businesses, often have strong professional partnerships. These partners can provide you with strategic financial and tax planning, investment management, business succession planning, certification and grant application assistance, and other types of help and advice.

"Success in business is about who you partner with," says Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Elle-Jordyn Sherman. "As someone who has built a career on fostering relationships, I've experienced firsthand how strong relationships impact your growth. Not only do partnerships impact your personal development, but they can also create stronger businesses, a more connected community, and a thriving region. I see it happen all the time at our Chamber events and programs, and I'd really encourage any business owners in our area to join the Chamber and enjoy those benefits for themselves."

Maximizing opportunities as a woman business owner

The landscape for female entrepreneurs has evolved significantly, creating unprecedented opportunities for women business owners to build substantial wealth and influence. As a woman financial advisor, I'm particularly passionate about helping other women build financial confidence and security through business ownership.

Financial empowerment for women business owners isn't just about current success—it's about building lasting wealth and security through strategic business growth. The key is to be aware of the opportunities available to you and confident enough to leverage them. Partnering with professionals who understand the specific challenges and advantages of woman owned businesses can go a long way toward helping you in those efforts.

At WHZ, our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ strategic financial planning process helps women business owners create comprehensive strategies that maximize both business and personal opportunities. We can help you develop strategies to maximize business value, create tax-efficient plans for business growth, build retirement savings while growing your business, and plan for successful business transition.

If you'd like to learn more about how we can help you and your business, schedule a complimentary consultation at whzwealth.com or call us at (860) 928-2341.

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1. U.S. Small Business Administration's 2023 Small Business Profiles

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Connecticut Yankee returns from Texas…

To the Editor:

Too many years ago to count, I left Thompson to make my way in the world. I ended up in Houston with a five year plan to work the oil field, save my money and head home after five years. Well, despite my best intentions, that five years turned into 43 years, but alas, I am back. I am an avid reader of newspapers from all over the world, always like to gain new perspectives, see it from the other persons side of the equation. For last several years, one of those papers in my regular rotation has been the Thompson Villager. This helped keep me tied into the comings and goings in in this corner of New England that I planned to return to. Over the years, I found it was hard to miss the one constant — the one voice that, almost every week, would shout out from the Opinion pages.

That would be one Mr. Ed Deluca… Hello, Ed; Jim here. Let me say right off the bat that I have never been affiliated with any political party. I am a proud Independent, middle of the road voter who backs a person and not a party. I can argue either side of an issue, as long as that debate is based in provable facts.

Oh, before we go on, Ed old buddy, step over here, away from the madding crowd. I'll keep my voice down so no one overhears us. This concerns your latest musing from the column posted on March 7. Now, this may shock you to know that I actually agreed with what you said at the end of your piece about checking the facts, not repeating posts from fake accounts; you are right about that. You and I, we see that all the time, but a bit of advice. When you are going to chastise people for doing that, you should not, in the very first paragraph, do the same thing yourself; it kind of undermines your whole argument. You basically kicked that soap box you were on right out from under your own feet. I know…I know...you threw in that last little bit in there about you did not know if it was" factual or not," but heck, who's listening to that after you loudly spouted all that unsubstantiated information about Zelensky. You don't want to gain a reputation as a person who will "create stories to get attention"; I know you would never stoop that low. OK, back over to the rest of the gang.

Now, Ed, we are just getting started here. No, folks, I don't mean for this particular piece (you are all thinking "OMG, he is going to go one for two pages!"). No, this is just the start of our relationship.

So let me give you something to mull over, besides ground already covered. The last 23 years I lived in Houston, I lived in a neighborhood where my wife and I were the only Gringos in the area. A Gringo, as you know, is the Hispanic term for "white folk." That is right, Ed, there was my wife and I surrounded by immigrants, some legal, some not. A sea of thieves, rapists and murders; oh, how would we survive? Well, to find that out, my friend, you will have to stay tuned.

JIM WALSH
NORWICH

Revisiting the definition of DEI

To the Editor:

A writer in last week's Villager complained that the last four years of Democratic administration has left us with DEI, although the writer does not note why he places blame on the last four years, nor what ideas within DEI he finds offensive.

Regardless of anyone's political leanings, the definition of DEI remains the same, and is rather straightforward: Diversity in the workplace, suggests different individuals working together regardless of race, gender, age, status, religion, etc: Equity is the idea that everyone will be treated fairly and given equal opportunity: Inclusion, refers to all individuals being welcomed, respected and valued as individuals. The basic concepts of DEI foster ideas of understanding, fairness, willingness to work together, and listen to other points of view; and appear to be in line with most religious values.

The underpinnings of DEI go back to the late 1860s, when laws were passed requiring hiring preference be given to military veterans and widows of veterans. In 1944, that military preference was again given to veterans of the Second World War. Throughout the years since, multiple laws have been passed to give preference to one or another group considered to be disadvantaged.

Beyond military initiatives, many civilian preference laws passed in the following years. As an example, the Republican President Dwight Eisenhower sent federal troops to escort black children to previously all white schools, to enforce Supreme Court decisions. Then the Civil Rights Act was passed followed by the Equal Pay Act, which was brought about by a growing women's movement. "Head Start," passed in 1965, may be the most inclusive bill ever passed, with the idea of putting children from low income families on an equal educational footing with children from wealthier households, thereby hopefully giving them a better start in life. These, and many other anti-discrimination laws that passed over the years are the predecessors of DEI, and many were passed under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

By the 1980s, many corporations brought DEI principles into their corporate policies. The CEOs of companies such as General Motors, Microsoft, Google, Proctor and Gamble, Marriott and many more, lauded the benefits of DEI. These companies pointed out that their bottom lines, dollar wise, did better when there was diversity in the Board Room. Corporate profits showed that many of these corporations thrived when hiring under their DEI programs, but they have been quickly forced to end them under threat by the President. However, the Board of Directors at Cosco met and determined that they would remain with their DEI policies despite the threat.

In the last few weeks, Georgetown University was threatened by the U.S. Justice Department, requiring the University to end its policies and curriculum of diversity and inclusion. However, the University responded, "As a Catholic and Jesuit institution, Georgetown University was founded on the principle that serious and sustained discourse among people of different faiths, cultures and beliefs promotes intellectual, ethical and spiritual understanding. For us at Georgetown, this principle is a moral and educational imperative. It is a principle that defines our mission as a Catholic and Jesuit institution."

It is hard to understand all of the uproar over DEI, since the concept embodies values that most Americans believe in. So at this time, when so many institutions and values are under attack, it is a great moment to see Georgetown University step into the fray.

RAMON CANNING
POMFRET

Facts vs. misinformation...

To the Editor:

My dear neighbor in Pomfret...

I suggest that we wouldn't be in the mess we're in if we begin calling balls and strikes inside the strike zone!

There are times when it's a matter of perspective and the correct prescription of our eyeglasses. That's called a point of view! We may even find compromise in a necessary housecleaning within our bureaucracy, with the cautious use of an educated scalpel instead of a chain saw! But when you start throwing the deficit around irresponsibly, then you're stepping into deep waters without a life jacket!

Reagan added $74 billion
Bush I added $102 billion
Clinton reduced $383 Billion and left a surplus
Bush II added $1.54 trillion
Obama reduced $825 billion
Trump added $2.1 trillion
Biden reduced $942 billion

Source: Congressional Budget Office

Dems spend the first two years of their presidency cleaning up the budget mess that republicans leave behind! Is that why you spend so much time misrepresenting reality and confusing hardworking people who seek truth.

Are you comfortable with smoke and mirrors? Does Project 2025 ring a bell? Is that why the millions in Medicaid cuts are hidden int the Energy account of the 2026 Budget proposal?

If you check the poll numbers, you'll see the shift happening as the stock market shifts as well. As I understand it, the market measures the level of confidence that consumers and business have in the stability of the country. It was breaking high record levels towards the end of the summer in '24... fact! Unemployment was low and inflation was under control while improving during the Biden years. The "old skipper" was running a good shop because he wasn't constantly looking for a spotlight. He was surrounded by a qualified and brilliant team, looking for ways to improve the American experience, not looking for who to fire or how to destabilize it. Together, they regained respect for the American brand and offered world leadership instead of trade wars and alignment with enemies. Dems never claimed perfection. They made mistakes along the way...but maintained their course...their eyes on the prize of stability for as many of our neighbors as possible...across the street as well as across our borders and the world. Then... why did the numbers tell a different story in November? There are those who sincerely distrust them, but in my humble opinion...it was the messaging combined with a tragic lack of time to improve it! Money isn't always the answer!

There are no grown-ups in charge now, sir...there are a bunch of drunken sailors, following an unstable admiral, as they parade in costumes of authority, pretending to walk in shoes that are too big for them. They keep stumbling, running into each other, and falling.

Prayerful as well,

LYDIA RIVERA-ABRAMS
DAYVILLE

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

SHOP LOCAL
SHOP KILLINGLY



Celebrating the Wearing of the Green



KILLINGLY AT 300

MARGARET WEAVER

Inclement Weather: In case of inclement weather, or a Killingly Parking Ban, check WINY or call the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center after 10:15 a.m. to see if it is open. (860-779-7250).

Killingly Grange #112 Fish Fry: Friday March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11,18. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Fried or baked fish, french fries or baked potato. Coleslaw. $18 per dinner. Clam chowder sold separately, $7 per bowl. Dine in or take out. Contact Terry at 860-884-1813 or tmbartonkillinglygrange@gmail.com for additional information and to make reservations. Limited number of meals.

Brooklyn Historical Society Program: Thursday, March 20. 7:30 p.m. Trinity Church Parish House-7 Providence Road (Route 6), Brooklyn. "To My Dearest: The Civil War Letters of George and Emily Ward." Actors Lynne McKenney Lydick and Thomas R. Lydick will share the personal and poignant letters of this Worcester couple. Public invited. Refreshments served.

Booksigning at Pourings and Passages: Saturday, March 22. The Emancipation of Hannah Fayethe Winslow: A Woman's Journey in Colonial America by Karen Warfield. 10:30 a.m. Books will be available to purchase. "The book is a work of literary fiction with historical facts woven throughout themes of deception and restoration. After the 1637 Mohegan and Pequot War, orphaned Hannah is left with a vile and amoral man who evades local magistrates under the guise of establishing a plantation in southeastern Connecticut. She and the missionaries are sent to bring Christianity to the local tribes…she was a child bride, a woman captive, and finally a woman triumphant."

New resource available: The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society now has a subscription to Ancestry.com with access to Newspapers.com. These newspapers are from all over the country so you might find an ancestor's marriage or obituary, tidbits about your family or information about what was going on in the community your family lived in. This resource is free to members. Others may access it for the $7 per day research fee. Call the Center at 860-779-7250 for additional information. Staff will be happy to assist you.

The Top of the Morning to You! Even if you haven't the tiniest bit of Irish in your DNA, you still are likely to do something special near St. Patrick's Day. The papers and news channels have been reporting on parades since the beginning of the month. I thought I'd check the online editions of local papers to see what interesting events took place in years gone by. The March 17, 1909 Windham County Observer of Putnam ran an article about "Legends of St. Patrick." "A good deal of scholarly research has recently been given to St. Patrick by both British and German authorities, and it is now admitted that the chief documents concerning him are genuine, and that he really lived and carried on in Ireland a work such as has been attributed to him by tradition. Lately, a new biography giving St. Patrick an unquestioned place in history has been published by Prof. Bury of King's College, Cambridge. Three men of Patrick's own time bore the same name and have survived in records. This has confused scholars who paid no attention to the myths. One was an earlier bishop of Ireland named Patraic. Another person named Ben Patraic and also called 'Old Patraic", is now treated as a myth by the investigators. Saint Patrick's own name was a Latin Pseudonym, and as he wrote it 'Patricius, means 'patrician' or gentleman…" (p.6; genealogybank.com).

The Brooklyn Grange generally chose an Irish theme for its March meetings. In 1954 the program was under the direction of Robert Payne. "The program opened with the singing of 'the Wearing of the Green' and When Irish Eyes are Smiling' with Mrs. Ralph Lyman at the piano and Alton Edlridge on the violin. Mr. Payne gave a reading on the History of Ireland and a relay game of Irish subjects was played. Several Irish jokes were told by Lester Williams, Mrs. Frank Spaulding, Hugh Gorman, Mr. Payne, Kenneth Askham, Mr. Eldridge, and John Weber. Mrs. Raymond Doyen sang 'I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen' and 'A Little Bit of Heaven.' An Irish jig was danced by Hugh Gorman and Mrs. Ralph Brennan. Mrs. Brennan and Mrs. Ellen Payne were the only two who had ever lived in Ireland…"(Windham County Transcript, Thursday, March 11, 1954, p. 2; killinglypl.org).

Irish American Clubs were common in the early 20th century and festivities honoring St. Patrick during March were a given. Putnam's club started planning early in the year. "Irish Americans Plan St. Patrick Celebration. St. Patrick, patron saint of the Irish, will be honored at a St. Patrick's Eve celebration in this city, plans for which are now being made by the Irish American Club. The affair will be held March 16 at the Irish American clubrooms, Pomfret Street. A turkey dinner will be served by Thomas F. Holman, Norwood, Mass., caterer, followed by a program of entertainment, speaking, and a dance. Edmund Keane is chairman of the committee on arrangements which includes William McCoy, Asa R. Scranton, Francis H. Murphy, Thomas McKone, Charles Connors, Bert Cavanagh, Edward W. Mullan, Harold M. Kenney." (Windham County Observer, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 1939, p.5; genealogybank.com). Note the Windham County Observer and Putnam Patriot are both also available at chroniclingamerica.com.

Are you familiar with the Irish song, "The Wearing of the Green?" It's frequently sung this time of year. I was curious about its history and had many online sites from which to choose. The following is from https://www.liveabout.com/the-wearing-of-the-green-3552953: "The Wearing of the Green" is a traditional Irish folk song that dates back to the Irish Rebellion of 1798 when the Irish rose up against the British. At that time, wearing green clothing or shamrocks was considered a rebellious act in and of itself, potentially even punishable by death. The song clearly mocks that policy, and its popularity in its day (and now, even) enforced the color green and the shamrock as important symbols of Irish pride. "The Wearing of the Green" has been recorded by many different groups and remains a favorite pub sing-along to this day. Several different sets of lyrics have been written, with the best-known set coming from playwright Dion Boucicault, who wrote them for his 1864 play Arragh na Pogue ('The Wicklow Wedding'). The first few verses follow:

Oh, Paddy dear, did you hear the news that's going 'round? The shamrock is forbid by law to grow on Irish ground

Saint Patrick's Day no more to keep, his color can't be seen For there's a bloody law again' the Wearing of the Green. I met with Napper Tandy and he took me by the hand

And he said, "How's poor old Ireland and how does she stand?"

"She's the most distressful country that ever yet was seen For they're hanging men and women there for Wearing of the Green.

She's the most distressful country that ever yet was seen

For they're hanging men and women there for Wearing of the Green.

Next verse:

Then since the color we must wear is England's cruel red

Sure Ireland's sons will never forget the blood that they have shed

You may pull the shamrock from your hat and cast it on the sod

But 'twill take root and flourish there, though underfoot 'tis trod.

When laws can stop the blades of grass for growing as they grow

And when the leaves in summertime their verdure dare not show

Then I will change the color too I wear in my caubeen

But 'til that day, please God, I'll stick to Wearing of the Green.

I will be wearing green on St. Patrick's Day. Will you?

I'll end with a few words that have been written about why we wear green on St. Patrick's Day. "One legend suggests that wearing green on St. Patric's Day makes the wearer invisible to leprechauns. The tiny red-bearded fairies of Irish folklore supposedly roam around pinching those who've chosen clothing of another hue." That history article continued by saying that the original color associated with St. Patrick was blue. However, in the 18th century, "the ever-rebellious Irish had chosen a different hue to symbolize their country. They seized upon green, the color of the shamrock, which in legend St. Patrick used when he explained Christian beliefs to the Irish.

The custom of wearing green 'may have come from the tradition of wearing a piece of shamrock on the day in Ireland, (Elizabeth) Stack explains. 'The significance of the three-leafed shamrock comes from St. Patrick himself. He used the shamrock to describe the three forms of God—the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit—to convert early Irish people to Christianity.'" (history.com).

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

Killingly Chronicles

March 17 – March 22

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at www.killinglyct.gov)
Monday the 17th
Planning & Zoning Commission Workshop (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 6 p.m.
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.
Tuesday the 18th
Housing Authority Meeting (Birchwood Terrace) 7 p.m.
Wednesday the 19th
Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting (WPCF) 5 p.m.
Conservation Commission Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.
Thursday the 20th
Historic District Commission Meeting (Room 102 - Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Monday the 17th
Wonderful Ones & Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.
Homeschool Club (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon
Monday Mystery Matinee (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday the 18th
Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.
Chubby Chats (Ages 18+) (Chubby Dog Coffee) 10 to 11 a.m.
Atwater-Donnelly Duo (All Ages) (Library) 4 to 5 p.m.
Wednesday the 19th
Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Virtual from KPL) 10 to 10:30 a.m.
Little Listeners (Ages two to five) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Adult Coloring and Greeting Cards (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Let's Get Crafting (Ages 13-18) (Library) 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday the 20th
Story Craft (Ages two to six) (Library) 10:30 to 11 a.m.
Virtual Author Talk: Clara Bingham (Library) 2 to 3 p.m.
Friday the 21st
AARP Tax Assistance (Library) 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday the 22nd
Photography (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day
Ashley Cournoyer-Smith: Author Talk (Ages six to 12) (Library) 10 to 11 a.m.

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/EVENTS COMING UP…
Virtual High Five 2025 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday)
Get in Line Beginner Line Dancing – Session 4 – March 5 through April 16 (Wednesdays) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
Pound for Adults with Chris – Session 4 – March 4 through April 8 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
Senior Yoga March – 9 and 10:30 a.m. – March 7 through March 28 (Fridays) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
Relaxation and Guided Meditation – Session 4 – March 11 through April 15 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
Beginner Salsa Dancing – May 5 through May 19 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
Outdoor Spring Strength and Conditioning – March 11 through April 22 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
55+ Chair Pound for Seniors – Session 2 – April 28 through June 9 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
Mystic Village/Mystic Luxury Cinemas Trip – April 17
Field Hockey Clinic – May 27 through May 30 (Grades 5-8) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
Big Red Basketball Camp – June 23 through June 26 (Grades 3-8) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!
For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at www.killinglyct.gov.

Did you know?

BY SANDRA AMES AND FAB CUTLER
ALSO MEMORIES FROM WILLIE ZAMAGNI'S SCRAPBOOK

ASPINOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Children's Home
In 1898 fire destroyed the Windham County Temporary Home.
In 1900 a new Children's Home was completed.
In 1912 Barn was destroyed by fire at the Windham County Temporary
In April 1919 there were 128 children residing there, the largest ever. Spanish Influenza was the cause of the increase of orphans.
Sawyer's District School was close by, they could send the children there for schooling.
In November 1883 a small group of orphans were residing at Preston Farm in Putnam Heights. Mr and Mrs Henry O. Preston were in charge.
This farm was locally known as the " Home for Waifs"
In 1886 these orphans were transferred to Windham County Temp.
Home on Route 21.

In 1943 the Children's Home property was sold to the Nuns at the Immaculate Conception Convent. The Lithuanian Nuns also operate Matulaitas Nursing Home on Thurber Road.

Researched by Fab Cutler

Putnam Fairgrounds
The Fairgrounds on Park Street were built in 1898. The first fair was held in August.

September 9, 1899 a gala celebration was held that night at the Putnam fairgrounds, with a display of fireworks put on by Signor Suzio who was the superintendent of the Italian workmen who laid the tracks for the trolley line.

On Memorial Day, 1906, C.A.C (Connecticut Athletic Club) of Putnam split a doubleheader with Jewett City. Morse Field was covered with water, so the games were played at the Putnam Fair Grounds on the corner of Park and Arch Streets. 500 fans witnessed the morning game which Putnam won7-1. The afternoon game, witnessed by 700 fans, was won by Jewett City, 10-6.

September 3,1906 on Labor Day, during the Putnam Fair, CAC played Jewett City for a purse of $125 before nearly 2000 fans. Putnam won 2-0. The game was called after 8 innings, because Putnam had a train to catch in early afternoon to play in Whitinsville, MA. The game was played in 1 hour.

On April 8, 1913 there was a $10,000 fire at the Fairgrounds because the building was outside the city limits, the alarm never even sounded. The fire was set by an arsonist.

In October 1914 the last of buildings and fences were torn down at the old Fairgrounds on the corner of Park and Arch Streets.

At its hey day, Putnam Fairgrounds had a Grandstand, Trotting Park, baseball fields, Fireworks, and many others events.

Researched by Fab Cutler
Memories from Willie Zamagni's scrapbook
Page 7
August 1894 There is no charge for tuition or books for anyone intending to teach in the state public school. This is at Willimantic Normal School, now Eastern Connecticut University.
Page26
In August 1924 a kindergarten will start in Putnam.
Page 31
The first school bus was purchased by the town for $1400. It was a Ford and held 36 pupils. Fred Gagnon drove for $2.50 a day.
Page two
On September 16, 1886, no school in Putnam so the children could attend the Woodstock Fair.

Researched by Willie Zamagni



BREAULT

continued from page A1

tinues to honor its history and, in particular, honor its veterans," Flexer said. "Events like this are not uncommon. This community comes together time and time again to find ways to honor those who gave great service to our country. I know there are few people that this community is prouder of than Henry Breault and his incredible service to our country and his unique recognition."

Gordon added to that sentiment.

"When I learn more about what Henry Breault did, rushing into that sunken submarine, he didn't have to do it, but he put his life in danger to save a fellow submariner and he did it because he knew about service, he knew about loyalty, he knew about faith, and in the end it did work out well for them," said Gordon. "That's an incredible legacy and incredible example for others to follow."

A common theme of the ceremony was speaking of brotherhood and the dedication members of the military not only to their country, but also to each other.

John DeBisschop, Connecticut Veterans Affairs Commissioner, said Breault served as a perfect example of that bond, adding "The action taken by Torpedoman First Class Breault was an extreme example of the length to which our servicemen and women will go for their brothers and sisters in arms."

Putnam Mayor Barney Seney read off a citation officially declaring March 8 as "Henry Breault Day" while Flexer and Gordon provided a citation from the Senate floor acknowledging the occasion. The event also drew attention to a new book written by Ryan Walker called "The Silent Services First Here" that explores Breault's life. Finally, the ceremony also acknowledged an ongoing effort to name a Verginia-class submarine after Breault to help further solidify his legacy in the U.S. Navy.

ROVERO

continued from page A1

ed State Representative for the 51st District serving eight years in Hartford where he was known as a fiscally conservative Democrat who created relationships across the aisle for the betterment of the state and the communities her represented. He was elected to the Killingly Board of Education in 2023 and appointed as Vice Chairman, however he announced he would resign as vice chair earlier this year but continue as a board member.

Having served in the Army, Rovero was active in many veterans' organizations, including AMVETS #46 and the VFW #46. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus 64 and the Elks #574.

The news of Rovero's passing spawned numerous tributes, as many current town and state leaders saw him as a dedicated public servant who left behind a powerful legacy and taught many of them how to navigate the complicated world of politics. Killingly Board of Education Chair Susan Lannon posted a heartfelt tribute to the man she saw as a great friend and mentor.

"He was a dedicated leader, an unwavering advocate for our schools, and a true believer in the work we did," wrote Lannon. "He was attentive, open-minded, and deeply committed to serving his community. It was an honor and a privilege to work alongside him, and I will always be grateful for his mentorship, his encouragement, and his example."

Current Putnam Mayor Barney Seney, who contended and lost against Rovero in one election and saw him as a respected leader, also spoke highly of Rovero and his commitment to his community.

"He did so much for the town and the state in his years of service. He did a lot for Putnam. You don't see that type of individual come out and serve as long as he did. He was committed to our community and state. He was our longest serving mayor and as far as I'm concerned, he did a great job," said Seney.

Flags in Putnam were ordered to fly at half-staff until Monday, March 10 in Rovero's honor. He leaves behind his wife Judith, his children, Ricardo R. Rovero of Thompson, William J. Rovero of Oak Bluffs, Mass., Jane Rovero-Kruzel of Phoenix, Az. and Jill Rovero-Achkar of Baabdat, Lebanon; his sisters, Paula Looby and Maria Werner, both of California; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brothers, Louis Rovero and Malcolm Rovero, and his sister, Charlotte Herlihy. There will be no public services for Rovero according to his obituary.

LITTLE THEATER

continued from page A1

been publicly announced. Lohbusch said they do plan on bringing many stakeholders into the discussion of a new title and they will likely hold a special ceremony to bid the current theater farewell when the time comes.

"We've talked about doing something special at the Broad Street location, especially with some of the past participants that have been in our theater for years and years going back to the early '90s," Lohbusch said. "We still have patrons in town that may want to come for one last hurrah to close out this theater. It's been talked about, but we haven't scheduled everything yet because we really don't know when our last show is on Broad Street."

Before the move takes place, new curtains, a new sound system and lighting, new valances and a handicap lift for the stage all need to be installed and the fire suppression system needs to be replaced. Lohbusch does not anticipate the move to take place until at least the fall of 2025. As of now most of the shows for 2025 will remain at the Broad Street location and the theater is seeking the rights to shows for both stages for the new year in case the move is extended into 2026. The next show to hit the Broad Street stage will be "The Wizard of Oz," which opens April 4.

EASTCONN

continued from page A1

encing electrical issues, with multiple reports of outlets "popping" and other concerning electrical problems.

After receiving several 911 calls from worried residents, the West Thompson Fire Department responded to investigate. No fire, but with Eversource estimating power restoration would take approximately two days, fire officials determined that evacuating all residents - many of whom use walkers or require oxygen - was necessary for their safety.

Despite attempts to contact several local bus companies for evacuation assistance, none were available in what was now the middle of the night. That's when Matthew Bernier, who serves as both Assistant Fire Chief for West Thompson Fire Department and an EASTCONN bus driver, stepped forward with a solution.

Bernier reached out to Kimberly Bush, Director of EASTCONN Transportation, requesting permission to use an EASTCONN bus to transport the seniors. Bush immediately approved the emergency use.

Bernier arrived at the complex with a 77-passenger EASTCONN bus, while Michael Hall - who also serves dual roles with the West Thompson Fire Department and as an EASTCONN van driver - brought a 7-passenger EASTCONN van to help transport wheelchair-bound residents. Local ambulance services also assisted with the evacuation.

"When we pulled up, the firefighters were so happy and relieved," said Bernier. "It made everyone's night that much brighter. I've been a firefighter and a driver for 20-plus years - this was definitely a first!"

"When I arrived with the EASTCONN van and saw the relief on those seniors' faces, I knew we were making a real difference," said Michael Hall. "As both a firefighter and driver, I've trained for emergencies, but helping evacuate our community's most vulnerable residents in the middle of the night was truly meaningful."

EASTCONN vehicles transported approximately 28 residents to safety at the Quinebaug Fire Station, which had been set up as a warming shelter. There, the evacuees received coffee and breakfast donated by a local caterer. One resident even brought along her cat in a carrier.

"I was so happy to help everyone," Bernier reflected. "It's not every day that something like this happens."

"When I received the call at 2 a.m. about our seniors needing evacuation, there wasn't a moment's hesitation," said Bush. "Our drivers Matthew Bernier and Michael Hall exemplify what EASTCONN stands for - stepping up when our community needs us most. The fact that they serve both as EASTCONN drivers and as firefighters speaks to their character and commitment to public service. I couldn't be prouder of how they represented our transportation department, providing safe passage for these vulnerable residents during such a stressful situation. This is exactly why we maintain our fleet and train our staff to the highest standards - so we can be there when it matters most."

The displaced seniors remained at the shelter until about 9:00 a.m., when power was restored—much earlier than Eversource's initial estimate. By 11:00 a.m., after Eversource personnel confirmed it was safe to return, residents began heading home, many receiving rides from family members.

The successful late-night evacuation highlighted the importance of community partnerships and the dedication of individuals who serve in multiple roles throughout the region.

The event also demonstrated how EASTCONN's resources can be mobilized to assist community partners during emergency situations, providing vital services when they're needed most.

EASTCONN is a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center that has been serving the education needs of northeastern Connecticut's schools and communities since 1980.



Courtesy

The cast of "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," one of the Little Theater's biggest productions of 2024. The theater could potentially move to its new location on Westfield Avenue as early as this fall.

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

Acapella concert will benefit Storrs Congregational Church Food Pantry

STORRS — The acclaimed acappella ensemble Take Note! Will perform a concert to benefit the food pantry at Storrs Congregational Church. The concert will take place on Sunday, March 16 at 3 p.m., and will feature songs in a variety of musical styles, including jazz, traditional, and multicultural. For more information, contact SCCoffice@storrscongchurch.org, (860) 429-9382, or www.take-note.org.

Take Note! is a roughly 20-person voice group, under the direction of Linda Tracy, and is comprised of select, talented local singers from diverse backgrounds. A nonprofit organization based in Mansfield, the group has performed without charge for the benefit of other local non-profit organizations. The Take Note! mission statement speaks to the spirit of the group: "Through performances in support of charitable endeavors, we are raising voices, raising spirits, raising hope."

In 2024, the Storrs Congregational Church Food Pantry was visited 4,417 times by guests from UConn and the local community, and the pantry distributed 78,084 pounds of food. Nearly 30 volunteers help collect, sort and distribute food several times during the week.

Donations of cash and/or non-perishable food items will be gratefully received at the door. ALL are welcome to attend.

Local students named to Holy Cross Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — More than 1,700 students were named to the College of the Holy Cross' Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the Fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year. The following local students made the list:

Molly Landis of Brooklyn, Class of 2027

Ava Hovestadt of Woodstock, class of 2028

Abdullah Zameer of Woodstock, class of 2027

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

LEGALS

Please take notice that Quinebaug Associates LLC of 270 Park Ave, Suite 447 New York, NY 10169, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) an Application for New License for a Minor Water Power Project – Existing Dam (License Application) for the Quinebaug-Five Mile Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 5062. The License Application provides details of the Licensee's proposal to seek a new license from FERC for the continued operation of the existing Quinebaug-Five Mile Hydroelectric Project located on the Quinebaug River and Five Mile River, in the towns of Killingly and Brooklyn. The License Application was filed on or before February 28, 2025 and is available online at FERC's elibrary at https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search under docket number P-5062. Additionally, a hard copy of the application may be reviewed at the Killingly Public Library, located at 25 Wescott Road, Killingly, CT 06239. Questions regarding this notice or the license application can be directed to Jessica Antonez, Regulatory & Compliance Specialist, Relevate Power LLC at ja@relevatepower.com.

March 7, 2025

March 14, 2025

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK IWWA

At their March 3rd, 2025 Meeting, the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency approved the following applications, with conditions: #10-24-48, 0 Route 169 (MBL 5167/12/06B), Morris Lewis for Double U Investments, New Single-Family Home. #09-22-05m, 203 Crystal Pond Road (MBL 6385/39/36A & 37), John Barlow, Transfer to & Modification of existing permit – New Single-Family Home. Bill Rewinski, Chairman

On March 5th, 2025, the Agent for the IWWA approved the following application for activities with Upland Review Area, with conditions: #03-25-08, 0 Herindeen Landing (MBL 5173/01/06-2A), Jose Andrade & Catherine Bocciarelli, Paving of driveway.

Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent

March 14, 2025

www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

Woodstock Dems' Souper Supper fundraiser set for March 22

WOODSTOCK — "Soup by the people, for the people" is the theme for the annual Souper Supper community celebration hosted by the Woodstock Democratic Town Committee on Saturday, March 22. The Souper Supper will run from 5 – 7 p.m. at the East Woodstock Congregational Church, corner of Woodstock Road and Dr. Pike Road, in East Woodstock.

And soup lovers can rejoice once more! Many popular, crowd-pleasing soups featured in past years are expected to headline the menu again this year.

"Come and enjoy!" event coordinator Peg Wilson encourages.

Along with a multitude of soups (some vegetarian), the menu also will include appetizers, bread and butter, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages.

Ticket prices are $10 for adults and $25 for families. Tickets are available at the door on Saturday or by calling Peg Wilson at 860-928-0773.

To ensure public heath and safety, all food is prepared in a kitchen inspected and certified by the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH).

"The WDTC welcomes Democrats, Independents, unaffiliated voters, even Republicans!, plus citizens from all towns," Peg Wilson said. "Join us and dine; it's a sit-down event in a friendly atmosphere as we celebrate the democratic electoral process."

The Souper Supper has been a community tradition since 2001. 2025 marks its 23rd year.

Boy Scouts hosting Baked Potato Buffet

PUTNAM — Join Boy Scout Troop 21 for a Baked Potato Buffet Saturday, March 15 from 5-7 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, Providence Street, Putnam.

Create your own baked potato masterpiece! Choose from a variety of toppings, including butter, bacon, broccoli, cheese (both sauce and shredded), chili, chives, ham, onions, salsa, and sour cream!

Admission is $10 per person.

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

OBITUARIES

Daniel S. Rovero
1937 – 2025



Dayville – Daniel S. Rovero, 87, formerly of Laurel Point Road, passed away on Wednesday evening, March 5, 2025, at Day Kimball Hospital. He was the loving husband of Judith (Keith) Rovero for 66 years. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Seconda J. and Rita (Lavigne) Rovero.

Mr. Rovero was a Korean Era Army Veteran having served 16 months in Korea. He was a business owner and entrepreneur who owned and operated many businesses, including Rovero's Amoco for 35 years. He was the Mayor of Putnam for 14 years and a CT State Representative for eight years. He was a lifelong member of AMVETS #46, VFW #46, Knights of Colombus Council 64, and the Elks #574.



In addition to his wife Judith, Danny is survived by his children, Ricardo R. Rovero of Thompson, William J. Rovero of Oak Bluffs, MA, Jane Rovero-Kruzel of Phoenix, AZ and Jill Rovero-Achkar of Baabdat, Lebanon; his sisters, Paula Looby and Maria Werner both of CA; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brothers, Louis Rovero and Malcolm Rovero, and his sister, Charlotte Herlihy.

Funeral services are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com

Joyce (Tetreault) McGee



Joyce Ann passed away on January 16th, 2025. She was born in Putnam on February 27, 1947, to the late Amede and Florence (Arpin) Tetreault. She was a graduate of Putnam Catholic Academy. She started her nursing career in 1973, working at Day Kimball Hospital then at Backus Hospital. Joyce (Cyr) retired from Respiratory Therapy in 2010. Together, Joyce and her first husband had three children, Daniel Nilsen, Laurie Adams (deceased) and Jennie Nilsen (Gregg). Joyce married Robert McGee in 2013, and the two moved to Georgia to enjoy the quiet relaxation of retirement until her passing. She was predeceased by her brother, Gary Tetreault and leaves a sister, June Foley (Kevin), nieces and a nephew. She will be lovingly remembered for her compassion in nursing and her love of animals. Any services held will be private.

Minola (Nola) Terwilleger, 102



Minola (Nola) (Thornton) Terwilleger, 102, of Pomfret passed away on Sunday January 26, 2025, at St. Joseph's Living Center in Windham. Nola was born in Abington on December 25, 1922, the daughter of the late Fred A. Thornton and Burnys (Kenyon) Thornton. She graduated from Putnam High School in 1941and E.C. Goodwin Technical School in New Britain as an LPN in 1944. After years of hospital hours, she did private duty nursing. Nola was a restaurant owner for many years and managed others in Connecticut and New Hampshire. She also was in charge of a retirement home in Keene, NH and thereafter managed her own boarding home affectionately known as "Happy Harlan Home". Nola sold Avon for nearly 30 years, as well as Tupperware, Mary Kay and Sarah Coventry Jewelry. She belonged to several Western Square Dance groups, loved music, hostessing and entertaining groups. Nola was a grange member for 87 years, also Pomona State and National. She was married to Walter Bankowski and had two sons, Walter and Glen. Nola was married to Carl Harlan for 20 years and then Paul Allison for four years. In 1992 she married B. Orville Terwilleger, they spent winters in Florida. Nola is survived by two sons, Walter A. Bankowski and wife Deborah of Abington and Glen A. Bankowski and wife Kathy of W. Warwick, RI. Five grandchildren, Walter Bankowski Jr. and wife Stacy, Eric Bankowski and wife Sarah, Brad Bankowski, Lisa LaQuerre and husband Rick and Amie LaFever and husband Nelson. Six great grandchildren, one great great grandson, her sister Dorothy Caparrelli and several nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her stepson Orville (Butch) Terwilleger. A memorial service was held on Saturday February 22, 2025, at 11:00AM at Tillinghast Funeral Home 433 Main Street Danielson. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. tillinghastfh.com

RoJeanne L. Doege, 66



N. Grosvenordale – RoJeanne L. Doege, 66, beloved mother of Jasmin Floyd, died on February 28, 2025 at her home after a short battle with cancer. Born in Berlin, Wisconsin on May 18, 1958, she was the daughter of the late Lucille and Marvin Doege.

RoJeanne graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and worked in Customer Service, Fundraising, and the Health and Fitness arena. She was most recently employed at Matulaitis Rehab and Skilled Care facility.

RoJeanne was a dedicated advocate and caregiver for her daughter who was born with Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP). There are currently no treatments or cure for this progressive and disabling condition. RoJeanne devoted her life to her daughter, fighting for her equal rights in school, medical treatments, and living conditions. She did this with compassion and good humor, enabling her daughter to enjoy life to its maximum.

Jasmin and her mother shared a special bond as evidenced by Jasmin's own words, describing her momma as her best friend and her rock, the epitome of strength and grace, an inspiration every day, a beautiful soul whose comforting hugs made the world seem brighter. RoJeanne's enduring faith was steadfast throughout all the challenges that came her way. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

RoJeanne is survived by her daughter, Jasmin; her sister, Rhonda Farr (Wesley); her twin brother, Randal Doege; Jasmin's father, John Floyd; her niece Nicole Kramer (Eric); and her much-loved cat, Mitzi.

A memorial service is planned for RoJeanne on Saturday, April 26, 2025, 2:00 pm at the East Woodstock Congregational Church, 220 Woodstock Ave, East Woodstock, CT. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made for Jasmin's ongoing care by donating to GoFundMe.com (RoJeanne and Jasmin Medical Crisis) or via check to Jasmin Floyd's Special Needs Trust, PO Box 597, N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255.

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

Leanne Jean Gammardella
August 28, 1957 - February 17, 2025



Putnam - Leanne (Holt) Gammardella, 67 of Putnam, CT., passed on to eternal life on February, 17, 2025 in Vanceboro, NC., after battling an extended illness. Leanne was born on August 28, 1957 in Putnam, CT. to the late Earl and Lorella (Nichols) Holt.

Leanne worked for Frito-Lay in the packaging department for over 33 years. She developed many lasting friendships with her co-workers. Leanne worked long hours so she could selflessly provide for both of her children. She made sure they always had what they needed for school, sports, and everything in between. While doing this she made sure never to miss a game, or event that her children were participating in. Outside of work, Leanne enjoyed playing in a softball league. She always carved out the time to play basketball or a game of catch with her children. Leanne enjoyed her daily walks through town with her dear friend, Sue. Music was her passion and she loved attending concerts with her family, her all time favorite was Elton John. She was a huge sports fan, she was devoted to the Tennessee Lady Vols basketball team.

Leanne immensely enjoyed her retirement giving her all the time and freedom to spend with her grandchildren and friends. She loved to go camping and travel with family and friends. One of her most memorable trips was to Las Vegas with her dear friend Donna. Leanne loved the holiday season with family, and looked forward to a family tradition of playing cards after dinner. She enjoyed getting together with her longtime friends over dinner and games at her brother Ken's house. Leanne appreciated spending time with her Aunt Mary, who would always offer a helping hand whether it was for yard work, running errands, or enjoying a walk and a cup of coffee.

Leanne is survived by her son, Tony Gammardella and wife Rebecca of New Milford, CT; daughter, Angie Brown and husband Noel of Vanceboro, NC; brother Ken Holt and wife Doreen of Putnam, CT; grandchildren, Marqus, Kiara and Nytara; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was predeceased by her brother Walton Holt.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Leanne's family from 10:30am to 12pm on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at the Valade Funeral Home, 23 Main Street, North Grosvenordale, CT. A service will take place in the funeral home at 12pm. Memorial contributions may be made to Camp Horizons – Itsy Bitsy Fund, PO Box 323, South Windham, CT 06266. Burial to follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, North Grosvenordale.

Theresa M. Brodeur
1928 - 2025



Putnam – Theresa M. (Wrubleski) Brodeur, 96, of Putnam,CT, beloved wife of the late Regis "Roger" Brodeur, died Friday, February 21, 2025, at Westview Healthcare. Born in N. Grosvenordale, she was the daughter of the late Peter and Eleanora (Dustak) Wrubleski. She graduated Salutatorian of her class at Tourtellotte Memorial High School.

After graduation, she worked as a Secretary at Belding Hemingway where she met the "love of her life" R. Roger Brodeur. She worked for various local attorneys. She then went on to work for the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicle as an Examiner.

Her favorite past times were spending time with family, shopping and trips to the "Indian Mission".

Theresa was the oldest living member of the Daughters of Isabella Circle #543.

Theresa is survived by her two sons, Michael Brodeur and his wife Maureen of Brooklyn, Mark Brodeur and his wife Lori of Putnam and her four grandchildren, Melaine Korzon and her husband Bill, Matthew Brodeur and his wife Jessica, Roger Brodeur and Joshua Brodeur, and four great grandchildren, Billy and Madeline Korzon and Maci and Callie Brodeur. Along with many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her siblings, Mary Bibek, Michael Bibek, Charles Bibek, and Bronislaw "Benny" Wrubleski.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Theresa's family from 4:00PM to 7:00PM on Sunday, March 16, 2025, at the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. A gathering will begin at the funeral home on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 9:30AM followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00AM in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery.

Memorial donations in Theresa's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 280285, E. Hartford, CT 06128. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Quiet Corner Garden Club hosts Growing Gardeners symposium

DANIELSON — Growing Gardeners: "Healthy Plants, Healthy People, Healthy Planet," a Symposium will be presented by the Quiet Corner Garden Club on April 5 at the Connecticut State Community College - Quinebaug Valley (QVCC), 742 Upper Maple St., Danielson. Sessions start at 9 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. Check-in time begins at 8:30 a.m. Raffle drawings will be held beginning at 3:30 p.m. Go to our Web site, www.quietcornergardenclub.com, for more information, tickets, and optional box lunch tickets.

Pamm Cooper, Horticultural Consultant and Public Service Specialist at the UConn Home and Garden Education Center is the Keynote speaker. Pam will present "A Walk on the Wild Side" featuring Connecticut's rare and unusual native wildflowers, insects, fauna, and weather phenomenon of recent years.

Additional speakers and topics include:

Peter Picone, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "Attracting Birds and Wildlife"

Valerie Champany, Red Tail Farm,"Growing vegetables and more!"

Michelle Lengyel and Deni Van deVoort, Master Gardeners, QCGC Members, "Integrated Pest Management"

Yoko Takemura, Assawaga Farms, "No-till Gardening"

Lia Babitch, Turtle Tree Farm, "Gathering Seeds from Pollinators"

Amelia South, Black Sun Farm, "Garden Foraging and Medicinal Mushrooms"

Christine Leo, "Home Medicine Chest"

Mike Radzilowicz, QCGC member, "Starting Plants from the Seed Up!"

Heather Strother, Natural Resource Specialist, Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, "Creating Rain Gardens"

Come enjoy a fun and informative day. In addition to our speakers, we will have exhibits, and garden inspired vendors.

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Lisa DeLucia earns Westview's Employee of the Month award



Lisa DeLucia

DAYVILLE — Lisa DeLucia is celebrated as Westview's February Employee of the Month.

As a Teacher Assistant at Westview Child Care Center, DeLucia is a steward of the young minds at the newest member of the Westview family. Daily activities at Westview Child Care Center are meant to be educational, entertaining—or ideally, both at the same time! Lisa looks to highlight the overall positive purpose of every project with advertent encouragement. She ensures that the students find joy in expanding their minds through core learning opportunities, and alternately, seeks to expand their intellect with abstract creativity and playful experiences.

DeLucia began as a Teacher Assistant at Westview Child Care Center in September 2023. She initially learned about the new Dayville child care facility through social media and grew excited about the chance to work with children in many age groups. When she began at Westview Child Care Center, she worked with the infants in the afternoon. Upon expanding her role to a full-time position, she moved in stride with the same group she was working with as they graduated to the next class. Now in the toddler room, she joyously joins her students on their journey. Her own experience raising a family and previous work in other daycare settings anchors her skills as a naturally nurturing individual.

Residing in Griswold, DeLucia enjoys the scenic surroundings of The Quiet Corner. One of her favorite activities is hiking around local parks and trails; exploring a variety of locations across the seasons. For viewing entertainment, she likes to keep it light by watching comedies. As mentioned, she is the mother of Austin, Natalie, and Hailey, and she likes to spend time with them as often as possible.

An innate passion for working in child development is noticeable in DeLucia's response to receiving Westview's Employee of the Month award.

"I love working here—it's such a great group to work with as I pursue this opportunity," she commented. "I can devote the best of my abilities to our students because I enjoy them so much. I really appreciate being recognized by colleagues at Westview Child Care Center. Thank you!"

Katy Holzer, Director of Westview Child Care Center, acknowledged DeLucia'sD devotion: "At the Westview Child Care Center, we take great pride in the dedication and enthusiasm that our team brings to our program. Their commitment to creating a nurturing and engaging environment ensures that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive. Recognizing outstanding staff, like Lisa, highlights the passion and care that make our center a special place for children and families. It's always rewarding to celebrate the hard work of those who make a meaningful impact every day. Congratulations, Lisa!"

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 17 years.

Danielson caucus set for March 31

DANIELSON — The Borough of Danielson will hold a caucus on Monday, March 31 at the Danielson Fire Station, 47 Academy St., at 6:30 p.m. All Borough residents are cordially

invited to attend for the nomination of candidates for Borough Officers.



Courtesy

Last Friday night, the #1 seed Putnam Science Academy captured the 2025 Power 5 Conference Tournament championship beating #2 seed Redemption Christian 86-72 at CCRI in Warwick, R.I. The title was Putnam Science Academy's 4th straight Power 5 Tournament Championship and they moved to 37-2 on the season, including 29 straight wins. Oklahoma State commit Ben Ahmed led the Mustangs with 20 points, eight rebounds and 2 blocks. Tony Williams (five assists) and Nico Pena (four rebounds) each scored 14 points for PSA in the win. Parrish Edmond added nine points and 10 rebounds and both Jaeden Roberts and Jamell Hatchett (three assists) chipped in seven points apiece.

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