

Assessor explains methodology behind Thompson’s proposed budget

THOMPSON — The town of Thompson is facing its fourth budget referendum on Wednesday, Aug. 13. The last budget which failed, with a proposed mil rate of 19.29, represented level funding compared to the prior fiscal year. The current proposed mil

rate of 19.00, should it pass, will result in reduced tax revenues in the coming fiscal year. Competing interpretations of data provided by the Assessor have been circulated in social media forums. The information that follows has been provided by the Chair of the Board of

Finance, to clarify the methods used to determine the impact of the proposed mil rate on the average homeowner in Thompson. As these numbers represent averages, the best way to determine the impact on a household-by-household basis is to contact the town Assessor’s office and ask them to look up your specific situation. There are two impactful areas which factor into municipal property taxes, the first being homes (residential real property), and the second being motor vehicles. It is the combination of both factors which determines the budget impact to the average household.

The first component is real residential property, which is more commonly referred to as homes. Most taxpayers in town own and live on a single residential property with a single home and own motor vehicles registered to that property. Municipal taxes paid against these assets are the primary source of funding to support the town services and the overall community. This year Thompson underwent a mandated revaluation for all property in the town. The grand list, which is the total value of all property in town, went up 46 percent due to the revaluation. The average value and assessment across residential property (homes) went up 60 percent while other property types such as commercial, industrial, personal, land, etc., also saw rate increases, but went up less than 60 percent. The large rise in property values is largely due to the high inflationary period since the last revaluation in 2019 and also reflects rising market prices paid for homes in Thompson. The other property types went up at different rates because the fair market value (the value at which properties are sold) went up differently for those types of non-residential property in Thompson. Simultaneously, in the case of motor vehicles, this year the State mandated a different assessment calculation which drove the assessed value of motor vehicles down.

Based on the revaluation and the overall climb in property values, the Thompson Board of Finance, at the start of the budget process, reset or normalized the mil rate from 28.11 last year to 19.29 baseline this year. Normalization means the amount raised by taxation last year at 28.11 mill rate is the same as the amount raised by taxation this year at 19.29 mill rate, which is \$21.7 million. At the new proposed mil rate of 19.00, which is going out to referendum on Aug. 13, the amount raised by taxation is going down which means the average taxpayer in Thompson is paying less in taxes this year than last year, if the budget passes. Thompson is no longer at level funding but rather funding below last year in terms of amount raised by taxation.

In total, there are 3,566 homes that

fell into the above description from last year to this year. Seventy homes were excluded from the analysis due to special circumstances such as the examples given above, meaning they were not comparable year-on-year. For those 3,566 homes remaining in the comparison, the average assessment went from \$156,858 last year and a mil rate of 28.11 representing a tax bill of \$4,409 to a new average assessment this year of \$250,037 and with a mil rate of 19.00 representing a tax bill of \$4,751 with an average increase of \$341. Therefore, at a proposed mill rate in Thompson of 19.00 the average residential property will see an increase in taxes paid of \$341 or 7.7 percent for homes. This increase is, on average, offset by changes in the valuation of motor vehicles.

Most homeowners in Thompson own motor vehicles. In total, there are approximately 9,376 motor vehicles in town each year. Of that total, there were 1,926 vehicles that dropped off the grand list and were replaced, which is a normal year over year change in motor vehicles. There are another 701 non-passenger vehicles (large trucks and motor homes) which were excluded from the analysis because they received a steeper average reduction in taxes than passenger vehicles. The remaining 6,749 motor vehicles are those which were on the grand list last year and this year, allowing calculation of a like-for-like average reduction per vehicle.

These 6,749 motor vehicles were assessed last year at \$76.2 million. With a mil rate of 28.11, those vehicle owners in total paid \$2,142,982 in taxes. The same 6,749 vehicles this year are assessed at \$56.1 million due to the new State assessment calculation based on MSRP. At the most recently proposed mil rate of 19.00 those vehicle owners in total will pay \$1,065,900 in taxes. The difference in taxes paid is \$2,142,982 minus \$1,065,900, which equals \$1,077,082 which, divided by the total vehicles of 6,749, is an average reduction per motor vehicle of \$159.47 or 50.3 percent lower taxes paid.

In Thompson there are a total of 9,376 motor vehicles which, divided by 3,636 homes, is on average 2.58 motor vehicles per home. The average motor vehicle tax reduction per home at the proposed 19.0 mill rate is 2.58 vehicles times \$159.47 decrease per vehicle which equals an average reduction of \$411.

Therefore, at a proposed mil rate in Thompson of 19.00 the average residential property owner with motor vehicles will see their home increase by \$341 and their motor vehicles decrease by \$411 for a net decrease of \$70.

On average, 65 percent of homeowners with motor vehicles in Thompson will see a decrease in taxes paid this year versus last year, if the proposed budget passes at 19.00 mil rate. In other words, two out of every three Thompson homeowners with motor vehicles will pay less in taxes compared to last year if the fourth referendum passes.

Further reduction to the budget and a mil rate below 19.00 will likely mean permanent cuts to town services, which will negatively impact the majority of Thompson residents.

Thompson residents are encouraged to contact the Assessor at 860-923-2259 for the specific details of their individual properties.

*Pourings & Passages
honored by Connecticut
voters for fourth
consecutive year*

DANIELSON — Pourings & Passages Used Bookstore is honored to once again be named The Best of Connecticut in the July, 2025 issue of Connecticut Magazine.

Thanks to the many patrons and friends who voted, the local bookstore was previously named the Best Used Bookstore in Connecticut in both 2022 and 2023 in addition to being named “Runner-Up” in 2024 in the two categories of Best Independent New Bookstore, New Books and Best Used Bookstore.

Pourings & Passages remains a hidden jewel in the Quiet corner and enjoys a unique status in that all items are donated; all workers are volunteers and each year’s profits go to St. James School.

What began in 1997 as a used book sale in the hallway of St. James School during a flea market grew into an annual summer event in the church basement, drawing customers from surrounding towns and states before transitioning into Pourings & Passages in November 2015.

With the April 2025 donation, the school has received in excess of \$425,000 and, of note, Pourings & Passages will soon celebrate its 10th anniversary.


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders

7. Salt

13. Fortified wine

14. Edible mollusk

16. They precede C

17. A way to compare

19. State lawyer

20. “Game of Thrones” actor Ciaran

22. Eighth month (abbr.)

23. Very willing

25. ___ ex machina

26. Satisfies

28. Mountain in New Zealand

29. A doctrine

30. Popular Dodge truck model

31. Dekagram

33. Naturally occurring solid

34. Company officer

36. Villains

38. Cricket frogs

40. One of the founders of modern psychology

41. Endured

43. A female domestic

44. You can get stuck in one

45. Partner to feather

47. Passive optical network

48. French ballet dynasty

51. Employee stock ownership plan

53. Bottom layer

55. Sound

56. Yankee great Judge

58. Dickens character

59. Late beloved TNT sportscaster

60. South Dakota

61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule

64. Gold

65. Longtime Braves hurler Julio

67. Humor

69. Shawl

70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease

2. Commercial

3. Necklace materials

4. Containers

5. Investment account

6. Colorado Heisman Trophy winner

7. Dipped down

8. Head injury category (abbr.)

9. Lay about

10. Intestinal

11. Not yes

12. Caused to be loved

13. Muslim spiritual leader

15. Showing sincere conviction

18. Not in

21. Number above the line in a fraction

24. Lawn pest

26. Pouch

27. Ancient language in India (abbr.)

30. Start over

32. Wild white flower

35. Fourteen

37. Visual way to interact with computer (abbr.)

38. Side by side and facing the same way

39. Religious conflicts

42. Touch lightly

43. “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen

46. Violent seizure of property

47. One who supports the pope

49. Malaise

50. Body fluid

52. Inauthentic person

54. Title of respect

55. Chilean city

57. Japanese city

59. Silk garment

62. Draw from

63. Automobile

66. The man

68. Top government lawyer

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Perfect planning

The five P's!
Perfect planning prevents poor performance.

Yes, we see summer ebbing in a blink, and parents are now in back-to-school mode. Local stores are pushing school clothes and supplies to help you prepare your kids for the shift from summer to fall. Here, I will present a few tips to help you “pre-frame” this transition from summer fun to a back-to-school focus.

Number one: Gradually shift kids to a fall sleep schedule. New bedtime and wake-up times are needed to adjust kids’ bodies to the earlier day. Fatigued kids will be tired and cranky when it comes time to get ready for school, and exhausted kids don’t learn well.

Number two: create a school mindset. Tuning your kids into the school year starting will help them in the fall. Lay the groundwork for a positive year: Teach your kids that it will be another year of fun learning, seeing their friends, and meeting new kids, which will make for some great experiences.

Number three: prepping. Getting kids to rehearse is a great idea. One of our granddaughters loves to play “teacher.” At age seven, she has learned how to coach her students (Grampy and Mimi) to better perform,

positively impact her ‘kids’ (her dolls), and deal with a sometimes unruly student (Grampy). It’s a fun game as she teaches us how to pack our backpacks, keep our hands to ourselves, and learn our school work. Did I mention she is a very demanding teacher!

Number four: Set goals

I am a firm believer in the concept that “the goals you set are the goals you get.” As a parent, you can tell your kids to have a great school year, study hard, and do well, or you could further detail what that means. If you set a goal to achieve, like having a child on the honor roll, you could highlight how excellent grades affect their future. Kids with great grades have more opportunities, better job choices, and career opportunities, and they build strong self-esteem through their accomplishments.

Setting goals to get A's and B's in school is a reasonable expectation. When a grade is not an A or B, students should review what they got wrong and determine why they did not perform better.

I believe it is important to fan the flame of “excellence” in school. My first suggestion here is praise. When we are with our grandkids, I always give them

positive feedback when they are working on an activity: “You are so strong,” “You are so brave,” or “Great try.” You might not be able to praise the outcome, but you can surely praise the effort. Kids can learn that perseverance and effort can lead to success.

Everyone can learn to embrace mistakes as learning opportunities. Ask them, “What did you learn from your mistake?” One martial arts champion I know would always return to the locker room after a match to perfect his performance, even after winning!

If a child is struggling, I recommend getting extra help from a teacher. As a college freshman, I worked full-time and did not study enough. I had a very dry and uninteresting course on Western civilizations and was emotionally devastated when I got an F on my midterm. I learned my lesson, got additional help from the teacher, and got an A on the final. Teachers always want to help students who show a desire to learn.

Number five: Talk about your feelings Yes, kids get anxiety, too. My family moved to a new town as I was preparing to enter middle school. I had great anxiety with not knowing any of the kids

in a new school, and the silly fear of the school year that I manufactured in my head. I had bad dreams and sleepless nights in anticipation of my new journey. It took a little time to fit in, but in time, I had a great experience and made many new friends.

Number six: Think positively with key steps

As a kid, my mother was famous for saying, “Think Positive.” I loved the saying so much that I even had shirts embossed with it when I owned my gym in town. The

problem is that it took me a long time to craft the steps I needed to follow this motto. I suggest these steps to teach children to overcome anxiety.

1. Reframe the idea that scary things are challenges, not problems.
2. Use positive Language and Vocabulary

Teaching children to swap negative words for positive or neutral ones is called transformational reframing. For example, instead of saying, “I can’t,” encourage, “I’ll try,” or “I’m learning.” This simple shift in language helps build a more optimistic mindset.

3. Break a problem into bite-sized solutions. If I told you becoming a black belt was a gigantic task, you may be overwhelmed with the prospect. But, if I broke it down to small hour-by-hour and week-by-week pieces, you could manage the journey without problem.

My last tip is here- How do you eat an elephant? Simple, one bite at a time.

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



TIPS FOR
SUCCESS
MIKE BOGDANSKI

WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, Dunn Marketing win 2025 Communicator Award for Financial Services Marketing Effectiveness



Dunn Marketing VP, Client Services Marci Seney; WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors Managing Partner, Client Experience & Relationships Kate Pitts; WHZ Senior Partner, Chief Strategist James Zahansky; Dunn Marketing CEO & Chief Brand Strategist Laura Dunn.

POMFRET CENTER/TOLLAND — WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors and its agency of record, Dunn Marketing, have been honored with a 2025 Communicator Award of Distinction1 in the Financial Services Marketing Campaign Effectiveness category for WHZ’s “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.” campaign, competing alongside industry giants including American Express, Bank of America, and AllianceBernstein.

The Communicator Awards remains one of the largest and most competitive programs honoring excellence in marketing, communication and creative work. This season, the 31st Annual Communicator Awards celebrated the various human connections forged through communication with the theme, “Communication is Connection.” Thousands of entries were received from across the United States and around the globe. The awards are judged by the Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts (AIVA), an invitation-only body of more than 500 industry leaders from top brands and agencies, including Google, Smithsonian, Microsoft, Digitas, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Publicis, Spotify, Johns Hopkins, and many more.

“What really sets our firm apart from other wealth management firms is our truly personal approach in partnering with clients to help them realize their dreams over the long term, and this campaign has really done a beautiful job of bringing that forward across all our marketing and communication efforts,” said James Zahansky, Senior Partner, Chief Strategist at WHZ. “Our work with Dunn Marketing continues to reinforce our person-centric philosophy and helps us connect with more people who can benefit from having a truly strategic financial partner,” he said.

Not only a beautiful job, but an effective one as well. According to Dunn Marketing CEO and Chief Brand Strategist Laura Dunn, at the time of the award submission the campaign had been running for just over six months and had already garnered a 75 percent increase in brand searches, a 31 percent increase in website users, and a 23 percent lift in prospective client inquiries for the firm.

“We’re thrilled to receive this recognition for our work with our friends and partners at WHZ,” said Laura Dunn, CEO & Chief Brand Strategist at Dunn Marketing.

“Our empathy-driven brand-building process is based on the truth that long-term success is dependent on how well a business serves their clients, not just sells to them. Working with WHZ is a joy because they understand and employ that approach so well with their clients already. So bringing that to life in their marketing provides a really authentic and engaging introduction to the brand for prospective clients, and that is what’s key to marketing success,” Dunn said.

The award-winning campaign employed Dunn Marketing’s signature six-step Empathy-Driven Brand Building™ process to create an omnichannel campaign strategy, supported by creative developed in collaboration with creative partner Artemis Design. The campaign reinforces WHZ’s commitment to providing each client with “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering

Partnership. For Life.” through hyper-personalized financial planning and wealth management services.

The campaign’s success builds on Dunn Marketing’s and WHZ’s previous marketing communications recognitions. Most recently, the pair won a 2024 Gramercy Institute Financial Content Marketing Award in the Personal Investing, Business-to-Consumer category, where they tied with industry giant Vanguard.

WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors is an independent investment and fiduciary asset management firm serving individuals, families, business owners, executives, and not-for-profit institutions in 25 states from its offices in Pomfret and Tolland, Connecticut. Founded in 2006, the firm offers more than 65 years of combined experience in the wealth management and financial planning industry. Learn more at whzwealth.com.

Dunn Marketing provides brand development and omnichannel marketing services to businesses and organizations in life service industries including healthcare and human services, education, finance, and law, as well as small businesses. The agency employs its own “Empathy-Driven Brand Building™”

process to craft and execute marketing campaigns that connect, inspire, and convert, to fuel the success of good people doing great work. To learn more, visit dunnmarketing.com.

The Communicator Awards is sanctioned and judged by The Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts, an invitation-only organization consisting of top-tier professionals from acclaimed media, advertising, and marketing firms. The Academy’s mission is to advance the arts and sciences of traditional and interactive media through educational, cultural, and professional programs. To learn more, visit communicatorawards.com.

12025 Communicator Award of Distinction – Financial Services Marketing Campaign Effectiveness, created by the Communicator Awards. This award is based on the effectiveness of a marketing campaign, as judged by the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts and not specific to financial services provided and does not imply an endorsement, recommendation, or reflect the performance of the advisor.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The case for silence

We don't get much silence anymore. Even when the world is technically quiet, there's the hum of the refrigerator, the buzz of notifications, the constant chatter in our heads. We've gotten so used to noise that the idea of sitting in a car with nothing but the sound of the tires on the road feels almost rebellious.

Lately, we've realized how amazing real silence is. No radio, no podcast. Just us, our thoughts, and the steady rhythm of driving. It has been a reset button we didn't know we needed.

Science actually backs this up. A 2013 study published in *Brain, Structure and Function* found that periods of silence, just two hours of it, can help the brain generate new cells in the hippocampus, the part of the brain linked to memory and emotion. Other research has shown that quiet time lowers cortisol (the stress hormone) and lets the brain shift from "react" mode to "reflect" mode. In short: silence isn't empty, it's restorative.

We live in a world that treats silence like a gap to be filled. We fill it with scrolling, streaming, playlists, background noise and anything to avoid just... being. But what if the thing we're avoiding is the very thing our minds crave?

Driving in silence has become our version of meditation. It's where ideas show up uninvited. It's where we notice the scenery we usually speed past. It's where our brains, exhausted from the constant feed of information, finally exhale.

Silence isn't a luxury — it's fuel. The more we give ourselves those pockets of quiet, whether it's in the car or just sitting at our kitchen table, we can feel our brains unclenching.

So, here is our challenge to you: turn off the noise for ten minutes. Drive in silence and let your thoughts wander. In a world that keeps shouting for your attention, you might be surprised what you hear when everything else finally stops.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Danielson Legion grateful for support of golf tournament

To the Editor:

Danielson American Legion Post #21 thanks the following businesses and individuals for their support of our Golf Tournament held on July 21:

Tournament sponsor: Gerardi Insurance/Hillb Group

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Special thanks to Jim West & his crew at CT National Golf Course, G-7 Caterers, Mary Jane Burke, Mark Dauphinais, Tom Gaylord, Bob Kelly, Georgette Rohrig, and anyone else we may have inadvertently missed. And a big thanks to all the golfers! Hope to see you all next year!

CHARLIE CROWLEY
AMERICAN LEGION POST #21
DANIELSON

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tourtellotte seniors celebrate unforgettable graduation trip thanks to community support

To the Editor:

The Tourtellotte Memorial High School Class of 2025 recently returned from an unforgettable senior overnight trip to Rocking Horse Ranch in Highland, N.Y., a milestone made possible entirely through the incredible support of many seniors, their families, and the Thompson community.

The 2025 Project Graduation effort was a resounding success, fueled by the generosity and commitment of countless local residents, families, and businesses. Through participation in monthly can and bottle drives, calendar raffle, transfer station "Fill-the-Paw," sporting concessions, and other fundraising initiatives our community came together to ensure that every senior had the opportunity to take part in this celebratory experience. The success of these efforts reflects the strong bond between the school and its community, and the Class of 2025 Project Graduation Committee is deeply grateful for every donation, every hour volunteered, and every show of support.

During their stay at Rocking Horse Ranch, students enjoyed a variety of exciting activities, including the indoor and outdoor pools with slides, boat tubing, rock climbing, mini-golf, laser tag, indoor games, a shooting gallery, and nightly entertainment and we can't forget about the group horseback trail ride! In addition, every TMHS senior received a gift package in the last week of school with some TMHS class of 2025 swag and a gift card to Amazon to celebrate this important achievement and milestone. The trip provided a well-deserved opportunity for students to unwind, celebrate, and reflect on their journey at Thompson Public Schools.

The Class of 2025 has much to be proud of beyond their senior trip. This year's graduates earned more than \$1 million in merit scholarships to various higher ed institutions and more than \$60,000 in local academic scholarships generously funded by community organizations and Memorial Funds at the TMHS Annual Scholarship Night this past June. This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication, resilience, and "small but mighty" spirit of this close-knit class. Graduates from this group will be attending a wide range of respected institutions, including the University of Connecticut, Worcester State University, CT State, Emmanuel College, Western New England University, the University of Hartford, Eastern Connecticut State University, the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Quinebaug Valley Community College, and Merrimack College, to name just a few.

Not only did many of the TMHS class of 2025 students choose to further their education post high school, but this year's class had quite a few moving on to careers thanks to the new career pathways offered at Tourtellotte. Several students were sought out by Electric Boat and were offered jobs in their welding program even before they graduated! Kudos to the students and TMHS for thinking outside the box and offering these career options to the students of Thompson.

As the Class of 2025 turns the page to the next chapter in their lives, the Tourtellotte Memorial High School community and the entire town of Thompson can take pride in the role they played in helping these students celebrate in a meaningful and memorable way. The 2025 Project Graduation Committee offers its deepest thanks and congratulations, not only to the students, but to every member of the community who helped make it all possible: when we come together as a community, anything is possible.

Congratulations to the TMHS Class of 2025 — your future is bright!

HEATHER SANTOS
PRESIDENT, CLASS OF 2025 PROJECT GRADUATION COMMITTEE
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Disgusting Democrats II

To the Editor:

Here is something the Trump haters will never tell you. You see, being so obsessed with Trump morning, noon and night, you have to laugh. Trump has them so obsessed that they have to write, week after week after week. They can't deny it. It's OK. It's called obsession. "Trump Derangement Syndrome," TDS. Now, breathe slowly, in, out, in, out. Relax; look what it did to Biden. Really sad.

Just recently, the US Attorney General and the DOJ are now running an investigation into James Comey and John Brennan's career as a respective FBI director and CIA head during the Obama administration. Investigation? And boy, are they angry.

Just review why there might be some culpability in John Brennan. He was a proponent of waterboarding and enhanced interrogation under George W. Bush's administration, and the things that went on at Guantanamo Bay. Well, then he flipped to condition himself so he could be involved in the Obama administration, and then he attacked the very president that he served, George W. Bush, and then he began sounding off like all Democrats about Islam, saying they are the "Religion of Peace," "Jihadism is not a violent act," just to condition himself further to be appointed by Obama, which he was, eventually becoming the CIA Director. Then he started lying flagrantly when he said before Congress that there wasn't one civilian killed by the Obama targeted assassination program, via Predators on the Afghan or Pakistan border. Actually, there were 50 to 75 innocent civilians killed by Obama.

Hold on here. Obama approved 26,000 bombs in seven different countries without Congressional approval, Oh, my; World War III. Didn't some Trump haters here flip out when Trump bombed Iran's nuclear facilities without Congressional approval? More TDS. And of course, Brennan was caught in that lie.

Wait — I thought Trump is the only liar, according to the Trump haters. Three years later, Brennan went before Congress, and there was information that he had been tapping his CIA to the staffers of the Senate to get into their computers. He not only lied about it; he did so emphatically, saying "We would never do that," and of course, he was forced to admit his lie. Just another disgusting Democrat. Imagine that — in both cases, no perjury charges. Nothing.

The piece that resonates for John Brennan was in October 2020, the eve of the second and critical presidential debate, Joe Biden was in trouble. People were furious about this laptop. There was pornography on it, there was drug use, there were references about Joe Biden as "The Big Guy," where he received tens of millions of dollars. Crooked Joe filling his pockets. People wanted to hear the truth about the laptop. He had no excuse. Then what happened? Anthony Blinkin, his future Secretary of State, campaign called Michael Morrell, interim CIA Director; at one point, said "Round them up," and now we have

Floss picks



NANCY WEISS

I spend time observing things; perhaps that is what motivates me to write. I watch people and animals. I look at dragonflies whose translucent wings turn color in sunlight and try to stare into their complex eyes to see if they see me. I look up at birds, the summer moon and examine the flashing around our chimney, but I also look down and what I see occasionally sticks in my mind.

At the charming post office where I pick up my mail, there are only a few parking places for patrons. One is reserved for the handicapped and two line up side-by-side in orderly fashion. As I step out of my car; I can't help but notice what is on the black asphalt. For quite some time, there are always at least one, sometimes two floss picks. I had to look up the proper names of these items, which are plastic devises with a short handle and an arc that holds a small amount of dental floss. They make it possible to floss one's teeth anywhere, including in the car. Or, getting out of the car, apparently at the post office. When the procedure is completed, the floss pick is tossed to the ground.

Who doesn't applaud the flossing of teeth? In a complex world, where our sense of truth is challenged, care of one's teeth still seems like a core value. Flossing, a newer practice than plain old brushing, promises to add years to our smiles. It takes very little time. Sometime I pick up pieces of litter, but these plastic picks are entirely too personal. There is a trash can inside the post office, but I assume the flosser wants anonymity. Perhaps he or she hopes to flash a dazzling smile or feels like a rebel when tossing a bright plastic pick. I don't think I'll ever know.

My family thought my involvement with the floss picks was hysterically funny so one of my sons-in-law asked ChatGPT to write a poem about it. The poem, written in about two seconds, caused another round of laughter as our family sat jammed around a table at a summer house rental.

"A flosser appears near the yellow line – Used, discarded every time. No one sees it, yet all folks know/ The plastic shame in the morning glow. A mystery wrapped in minty thread..." ChatGPT opined.

What is tossed on the ground has changed. For years, I looked for unsmoked cigarettes for a friend who loved to smoke, but didn't like to buy. I often found singles, which I carefully collected and put in the freezer. The cost now is so high, no one apparently tosses them out. At ten-cents a pop for beverage cans and bottles, the number of discards has also dropped and even the nasty little nips are no longer as plentiful. Clearly litter has changed.

Perhaps the floss picks aren't about litter at all, but about our changing interactions with each other. I'm used to being nearly knocked aside in public places where people aren't being deliberately rude, they just don't see me. Our handy devices make it easy to stay in our own bubbles and do what we wish. Reading the phone while driving is common. Self-checkout eliminates the need to speak to a cashier or a bagger at stores, all leading to a rise, according to a Washington Post article, in our becoming homebodies.

In the confines of our homes, we can do myriad things, such as floss our teeth, and think about the endless puzzles life drops our way.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remember the misrepresentation

To the Editor:

252 years ago, colonists in Boston held a tea party to protest taxation without representation. Today, Thompson's town officials believe in taxation while completely ignoring the will of the 60 percent of voters who have repeatedly said no.

According to last week's letter by the Board of Finance Chair, I am not allowed an opinion on the taxes in Thompson, even though my wife was born here, we have many great friends here, and I have owned property and paid my taxes on time every year for the last 42 years.

Why is the Board of Finance Chair attacking me? Mr. Werge has been trying to persuade taxpayers that the tax increase he proposes is not really a tax increase, and he got caught cooking the numbers. Mr. Werge says we both are using the data provided by the Assessor, but why don't our numbers agree?

It is nice to see that Mr. Werge finally agrees with me that the average property assessment in Thompson increased by 60 percent; I have been using that number since last November when the Assessor informed me, while Mr. Werge has used various numbers from 45.7 to 58 percent.

Before the revaluation, the average property in Thompson was assessed at \$157,000, after a 60 percent increase, that property is now assessed at \$251,200. These numbers are from the assessor, and are the only numbers I use. Mr. Werge refused to accept this truth \$145,000 – \$150,000 pre revaluation and numbers \$218,500 – \$230,000 post revaluation. According to the Assessor's numbers, at 19 mills, the average taxpayer

will see an increase in their property taxes of \$359.53, while Mr. Werge uses \$341. I do not know where he gets his numbers, but I got mine from the assessor.

Worst yet is Mr. Werge's convoluted explanation of motor vehicle taxes. According to data provided by the Assessor, the average motor vehicle in Thompson is assessed at 10,352 and the average taxpayer has 1.8 vehicles. Therefore, the average taxpayer will see a tax reduction of \$169.76 at a mill rate of 19 mills. Mr. Werge, without explaining where he gets his numbers, arrives at a reduction of \$411.

Mr. Werge is being disingenuous in his statements by using below average property values, and above average vehicle values, to arrive at his figures and then stating they are "average." That is how he arrives at his net reduction in taxes of \$70, when in fact using the assessor's numbers, the average taxpayer will see a tax increase of \$189.77 at 19 mills, and this does not include the additional \$100 dump fee added by the Board of Finance.

As the Assessor explained in an email to me, "I just redid the number for residential only properties and at 19.29 and about 20 percent of residential only properties (I excluded mixed use) see a tax reduction. At 17.5, 56 percent of residential properties see a tax reduction."

I recommend Thompson taxpayers remember Mr. Werge's dishonesty when he is up for reelection in November and vote no at the referendum on Aug. 13.

BILL WARNER
THOMPSON

The blame game

To the Editor:

Turmoil in our country. How did this come about? Shall we blame people? Democrats, immigrants, Republicans, MAGA supporters, students, congress-people, judges, former presidents, the current president, all those lawyers, college administrators, Black women, white Christian nationalists, antisemites, Jews, woke scientists and teachers, sex traffickers, right-wing podcasts, left-wing media? And maybe even Hannibal Lecter?

It is easy to blame people; easier even to blame groups of people. And easiest to blame people that you don't like or whom you despise. (Some folks claim to despise certain people, although I am not one of them.) But where does blaming get us? Maybe just a way to feel superior to someone else? And that can only be a sign of doubt of one's own self-worth, in my opinion. Why does anyone need to be "better than" anyone else? Each one of us has her and his story. And if given the opportunity to tell one's story to an interested, caring listener, such stories can explain a lot. And highlight our shared humanity. Like it or not, we are all in this together. And, I believe, we are now in a mess.

So maybe it is more useful to take a look at some facts that brought our country to this point, rather than to try finding someone to blame. Blame always has an element of emotion to it, from what I have seen. Facts can also bring up feelings, but that is not the purpose of fact-finding. We seek the truth of our situation, existence, decision-making or of what we have witnessed. Or we can shy away, be a by-stander who cheers or boo's those who take action or put their minds to unraveling mysteries.

I've been giving a lot of thought to what key decisions have led us to the us-vs.-them mentality so prevalent now. It is hurtful to examine how it is now just fine to hurt certain other people or to wish "them" ill, want "them" to shed tears and to find no safe haven. That is the exact opposite of the values that I grew up with in our little village of South Killingly many decades ago. "How can I help?" was often the main question I heard adults ask. And the arguments I heard about money were almost exclusively words like: "Oh, no, I will pay for this, you have enough to take care of." Yes, my people would try to be the one who paid for a little treat or would give away time, labor, or a spare household item to a neighbor or friend. My family members were rural, working people who valued relationships and what we learned in church over material wealth. Yes, you needed money, but becoming rich was never a goal. Boy, I'm sounding a bit crazy here in this very different world!

Back to how we got into this very different world where your financial holdings seem to put you above those with less material wealth. (And now someone will probably accuse me of being a Communist. I'm not.) Our polit-

Moral compass

To the Editor:

How far down the rabbit hole of deceit and greed must we go before we stand up to fight back? Where is our moral compass? To quote Jen Easterly: "The world needs your strength, your courage, your warrior spirit, your will to win...But it also needs your empathy, your intellect, your humility, your integrity."

The time is now.

KAREN RYKER
WOODSTOCK

Trump, "You can't handle the truth!"

To the Editor:

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has been a trusted, nonpartisan institution for 141 years. It collects, processes, and reports critical data about the American economy. Data used by everyone from Congress to local governments, businesses, and everyday citizens. It has maintained this role through every administration, regardless of which party held the White House. Now, that independence is under threat.

President Trump is politicizing the BLS for doing its job, reporting the truth. The economic reality it presents doesn't align with the Administration's narrative, and instead of addressing the problems with its Project 2025 policies, the President is again attacking the messenger. Most recently, he fired the BLS Commissioner, reportedly for "making him look bad." That's not leadership. That's authoritarianism.

It is clear by the data: the economy is slowing. The BLS recently revised job gains from May and June downward by 258,000. In July, the U.S. added only 73,000 jobs. The federal government shed 12,000 jobs last month and has lost 84,000 jobs since January. These aren't just numbers, they reflect a shrinking public workforce and a softening job market. Unemployment claims will likely rise next, as layoffs ripple through the economy. The average number of jobs added per month this year is the weakest since the first half of 2010, according to Forbes. That's not political spin, it's fact.

The BLS data reflects the consequences of Trump's chaotic economic policy. The Federal Reserve warned

that the effects of President Trump's tariffs on the economy have yet to be seen. Trump's tariffs are continuing to create uncertainty for businesses. American businesses are holding off on hiring and expanding while absorbing the costs of tariffs. As their costs go up and profit margins shrink, those costs are being passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices. Experts are warning that inflation is on the horizon.

Meanwhile, mass deportations are taking a toll. The claim that Americans are eager to take over jobs "stolen" by immigrants, sit vacant now due to deported immigrants (whether here legally or not). These immigrant workers are vital to many sectors of the economy, and their removal creates disruption, not opportunity.

This moment calls for action. Economists, business leaders, and former officials are sounding the alarm. USA Today described the recent jobs report as adding "to a dimming outlook for the U.S. economy." The New York Times put it bluntly: "You are entitled to your own opinions, but not your own facts. President Trump seems determined to prove that wrong."

This isn't reality TV (a.k.a. "The Apprentice"). It's real life. And the American people deserve truth.

We need to push back. Contact our representatives. Demand accountability. Defend the integrity of institutions like the BLS. Because when facts are erased and experts silenced, democracy itself is on the line.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

What executives planning to retire in the next five years need to consider now

The corner office view is still spectacular, but lately you've found yourself gazing out the window a little longer, imagining what life could look like beyond corporate boardrooms and quarterly earnings calls. If retirement is on your five-year horizon, you're in a unique position as an executive to make strategic moves now that can dramatically impact your financial security and lifestyle in retirement.



Your strategic advantage

As a business leader, you've mastered strategic planning for your organization. But when it comes to personal retirement strategy, the complexity of executive compensation packages, stock options, and deferred compensation plans creates a planning landscape that requires sophisticated expertise.

The good news? You likely have access to financial tools that can significantly accelerate your path to retirement—if managed strategically. The challenge? These same benefits can create tax implications and timing considerations that, if overlooked, could cost you tens of thousands in retirement income.

Your five-year roadmap starts today

Maximize your compensation package strategically: Your executive compensation is likely your most powerful wealth-building tool, but it requires careful orchestration. If you have restricted stock units (RSUs), stock options, or deferred compensation plans, now is the time to develop a tax-efficient strategy for exercising and diversifying these holdings.

Consider our client Rick's story: through strategic planning around his corporate benefits, together we were able to create a realistic path for him to retire at 60, telling us afterwards, "WHZ, With your team's transparency, patience, and sophistication in maximizing my corporate benefits and overall financial plan, I now have a realistic path to retire at 60. Thank you!"¹ The key was developing a comprehensive approach that balanced maximizing his compensation package while positioning for long-term growth and tax efficiency.

¹ This statement was provided 3/18/2024 by Rick Harvey who is a client. This statement may not be representative of the experience of others and is not a guarantee of future performance or success. For additional reviews, search us wherever local businesses are reviewed. Read Rick's full story at whzwealth.com/client-stories.

Navigate the new tax landscape with precision: The tax planning landscape has dramatically shifted with President Trump's signing of the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" on July 4, 2025. This landmark legislation has made permanent many of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provisions, including lower individual tax rates, increased standard deductions, and enhanced estate tax exemptions.

For executives planning retirement, this creates both immediate opportunities and long-term planning clarity. The permanent extension of favorable tax rates means your retirement income projections can now be made with greater certainty. However, new provisions like the temporary senior deduction

for those 65 and older; modifications to the SALT cap, and changes to business deductions create fresh strategic planning opportunities that require immediate attention.

Build your diversified foundation: If a significant portion of your wealth is tied up in company stock, your five-year retirement timeline creates urgency around diversification. Market volatility can be devastating to retirement plans that are over-concentrated in a single company.

Address the healthcare transition: One of the most overlooked aspects of executive retirement planning is the transition from corporate health benefits to Medicare and supplemental coverage. Healthcare costs can be one of the largest expenses in retirement, and the gap between losing executive-level benefits and Medicare eligibility can be financially significant.

Create your legacy framework

Estate planning with enhanced permanence: The One Big Beautiful Bill Act has permanently increased the estate and gift tax exemption to \$15 million per individual (\$30 million for married couples), indexed for inflation. This represents a significant increase and provides substantial planning opportunities for executives with considerable wealth.

With the new permanent exemption, many executives now have additional flexibility in their legacy planning. However, this enhanced exemption also means that existing estate planning strategies may need recalibration to maximize their effectiveness under the new tax environment.

Income replacement strategy: The transition from executive-level compensation to retirement income represents one of the most significant lifestyle adjustments you'll make. Developing a comprehensive income replacement strategy that accounts for Social Security optimization, pension maximization, and systematic withdrawal from investment accounts requires careful coordination and timing.

Many executives are surprised to learn that maintaining their pre-retirement lifestyle may require 80-90 percent income replacement, particularly when factoring in healthcare costs, travel plans, and the reality that many retirees actually increase spending in the early years of retirement.

Your next steps

If you're an executive planning to retire within the next five years, your window for strategic planning is narrowing. The financial moves you make in the coming months could impact your retirement security and lifestyle for decades.

Consider conducting a comprehensive review of your current financial position, including analysis of your executive compensation optimization opportunities, tax-efficient diversification strategies, and retirement income replacement planning.

Remember, you've spent your career making strategic decisions that drive organizational success. Your retirement deserves the same level of strategic

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.



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

Plant a bit of shade

Summer heat may have you seeking comfort from a nearby shade tree. You immediately experience as much as a 15 to 20 degree drop in temperature and enjoy the relief it provides. Bring this shady relief home by looking for ways to include trees in your landscape. First, monitor patterns of sun and shade on and around your home throughout the day and throughout the year as the angle and position of the sun changes. Observe the impact your home, neighboring homes, sheds and existing plantings have on the sunlight reaching your landscape. Consider providing welcome shade where needed during the hottest hours of the day and weeks of the year. Look for opportunities to plant trees where you can



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make a difference in your comfort and money spent cooling your home. Plant trees, if space allows, near those areas where you spend time outdoors. Shading patios and decks makes them more inviting on a hot summer day. Deciduous trees that drop their leaves in winter allow you to soak up some welcome sunshine during the cooler months of the year. Maximize the cooling benefits to your home by planting trees on the east and west side of your house. Shading the roof,

walls and windows greatly reduces heat gain and energy needed to cool your home. Since about 75 percent of the heat gain in a building comes through the windows, shading them can greatly increase your comfort and reduce money spent cooling your home. Once again, deciduous trees provide needed shade in summer and allow warming sunlight into homes during the cooler months. Don't overlook paved areas near your home that greatly impact the air temperature. Shading paved drives and walks reduces heat absorbed that is released back into the surrounding air. Lowering the temperature of the space around your home helps lower the indoor temperature.

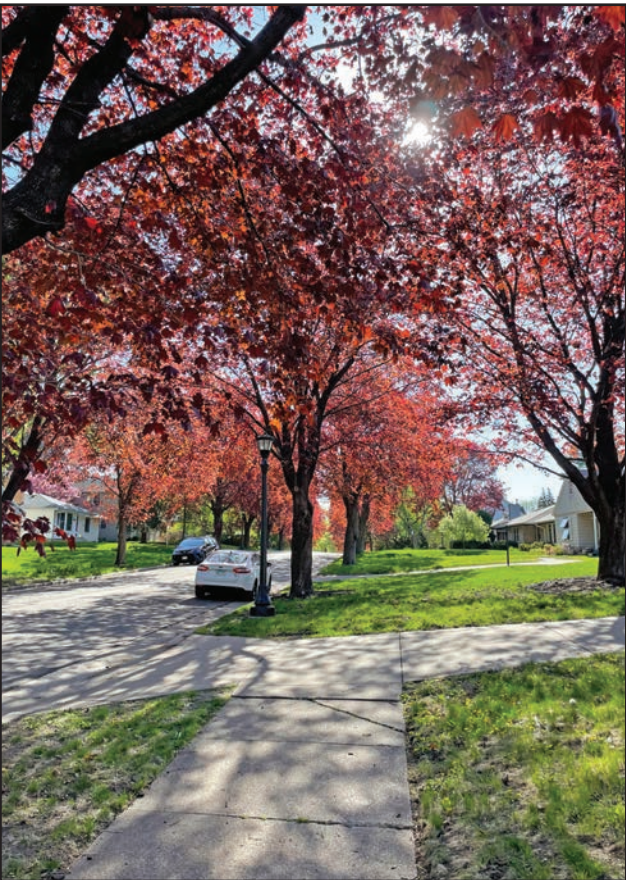
Shading an air conditioner can increase its efficiency by as much as ten percent, reducing energy use and saving you money. If space is limited, consider planting a shade-producing shrub or vine trained on a trellis. Be sure to provide space around the unit for needed airflow.

Avoid underground and overhead utilities when planting trees. Tall trees that eventually grow into the wires or structures may interfere with utilities and power transmission, creating a real hazard. Improper placement results in pruning that ruins their beauty or requires removal, eliminating any benefit they provided. Always call 811 as you plan new plantings and at least three business days before placing the first shovel in the ground. It can help reduce the risk of injury and avoid the inconvenience that can happen when you damage an underground utility.

Consult your local university extension service and energy company for plant selection and placement recommendations for your area. Those living in wildfire prone areas need to also consider fire-safe landscaping practices.

No room to plant trees on your property? Consider joining the local tree board or other tree planting group. Adding trees to your community can help you and your neighbors create a healthier, cooler environment that everyone can enjoy.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books,



Melinda Myers

Norway maples providing shade and cooling the yards, sidewalk and street.

including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden

Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

The evolution of the Quiet Corner's roads

Putnam Library & Aspinock Historical Society: Wednesday, Aug. 20, 6-7 p.m. Author Talk and Book signing. Patricia Suprenant Behind the Scarlett Letter. "Based on a True Story. Inspired by the 1820 trial of Rev. Ammi Rogers, the novel unearths a scandal that not only shaped early American views on morality and justice, but also influenced the 19th century 'reverend rake' genre—including Nathaniel Hawthorne's the Scarlett Letter. This remarkable case also laid the groundwork for Roe vs. Wade. Patricia will share insights from her extensive research, explore the craft of historical fiction, and introduce the real-life Eastern Connecticut figures behind the story."



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to travelers." Ayres referenced Ellen Larned's History of Windham County, Connecticut so I turned to that source. "More than a mile of thin road passed through his land and was greatly improved by him and kept in order. Two smaller bridges were also built by him in this vicinity, and much money expended in clearing the channel of the river. For these various public services and improvements Mr. Morris was freed for ten years for payment of county taxes." (Larned, I, p. 147; Swordsmith edition). (Notice several differences in 18th century Connecticut—county taxes and being freed from paying them for ten years for all that work).

East-west Native American trails also existed between the Hartford and Providence area. Ayres noted, "The pioneer tie between Providence and Rhode Island and the Hartford settlements, was intimate. Roger Williams visited the Connecticut settlements often. Miantonomo, high lord of the Narragansetts journeyed to Hartford with princely entourage in those years when the intrigues of Uncas were threatening his security" (p. 193).

"A Narragansett trail of the Indian ages appears to have crossed the Quinebaug and the Five Mile (formerly Assawaga) River at or near Killingly..." Parts of present-day Route 101 approximate this trail.

Likewise, numerous sites on the internet reference Route 44 as being made up of old Native American paths. Killingly's and Putnam's first settlers, Richard Evans and his son Richard Evans, Jr. and their families settled not far from present-day Route 44 in 1693. (Think near Fox Road in Putnam, just south of the junction of Route 44 and Route 21). His wife inherited land over the border in what is Chepachet, RI and they moved to that community.

I do not own a copy of Ayres' book, which is rare, and considered a reference book, so have not had the good fortune to discover what he says about other roads in this area. Perhaps in time. It's always in the back of my mind because after natural resources, transportation networks, have a major impact on the growth of most towns. Just think about what happened when the railroad arrived and has continued to hap-

pen at the exits along I-395 in Northeastern Connecticut.

Hutchins Tavern. Does that ring a bell? Where are you in Killingly? What about the Benjamin Franklin House? I'll give you several clues. We're in the 1830's, before the railroad, and both are on a main stagecoach road. (Yes, here's another instance of transportation leading to commercial development). Still clueless? The road went between Providence and Hartford and crossed the Quinebaug River on an old "Brooklyn Bridge."

You are on Franklin Street-Water Street in Danielson. The section of Route 6 that now goes into Danielson did not yet exist. The original Danielson factory was located nearby not far from where the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry now stands. The Hutchins Tavern, built circa 1831 by Randall and Joseph Davis served "as a stage stop and boarding house for factory works and railroad laborers. The tavern was sold to Silas Hutchins in 1837. At various times, it was called the old Hutchins Stand and the Railroad House." ("Images of America Killingly" by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer, photo p. 11). The circa 1835 Ben Franklin House is still standing on the southeast corner of that same road (Franklin Street) at its intersection with Broad Street/Green Hollow Road. That was the junction of two stagecoach roads, one from Norwich to Worcester and the other from Providence to Hartford. The tavern soon was called Kies Tavern after a new owner, Harris Kies. (Images of America, photo p. 11). (If you're not from the immediate area and can't place Franklin Street, think St. James Church).

Do you know where Felshaw Tavern is? One of the oldest extant taverns in the area, situated on Putnam Heights (formerly Killingly Hill) it dates back to 1742 and was also on the stage road from Norwich to Worcester. It is located on the northeast corner of Route 21 at its junction with Five Mile River Road in present-day Putnam and was owned for many years by John Felshaw. A militia meeting place during the Revolutionary era, it was also on a road to Providence (Five Mile River Road). (For a photo see Images of America Killingly Revisited by Natalie L. Coolidge, p.38).

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, July 2025. For additional information email me at margaretm-weaver@gmail.com or

Clarification

THOMPSON — An article submitted for publication in last week's edition profiling Thompson's Veteran of the Month, Richard Majercik, mentioned that he and his mortuary team embalmed U.S. military casualties for their return home during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Majercik would like to clarify that although his team personally prepared 8,700 soldiers killed in action for their final journey home, as reported in the article, that was a far cry from the total number of more than 28,000 U.S. casualties during his time in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968.

Courtesy

In May 2025, Emma R. Carpenter, a 2022 graduate and Valedictorian of Killingly High School, completed her junior year at the University of St. Joseph, West Hartford. She is enrolled in the Medical Sciences undergraduate program, and was recently selected by USJ to continue into their Direct Entry Physician's Assistant Program in the Spring Semester of 2026. She also attained Dean's List academic status in her freshman year, and has maintained it through her junior year. Carpenter was also a two-year member of the USJ Blue Jays softball team and starting 3rd Baseman. In the 2024 season, she was elected to the 3rd team all Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC).



Courtesy

Families and friends of the Daughters of Isabella gathered at the scenic Roseland Park on July 19 to enjoy a day filled with laughter, and good food under the warm summer sun. The Daughters of Isabella is a charitable organization of Catholic women founded on the principles of Unity, Friendship and Charity. The group hosts charitable activities, fund-raisers, and social interactions to encourage community support.

Living on your street

I have had the privilege of visiting many famous streets in the world. Here are a few:

Bourbon St. in New Orleans, La.

6th St. in Austin, Texas

Boston Post Rd. (US Route 1)

Wall St. and Broadway in New York City

The Via Dola Rosa in Jerusalem

Lombard St. in San Francisco, Calif.

Champs-Élysées in Paris, France

Route 66 and The Pacific Highway

Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.

The Royal Mile in Edinburgh, Scotland

Santa Monica and Sunset Boulevards



BEYOND THE PEWS

BY BISHOP JOHN W. HANSON

ACTS II MINISTRIES

in Los Angeles, Calif.

But not one of those streets really changed my life. I'm not even real sure why some of them are so famous. I also noted that some of them were rather ordinary or even below average, if you happened on a particular segment of the road. Yet, they represent glamour, money, fame or romance; people dream of visiting or living at one of those addresses.

I do remember when my life was significantly affected on a street. My wife and I were traveling through a town in Montana and had just stopped to get a milkshake. As we pulled out onto the busy highway we came to a stop at a red light. Although the incident took place forty years ago, I remember it well. I was waiting for the light to change and taking pity on my milkshake when suddenly, we were

violently jarred, and I saw my shake flying toward the windshield. A newly licensed teenager was trying to impress his friends and failed to even brake. His carelessness totaled my car and gave me whiplash that has cause me physical discomfort for decades. That street changed my life, but to be honest, I don't even remember the name of the street, or the town we were passing through. My point is: life is more about living that it is about places or even status.

God has given each of us the gift of living, not just gifts for living. With His help, we can live on any street. The name or status of the street is not important. How people live there is what matters to them and to those close to them. It is people who are living well and loving well that eventually make the name of the street meaningful to those whose lives they touched.

There are some streets that were very important to my life:

The one I grew up on

The one I built a house and two churches on

The one I lived on for twenty years after moving to New England

People made those streets important. Life is where you live. Don't try to live

elsewhere.

While giving marriage counseling the Apostle Paul gave this advice: "And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there." (I Corinthians 7:17 msg) He spoke from experience, because he found himself in many difficult situations as he attempted to share the Gospel. But God helped him make peace with living by embracing misfortune and opposition and living with a positive attitude anyway. As a result, the life he lived affected billions of people over a period of 2000 years.

Always wanting to be someone or somewhere else is a waste of life. Usually when you get to a famous street or learn about a famous person, you discover that their life has the same kind of challenges and glitches that your life has. But no one has been given the unique opportunity you have to live your life, right there on your street.

Bishop John W Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more information, please visit www.ActsII.org.

A successful Summer Reading Program

BY JARED JACAVONE
DIRECTOR

THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Last week marked the end of the Summer Reading Program at the Thompson Public Library. Now that the final numbers are officially in, we are excited to share the wonderful statistics accomplished by our youngest patrons.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge set participants on a mission to read multiple books over the course of summer to earn various prizes. The top-tier prize for reading 20 books or more included a free doughnut from Dunkin', a free ice cream from Bogey's, a free book of their choice, and three prizes they could select from Floyd the Dragon's treasure chest.

We are proud to announce that we had a total of 181 participants this year, and of these, 81 completed the full Challenge of reading 20 books or more. Overall, 1,733 books were read throughout the Program, which equates to approximately 166,250 pages. Congratulations to all of our Summer Reading Program participants on this fantastic achievement!

Special thanks to the Friends of the Thompson Public Library, Bogey's Ice Cream and Snack Shop, and Dunkin' for making this year's Summer Reading Program possible and for supporting childhood literacy.

While the Summer Reading Program has concluded for our youngest patrons, we are accepting reading logs for our Adult Summer Reading Program through Friday, August 15th. If you turn in five book reviews along with your completed reading log of ten books, you will receive an additional entry for the prize drawings. This year's prizes include gift cards to LB's, iTunes, the Mill Town Grille, Leona's Baking Company, Bear Hands Brewing, Renee's Bistro, Elizabeth's Farmhouse, Dunkin' Donuts, and much more.

If you have any questions about our Summer Reading Program, please stop by the front desk or call us at 860-923-9779.

Your library: A partner in lifelong learning

BY CLAUDETTE STOCKWELL
DIRECTOR

KILLINGLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Learning doesn't stop after school—it's a lifelong journey, and your local library is here to support you every step of the way. Thinking about launching your own small business? The Small Business Reference Center Database offers a wealth of resources to help answer your questions and guide your venture in the right direction.

Preparing for job interviews? The JobNow database connects you with Brainfuse Interview Coaches who can help you build confidence, tackle tough questions, and make a lasting impression on potential employers. Want to improve your computer skills? With Northstar Digital Literacy, you can learn at your own pace, strengthen your tech proficiency, and earn certificates to showcase your expertise. Whether you're starting a business, searching for a job, or building new skills, your library has the tools to help you succeed.

Stop by and explore what's possible! Connect with us at 25 Westcott Rd., Killingly, online at killinglypl.org, or call 860-779-5383.

PUTNAM—Car enthusiasts from all over are expected to pack Putnam for one of the biggest and most popular Car Cruises of the summer, The Putnam Main Street Car Cruise, Sunday, Aug. 10 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.!

Registration for vehicles starts at 8 a.m., and it is free to register. Volunteers will be posted around town wearing bright safety vests handing out registration packets that include a Registration & Judging Card to display on your windshield for "Choice Trophy Winner" eligibility.

ity, Map of the downtown and park area showing dining and our gracious sponsors, ATMs and other points of interest, a Dash Plaque featuring a classic vehicle, plus a raffle ticket to win a gift card at a local restaurant.

Custom Motorcycles, Custom Hot Rods, and Classic Cars will flood the Downtown Putnam area and Rotary Park! Trophies will be awarded in many categories! Make sure to check out the 24k Gold Plated Delorean in Rotary Park! Please be mindful that there is no reserved parking. Be

patient with others as the crowd is always huge and excited on this day!

With the large number of crowds expected, several streets will be closed, including Kennedy Drive, Massicotte Circle, and Main Street. Please plan alternate routes.

Don't miss the family-friendly "Pluck-A-Duck" Kids Corner in Rotary Park! Bounce Houses, Photo Booth, Arts & Crafts Tent, Xen's Critters petting zoo, Balloons by Bella, Face Painting, and a Celebrity Dunk Tank are just a few quacktastic things for the

kiddos to enjoy. Definitely take advantage of the last day to buy your "Pluck-A-Duck" tickets for just \$5 each. Purchase your duck ticket in Rotary Park and look for the mobile duck cart as it travels through town. The list of prizes is huge! As in more than 125 prizes!

Enjoy music during the event provided by WINY Radio. Simply enjoy it all!

Don't miss out! Come join the excitement and experience of this ginormous free family-friendly Car Cruise, Sunday, Aug. 10!

Rebecca Nazer earns SUNY Cortland Dean's List honors

CORTLAND, N.Y. — Rebecca Nazer of Woodstock was among the 2,737 students named to the Dean's List at SUNY Cortland for the Spring 2025 semester. Nazer's major is Business Economics.

The Dean's List is the highest ranking for undergraduate students in their respective academic areas of the university. Students must earn a minimum 3.3 grade point average for the semester to make the list.

Each of SUNY Cortland's three schools publishes its own Dean's List. They are the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Professional Studies and the School of Education.

SUNY Cortland is one of New York's top public universities, offering a high-value education spanning 68 undergraduate majors in diverse fields that include education, business economics, exercise science, sport management and biological sciences. This mid-sized institution, located in the geographic heart of New York state, provides a high quality of student life, outstanding faculty and extensive out-of-classroom educational experiences. Since 1868, it has offered students the educational experiences they need to turn their dreams into careers. Learn more at Cortland.edu.

New sculpture dedicated at Putnam High School

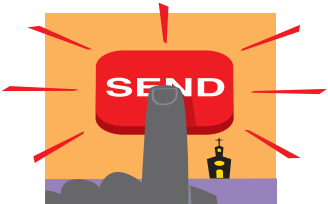
PUTNAM — When the members of the Putnam High School class of 1963 got together in 2023 for their 60th class reunion, they decided that they wanted to leave a legacy and remembrance of their time at the school. They wanted something that would be visible and that would be a symbol of the school's nickname "Putnam Clippers." They decided on a metal sculpture in the shape of a clipper ship. The sculpture would hang on one of the walls at the school and would be a proud reminder of the accomplishments of all the students of Putnam High, past, present and future.

On Wednesday, June 25, members of the class met school Principal Heather Taylor for the dedication of the sculpture. Classmates who attended the event agreed that the time it took to get the project completed was worth the wait. They wish to express their appreciation to all the class members who were part of funding the project and, especially, to Jessica McComiskey, the artist who created the ship.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



brendan@villagernewspapers.com



VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of July 28: Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Mockingbird, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Catbird, Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Towhee, Downey Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron, Wild Turkey, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk

GROWN
continued from page A1

They really are a community that supports each other and that's something so important to our town, to share that with newcomers and help these farms to survive," Monahan said.

One farm that hosted a fair of its own was Echo Farm, co-owned by Bruce Zube who spent the day showing guests the locally sourced goods in the farm's barn shop. He said Locally Grown Day offers an opportunity for local businesses to invite newcomers and regulars to see what they're all about.

"It's a way of putting the community together and just having a good

time. It gets people who aren't familiar with Echo Farms more familiar with what we do. Bottom line is it's just a day for the whole community to have fun," said Zube.

Locally Grown Day is confirmed to be returning for a sixth year in 2026, but this time with larger aspirations in mind. Event coordinators are hoping to include outside producers in the mix with a region-wide farmers market event although the finer details of those ambitions have yet to be worked out. If the success of year five, considered the most successful year to date, is any evidence, next year could prove to continue that growth and be an even bigger year in more ways than one.



Breakfast is served by volunteers at the Senexet Grange in the first official event of year five of Locally Grown Day.

BROOKLYN
continued from page A1

take on the proposal was that it would allow him to focus his time on heavier trafficked areas.

"If I can focus my attention on where most accidents occur in town, I'd almost rather do that than worry about that one speeder on that one specific street," Trooper Ambrose said.

One of the biggest sticking points for residents at the July meeting was that no solid numbers were available for voters to consider. In April, it was explained that the first camera would be given to the town free of charge, but the town would need to pay for additional cameras. Some figures had been estimated in prior Board of Selectmen meetings, but a precise cost of the installations was not available during the July town meeting. This combined with concerns over the concept of privatizing a portion of traffic enforcement led voters to table the ordinance for future discussion.

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.



FUNDRAISING
continued from page A1

vious home.

Houses are built on titled land over a period of several months. The visiting US team members help build the foundation, floor and walls. The plumbing, electric and roof are done by

local contractors hired through PID. This home carries a mortgage paid to PID over 20-30 years. It is not a gift.

The PID model of development is like a ladder where child sponsorship is the first rung on the ladder. The next steps may be microbusiness loans and home building. PID is about providing

hardworking people with tools and opportunities to improve their lives. This is not a hand out. It is a hand up. Many of the sponsored children, who ordinarily would not have been educated beyond 4th grade, go on to complete 9 or more years of school and may even go to college. When you sponsor a child through

PID, you help not only that child but the entire family. Where else can you do more with your charitable dollars?

If you would like to join a team travelling to Guatemala or have questions, contact Mitzi Davis, MD at connect9295@gmail.com. Our teams typically travel in the winter, provide medical

care and do construction, such as installation of cooking stoves or painting a house. If you would like to sponsor a child through PID, go to: www.pidonline.org and find "Be a sponsor." Watch for news about an annual pig roast next spring.

FINANCIAL
continued from page A5

thinking and guidance. If you're ready to create your strategic retirement plan, get in touch with our team here at WHZ. We're experienced in helping executives optimize their compensation packages and develop sophisticated retirement

strategies. We understand the unique challenges you face and the opportunities available to you. See how we can help to provide you with "Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life." Contact us for a complimentary consultation at whzwealth.com or call (860) 928-2341.

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your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

Break the rules!

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

unwritten rules—and was winning big.

Top performers don't follow rules—they rethink them. Research at Harvard Business School and Columbia shows that people who break norms (nonconformists) are often perceived as more powerful and more competent. One study found that entrepreneurs who take strategic risks and ignore conventional advice are more likely to create successful ventures than those who play it safe.

The girls weren't great dribblers, couldn't shoot from distance, and had no height advantage. But they had something nobody else did: an unconventional strategy and unwavering attitude.

As the first games kicked off, Redwood City stunned opponents with how quickly they scored—and how consistently they pressed.

They jumped out to early leads—4-0, 6-0, even 12-0. One game ended with them leading 25-0 before the other team even scored. Instead of retreating after scoring, they hustled back, applied pressure on every inbounds pass, and swarmed players off the ball. Teams used to long periods of transition now found themselves stuck in chaos before they could cross midcourt.

Opposing coaches fumed on the sidelines. One even confronted Vivek in the parking lot, furious that this "skinny foreign guy" was defying tradition—and winning. Every whistle signaled a barrage of fouls called on Redwood City—referees seemed determined to break them. But the girls adjusted. Instead of folding, they learned to play without pressing at times, weaving traditional basketball in between the chaos.

Through all the drama, they stayed unbeaten in most of their regular season. They won

the local league, then the regionals, then advanced deep into the Northern California tournament. Each win built their stamina, sharpened their cohesion, and deepened belief in the system and each other.

By season's end, Redwood City had stormed through their local league and advanced all the way to the national Junior Basketball championship tournament!

In the end, Redwood City didn't win the national championship. They came up short in the final rounds. But by then, the point had already been proven.

A team of middle school girls with no height, no elite skills, and no basketball pedigree had made it to the biggest stage in the country for teams their age—by doing what nobody else dared to do.

They didn't cheat. They didn't bend the rulebook. But they did break the unwritten rules—the ones that say, "This is how the game is supposed to be played."

They rewrote the script. And almost won it all.

Because sometimes, if you want to win—if you want to slay the giants, shatter the odds, or change the game—you don't follow the rules.

You break them.

With intention. With intelligence. With guts.

And sometimes, that's enough to change everything.



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SPORTS
FACT:

The earliest balls used in this sport were made from feathers and called “featheries.”

Answer: Golf

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	0	20	26
4	1		20
2			17
12	10	41	

9	6	2
15	1	4
20	0	9
Solution		

THIS
DAY IN
HISTORY



1100: Henry I is crowned King of England.

1620: The Mayflower departs from Southampton, England, carrying would-be settlers to North America.

1914: In Cleveland, Ohio, the first electric traffic light is installed.

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

HLEO NI NOE

Answer: Hole in one

NEW
WORD

BOGEY

a score of one stroke over par at a hole in golf

“How they say that in...”

English: Club (golf)
Spanish: Palo de golf
Italian: Mazza
French: Club
German: Golfschläger

Did You Know?

Buzz Aldrin, who served as Commander of Apollo 14, swung a golf club on the moon and sent two golf balls into space.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Golf club

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to eye health.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 1 = S)

A. 14 17 1 17 10 13
Clue: Sight

B. 1 18 13 25 3 5 1 1 8 1
Clue: Tinted lenses

C. 8 6 5 11
Clue: Test

D. 21 4 10 22 8 15 22
Clue: Care for

Answers: A. vision B. sunglasses C. exam D. protect

SUDOKU

	8			9				
	3						9	2
			3	6			7	
		7	2			8		
					1			
	1	2						3
2	9	8		5				6
		4						
						1	5	

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	7	3	9	2	8	1	5	4
1	5	4	6	7	3	2	8	9
2	9	8	1	5	4	7	3	6
5	1	2	7	8	6	9	4	3
8	4	9	5	3	1	6	2	7
3	6	7	2	4	9	8	1	5
9	2	1	3	6	5	4	7	8
4	3	6	8	1	7	5	9	2
7	8	5	4	9	2	3	6	1

ANSWER:

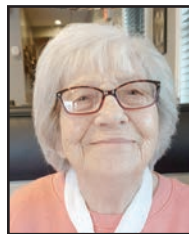
N. Frederick Mooers, 85



Fred was a man of quiet strength and unwavering devotion to his family. He is survived by his loving wife of many years, Barbara (Westfall) Mooers, and their sons, Jeffrey and Todd, as well as several cherished grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Shirlev (Mooers) Mancini.

For memorial guestbook please visit
www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Violet Duff, 95



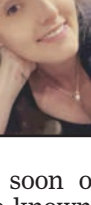
Violet was a devout Catholic. She worked as a Presser for a Dry-Cleaning Co. She loved her Disney movies and loved to make people laugh. She was a very family-oriented woman. Violet was a lover of animals and was a very kind hearted woman.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, August 2, 2025 at 10:00 AM at St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence Street, Putnam, CT, burial followed in St. Mary Cemetery, Putnam, CT. Share a memory at [Smithandwalkerfh.com](https://www.smithandwalkerfh.com)

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



Rebecca Marie Rioux



It is with the heaviest of hearts that we share the devastating news of the unexpected passing of Rebecca Marie Rioux, a beautiful young mother who left this world and entered the gates of Heaven far too soon on July 22nd, 2025. Becca, also known lovingly to many as Becca Boo, was born on July 1st, 1989. She is survived by her three beautiful children who were her absolute pride and joy; Landon Allen Boice, Carson Blake Cote, and Callianna Mae Justice. Her love for them was unwavering, fierce, and unconditional. In addition to her children, she is survived by her mother Michele Anne Sabourin and step-father Rick Sabourin, father Randy W. Rioux Sr., (Kenda), her siblings Randy Rioux Jr., Alyssa Carbone (Robbie), and Ashleigh Sabourin (Logan). As well as her maternal grandmother, Sandra Long and her paternal grandfather Roger Rioux. She also leaves behind several aunts, uncles, cousins, and countless friends. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Allen Ernest Long and her paternal grandmother Darlene Marie Rioux (Hoover). Becca was truly beautiful inside and out. Her radiant smile, contagious laugh, and fun-loving spirit lit up every room she entered. She lived

Services have been entrusted to Tillinghast Funeral Home at 433 Main St. in Danielson, and all those who loved Becca are invited to pay their respects on Monday, August 4, 2025 from 2-6pm with a Memorial Service starting at 5pm. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that you consider making a donation to the GoFundMe page created in Becca's honor. All proceeds will go directly to support her beloved children, helping to provide for their needs and secure a more stable future during this incredibly difficult time. Your generosity and support mean more than words can express. GoFundMe | The #1 Crowdfunding and Fundraising Platform [tillinghastfh.com](https://www.tillinghastfh.com)

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LEGALS

J Gloria Lee (25-00304)

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Robert D Lee
c/o THERESA IMPERATO
MADONNA, LAW OFFICE OF
THERESA I. MADONNA, LLC,
110 MAIN STREET,
JEWETT CITY, CT 06351
August 8, 2025

Phyllis J Gibney (25-00299)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 29, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Tracy Vayo,
15 Center Street, Putnam, CT 06260
August 8, 2025

The first quarter installment of real estate and personal property taxes for the Town of Killingly, the Borough of Danielson, and South Killingly Fire District listed on the October 1, 2024 Grand List are due August 1, 2025. Also motor vehicle taxes are due August 1, 2025. Taxes will become delinquent after September 2, 2025. All bills are subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date of August 1, 2025. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE OBLIGATION OF TAX OR INTEREST.

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
July 25, 2025
August 8, 2025
August 29, 2025

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:

Nancy Borner
c/o CAROLINE ELISABETH DEMIRS,
CUMMINGS & LOCKWOOD LLC,
75 ISHAM ROAD, SUITE 400,
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107
Alexander B Benkhart
c/o CAROLINE ELISABETH DEMIRS,
CUMMINGS & LOCKWOOD LLC,
75 ISHAM ROAD, SUITE 400,
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107
August 8, 2025

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Cynthia Dunne
c/o MARK R BROUILLARD, ST
ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE
171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
August 8, 2025

A Primary will be held September 9, 2025, if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidates(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on August 6, 2025. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from: Francis J. McGarry, Republican Registrar of Voters, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT.
Renee Waldron, Town Clerk
Thompson, CT
July 30, 2025
August 8, 2025

A Primary will be held September 9, 2025, if, for a particular office, the number of party-endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceed the maximum number which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. on August 6, 2025. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidates, including schedules, may be obtained from: A. Aileen Witkowski, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT.
Renee Waldron, Town Clerk
Thompson, CT
July 30, 2025
August 8, 2025



Jason Bleau

4-H members participate in a cow show, one of many animals shows throughout the weekend at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds.



An instructor teaches 4-H members the finer points of showmanship helping prepare them for future competition.

Brooklyn hosts annual 4-H Fair

BROOKLYN — The Brooklyn Fair once again played host to the annual Windham County 4-H Fair where local 4-H Club members and supporters of local agriculture turned out for a delightful weekend that for some time has served as a precursor to fair season in the Quiet Corner. From July 25 through July 27, the grounds hosted a variety of shows and displays showcasing animals and young professionals helping to keep the region's agricultural spirit alive. The event also included art and a home show portion showcasing some of the other talents of the 4-H members. The Brooklyn Fairgrounds will next host the annual Brooklyn Fair at the end of August.



This adorable and well-groomed animal named Archer was a popular draw for guests to the outside stables during the 4-H Fair.



Working steers and the handlers showed off their coordination and partnership as they made their way around one of the fairground's pens.



Young showmen and show women prepare animals for their big event.



4-H members showed off more than just animals. The home show portion of the fair presented a selection of fresh and homemade farm goods, a staple of any agricultural fair.



ABOVE: Young 4-H members clean the cages of the rabbit display, a popular stopping point for visitors through the fairgrounds.

AT LEFT: While 4-H is heavily themed around agriculture, there are plenty of artists involved too and their pieces were put front and center during the -H Fair.



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