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Killingly Board of Education approves funding for access road design

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Board of Education approved two investments to help improve facilities and accessibility at Killingly High School. The first project will be repairs to the school's tennis court and the second will design a new access road to the grounds.

Both expenditures were approved in June totaling a combined \$260,165.97 from non-lapsing funds. The improvements at the tennis court will bring much-needed repairs to the facility while the district prepares for a larger replacement project. Assistant Superintendent of Killingly Schools Jeffrey Guiot explained that the current conditions make the court unusable, but a temporary fix will allow for activities at the facility while a long-term plan is finalized.

"They are in pretty bad shape. They're close to needing to be completely replaced. We met with a company that gave us some options as to what to do from a full replacement to one step before that, and one step before that will give us an additional five years of use of the tennis courts before we have to figure out what the long-term plan is going to be," said Guiot.

The rehabilitation project will include cleaning and repairs, a new coating, repainting of the lines, and proper covering of significant cracks in the court at a cost of \$180,829.57. Board of Education Member Kyle Napierata, who sits on the board's Facilities Commission, agreed with the planned renovation.

"We did tour the tennis courts (in May) and they're basically unusable in the condition they're in right now. They're warped, there's cracks, I can't imagine any other school would send their team to play on it. It could be a danger, I would think, for injuries," he said.

The Board of Education unanimously approved the expense. A long-term replacement is expected to be part of a future Capital Improvement Plan. Guiot said the replacement could cost as much as \$1.1 million especially since the court would need to include a new material more resistant to the freezing and thawing of the typical New England winter.

The second investment is for the design of a new access road for the high school property with Guiot confirmed was part of the initial plan when the school was built but was removed before construction. The emergency access road will allow emergency vehicles to respond to the property more efficiently, but the district needs the design before they can proceed with any RFPs or capital investment plans. Gilot said the road comes highly recommended by a local consortium and the Killingly Fire Marshal.

"The options range from a \$255,000 estimate which will widen the current access road that is at the high school. There is a chance that may not be a viable option within the design work. The other two options are a \$1.3 million option and a \$1.7 million option where we will actually construct a new road on the left-hand side which will kind of arch into and provide access to the lower fields of the high school which actually was a part of the original plan that was cut within the construction process," said Gilot.

The Board of Education unanimously approved the expenditure of \$79,336.40 for the design which will provide the blueprints needed to generate precise cost estimates and put the project out to bid.



The Tourtellotte Memorial High School graduating Class of 1969 had their annual reunion lunch at the Crossings Restaurant in Putnam on Saturday, July 27. From left to right: Ed DeLuca, Greg Pederson, Lenny Bergeron, Cindy Fontaine Bergeron, Charlie Valade, Diane Elliot Glass, Nancy Mason Fabrizio, Carol Davis Bellevance, Gary Stephens, and Nancy O'Keefe LaFlamme.

Stop & Shop Floral Bouquet Program to benefit Access Food Pantries

DAYVILLE — Fight hunger with a simple purchase of a floral bouquet! Access Community Action Agency has been selected by local Stop & Shop store leadership as the benefiting hunger organization in the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program for the month of August at the Stop and Shop location in Dayville!

The Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, which launched in February 2021, is an easy way for shoppers to give back as part of the regular shopping routine. Every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker sold supports a hunger organization local to the Stop & Shop in which it was purchased. According to Feeding America, every \$1 donation to a local hunger organization can provide 10 or more meals to someone in need.

As part of this ongoing program, every month at every Stop & Shop location a different local hunger organization is selected to benefit from the sale of the Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet. Access was selected as the August beneficiary by local store leadership at the Stop & Shop located at 1094 Killingly Commons Dr., Dayville. Access will receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet purchased in August. All the funds raised will go directly to the Access Food Pantries located in Danielson, Willimantic, and the Mobile Food Pantry to help families in need this year.

"What a beautiful way to give back, help to fight hunger in our local community, and make a room, or home even brighter," said Kathleen Krider, Senior Director of Community Engagement and Resource Management of Access. "Now they can fight hunger too! We are thrilled to be chosen to benefit from this unique and impactful Stop & Shop Program, as the demands of those in need are higher than ever this year."

The Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic stability.

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Pourings and Passages holding Saturday storytimes

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Reading has long been considered an essential part of any child's growth and understanding of the world. Libraries and bookstores across the country have made it a point to provide opportunities for youth to experience books either as individual readers or through story times to help introduce them to the world of books. Now a local book shop is embracing the trend inviting youngsters to enjoy readings every weekend through the end of August.

Pourings and Passages is nearing ten years in Killingly and has spent much of that time working to encourage a love of reading for all ages. Their latest program is a Saturday "Story Half Hour" where younger children just starting to explore the world of books with guest readers presenting classic and modern works in the children's section of the store.

Shop owner Jim Weigel said the half hour events began at the start of July and will run through the end of August. Each Saturday features a different reader and at least one book set to a theme of the month.

"In July, we included Christmas books because of 'Christmas in July' and in August we will include some back-to-school stories. The Story Half Hours are geared for kids between the ages of three and eight. If they're younger than that they might have trouble sitting still for the stories and if they're older they've moved on to the middle school books rather than



Jim Weigel of Pourings and Passages shows off "Green Eggs & Ham", one of the books read at the July 27 "story half hour" event. The weekend story times will continue through the month of August.

Danielson Martial Arts Academy announces newest round of student promotions

DANIELSON — Danielson Martial Arts Academy announces newest round of students at grading.

Thursday, July 18, two time Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee, 7th Dan Master Daryl Laperle announces promotion of 29 students in the schools most recent grading.

- Dawn Dionne - 2 Gup Red
Lila Turner - 4.5 Gup Green
Marlowe King - 4.5 Gup Green
William Flynn - 4.5 Gup Green
Juniper Flynn - 4.5 Gup Green
DJ Leonard - 5 Gup Green
Hailey LaPorte - 5.5 Gup Purple
Aiden Messier - 6 Gup Purple
Sophie Lathrop - 6 Gup Purple
Madeleine Bolduc - 6.5 Gup Purple
Gavin Bolduc - 6.5 Gup Purple
- Jude May - 6.5 Gup Purple
Silas May - 6.5 Gup Purple
Haven May - 8 Gup Purple
Emily Castro - 8 Gup Blue
Waylon Hayden - 8 Gup Blue
Sidney Stiles - 8 Gup Blue
Aiden Davis - 8 Gup Blue
Caleb Silveira - 8 Gup Blue
Noah Kane - 8 Gup Blue
Jeff Fugazzi - 8 Gup Blue
Ziggy Fugazzi - 8 Gup Blue

- Ryleigh Butler - 9 Gup Orange
Alex Pettus - 9 Gup Orange
Elacy Brown - 9 Gup Orange
Ian Lamontagne - 9 Gup Orange
Marge Azu - 9 Gup Orange
Paul Azu - 9 Gup Orange
Julian Parenteau - 9 Gup Orange
- For more information regarding classes, please call 860-779-0699, or visit the Web site at DanielsonMartialArts.com.



Local students named to Dean’s List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Western New England University (WNE) is proud to announce that Morgan Bonin of Woodstock and Morgan Schmidt of Brooklyn have been named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2024 semester. Bonin is one of over 670 students to achieve this mark of academic excellence. Students are named to the Dean’s List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher. Bonin is working toward a BS in Health Sciences. Schmidt is working toward a BS in Forensic Biology. A WNE education provides career-span agility through a curriculum grounded in professional/experiential studies, enhanced by the liberal

arts, and enriched by mentored research that equips graduates to adapt and succeed in the workplace of the future. Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Mass. as a division of Northeastern College, WNE’s 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering,

and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut. WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

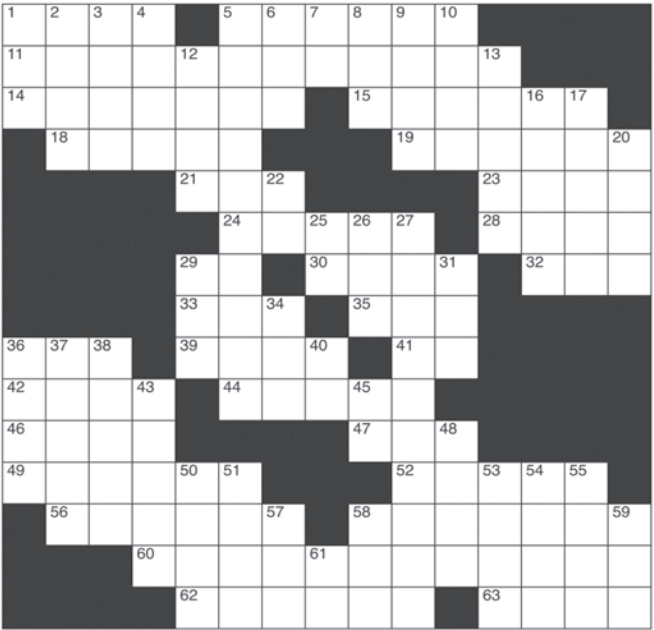


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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Nasal mucus

5. Hairs on the back of a dog

11. Ones who build anew

14. Consume too much food

15. Praised

18. Provides weapons

19. Become less lively

21. Engine additive

23. Thought or suggestion

24. South Korean city

28. Midday rests

29. Expression of acidity or alkalinity

30. Group of rockers

32. Very fast airplane

33. One who is paid to do something

35. Buzzing insect

36. Monotheistic religion founder

39. Strong dark beer

41. Blood type

42. Square measures

44. Honorific titles in NW Semitic languages

46. Present

47. Afflict in mind or body

49. Duty

52. Municipality in Stockholm

56. In a normal way

58. Rode a bicycle

60. Charitable

62. Verandas

63. Uncredited

- CLUES DOWN
1. No seats available

2. Russian river

3. A European river

4. Phrase

5. Idol

6. Keyboard key

7. Prefix indicating mutual

8. Kilometers per hour

9. Set an example

10. It's among the "Great" ones

12. VVV

13. Murdered

16. Icelandic poems

17. Seas

20. Famed cartoonist

22. Partner to "Ma"

25. Equal to one quintillion bytes

26. Speak incessantly

27. Disquiet

29. Parts per billion (abbr.)

31. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)

34. S. American plant

36. Monetary unit of Thailand

37. Regions

38. Baseball legend Yogi

40. Ancient Egyptian notion of spiritual part of humans

43. Fishing net

45. Tinseltown

48. MacBeth's wife was one

50. Took a spill

51. Adversary to pets

53. Town in Galilee

54. Secret racist society (slang)

55. About aviation

57. Longing or yearning

58. Hawaiian dish

59. Field force unit

61. Partner to "Pa"

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Golden Bear Pride shines as area students graduate from Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Matthew David Weiss of Thompson graduated Summa Cum Laude from Western New England University with a BS in Health Sciences. He also graduated with a minor in Chemistry. Morgan Olivia Schmidt of Brooklyn graduated with a BS in Forensic Biology and a minor in Chemistry. The undergraduate ceremony was held on Sunday, May 19, at the MassMutual Center in downtown Springfield. More than 520 students received their degrees. The top fields of study were Mechanical Engineering, Marketing, Psychology, Criminal Justice, and Sports Management. In his remarks, President Robert E. Johnson pushed students to embrace every challenge as an opportunity for growth: “As you navigate the uncertainties and opportunities that lie ahead, remember that you possess the influence to inspire, innovate, and transform our global society.” Nina Sullivan, who will graduate with a degree in Forensic Chemistry, was selected to deliver the student address. “For me, every day at Western New England University since the first semester of freshman year contained an ‘I can’t wait’ moment. Everything was so new, and I couldn’t wait to do it all,” added Sullivan as she addressed her fellow graduates. “After every accomplishment, each ‘I did it’ moment; each experience became a memory that I can look back on forever.” The Western New England University graduating class of 2024 hailed from 21 states: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia. Graduates also came from Canada, India, Malaysia, and Pakistan. Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and

world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Mass. as a division of Northeastern College, WNE’s 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including more than 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut. WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Local students named to President’s List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Western New England University (WNE) is proud to announce that Matthew Weiss of Thompson and Kirsten Deorsey of Woodstock have been named to the President’s List for the Spring 2024 semester. Weiss is one of over 540 students to achieve this mark of academic

excellence. Students are named to the President’s List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher. Weiss is working toward a BS in Health Sciences. Deorsey is working toward a BS in Criminal Justice.


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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 22: Bobolink, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Hummingbird, Catbird, Wood Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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Helen Hale graduates from Bates College

LEWISTON, Maine — Helen Hale of Pomfret Center, Conn. graduated from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, with a major in Politics.

On May 26, Bates College graduated students from 36 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and 19 countries, with 437 members of the Class of 2024 accepting congratulations and diplomas from President Garry W. Jenkins.

It was the first Commencement for Garry Jenkins, who took the helm at Bates on July 1, 2023. He noted how the graduating class' time at Bates has been bookended by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and the horrific shooting in Lewiston Oct. 25, 2023.

"The Bates Class of 2024 has been tested, and they have persevered," Jenkins said. "They have taken on everything that

has come their way and they also have thought deeply about their personal relationships to local, national, and global events. And in so doing, they have found joy and strength in one another, in connections, in relationships."

"Lean into this grit," Jenkins told the Bates Class of 2024. "This resolve and resiliency you've developed. Practice and further cul-

tivate your ability and stamina to take on challenges as you encounter them, to adjust to changed circumstances, to make the best of less-than-ideal situations, to regroup when you are knocked off your planned course."

The Commencement speaker was Mary Louise Kelly, the host of NPR's evening news program All Things Considered, who received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

The two other honorands were poet Richard Blanco, who received a Doctor of Letters degree, and President Emerita Clayton Spencer, who served as president of Bates from 2012 until June 30, 2023 and received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Located in Lewiston, Maine, and home to about 1,800 students, Bates is internationally recognized as a leading liberal arts college.

Located in Lewiston, Maine, Bates is internationally recognized as a leading liberal arts college, attracting 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Since 1855, Bates has been dedicated to educating the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community. Committed to opportunity and excellence, Bates has always admitted students without regard to gender, race, religion, or national origin. Cultivating intellectual discovery and informed civic action, Bates prepares leaders sustained by a love of learning and zeal for responsible stewardship of the wider world.

Putnam resident named to Clark University Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Autumn R. Allard, of Putnam, was named to first honors on the Clark University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2024 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

Local residents named to Clark University Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — The following local residents were named to Clark University's Spring 2024 Dean's List:

Meg E. Gohn, of Woodstock was named to second honors.

Collin D. Hamilton, of Pomfret Center was named to second honors.

Ricky Jessurun, of Pomfret Center was named to first honors.

Sarah T. Lucas, of Woodstock was named to second honors.

Clayton W. Singleton, of Eastford was named to first honors.

Katie A. Ben, of Brooklyn was named to second honors.

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Roger Williams University announces 2024 graduates

BRISTOL, R.I. — The following students received their degrees in May as part of the Class of 2024.

Tommy Dunn of Woodstock

Melanie Straub of Danielson

Shelby Bethel of Dayville

Cole Russell of Brooklyn

Stathi Savvidis of Brooklyn

Melanie Straub of Danielson

About RWU

At Roger Williams University, students are prepared to be thinkers and doers ready to solve challenging problems with innovative solutions. RWU offers 50 majors and robust offerings of graduate and professional programs across eight schools of study including Rhode Island's only law school, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the heart of Providence, R.I. With small classrooms and a focus on undergraduate and graduate research and community engagement, a Roger Williams education blends the strength of liberal arts and professional studies, providing all students with the depth and breadth of interdisciplinary thinking and well-rounded knowledge necessary to succeed in our interconnected, global world. RWU is committed to strengthening society through engaged scholarship so that students graduate with the ability to think critically and apply the practical skills that today's employers demand.

Eastern student Evan Gianfriddo of Woodstock gains field experience in spring internships

WILLIMANTIC — Students from a broad selection of disciplines at Eastern Connecticut State University gained valuable professional experience through internships during the spring 2024 semester. Internships ranged from live sound engineering to hospitality and criminal justice services.

Among these students was senior Evan Gianfriddo of Woodstock, who majors in Music.

Gianfriddo interned as a sound engineer at The Stomping Ground, a bar, restaurant and live music venue in Putnam. Responsibilities included "communicating with musicians, running live sound, mixing and setting the sound to fit the room."

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Beyond memes and headlines — the imperative of informed voting

In an age where social media dominates the landscape of information dissemination, it's too easy to fall into the trap of making decisions based on quick headlines and catchy memes. However, the upcoming election is of such paramount importance that it demands a deeper level of engagement from every voter. The stakes have never been higher, with one candidate making unprecedented claims that, if elected, no one will ever have to vote again because they'll have it "fixed real good." On the other side, a candidate is fiercely advocating for the preservation of American freedoms. This is a critical moment in our history, and we must take it seriously.

The rhetoric of patriotism and freedom has been used by both sides, often skewed and manipulated to serve political agendas. However, we must look beyond these slogans and closely examine what the candidates are truly saying. The promise of never having to vote again is a direct threat to the core of our democracy. Imagine if the Democratic nominee made such a statement—there would be widespread outrage. Yet, when the Republican candidate makes this claim, it is somehow normalized. This normalization is dangerous and undermines the very foundation of our democratic process.

Democracy is built on the right to vote. It is the cornerstone of our political system and the means through which we, the people, hold our leaders accountable. Any suggestion that this right could be taken away should be met with fierce resistance. It is not just a political issue; it is an existential threat to the values upon which our nation was founded. When a candidate threatens to erode this right, it is a call to action for all citizens to rise above party lines and defend the principles of democracy.

In this election, more than ever, we must be vigilant and well-informed. It is not enough to rely on snippets of information from social media. We must delve into the policies and promises of each candidate, understanding their implications for our future. We must listen to what they say and, more importantly, believe them. Their words and actions are a reflection of their intentions, and we must take them at face value.

The narrative that one side is the sole defender of patriotism and freedom is a distortion. In reality, the fight to maintain government out of our personal decisions and to preserve our freedoms is being waged by those who are committed to upholding democratic values. The threat to our democracy is real and immediate. If we are to preserve the freedoms we hold dear, we must act now.

For those who are still uncertain about the gravity of the situation, I urge you to do your research. Look beyond the memes and headlines. Seek out reliable sources of information and educate yourself on the stakes of this election. Understand that democracy is a fragile system that requires our active participation and protection.

This election is a defining moment in our history. The choice we make will determine the future of our democracy. We cannot afford to be complacent or misinformed. We must take the candidates at their word, understand the implications of their promises, and vote to protect our democratic rights. This is not just another election. Do not be fooled by party lines or catchy slogans. Believe in the power of your vote and use it to safeguard the principles of freedom and democracy.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More than a threat to democracy

To the Editor:

We keep hearing about a threat to democracy. Meanwhile, we have just witnessed a hand full of people disenfranchise 14.4 million Biden voters. It seems Pelosi, Schumer, Obama and Jefferies are calling the shots on who people can vote for and who they can't. Joe Biden repeatedly said only God could tell him to drop out of the race for President. Then Biden added he might also drop out of the race for medical reasons. All the while he kept saying he would not and did not want to drop out. According to a source in the Democrat party Nancy Pelosi gave Biden an ultimatum. Biden was told he was going to drop out. And they could do it the easy way or they could do it the hard way. She even gave him a deadline.

The people claiming they are saving Democracy just subverted the will of 14.4 million people. I hope Democrats are okay with a hand full of Democrat Elites dictating who can run and who can't, because it is going on right now. Those that took the time to vote for Biden were merely pawns in a game that they did not even know they were playing. When the polls showed Biden could not win, the votes were ripped up and the will of many became the whim of a few. The Federal Election Commission Chairman alerted the Democrats the money given to the Biden campaign must be returned to the donors. The Democrats changed the name on the account from the Biden Harris campaign to the Harris campaign, and plan on ignoring the rules. This is not ethical or legal, but it is all about winning the election and maintaining power.

The powers that be declared Kamala Harris would be the chosen replacement. Biden cannot give his pledged delegates to Harris there is a process for that. No one voted for Kamala for President in the primary that has to be done at the convention. A while back, Billy Taylor wrote here "Many readers may recall that Adolf Hitler was elected by the good people of Germany." Well, anyone that remembers that would be wrong. Hitler was appointed chancellor by Hindenburg. Hitler came to power when Hindenburg died. Didn't we just see Kamala Harris appointed by the party elites? Call it a coup, a rebellion, or even an insurrection, but that was not democracy in action.

We need action in Hartford, not lip service

To the Editor:

On Aug. 13, Republicans have an exciting and energetic candidate in the 29th State Senate district primary race — Chris Reddy, a real conservative Republican, won the party endorsement at the recent Republican Convention. He is being primaried by Suzanne Witkowski, whose lackluster campaign two years ago resulted in Democrat Mae Flexer keeping her State Senate seat.

I voted for Suzanne, signed her candidate petition, and made a contribution to her campaign two years ago, but this year, I will be enthusiastically voting for Chris Reddy on Aug. 13.

During Thompson's Republican primary last year, Suzanne and eight other 'Republican' candidates said they were honored and proud to be called RINOs in a full page ad they took out in the Shopper's Guide. Amazingly, they

When Kamala Harris dropped out of the 2020 race, she was polling at 3 percent. Joe Biden promised to pick a black female for his VP. Kamala had the highest name recognition, and so here we are. Kamala Harris is framing herself as a former prosecutor that is tough on crime. Truth is, she was not as tough on crime, as people were led to believe. In fact, she interprets her own tenure as that of a progressive prosecutor. She is on record as wanting to defund the police, and she also wanted to abolish Immigration Enforcement Agency. Her office would work with ICE to deport even harden criminals that had been deported over and over and returned and committed more crimes.

I will not go on and on about Kamala Harris, as she might not even end up as the candidate. I will just remind people she was appointed the Bored Czar in March of 2021. She refused to even visit the border but insisted the border was safe for years when she knew it was not. Harris is from a sanctuary city in a sanctuary state, also known as safe cities, where policies protect immigrants. Harris turned out to be the Open Border Czar. In a 2019 interview with National Public Radio, candidate Harris expressed a willingness to declare all illegal border crossers refugees from unconfirmable claimed political violence, even if that meant ignoring the law, despite well-known reporting that millions let inside on such claims run and disappear into the nation's permanent illegal immigrant population. Also, just a couple of weeks ago Harris said Biden was sharp as a tack and running circles around his staffers. She even had lunch with him once per week, so she should know and we should believe her. Everyone now knows she was gas lighting the American public and not telling the truth.

As I write this, the White House has been empty for a week, and no one has seen Joe Biden. If Joe Biden is too diminished to run for President, isn't he too diminished to be President? How can Biden remain on until January 2025? The Democrat elites seem to care more about the election than keeping the country safe. There are two wars going on, and seemingly no one in charge.

TIM PIETTE
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

won the primary, and went on to win town wide offices.

Perhaps the jaw droppingly large property tax increase passed this Spring by these same 'Proud RINOs' is a wake-up call for Thompson Republicans.

When the Thompson P&Z tried to take away our Second Amendment and property rights, Selectman Suzanne Witkowski did absolutely nothing.

Let's not make the mistake of giving Suzanne Witkowski power on the state level. We need somebody who will stand up for our precious Constitutional rights. Chris Reddy is strong on gun rights and loves our Constitution and will be a real voice for the people and will put words into action, as opposed to lip service.

BEVERLY J. WARNER
THOMPSON

Votes should always be cast in ink!

To the Editor:

As election season approaches, I am reminded of the unsettled feeling I had after the last Presidential election. Covid was an issue at that time, and all standard voting rules went out the window. Everyone was using drop boxes and mail in ballots. Votes were counted slowly, sometimes over several days, leaving many of us feeling uneasy.

I stood in line on election day to cast my vote the old fashioned way. We were sent to a new voting location that year at the elementary school in Woodstock. The line was long, and much to my surprise, upon entering the building, each one of us was handed a short number 2 pencil with no eraser. You know, the

kind you use for mini golf or bowling.

I was stunned that a pencil was what we were required to use to cast our vote for the President of the United States. Where were the permanent ink markers that were always available in the past?

I just want to express that, in my honest opinion, using a mini golf pencil to mark a ballot in such a crucial election is unacceptable. A vote should be cast in permanent ink so that the voter feels confident that their vote is unalterable! I suggest that everyone bring their own pen to the voting booth this year, just in case pencils are handed out again.

BETH BUTLER
WOODSTOCK

Susanne Witkowski—the right choice for the 29th!

To the Editor:

I have known Susanne Witkowski for 20 years. She is a woman who is devoted to her family and her community. Over the years, she has fought for parental rights and has championed quality education for all students. In Hartford, Susanne will continue to advocate for educational excellence. She is also a strong supporter of police and first responders. Adequate funding of these critical services will ensure safer communities for us all.

Susanne believes in smaller government and is always looking for ways to cut costs and save taxpayer dollars. I can think of no better person to represent the 29th Senate District in Hartford. Vote Susanne Witkowski in the upcoming Republican primary. Early voting is Aug. 5-11, with the final primary voting day on Aug. 13.

AMY ST.ONGE
FIRST SELECTMAN
THOMPSON

Consistency

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

Pursuing a dream can be very challenging. If you're like most people, unless you have financial backing, you're probably juggling a day job, a night job, taking care of a family, and then pursuing your dream.

Once you decide to pursue your dream, it's often easy to get started because, at this early stage, you have all the motivation. You're convinced of success and can see a future where your hard work pays off in a big way. You picture the people you'll help, the industry you'll revolutionize, and the competitors you'll surpass. This vision fuels your enthusiasm and propels you forward with energy and optimism.

But once you've laid the foundations, you may see flaws. Things may go differently than planned. You'll undoubtedly encounter many roadblocks. You might feel you've tried so hard for so long that you need a break.

Days turn to weeks and weeks into months, but suddenly, you remember your dream, get a burst of inspiration, and go at it again. You start getting some results, but there's still a long way to go. You work your socks off for a while, doing those 16-hour days and making sacrifices, but then life gets in the way. Family obligations may arise, your day job demands more time, and you may put your dream on hold again, still unwilling to let it go.

Maybe you have a friend, acquaintance, or even family member who pursued their dream, and you're in awe of how far they have gotten.

Out of frustration, you pick up the phone and give them a call, all while wondering how on earth they've managed to make it all work.

Luckily, they answered your call and gave you 30 minutes of their time. They ask you a series of questions, and you give them all the answers, detailing the ups and downs and the starts and stops.

Suddenly, you hear their Aha moment. They have an answer, and as you eagerly await, they say, "My friend, it seems you've got a consistency problem," and it hits you like a bolt of lightning. Consistency!

The word reverberates as you think of all the times you started and stopped.

Your friend says that they, too, had the same problem, and one day decided to work on their dream every single day, even if it was just half an hour or one small task. They never took a break; they just kept churning.

It's not about large bursts of effort but small, persistent, daily efforts. You set tiny goals that you know are achievable, and you keep doing them daily. You realize that consistency is one of the most potent ingredients for turning your dreams into reality.

As the days turn into weeks and the weeks into months, you start to see progress. Your business begins to grow steadily. The challenges stay, but your consistent efforts help you navigate them better. You find that consistency builds momentum, and momentum keeps you moving forward.

What are some things that will make you inconsistent? Drugs and alcohol are certainly significant factors. While some people claim substances like marijuana or alcohol make them more productive, over time, they often find the opposite to be true. When they quit, their productivity usually improves significantly.

Other things that can lead to inconsistency include procrastination, which creates a cycle of stress and rushed work, and lack of sleep, which severely impacts focus and energy levels.

Poor time management without a clear plan or schedule can lead to distractions and overwhelm. A negative mindset, filled with self-doubt and pessimism, can sap motivation.

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

North Grosvenordale Legion post to hold breakfast, meatball supper

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — On Aug. 4, there will be an all you can eat breakfast at the American Legion Family Post 67, Route 200, North Grosvenordale. Tickets \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Call 860-637-7494 for tickets in advance. Benefit for the Jade Ariel Nichols Scholarship fund. On August 11, 2024, there will be a Swedish Meatball Supper (drive-thru only) at the Legion. Tickets \$15 per person.

Eastern student Kassidy Stewart of Putnam studies ecology in Costa Rica

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — In late May, eight students from the Department of Biology at Eastern Connecticut State University went on a 12-day tropical excursion in Costa Rica. The trip, led by biology Professors Brett Mattingly and Matthew Graham, guided students through the ecosystem's natural history and ecology.

Among the students was Kassidy Stewart of Putnam, a senior who majors in Biology.

Students analyzed the various tropical habitats and the interactivity of their diverse flora and fauna. Through their fieldwork in the rainforest ecosystems, students also delved into Costa Rica's agricultural practices, sustainability methods and environmental preservation methods.

POSITIVELY
continued from page A4


Unhealthy relationships can drain your energy and focus, pulling you away from productive habits. Constant distractions from social media, emails, or a noisy environment can also break your flow and hinder consistent progress.

Ultimately, you learn that consistency is not just a habit; it's a powerful force that transforms aspirations into achievements. It's the difference between those who succeed and those who don't.


Dedicate yourself to your dream every single day. Let consistency be the engine that propels you toward your goals and turns your aspirations into reality.

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NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION STEWARDSHIP PERMIT Town of Thompson Landfill Thompson

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) hereby gives notice that a tentative determination has been reached to issue a Stewardship Permit to the Town of Thompson Landfill located at 185 Pasay Road, Thompson, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Sections 22a-6h, and 22a-449(c) and Section 22a-449(c)-110 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA). This represents a renewal of a previously issued Stewardship Permit.

The Stewardship Permit authorizes the on-going corrective actions including environmental monitoring, investigation and remediation as needed. As applicable, post-closure care and maintenance as well as long-term environmental monitoring must be conducted to ensure completed corrective actions remain effective into the future. The proposed activity is not expected to adversely affect any natural resources or human health.

A **VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING** will be held as follows:

Date: September 4, 2024
Time: The Public Meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.
Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83951554933?pwd=1bi7NFXeP75G3NaPdyBdeEJmzVsc4t.1>
Applicant's Name / Address: Town of Thompson
815 Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, CT, 06255-1700
Applicant's Contact Person: Amy St. Onge, First Selectman
(860) 923-9561
firstselectman@thompsonct.org

Public Meeting
DEEP will host a Virtual Public meeting regarding this draft permit on September 4, 2024, starting at 6 p.m., and ending within one (1) hour if all questions are addressed. During the meeting the public will have an opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

How to Review the Draft Permit
This draft permit and fact sheet may be accessed:

- Through the Department's website: [Proposed Individual Permits](#);
- At the Selectman's Office at the Thompson Town Hall located at 815 Riverside Drive North Grosvenordale, CT; or
- Contacting Veronica Tanguay by email at veronica.tanguay@ct.gov or by phone at (860) 424-3669

Requests for Public Comment
The Commissioner will not make a final decision regarding this proposed permit until the public comment period has closed and all received comments have been evaluated and addressed.


All interested persons are invited to express their views on the tentative determination concerning this draft permit. Verbal comments provided during the Public Meeting will be considered.


Written comments on the draft permit must be submitted no later than September 16, 2024. Written comments should be directed to:

Veronica Tanguay, Environmental Analyst
By email to: veronica.tanguay@ct.gov with a copy to DEEP.REMStewardship@ct.gov
or if email is not possible, by US Postal Service mail to: Veronica Tanguay, Environmental Analyst, Remediation Division Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, 2nd Floor
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection 79 Elm Street
Hartford CT 06106-5127


The State of Connecticut has authorization to administer the RCRA hazardous waste program in lieu of the federal government. Therefore, hazardous waste facilities in Connecticut, including those that have stopped operations and are undergoing environmental cleanup, are subject to and must comply with all applicable requirements found in Sections 22a-449(c)-100 through 119 and 22a-449(c)-11 of RCSA and Section 22a-449(c) of the CGS.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, or require some other accommodation, including equipment to facilitate virtual participation, please contact the DEEP Office of Diversity and Equity at 860- 418-5910 or by email at deep.accommodations@ct.gov. Any person needing an accommodation for hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. To facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.

 Raymond Frigon, Director Remediation Division
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse



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- Our factory-trained **Certified Master Installers** have years of experience installing **only windows and doors**, and they'll treat you and your home with the utmost respect.

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Customer Review ★★★★★

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– Michael S., Madison, CT

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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. 12 month promotional period ("Promo Period") during which interest is billed but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before Promo Period expires. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Any unpaid balance and amounts owed after Promo Period will be paid over 84 monthly payments. For example, assuming the full credit limit is used on loan approval date and no payments are made during Promo Period, for every \$1,000 financed at a fixed interest rate of 24.99%, 12 monthly payments of \$0 followed by 84 monthly payments of \$28.29. This example is an estimate only. Actual payment amounts based on amount and timing of purchases. Call 866-936-0602 for financing costs and terms. 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.

³See limited warranty for details at <https://www.renewalbyandersen.com/homeowner-help/warranty>. *National Replacement Window Month is not a Congressionally-approved designation.

Brooklyn Fairground hosts annual 4-H Fair

BROOKLYN — The Brooklyn Fairgrounds once again played host to the Windham Tolland 4-H Fair showcasing the skills and knowledge of the students of the local camp. The morning and afternoon were filled with animal displays and shows, interactive exhibits, art and product displays and more making for a delightful day celebrating everything great about local agriculture while also acknowledging the camp's 70th anniversary.



A visitor interacts with a hooved guest stopping for a bite along the Brooklyn Fairgrounds.



Jason Bleau

The dairy cow show was the kickoff event of the morning.



4-H Fair volunteers pose for a photo as the day's festivities begin.



Many 4-H students showed their artistic side entering paintings, photographs, and more into the fair.



Many of the animals on display were very photogenic and were more than willing to interact with guests during the fair.



Guests lined the show areas to watch each of the 4-H demonstrations in support of the kids and volunteers.

AT RIGHT: The goat show showed the bonds between human and animal as one of the kickoff events of the 4-H fair.



New England Working Steers prepare for their time in the spotlight during the late morning shows.



Animals weren't the only things on display. Everything from homemade bread, eggs, flower arrangements and more showed the skills and hard work of the 4-H kids.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Putnam E.M.S. deserves better than someone else’s headaches

To the Editor:

Putnam’s first responders should be insulted at the proposed purchase of a former Providence and Worcester railroad building that is being FOMO’ed to the taxpayers by the mayor and sympathetic knee jerkers on the board of selectmen (fear of missing out for those new to the term), and Putnam residents should vote no and demand more from this administration that obviously loves to play the victim when they’re the ones who screwed this up in the first place.

A few years ago the Putnam town hall was turning into an outdated money sink, so the town built what we now know as the Putnam Municipal Complex, a nice new building custom-built for the town government and library’s needs. Fast forward to 2024 and our current Putnam E.M.S. building is an outdated disaster of a facility that’s turning into an outdated money sink, so the town... is going secondhand shopping for hand-me-downs and fixer-uppers. Really?

There are more direct ways of sending a message that our first responders out there saving lives are second class compared to folks working office jobs at the muni complex, but who’s counting? No, my friends, the cat’s out of the bag on this one, and we need to swallow the bitter pill and hold the Republicans’ feet to the fire now that they’re proposing a more comprehensive solution for all public safety, which per their own statement includes police, fire, dispatch, and E.M.S. I can only see that working via building something new, similar to the muni complex. I don’t know if the Republicans meant to support this grandiose of a project for a new home for Putnam E.M.S., but they said it, so let’s hold them to it.

Part of the burden of leadership in business or otherwise is that you own what you oversee, including what happens on your watch. The problems with

the current home of Putnam E.M.S. are things the mayor and board of selectmen should have made a big deal about earlier. It’s their fault that they let conditions get this bad while strutting about bragging about the new muni complex, making parking lots bigger, the new trash program with Casella, or whatever else you can think of that this administration has made a big deal about in the past few years.

When you visit the Putnam Emergency Management Facebook page and you see equipment stored outdoors exposed to the elements, it’s because the administration let it get this bad. When you visit the Putnam E.M.S. building on Saturday, Aug. 3 for the open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., you’re seeing what our town leadership has been tolerating and not dealing with, and in management you are what you put up with. No amount of playing the victim or trying to score political points removes the town leadership from their responsibility for this problem.

The ultimate problem with the May Street proposal is that it plunges the town into the trap of incremental purchasing caused by buying what you can afford instead of what you actually need. Not getting what you need just makes everything more expensive in the long run since you’ll end up with extra stuff you didn’t really want but only bought because it was what you could afford at the time. The town should have been more proactive and should be more disciplined with solving this problem.

The public hearing and special town meeting is Monday Aug. 5 at 6:30 p.m. It’s time to Vote No and demand a real solution from this administration that let things get this bad for people who are out there saving lives.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

We deserve better

To the Editor:

The last few months, I have been reading many great pieces from the people in this area concerning the 34 times convicted, twice impeached, etc. cult leader, and now the new “boogie man.”

People have common senses truths about the “Boogie Man,” but for some that live in the MAGA world, it does not matter. Facts just do not matter. Personalities win the day for them.

Some are proud to be talking to Howie Carr, who at one time was a journalist himself and was a person who believed in facts, he no longer works in the real world of journalism and since has gone to the dark side of fake, lies and general hatred of Americans like the Cult leader. More interested now in making money and headlines, got to get them clicks. We live in a time of personality not truth. They feed off hate, fear and depressing the public on how bad our country is.. They want to control women, tell people how they should live their lives. Insult, rant and rave about the person and not about how they will make the country better, other than more tax cuts for the 1 percent. Making fun or ridiculing the pronunciation of a persons’ name.

About the tax cut of 2017, renamed the “Corporate Wealth Tax Cut,” some facts for you are that 600 people now control about 49 percent of the financial wealth of this country. That means 349,999,400 of the rest of us control just about 51\$ of the rest. Some people have benefitted In a 7yr period, Elon Musk was worth 20 billion now 258 billion, Bezos was worth 83 billion now 216 billion,2 guys from Google worth 45 &90 billion now 157 & 151 billion, Facebook owner 72 billion to 187 billion, there are

more but this is from a Forbes Magazine article. More financial info about the 1 percent, middle class and lower income citizens from a PEW research, from 1970 to 2022 the middle and lower income people of this country did not keep with inflation over this period. The 1 percent went up 87 percent over the same period. I think the poor billionaires of this corporate world need another tax cut. So do the large corporations they run.

The policy to be discussed this election will be not about things like this or better Health Care, stopping Russian aggression, standing up to the other authoritarian Aristocrats of the world, building business that stay in and employ Americans, keeping abortion a woman’s choice, etc. No, it will be like the series of Seinfeld, bupkis (nothing) at least on one side. It will be about childless cat people, DEI, letting the deficit grow right along with the leaders of the corporate personal wealth. The Cult leader wants the citizens to fight with each other and he loves it. As he told religious leaders recently that by 2028, you will not even have to vote. Sounds democratic to me.

In 2016, immigration had hit a 50 year low in this country, Google it, a 50 year low, what happened in 2017 to change it? The “Boogie Man.” Facts are facts and cannot be made or bent to fit the cause.

We all need to make the noise stop. I have been writing these for 8 long years. Most people I talk to just want it to stop and go on living a less hectic, insulting and in your face life.

DAVID CASSETTARI
KILLINGLY

A fresh start doesn’t erase the Democrats’ association with inflation

To the Editor:

Last week, Trump’s use of the word “bloodbath” was mentioned. However, that was a referral to the auto industry, and not a threat of violence in the streets, but look at it how you will. And how many more times is the word “racist” going to be used, as well as Trump being called a threat to our democracy, a fascist and compared to Hitler? But these are the effective brainwashing tactics used by the democrats that get parroted over and over, and I thought it was only the republicans that did “fear-mongering?” Call me brainwashed or repetitive if you’d like, but don’t look in the mirror while you’re doing it. Also mentioned was that Donald Trump is now the “oldest presidential nominee ever,” but isn’t it funny that until recently there was the feeling that President Biden’s age was a non-issue? Then there was the expectation of upcoming insults and attacks on Kamala Harris. Well, that’s certainly a given, and maybe the thought behind that was they should only be limited to Trump?

The previous bandwagon issue is what Donald Trump did after the attempt on his life, but had he cowered in fear behind that podium they’d be pointing that out as well. Yes, it’s another

er «in the eye of the beholder» situation being looked at differently by both sides, but what would you have done had a bullet grazed your head?

A report from Yahoo Finance (on July 23) mentioned that “a fresh start for Democrats doesn’t alleviate a problem Harris inherits from Biden: Voters associate the Biden administration and Democrats in general with the high inflation of the last two years.” (Wow, they’re not blaming that on Trump?) And how about adding how much the cost of living has risen since Biden became president? But to you never-Trumpers, the drain on your wallets is not an issue. The Fed stepped in to help get inflation under control, but the drain continues and when will we see anything other than just talk of possible rate cuts?

I’ll give credit to Kamala Harris for being patient. She knew this day would come, and without even getting a single vote from the American people, she is now the presumptive nominee. Yes, Mr. Biden has withdrawn from the race, and I wish him health and happiness in the future.

ED DeLUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

You can’t make this up

To the Editor:

The presidential race continues to be anything but dull. Kamala Harris has emerged as the right person at the right time to replace Joe Biden, even if she wasn’t everyone’s first choice. She certainly has Trump and his minions running scared, as evidenced by the racial slurs and name calling. Trump’s superficial brush with death obviously had no effect on his toxic personality. All his lies and hateful rhetoric pleases his Kool-Aid drinking supporters, but it alienates many other voters he’ll need in November. His run-

ning mate is just more of the same.

So now we have a former D.A./prosecutor running against a convicted felon with a truckload of indictments. You literally can’t make this stuff up. Our nation is long overdue for its first female president, so hopefully, this will be the year we make history and (as a bonus) make Trump crawl back under his rock.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Hold the applause, Trumpers

To the Editor:

As an unabashed anti-Trumper and his supporters, I have always been grateful that the Editor of this publication saw fit to print my comments. It was in the hope that they may have been of some interest to his readers, for good or ill.

I remarked early on that my intentions were strictly to try and change even a few Trumpers’ minds about what I believed was their error in judgement. My opinion.

I now see that all my (truthful to me) negativity could probably have forced most of them (hopefully not all) to just dig their heels in deeper. I guess no one likes to accept being told they are wrong. Even adults.

How did this revelation come about? It came from a letter in last week’s Villager.

In discussing the problem of Trump with friends and family (not all though), the one topic that rose to the top was how in the world could tens of millions of Americans actually support someone as anti-American as this guy? Someone with so few redeeming qualities you could write them on the head of a pin. What a conundrum! Do they not understand the devastation to our democracy that they themselves would have to live with?

I then read Lydia from Dayville’s remarkable expressions of truth and reasoning. My eyes were opened a little wider!

In my (fortunately) many published opinions, I tried to put forth all the reasons for not putting Trump back into office, ad nauseum. On the other hand, she deftly explained why his supporters would follow him to that end.

Still, it is difficult to fathom. They

can’t all be devoid of humanity as Trump certainly is, could they?

In one of my thoughts I remarked that Trump, being so blatantly lawless, must seem to be admired by those who would wish to be freely lawless themselves, without fear of retribution just as Trump himself has been many times in his life. Lydia took it much deeper into the psych of the individual. Read it again if you have the chance. “Take the hate and anger away (Trump’s rhetoric) and you have no ‘base.”

I am sure there are many who would disagree with her assessment, defensively. Nevertheless, it was quite interesting. I will think of her words the next time I am at a stop sign, looking over at the driver of a pick-up flying a Trump 2024 flag.

So Lydia from Dayville, I tip my hat to you. You have made me realize that most of my efforts these past months may have probably been in vain. Even though I still believe that speaking out has to be a small way of helping to rid ourselves of Trump once and for all. It may also soothe that helpless feeling our judicial system has delivered to us in their obscene assistance of Trump’s legal defenses.

Do I feel sympathetic toward his supporters for their possible plight you described? Not one bit. Not when their actions could lead to the catastrophe awaiting our democracy if Trump gets back into power. Although I myself am smarter for your reasoning.

So with that said, I hope my like minded writers from Putnam continue to pummel Trump at every turn. Good luck to them. I now lay down my pen.

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

Obama was right to warn us about Joe

To the Editor:

For those of us living in the real world of Bidenomics, here are the accomplishments of the Biden/Harris Administration since taking office: The cost of food is up 30-40 percent The cost of gas is up 50 percent The cost of electricity is up 60-70 percent The cost of heating oil is up 35 percent Mortgage rates are up 60-70 percent Auto loan rates are up 30-50 percent Auto loan defaults are at a all time high Credit card rates are at a all time high Credit card debt is at a all time high Credit card defaults are at a all time high Border crossings are at a all time high The funding of two wars is in the billions of dollars There is a bright spot, though — the Stock Market is also fluctuating near all time highs. This means that while the average family is being ravaged by Bidenomics,

the wealthy Washington elitists have made a fortune. (Democrats and Republicans alike.) This explains how Kamala Harris raised \$200 million for her campaign in less than a week. When Barack Obama, the patron saint of Democrats, said “Do not underestimate the things that Joe Biden can screw up” and refused to endorse him until after the primary in 2019, the nation should have paid attention! Thankfully, Obama was able to force Biden out of the upcoming election. Unfortunately for us all, he only was able to get half the job done. So now the queen of the phrase “word salad” is being presented as the savior of the Democratic Party and our country. And yes, everything about Trump is equally disturbing, so no rebuttal needed. God help us.

STEVE BIBEK
WOODSTOCK

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Roadside memorials can be a warning as well as a source of comfort

To the Editor:
This is in response to “Roadside Memorials” by Dolores Kneeland, and the response from grieving parents Richard & Amy Bowen.
It seems that what is irritating to one person is heart wrenching to others. Someone at Buckingham Palace was probably annoyed with the thousands of bouquets when Princess Diana died. I remember being annoyed as an eight-year-old when an entire weekend of TV coverage was devoted to John Kennedy’s assassination. I think a change of heart is possible with better understanding.

For example, roadside fatalities can also occur from slick or icy roads, deer dashes, dangerous intersections or road contours, downed trees, not to mention being hit by an impaired driver.
So, an alternative view of that roadside memorial that grates is that it might just be a life-saving warning to you, in addition to being a comfort to the bereaved.

JANE DOYLE
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

Self deception can be the most difficult

To the Editor:
Last week in this space, Michael A. Douglas saw fit to accuse another letter writer of lying, citing the writer’s use of the phrase “Trump inciting a violent mob attack on the Capitol” while not including the fact that during that speech on the Ellipse Jan. 6, Trump had said “I know that everyone here will soon be walking over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard.”
Regarding that speech, the House Committee investigating the events of Jan. 6 determined that the words “peacefully and patriotically” were written by his speechwriters and displayed on the teleprompter — two words marooned among a litany of lies about the “stolen election” and numerous attempts to direct the angry crowd toward Vice President Pence and lawmakers. He said “peacefully” reading off the teleprompter once but ad-libbed the word “fight” 18 times and variations of it 20 times. An example: “We fight like hell and if you don’t fight like hell you’re not going to have a country anymore.” In the speech, he said “All Vice President Pence had to do is send it back to the States to recertify and we become president and you are the happiest people.” (And do we wonder why his supporters were chanting, “Hang Mike Pence?”) In the days leading up to January 6th, Hope Hicks tried to have the President send out Twitter messages to urge demonstrators to be peaceful but he refused on multiple occasions.
In the midst of the attack, Trump did Tweet, “Mike Pence didn’t have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution, giving States a chance to certify a corrected set of facts, not the fraudulent or inaccurate ones which they were asked to previously certify. USA demands the truth!”
It was not until police officers at the Capitol had been under assault for over three hours that President Trump finally, after much pleading from his daughter and aides, released a video telling his supporters that they needed to go home and “we have to have peace.” But still he told them, “I know you’re in pain, I know you’re hurt. We had an election that was stolen from us.” Later in the

evening he would say, “These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously and viciously stripped away.”
As the Associated Press put it: “The House Jan 6 Committee’s final report asserts that President Trump criminally engaged in a “multi-part conspiracy” to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 presidential election and failed to act to stop his supporters from attacking the Capitol. Trump lit the fire.” A careful reading of the report issued by the Committee can lead to no other conclusion than that President Trump “incited” the attack on the Capitol; he may not have been the only one but he was the most important.
Equally important to me in contemplating the issue of lying is whether or not those who continue to think that Donald Trump is fit for the presidency are lying to themselves, or have simply made a cold-blooded calculation that what they want or think they need is so overwhelmingly important that they are willing to look away from any number of otherwise disqualifying traits and character flaws? Is this self-deception? Partial self-deception? If so, is it an actual lie or is it a form of willful ignorance? Is there a difference?
Imagine the internal dialogue: “I know he sexually assaulted a woman, but I think that doesn’t matter in his fitness for the presidency”...or is it: “I don’t for a minute believe that he would sexually assault a woman.” Or, “I know he said that John McCain was a loser because he got captured and was imprisoned in North Vietnam for five and a half years but he really didn’t mean it and it doesn’t impact his fitness for the presidency”...or is it: “President Trump was right. John McCain was a loser.” Or, “I saw him mock that reporter with cerebral palsy and I think he was just trying to be funny and it doesn’t change my assessment of his character”...or is it “I agree with him; that reporter is a jerk and deserves to be made fun of.”
Joan Didion once wrote that “Most of our platitudes notwithstanding, self-deception remains the most difficult deception.” Every voter needs to keep that in mind over the next few months.

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

Douglas is denying reality

To the Editor:
In accusing me of lying about Donald Trump’s incitement of the Jan. 6, 2021 riot his supporters perpetrated at the Capitol, Michael Douglas denied a mountain of evidence.
Readers need not rely on my opinion. Prominent Republicans accused Trump of causing the riot. Maybe Mr. Douglas didn’t believe GOP Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell when he said, “The mob was fed lies. They were provoked by the president and other powerful people.” Or when he said, “There’s no question — none — that President Trump is practically and morally responsible for provoking the events of the day.”
Or maybe Mr. Douglas didn’t recall that Republican House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said of Trump’s role, “I say he has responsibility. He told me personally that he does have some responsibility.” McCarthy was recorded telling Republican Congresswoman Liz Cheney that he planned to ask Trump to resign over the Capitol attack. Why would he do that if he didn’t think that Trump was culpable?
Mr. Douglas quoted a single line from Trump’s speech immediately preceding his supporters’ attack on the Capitol that injured 140 police officers, many seriously. That one line did not overcome the Big Lie that Trump repeated over and over when he urged supporters to go to the Capitol and added, “if you don’t fight like hell, you’re not going to have a country anymore.”
At least 200 defendants charged with January 6 crimes claimed they joined the violent attack because they were incited by Trump. I suppose Mr. Douglas would accuse them all of lying too.

Care to cite any more of my alleged “lies?” Or better yet, refute with facts any of the “lies” I have called out? Implying that my characterization of Trump’s role in the attempted insurrection is somehow equivalent to the MAGA right’s thousands of repeated lies is disingenuous at best.
BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

“Retire and Relocate”
- A growing strategy for stretching retirement dollars



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

Are you approaching retirement and wondering how to stretch your savings further? A growing trend among retirees that can help to meet this goal is the “retire and relocate” strategy. This approach allows you to leverage your home’s equity, potentially transforming your retirement prospects and lifestyle. But it’s not for everyone. Here’s what to know and consider about the retire and relocate strategy, so you can plan your retirement with confidence.
The power of home equity in retirement planning
A 2023 Vanguard study found that among retirees who relocate, 60 percent sell their homes in more expensive markets and move to areas with lower housing costs. This strategic move typically allows these retirees to cash out approximately \$100,000 in home equity to supplement their retirement income.
These figures become even more compelling when we consider that, according to The Federal Reserve, the median retirement account savings for those ages 55 to 64 is only about \$185,000. For many, this amount may fall short of funding a retirement that could span several decades.
Even if your retirement savings strategy has netted you larger retirement savings, if you’re thinking about experiencing a new place in retirement choosing one that will also allow you to stretch those savings even further could be an attractive option.
By tapping into home equity through relocation, retirees can not only boost their retirement funds but also potentially reduce their overall living expenses.
Understanding the “Retire and Relocate” strategy
At its core, the “retire and relocate” strategy involves selling your current home and moving to an area with lower housing costs. This move allows you to unlock a significant portion of

your home equity, which can then be used to fund your retirement goals and desired lifestyle.
The benefits of this approach can be substantial:
Increased retirement savings
Lower ongoing living expenses
Potential for a fresh start in a new community
Opportunity to downsize and simplify your life
However, it’s crucial to recognize that this strategy isn’t a one-size-fits-all solution. Various factors come into play, including future home price appreciation, taxes, insurance costs, and proximity to family and friends.
Maximizing the benefits of relocating
For those who are well-positioned to benefit from relocating, it’s important to determine how to maximize the value unlocked from their current home. Things to consider include:
Identifying low-cost areas that can reduce expenses
Ensuring amenities and communities align with desired retirement lifestyles
Analyzing potential tax implications of the move
Considering long-term factors such as healthcare accessibility and cost of living trends
Is “Retire and Relocate” right for you?
While the financial benefits of relocating can be significant, it’s essential to consider the emotional and lifestyle factors as well. Some questions to ponder include:
How important is it to stay close to family and friends?
Are you open to building a new social network in a different area?
What amenities or climate conditions are most

important to you in retirement?
How might relocating impact your hobbies, interests, or volunteer activities?
Making an informed decision: The importance of professional guidance
Given the complexities involved in such a significant life change, seeking professional advice is paramount.
At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we understand what a life-changing event retirement truly is. Our goal is to help make this transition as seamless as possible, empowering our clients to focus on embracing their next adventure with absolute confidence that the road ahead is a solid one.
If you’re intrigued by the “retire and relocate” trend but unsure if it’s the right move for your situation, we invite you to schedule a complimentary consultation on our website at whzwealth.com or by calling us at (860) 928-2341. Together, we can create a strategic path to empowering the retirement you’ve envisioned and deserve.
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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of Daniel J. LaBonte



It is with sadness that the family of Daniel J. LaBonte announced his peaceful and unexpected passing on Friday, July 26, 2024, at home in Putnam, CT. He was 76. Born and raised in Putnam, he was the youngest son of Eugene E. and Nellie (Zaklukiewicz) LaBonte. Graduated from Putnam High and Sacred Heart University. He worked as a chemist.

Danny was a devoted and loving husband to Michelle (Breault) LaBonte for fifty-one wonderful years.

Danny's life was filled with simple joys. He enjoyed going to the ocean, and holding hands and dancing with Michelle at Riverfire each summer (thanks Gary O for our last dance). He had fun goofing around while playing Farkle with his family, and sharing laughter and jokes with his son. Danny was an adventurer at heart, enjoying riding roller-coasters with his kids when they were young, horse training with his daughter, exploring National Parks with his granddaughter, coaching softball, and creating unforgettable memories.

He was a kind and gentle man who loved working with wood, sports, being entertained by his chickens, quiet moments with dragonflies, and search-

ing for the rainbow after a storm. Quick to laughter with a twinkle in his eye, like his late father whom he missed, he was welcoming to everyone around him.

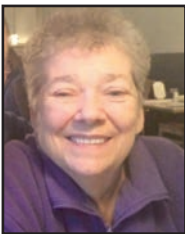
To his family he was fondly known as Grampa. His joy in life was spending time with his granddaughter Emma. The way he embraced life and noticed the little things is part of his legacy.

Danny is survived by his beloved wife, Michelle; children, Sarah, Maura, and Joshua and Joshua's companion, Mayra Rivera; and his precious granddaughters, Emma and Scarlet. He is also survived by his brother Eugene LaBonte, Jr., his nephews Brandon and his wife Sherry, and Garrett; sister-in-law Betty Galaba, niece Michelle Lee, her husband Don and their daughter Olivia.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit and pay their respects on Sunday, August 4, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT. The Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 AM at St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT.

Danny's spirit and love will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. To leave a message in the memorial guestbook, please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Lorraine H. Tremblay, 81



Pomfret Center – Lorraine H. (Tercjak) Tremblay, 81, of Brook Front Ln., beloved wife of Richard E. Tremblay, died peacefully on Friday morning, July 26, 2024, at Westview Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center. Born in N. Grosvenordale, she was the daughter of the late Anthony and Florence (Lamoureux) Tercjak.

Mrs. Tremblay worked for many years as a security receptionist at Staples.

Lorraine enjoyed listening to audio books, rooting on her favorite New England sports teams, and traveling throughout the country with her husband.

She is survived by her devoted and loving husband of 57 years, Richard Tremblay; her son Todd Tremblay, and

his partner Anne Douglas of Quaddick; her daughter, Tracy Tremblay, and her partner Paul Brockett of New London; her sister, Pauline Laprade, and her husband Norman of Washington, NH, and a grandson. She was predeceased by her brother, Richard Tercjak.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 11:00AM in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. Burial will be private.

Lorraine's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff and doctors at Westview Healthcare for the exceptional care and love that they showed to Lorraine for the past six and a half years that she resided there.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

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The man who gave his name to Reynolds Street

Welcome to August! I am really hoping that this month holds pleasant surprises after July's month of stressful, unexpected events. If you wondered where my column was last week, I ended up at Day Kimball Hospital ICU and needed a pacemaker. Now I'm learning to adapt to restrictions. I am so grateful to Dr. Modica and the doctors and staff at the hospital for their fine care. God willing, I will have many more years to write these articles.

Pacemakers. How long do you think they have been around? My paternal grandmother passed away in 1982, and I know that she had gotten one a few years before. Nevertheless, I knew very little about them. Of course, I turned to the internet for a timeline. Although a number of experiments were done earlier, "Mains-powered

pacemakers were developed in the early 1950's and were large bulky boxes filled with vacuum tubes that could not of course be implanted. They had to be wheeled around on carts and plugged into wall mains socket outlets to obtain their alternating current power. They were portable only in name since they could only go as far as the nearest electrical outlet!" In 1957 "Earl E. Bakken, electrical engineer, TV repairman and co-founder of Medtronic Inc. produced the first battery-operated wearable pacemaker... On October 8th, 1958 the first pacemaker implantation was performed in Sweden. The system had been developed by the surgeon Ake Senning and



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AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER

Congregational Church-the street that has been under construction for much of the years. I pass it whenever I help at the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center.

Several weeks ago, while researching in the "Diaries of Dr. Hill 1851-1896," edited by Marcella Houle Pasay, I came across a

most intriguing entry about the death of Samuel Reynolds, for whom Reynolds Street in Danielson was names. "Mon. 31 July (1882) Capt. Reynolds was killed by the cars at North Street railroad crossing in west Killingly. His horse was killed and smashed the wagon. He was ninety years old last Saturday and had a birthday party for the occasion." (p.194). The accompanying footnote on p.197 said that the Windham County Transcript of August 2, 1882 contained a detailed obituary and biographical information so I went to the Killingly Public Library website and accessed the paper itself.

It appears that "a son-in-law in Webster was very ill from a serious accident and Mr. Reynolds was hastening in order to prepare for a visit to Webster on the 12:30 train. When near the railroad crossing the

approaching 11.30 train gave its warning whistle and Mr. H.N. Ross, who was also in the buggy, seized the reins and warned Mr. Reynolds that to proceed would be dangerous. Mr. Reynolds, thinking g probably only of his anxiety to get home, caught the reins back and gave the horse the whip. As the horse sprang forward across the track, Ross jumped from the buggy just in time to save his life, for the engine instantly struck the team, throwing Reynolds several feet and instantly killing him. The horse was thrown in the opposite direction and killed also. The train was stopped, and the officers did all that could be done to aid in caring for the body...Mr. Reynolds was born in Rhode Island but has been a resident of this county from early childhood, and since 1831 a resident and prominent citizen of this town ..Mr.

Reynolds has held many offices of trust in this town, an by virtue of ability, wealth and character has been considered one of our foremost citizens since the earliest memory of the present generation..."

A second article in the same Transcript mentioned a little more about Reynolds' life, and thus his contribution to our town. "Our first knowledge of him commenced 66 years ago. He then led the singing in Woodstock, a service he has ever since delighted in. He removed to this place some 51 years ago. (The Killingly panel of Grey'a Atlas of Tolland & Windham Counties, CT shows Reynolds' home fam as being where Davis park is now located). He, for many years, did most of the teaming for all the factories in the village, and, as he expresses it, 'did not move as many goods in the whole time as now pass over the railroad in a single day.' Captain Reynolds was very active in beautifying our village, setting trees, etc. Besides, he probably laid out more streets than any other individual, on of which, a very handsome and populous one, bears, and we trust will continue to bear his name for centuries to come."

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, July 2024. For additional information email me at margaret-mweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killinglyhistorical.org or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

Aug. 5 – Aug. 10

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at www.killingly.org)

Monday the 5th
Inlands, Wetlands and Water Courses Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 6th
Special Town Council Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 7th
Killingly Community Gardens (Westfield Ave) 5 p.m.
Permanent Building Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Thursday the 8th
Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday the 5th
Book Character Playlist (Library) All Day
KPL Lit Talks (Library) All Day

Tuesday the 6th
Craft and Chat (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon
Teen Program Totes (Ages 13-18) (Library) All day

Wednesday the 7th
Little Listeners (Ages five and under) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Watercolor Wednesdays (Ages six to 12) (Library) 1 to 2 p.m.
Anime & Manga Club (Ages 13-18) (Library) 4 to 5 p.m.
Teen Advisory Board (Ages 13-18) (Library) 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday the 8th

Repurpose, Reuse, Recycle (Library) All Day
Ice Cream Party (All Ages) (Library) 1 to 2 p.m.
Upcycled Earth Friendly Fun (Ages six to 12) (Library) 1 to 2 p.m.
Scoops & Stories at Ra Ra's (Ra Ra's Ice Cream – Owen Bell Park) 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday the 3rd
Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library)

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

Beginner Smooth Ballroom Dancing – Aug. 5 through Aug. 19 (Killingly Community Center) (Mondays)

Let's Get Moving August – Aug. 6 through Aug. 27 (Tuesdays) (Killingly Community Center)

Virtual High Five 2024 (Killingly Community Center) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Wickford – Aug. 15
Outdoor Pound with Chris (Session 2) – July 30 through Aug. 27 (Tuesdays)

Senior Yoga August – Aug. 2 through Aug. 30 (Fridays) (Killingly Community Center) 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Monday Indoor Summer Yoga Session 2 – Aug. 5 through Aug. 26 (Killingly Community Center)

Thursday Indoor Summer Yoga Session 2 – Aug. 15 through September 5th (Killingly Community Center)

Senior Picnic – Sept. 16 (Killingly Community Center)
The Big E – Sept. 24

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.killingly.org.

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Poor flowering and fruiting in the vegetable garden

Another summer of above-normal summer temperatures in much of the country may be taking its toll on your vegetable gardens. Temperature extremes can interfere with flowering and fruit set, resulting in poor flowering, blossom drop, and a lack of or misshapen fruit on tomatoes, peppers, squash, and more.

The impact of temperature on plants

depends on the stage of the plant's development. Plants ready to flower or developing fruit during times of optimum temperatures will be fine but plants that are ready to flower or develop fruit during more extreme temperatures experience problems.

Tomatoes thrive in warm, sunny conditions but when daytime temperatures rise above 90 degrees Fahrenheit



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

and night temperatures remain above 70 degrees Fahrenheit blossom drop and poor fruit development may occur. This combined with low humidity and the pollen is not viable. In hot and humid conditions, the pollen is too sticky and doesn't move from the male to the female part of the flower. Without pollination, the flowers won't be fertilized, and fruit will not develop.

On the other hand, when night temperatures are below the optimum of 59 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit, less viable pollen is produced so fewer fruit will form. Cooler temperatures below 55 degrees Fahrenheit can result in misshapen fruit and cat-facing. Fortunately, this malformed fruit is still tasty and safe to eat.

Temperature extremes also impact pepper productivity. When temperatures climb to 95 degrees or higher, the pollen is sterile and flowers may drop. Small fruit may also fall from the plant during such hot spells. Pepper plants also experience poor fruit set when night temperatures drop below 60 degrees or rise above 75 degrees.

Flowering in squash and cucumber plants is also influenced by temperature and other environmental factors. These plants typically produce separate male and female flowers. The male flowers usually appear first, and it is not until both the male and female flowers are present that pollination, fertilization, and fruit production can occur.

The research found cool temperatures, bright sunlight, and shorter days encourage female flower production while male flowers are more prolific during warmer temperatures, less sunlight, and close spacing. Flowering on squash and cucumbers is also impacted by nitrogen fertilization. Too much can prevent female flower formation while insufficient amounts can reduce the number of male flowers.

In addition, rainy weather or improperly applied pesticides that prevent bee activity and pollination can also result in malformed cucumbers.

These aren't the only vegetables impacted by temperature extremes. Eggplants, a close relative of tomatoes and peppers, do not set fruit until night temperatures are above 55 degrees. Beans stop flowering or the flowers die when temperatures rise above 85 degrees.

The simplest solution is to wait for optimum temperatures and proper



Melinda Myers

Cooler temperatures below 55 degrees Fahrenheit can result in misshapen fruit and cat-facing as seen in this photo.

humidity levels to return. Once this happens, the plants will begin producing fruit. Be sure to harvest regularly to keep the plants producing.

If poor productivity caused by weather is a yearly problem, consider planting varieties better suited to these extremes, adjust the planting times, and if needed, find a more suitable growing location.

When the harvest is delayed, extend the season with the help of row covers. These fabrics allow sunlight, air, and water through while trapping heat around the plants. Loosely cover the plants and anchor the edges with stones, boards, or landscape staples when frost is forecasted. You can leave the fabric in place for the

remainder of the year. Just lift it to harvest and secure the fabric when done.

If this summer's weather leaves you disappointed with the harvest, remember there is always next year.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd 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.

STORYTIME

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the picture books," said Weigel.

The Story Half Hours were a goal of the shop for quite some time before implementing the program in 2024. Weigel explained how both libraries and bookstores have really embraced the trend as a way to get families into the store, encourage a love of reading, and share classic books that span generations as well as new favorites that could become modern traditions. More than anything however, he feels encouraging an early love of ready is essentially to helping kids live a fuller life as teenagers and adults.

"Anything we can do to get kids excited about reading is a good thing. There's no such thing as too many programs. We want to offer a lot of opportunities for kids to get excited about books

because once they're hooked, they can be hooked for life. Enjoying reading is absolutely essential to a good life. Someone who can't read has a more limited life, but those who can, they're life becomes unlimited," said Weigel.

The Saturday Story Half Hours begin at 10:30 a.m. every Saturday until the end of August. Weigel explained that the shop even plans to bring in some kids to be guest readers near the end of the program.

PANTRIES

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nomic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region. Learn more about Access by visiting <https://accessagency.org/>.

For more information about the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, please visit stopandshop.bloomin4good.com.

LEGALS

In accordance with the provisions of CHAPTER 743, Sec. 42-159, SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITIES, House Bill 5148 (effective July 1, 2022); NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the person herein after named and to all who it may concern. The contents of leased units are subject to our lien for non-payment of rent and other charges. You are denied access to that unit. You can redeem such goods on or before August 14, 2024 12:59 PM. The goods you have stored after this time will be sold at auction to the highest bidder. The sale will take place at: **American Self Storage, 179 Quinebaug Rd., North Grosvenordale CT. 06255, on August 14, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.**

The facility/auctioneer reserves the right to cancel a sale at any time for any reason. The name of the lessee(s), and charges due:

- Gregory Tarullo Jr. Unit G17 Boxes, Plastic Totes, Misc. Items, Toys
 - Jessica Walker Unit H24 Boxes, Plastic Totes, Misc. Items, Furniture
 - David G. Mossy III Unit D41 Furniture, Clothes, Boxes, Misc. Items
 - Sandra Caissie Unit M30 Plastic Totes, Boxes, Bags, Misc. Items
- American Self Storage LLC
179 Quinebaug Rd
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 Office
(860) 923-9100
August 2, 2024
August 9, 2024

Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I, Nital Patel, 73 Perry Street Unit 159, Putnam, CT 06260

Have filed an application placarded 05/13/2024 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a PACKAGE STORE LIQUOR PERMIT PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at
MELDI MAALLC
August 2, 2024
August 9, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Thompson Public Library, 934 Riverside Drive in the Library Meeting Room and on ZOOM to hear the following applications:

ZBA 24-03 Mark Pillsbury, property owner of 17 Laurelwood Drive, Map 116 Block 24 Lot 66F, .98 Acres Zone RRAD request a frontage set back from 40 feet to 30 feet a 10' frontage variance, and a side setback of 10' a 10' variance to construct an Accessory Dwelling Unit, according to Article 7, 275-7.3 General Development Standards D Frontage and setback requirements.
ZBA 24-04-Kathleen Ellis, property owner of 0 Breaulits Landing, Map 141

block 17, Lot 202, .0131 acres, Zone Lake District, request a variance to build a 28' x 30' garage on empty lot according to Zoning Regulations Article 2, 275-1.4 Definitions, Accessory Structure.

File may be reviewed online, Town of Thompson website, Zoning Board of Appeals, or in the Zoning Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Kurby Cunha, Chairman
August 2, 2024
August 9, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON Planning and Zoning LEGAL NOTICE

At the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on July 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 and via ZOOM, the following action was taken.

PZC #24-11 APPLICANT Ishwara Sharma, 1 Rattan Road Realty Trust, owner of 1410 Thompson Rd, Map 114, Block 27, Lot 21, Zone RRAD, 49.53 acres, Special Permit for Multi-Housing 16 single family homes, 4 duplexes, community building according to The Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations, **Article 7, 275-7.2 #14 and Article 4, 275-4, A. B. and C APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**
PZC #24-16 Applicant Sanat Patel, property owner of 423 Pasay Rd, Map 79, Block 47, Lot 10, Zone RRAD, 18.6 Acres representing Dahya Development requesting a 4 lot subdivision according to **Sub-division regulations Article III, Section A, 1- 3. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**
PZC #24-17 Applicant Gnanant LLC property owner of 96 Main Street, Map 169, Block 88, Lot 53, Zone DMRD request Multifamily dwelling of 3 or more units, according to **Zoning Regulations Article 12,, 275-12.2, #21. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**

PZC 24-18 Applicant Roland Amoling and Michelle Chipman property owners of 0 Hill Road, Map 126, Block 15, Lot 7, Zone RRAD, 1.59 acres request a Special Permit to conduct a Micro- cultivation facility of Adult Use Cannabis according to **Article 14 Use Regulations, Section 275 - 14-7, Retail alcohol and adult use cannabis and Article 7 Section 275-7.2 Table of Permitted Uses #13 Cannabis Mico-cultivator Accepted for a Public hearing on August 26, 2024**

PZC 24-20 Applicant Strategic Commercial Realty Inc, property owner of 0 West Thompson Rd, Map, 65, Block 101 Lot 9. BBD, Gravel Operation Renewal Permit, excavation of approximately 1 million cubic yards of ledge rock to prepare the subject property for future commercial/ industrial possible vote development, **Article 14, Section 275-14-3E renew-**

al Permit APPROVED
PZC 24-21 Applicant Rochard Desrochers dba J&J Construction LLC, property owner of 484-486 Quaddick Town Farm Road, Map 158, Block 20, Lot 8, Zone RRAD, a Gravel Operation Permit Renewal and reclamation of site. **Zoning Regulation 2012, Article IX, Section 5, F-1 Gravel Banks/Earth Removal/Earth Processing APPROVED**
PZC 24-22 Applicant Patricia Rudzinski owner of 0 Labby Road, Map 95, Block 27, Lot 17, Zone RRAD, a gravel operation renewal permit, **Zoning Regulation 2012, Article IX, Section 5, F-1 Gravel Banks/Earth Removal/Earth Processing. APPROVED**
Respectfully submitted.
Joe Parodi-Brown, Chairman
Files may be reviewed at the Planning and Zoning Office
August 2, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Dan Hooker (24-00267)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 23, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Kaye H Johnson
c/o MARTA CZEKAJEWSKI COLLINS, LECKERLING LADWIG & LEAMON LLC,
23 WOODLAND ROAD, SUITE C-2,
MADISON, CT 06433
August 2, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Bob Howard Schellinger (24-00275)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 22, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Adam M. Schellinger
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, 168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
August 2, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Nancy L Goodwin (24-00280)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated

July 22, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Kevin M.F. Platt
c/o MARK R BROUILLARD,
ST ONGE & BROUILLARD,
50 ROUTE 171,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
August 2, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Kenneth J. Masciovecchio (24-00287)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 23, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Lisa M. Donor
c/o EVELINA MONIKA RUSZKOWSKI, THE PRUE LAW GROUP, P.C.,
720 MAIN ST 4TH FL,
WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226
August 2, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Anatasi Vriga (24-00279)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 25, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Louise V. Pavlech
c/o ROBIN MURDOCK-MEGGERS, FALKENSTEIN MEGGERS PAUL & ROBINSON P.C., 113 EAST CENTER STREET, MANCHESTER, CT 06040
August 2, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Deborah M. Meunier (24-00272)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 23, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elysa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
David Meunier, 153 School St.,
Putnam ,CT 06260
August 2, 2024

Longtime Woodstock resident awarded scholarship for HR certification



Trisha Berk

NORTH BRANFORD — Trisha Berk, daughter of Jennifer and Daniel Berk of Woodstock, was recently selected as the recipient of the Andy Thiede HR Certification Scholarship. The scholarship was created by Andy Thiede, an HR professional from Berlin, with a passion for helping others in the HR field. Trisha is an

HR Business Coordinator at HR Bull Consulting, in North Branford, and currently lives in West Haven. To date, Thiede has proudly awarded more than \$8,500 in scholarships to Connecticut professionals working in HR. Trisha is the 18th recipient of the Andy Thiede HR Certification Scholarship.

“Trisha has done everything right to pave the way for a wonderful career in human resources,” stated Thiede. She added, “Trisha earned a master’s degree, joined our local SHRM chapter (SHRM stands for the Society for Human Resource Management, and is the world’s largest HR association), networked with colleagues

and landed a position, and now has obtained her HR certification credentials. I can’t wait to see what happens next for her!” Trisha was selected for the HR Certification Scholarship based on her dedication to helping people, and her ambition to excel in her HR career. She used the scholarship to test for the SHRM-

CP (Society for Human Resource Management-Certified Professional) designation. On July 1, Trisha completed the 4-hour SHRM-CP certification test, and passed it the first time. “I have a lot of big dreams for my career in HR, a set of goals to benchmark, and plans on how I will reach my full potential, said Trisha. She added, “this scholarship allowed me to earn my SHRM-CP certification, which is a key goal that will help me achieve my career objectives.”

The Andy Thiede HR Certification Scholarship was established in 2016 by Andrea (Andy) Thiede, a more than 25 year HR professional from Berlin, who wanted to give back to the HR profession. The scholarship helps offset the expense of obtaining an advanced HR certification. To date, Thiede has awarded 18 HR certification scholarships to Connecticut residents working in the HR field. Thiede is an HR Consultant with KardasLarson LLC, and the Director of Operations for the Human Resource Association of Central Connecticut (HRACC). In addition to these roles, she serves as Treasurer of the SMA of Southern New England SHRM chapter, Assistant Treasurer of the Connecticut SHRM State Council, Treasurer for the Tri-State SHRM Conference, and Chapter Administrator for the SHRM Western CT chapter.

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA



9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING
FOR SALE



- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas



- Listing price: \$650,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



Email Us!



What's On Your Mind? We'd Like to Know.

Email us your thoughts to:
brendan@villagernewspapers.com



We'd Love To Hear From You!



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JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

508-868-3765

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