

*“Do what you can,
with what you have,
where you are.”
- Theodore Roosevelt*



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

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Friday, May 22, 2026

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Mike Bogdanski — Courtesy

Mayor Barney Seney and Selectwoman Gloria Marion presented certificates of appreciation to Scouts Will Chartier (Troop 25), Will Bates (Troop 25), and Julius Lang (Troop 66, in absentia). This was through a Boy Scout tree planting project at the Putnam Municipal complex.

Killingly Superintendent resigns to lead Ellington School District

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Nash has announced her impending departure from the district as she returns to a town significant to her journey as an educational leader.

Nash, who has served as Killingly’s Superintendent since 2023, was confirmed as the new superintendent of Ellington Public Schools during a Board of Education meeting in the town on May 11, returning to a district where she once served as principal of Crystal Lake Elementary School. Nash was welcomed by a room full of supporters as she spoke about her excitement for returning to Ellington.

“I feel so welcomed and blessed to be able to come back to this district and serve – I just cannot believe how many people came out tonight. It really does speak volumes for this community. I cannot wait to dive into the work,” she said.

Nash officially joins Ellington on July 1.

Her departure was also confirmed through a statement sent to the parents of the Killingly School District and by a post from the Killingly Board of Education Chair. In her statement to the public, Dr. Nash thanked Killingly for being such a welcoming district.

“Leaving Killingly is incredibly difficult. Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my career, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated students, families, staff members, administrators, and Board of Education members,” Nash wrote.

“I am deeply proud of all we have accomplished together,” she continued. “Through challenges and successes alike, this community has consistently kept students at the center of every decision. Because of that shared commitment, I know the district will continue to thrive and move forward in meaningful ways. Great things happen in Killingly, and they will continue long after my departure.”

Killingly Board of Education Chair Susan Lannon posted a farewell message to Nash on social media thanking her for the contributions and leadership she brought to the district.

“During her time with Killingly Public Schools, Dr. Nash demonstrated thoughtful leadership focused on student achievement, attendance, staff development, school safety, family engagement, and strengthening community partnerships. The Board of Education is grateful for her service to our students, staff, and community,” said Lannon.

The Killingly Board of Education has begun its search for an interim superintendent to replace Nash, setting the stage for a longer, thorough search for a permanent successor.

Pomfret voters approve increase to firefighter tax abatement

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

POMFRET — Pomfret’s 313th annual town meeting successfully approved two town ordinance measures, while pushing the town’s budgets to a referendum vote.

While the town’s education and general government budgets had to wait, with a ballot vote set for May 22 after press time for this article, the big news from the night came from the two ordinances which passed by a vote by those present at the meeting, one that alters how the town’s Board of Selectmen election format and another that amends a town ordinance regarding tax abatements

for volunteer firefighters.

The firefighter ordinance vote came first and proved to be very popular. According to the Pomfret Fire Department, Pomfret has offered up to \$1,000 in tax abatements to volunteer firefighters based on their longevity and service since 1993, but a State Statute change in 2022 allowed towns to increase that tax break to up to \$2,000 for qualified members. The affirmative vote at the town meeting will now amend Pomfret’s abatement to that higher limit.

“On behalf of the entire Pomfret Volunteer Fire Department, we would like to extend our deep-

Turn To **POMRET** page **A10**

Thompson VFW and Auxiliary recognizes unpaid professionals, students and volunteers

THOMPSON — A Community Recognition Night sponsored by the Thompson Memorial VFW Auxiliary to Post 10088 was held on Monday, April 27 at the Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department according to an announcement from Commander Gary Surozenski, President Linda Nizamoff and Program Chairman Linda Szyrka. The annual event is held to honor volunteers and citizens in the Town of Thompson who distinguish themselves in service to others.

Since 1990, the Auxiliary has been recognizing the five Fire Departments in Thompson with

the “Unpaid Professional” Award. Each department is asked to nominate one of their own for this award. Honored this year were:

Logan Witkowski – East Thompson Volunteer Fire Department

James Donovan – Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department

Dan Lowell – West Thompson Fire Department

Ronald Tillen – Thompson Fire Engine Co.

John Sharp – Community Fire Co. Inc.

The “Youth Volunteer of the Year” goes to an adult who vol-

Turn To **THOMPSON** page **A10**

Gordon secures \$400,000 for Woodstock’s Lake Bunggee Tax District road paving proposal



WOODSTOCK — State Sen. Jeff Gordon (R-Woodstock) today celebrated \$400,000 in funding for Lake Bunggee Tax District Road paving during Lake Bunggee District’s bi-annual meeting.

“In my hometown of Woodstock, I know Lake Bunggee,” said Senator Gordon. “The roads within the Lake District are privately owned, meaning the Lake Bunggee

District is not eligible to receive money from the state’s annual Town Aid Road fund for maintenance services and infrastructure improvements.”

Currently, unpaved roads are subject to significant erosion, resulting in frequent potholes, sediment runoff into the lake, and ongoing maintenance costs.

“The \$400,000 I fought to get in the state’s budget for Lake Bunggee will support the con-

version of approximately five miles of privately maintained dirt roads to paved roads,” said Gordon. “This is great news! I am proud to have met with people, heard their concerns, learned about the ongoing project, and fought to get the money to help. This will provide lasting infrastructure improvements, reduce environmental impacts to the lake, significantly decrease the long-term roadway maintenance

burden on the Lake District, and make things more affordable for residents.”

Kelly Billings, Clerk of the Lake Bunggee District, added, “This is wonderful news for the Lake Bunggee Tax District community. Securing a \$400,000 grant for paving and drainage infrastructure is a significant milestone for a private district that typically relies solely on its annual budget. The collaboration between Roads Chair Bob Billings and State Senator Jeff Gordon clearly paid off. Having a representative take the time to tour ‘problem areas’ and then successfully advocate for funding in the legislature is a major win for the district.”

Roads to be paved include Old Sawmill Road, Playground Drive, Walnut Rd, Lake View Drive, Hilltop Drive, Pine Grove Drive, Big Horn Lane, Little Horn Lane, Hemlock Drive, Laurel Hill Drive, Sand Hill Road, Hiawatha Heights, Little Bunggee Hill Road, Valley View Road, and Spring Hill Road.

“Dads Climb Free” this Father’s Day at The Adventure Park at Storrs

STORRS — Father’s Day plans sorted. The Adventure Park at Storrs, Storrs’ premier zipline and climbing Park, is celebrating dads with a Buy One, Get One Free ticket promotion on Sunday, June 21.

Purchase one three-hour Father’s Day BOGO climbing ticket and Dad’s ticket is on us. It’s the kind of adventure the whole family will be talking about long after the summer ends.

“There’s something special about watching families challenge themselves together outdoors,” said Jesse Pasacreta, Park Manager. “Father’s Day at the Park is always one of our favorite days of the season.”

How to claim the Father’s Day BOGO Deal

Online: Visit <https://myadventurepark.com/event/dads-climb-free-sap> and select the “Father’s Day BOGO” ticket. Add two tickets to your cart—one will be free at checkout.

By Phone: Call 860-946-0606 and ask for the Father’s Day BOGO promotion. Our team will help you find the perfect climb time and apply the discount.

The Father’s Day promotion is valid only on Sunday, June



21, 2026, during regular Park hours: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. One free ticket per order. Cannot be combined with other promotions or events. Tickets are non-refundable but may be exchanged for Adventure Park Account Credit in the amount paid.

Kick off Father’s Day weekend: Rad Dad ‘80s Glow in the Park — June 20

Why wait until Sunday to celebrate Dad? On Saturday, June 20, the Park goes full neon for

“Rad Dad: An 80s Glow in the Park.” Think retro tunes, glowing trails, and whatever Dad considers a great outfit. It’s the ultimate Father’s Day Eve warm-up—and honestly, climbing through a glow-in-the-dark forest might be the coolest thing Dad’s done since 1987. Tickets and details at myAdventurePark.com/SAP.

Summer hours begin June 17. The Park shifts into full summer mode starting Wednesday, June 17, open Wednesdays through Sundays through Aug. 23. Visit myAdventurePark.com/SAP for the complete schedule and upcoming events. Affordable climbing all summer with a monthly pass

For families who can’t get enough, the “Adventure Anytime” Monthly Pass is the ultimate summer upgrade. Unlimited climbs all month long for just 50% more than the cost of a single ticket—no per-visit tickets, no math. Whether Dad (or the kids)

want to come back every week or every weekend, the monthly pass makes it easy and affordable to make the Park your summer headquarters. Learn more at <https://myadventurepark.com/location/storrs-ct/prices-promos/season-pass/monthly-passes/>.

First-timer or seasoned climber, there’s no better place to unplug and get outside this summer than The Adventure Park.

About The Adventure Park at Storrs. The nine trails at The Adventure Park consist of various challenges in the trees, including bridges, tightropes, ladders, and 28 ziplines. Participants wear harnesses with clips that connect to the trail’s safety system, ensuring that they are always locked on to the course until they reach the end. The main trails are designed for ages seven to adult, and an Adventure Playground provides a low-to-the-ground adventure experience for little climbers ages three to six.

Non-climbing participants are admitted free of charge to share the experience on the ground and enjoy the property’s nature trails, picnic tables and community firepit.

The Adventure Park at Storrs is open to the general public and is located minutes from the UConn Campus. The address is 2007 Storrs Rd. in Storrs. Walk ins are welcome on a space available basis, but guests are encouraged to book ahead on the Park’s website or by calling 860-946-0606.

The Adventure Park at Storrs is designed, built and operated by Outdoor Venture Group.

SNHU announces Spring Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2026 Dean’s List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

- Antonio Montalvo of Woodstock
- Justin Bressette of Woodstock
- Makenzie Raduege of North Grosvenordale
- Anthony Thompson of Danielson
- DANIELLE Fernandes of Dayville

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

SNHU announces Spring President’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2026 President’s List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

- Ryan King of Putnam
- Lissette Hernandez of Putnam
- Makayla Evans of Putnam
- Amanda Valinski of Putnam
- Aurora Charlton of Woodstock
- Nichole Cloutier of Woodstock
- Liam Loughlin of North Grosvenordale
- Shannon Hermann of Eastford
- Dean Lawrence of Eastford
- Alexis LeBlanc of Danielson
- Paul Julien Jr of Danielson
- Colby Valliere of Killingly
- Brady O’Donnell of Danielson
- Adam Van der Swaagh of Danielson
- Jennifer Smyth of Dayville
- Jessica Lang of Dayville
- DANIELLE Finley of Dayville
- Scar Jones of Dayville
- Jacob Finley of Dayville
- Amy Tucciarone of Dayville
- Nicole Simons of Dayville
- Sarah Humphrey of Brooklyn
- Roland Strickland of Brooklyn
- Bailey Pepin of Brooklyn

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.



ARTHRITIS?

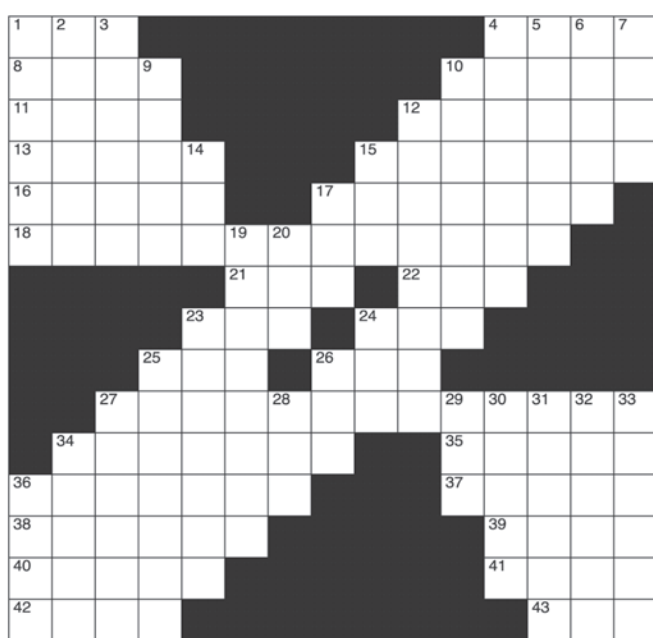
Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be? If not we may be able to help.

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Charles A. Birbara, MD

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“Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis”

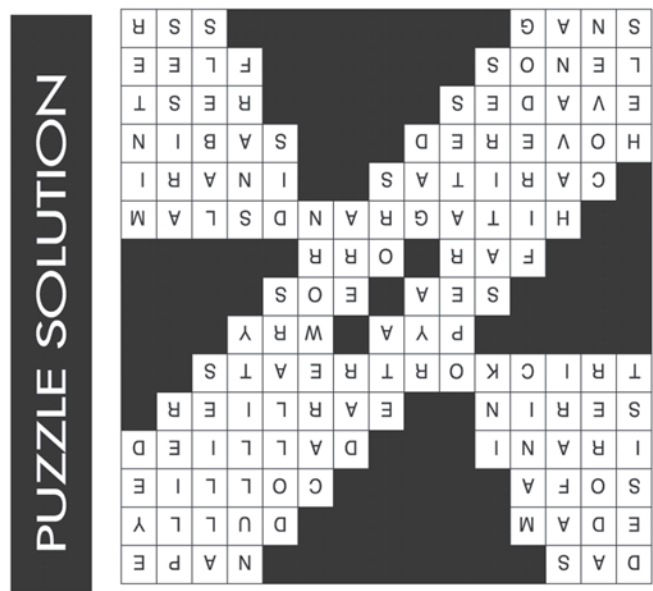


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Government lawyers
- 4. The back of a person’s neck
- 8. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 10. In a less flashy way
- 11. Living room piece
- 12. Shepherd dog
- 13. A citizen of Iran
- 15. Moved slowly
- 16. Small finch
- 17. Previously
- 18. What a kid does on Halloween
- 21. Monetary unit
- 22. Using dry humor
- 23. Ocean
- 24. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 25. Not close
- 26. NHL legend Bobby
- 27. A ballplayer would love to do this
- 34. Charity
- 35. City in Finland
- 36. Loomed over
- 37. Vaccine developer
- 38. Avoids capture
- 39. We all need it
- 40. Openwork fabrics
- 41. Get away
- 42. Something you might hit
- 43. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Abstain from
- 2. Admirer
- 3. Expedition to observe animals
- 4. Act that is legally void
- 5. WW2 combatants
- 6. A tool
- 7. Looked at
- 9. Showing wild excitement
- 10. Banknotes
- 12. Tired
- 14. Printers need it
- 15. Women’s patriotic group
- 17. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 19. Functions
- 20. Breed of sheep
- 23. Mocking pieces
- 24. A major division of geological time
- 25. Andiron
- 26. Many not ands
- 27. Cuban city
- 28. He voiced “Olaf”
- 29. Criticize
- 30. “Thundercats” character
- 31. Markings
- 32. Gets up
- 33. MLB lefty reliever A.J.
- 34. An assembly of witches
- 36. High energy lasers (abbr.)



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DMMA students move up in rank



DANIELSON — Thursday, May 14, six-time Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee and current US Martial Arts Team Member, 7th Dan Master Daryl Laperle announces promotion of students in Danielson Martial Arts Academy's most recent grading.

Jase Pingitore - 2 Gup Red
 Andrew Carlson - 3 Gup Red
 Timothy Carlson - 3 Gup Red
 Alina Turner - 3 Gup Red

Juniper Flynn - 3 Gup Red
 William Flynn - 3.5 Gup Green
 Waylon Hayden - 4 Gup Green
 Kile Gagnon - 4 Gup Green
 Liberty Harty - 4 Gup Green
 Elacy Brown - 5 Gup Purple
 Esme' King - 6 Gup Purple
 Henry Pettus - 6 Gup Purple
 Camilo Jaimes - 6 Gup Purple
 Rhonin Erickson - 6.5 Gup Blue
 Jackson Lawton - 6.5 Gup Blue

Mackenzie Gagner - 7 Gup Blue
 Jacob Banda - 7 Gup Blue
 Hunter Dumas - 7 Gup Blue
 Levi Brannon - 8 Gup Blue
 Jasmine Solis - 8 Gup Blue
 Kalina Gwozdz - 8 Gup Blue
 Gavin Mota - 8 Gup Blue
 Grayson West - 8 Gup Blue
 Madison West - 8 Gup Blue
 Luke Mauro - 8 Gup Blue
 Phoenix Hernandez - 9 Gup Orange

Caroline Hardell - 9 Gup Orange
 Axel Laperle - 9 Gup Orange
 Elliana Evans - 9 Gup Orange
 Amelia Pudsey - 9 Gup Orange
 Holden Orellana - 9 Gup Orange

For more information regarding classes, please call 860-779-0699, or visit the Web site at DanielsonMartialArts.com.

Interact Club puts together 'Birthday Kits'



Courtesy
 Pictured, from left: Mabel Perreault, Paige Perry, Calleigh Levesque, and Alyssa Daniels.

PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club had a "birthday party" of their own had fun creating Birthday Kits in remembrance of Lorna Wade.

Wade was a member of the Living Faith United Methodist Church of Putnam. She died in January 2026. At her recent memorial service there were fliers with Wade's idea of a Birthday Kit Ministry which allows every child to celebrate their birthday.

Putnam Rotary Club and the Interact Club members donated items to create the kits: cake mixes, cans of frosting, cans of Sprite, candles, paper plates, napkins and sprinkles.

The Interact Club assembled 30 kits and they also received \$96 in donations toward the Birthday Kits.

The kits will be delivered to Daily Bread to be distributed to families in need.

Rotarian Roberta Rocchetti, Interact advisor, thanked Interact members co-president Paige Perry, and Interactors Alyssa Daniels, Calleigh Levesque and Mabel Perreault for their hard work.

The Putnam Rotary Interact Club is a Rotary-sponsored regional club for ages 12 - 18 with the focus on community service. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Putnam Public Library every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from September through May.

For more information, contact Roberta Rocchetti at robertarocchetti4@gmail.com or 860-933-8603.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE

EDITOR

Leadership matters, but so does continuity

School districts across Northeastern Connecticut know all too well that strong leadership can shape the tone, culture, and direction of an entire community. That is why the announcement that Killingly Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Nash will depart the district this summer naturally brings mixed emotions.

On one hand, there is disappointment. Superintendent turnover is never easy for a school system, particularly one that has worked hard in recent years to build momentum, strengthen communication, and maintain focus on student achievement. Families, teachers, administrators, and board members invest time building trust and working relationships with a superintendent. When that leader leaves, even for positive reasons, there is always uncertainty about what comes next.

On the other hand, there is also something admirable about Dr. Nash's decision to return to a district that clearly holds personal and professional meaning for her. Educational leadership is demanding work. The long hours, difficult decisions, public scrutiny, and constant balancing of budgets, staffing, safety, academics, and community expectations are not jobs people take lightly. When someone speaks sincerely about wanting to return to a place where they once served and grew as an educator, it reflects the deeply personal nature of public education.

What stands out most in this transition is the tone with which both sides are approaching it. Dr. Nash's public remarks about Killingly reflected gratitude and pride rather than self-congratulation. Likewise, the response from the Killingly Board of Education emphasized professionalism, appreciation, and acknowledgment of the work accomplished during her tenure.

That matters.

Too often today, leadership changes become occasions for division, finger-pointing, or political theater. Communities benefit when transitions are handled with maturity and perspective. Schools especially require stability, even during periods of change. Students still arrive each morning needing the same things they needed the day before: safe classrooms, dedicated teachers, consistent expectations, and adults focused on helping them succeed.

Killingly now faces the important task of selecting both an interim superintendent and eventually a permanent successor. That process deserves patience and care. The temptation in any leadership search is to focus heavily on personalities or buzzwords. In reality, the district's long-term success will depend on finding someone who understands the community, communicates clearly, supports teachers, and keeps students at the center of decision-making.

It is also important to remember that no school district succeeds because of one individual alone. Superintendents matter greatly, but so do principals, paraprofessionals, custodians, coaches, bus drivers, parents, and school board members. A healthy district is built on teamwork and continuity. Strong systems survive leadership changes because the broader community remains committed to the mission.

Killingly Public Schools has seen meaningful accomplishments during Dr. Nash's time in the district, particularly in areas such as attendance, safety, family engagement, and community partnerships. Those efforts should not disappear with a change in office. The next superintendent should be expected to build on that foundation while bringing fresh ideas and perspective of their own.

Transitions can be unsettling, but they can also be opportunities for reflection and growth. In small towns like ours, schools are woven into the identity of the community itself. The names at the top may change over time, but the responsibility remains the same: preparing young people for the future while strengthening the community they call home.

Dr. Nash leaves with gratitude from many in Killingly, and rightly so. Now the district begins its next chapter, with the hope that the work already underway continues moving forward in meaningful ways.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A chance to learn more

To the Editor:

I look forward to reading the letters to the Editor every week. They are often thought provoking, providing different perspective to the issues of the day as seen through the eyes of my fellow citizens. Sometimes, especially when the letters are from the Trump/FOX parrots, they make me laugh, or cringe. But the ones about science, or climate often make me do work.

As a trained science teacher, I always look at everything through a skeptical prism. There is a lot that I've studied and know, but a lot more that I question. Every now and then, one of these letters appears that sends me down the path of research.

The letter from Michael Douglas in the April 24 issue was just such a letter. Now, there were lots of clues in that letter that Mr. Douglas was likely repeating what he heard someone else, say, and there was clear evidence that he chose his data points carefully to make sure they fit his hypothesis that climate change is somehow a hoax.

One of the dangers in doing any kind of research is only looking for information that supports your belief, and not for information that may disprove it. It is one of the dangers we refer to as "confirmation bias."

In his letter, Mr. Douglas concentrates on the Maldives as proof of this hoax. He talks of a 2004 story purportedly from the BBC in which they claimed that seal levels more than nine tenths of a centimeter per year could cause 80 percent of the island to vanish within a century, but here, 22 years later, the islands are experiencing growth with new airports and tourism. I have searched and searched for that BBC article to no avail so I can neither verify, nor refute his statement. But he claims that since the 1980's there has been no significant rise in seal level, and that satellite data supports this.

Well, all of this sent me to do my own research, and what I did find out was that since 1988, the Maldives have been building, and repairing sea walls to stave off erosion from rising sea levels. I've also found that many islands pump in sand from other atolls to rebuild their beaches, and in fact, new completely man-made islands are being created as tourism continues to grow. So if the beach keep getting restored with pumped in sand, one cannot make the claim that the ocean hasn't been rising. Also, sources of

fresh water are becoming scarcer as tourism demands increase usage and salt water permeates the fresh water stores. His argument that development proves that the island is not sinking is disingenuous.

Developers care about how much money they can make now. If one can make \$2 billion on a \$500 million investment, one does not care what happens to the property in 100 years. We must differentiate terms between sea level rise and ocean level rise. Sea level is where the water meets the land, and is considered to be the median point between high and low tide. If you keep adding sand to your beaches, like they do in Florida, then you will see no significant rise in sea level, because it is all relative. Had Mr. Douglas used

England as his source he would have found that sea level is going

down, but this is because the island is still rising from all the weight of the glaciers during the last ice age having been lifted.

Ocean level rise is a bit more difficult to track. Mr. Douglas claims that satellite data shows no significant rise since 1980. According to NASA. GOV, satellite data did not exist before 1992, but has shown a global ocean level rise of 3.4 millimeters per year from 1993 to present has been measured, and there are indications that the rate of ocean level rise has increased during the satellite altimeter record. So in this case, Mr. Douglas's claim is false, and I urge everyone reading this to look it up for themselves.

There are two primary causes of ocean level rise due to climate change. The first is melting land glaciers, like those in Greenland, Alaska and Antarctica that adds new water to the ocean. The second is thermal expansion of the water due to increased temperatures. This expansion is more prevalent in warmer waters, like in the tropics, where the Maldives are located.

Mr. Douglas then points to Plymouth Rock as proof that the sea level isn't rising. What he fails to point out is that Plymouth Rock has been moved at least 4 times in the last 400 years, and was completely under water at least once. Instead of the movable Plymouth Rock Mr. Douglas should look at the houses on Plum Island that wash into the ocean every few years because of rising levels and increased storm erosion.

Then Mr. Douglas goes on to makes several false claims about CO₂ that have been repeatedly shown to be untrue in letters here, as well as multiple sources. Yes CO₂ is necessary for plants to perform the act of photosynthesis, but the delicate balance between CO₂ levels and climate change have been shown in literally thousands of scientific papers, so again his claim that "No one can show from the scientific literature that human emissions from CO₂ drive global warming" is prima fascia untrue.

Finally, he uses as his resource Dr. Ian Plimer of the University of Melbourne. Dr. Plimer is a known climate skeptic, not a bad thing. But in his writings, he has many times been found to use false data, or simply made up facts – like his claim that volcanoes produce more CO₂ than human activity, something that has been proven untrue even by the United States Geological Survey that has calculated that human emissions of CO₂ are about 130 times larger than volcanic emissions, including submarine emissions. But to support his bias, Mr. Douglas chooses this outlier, and ignores the thousands of climate scientists, with data to back them up, showing the human contribution to climate change.

I thank Mr. Douglas for his letter, and sending me down this research tunnel. I like to learn more things, and even like to learn about things that will change my viewpoint. Unfortunately, his letter did not succeed in that, but I urge everyone to look this information yourself, and not take either Mr. Douglas's, or my, word on the topic.

DAVE CLARK
THOMPSON

One leader fills potholes, the other just digs holes

To the Editor:

As of May 2026, the U.S. national debt has surpassed \$39 trillion. It is growing at roughly \$7 billion per day, more than \$85,000 every single second. Every American citizen's share now exceeds \$117,000. Every taxpayer owes more than \$278,000. The debt-to-GDP ratio has crossed 120 percent, meaning the country owes more than its entire annual economic output. These figures are published daily by the U.S. Treasury.

Trump added \$7.8 trillion to the national debt during his first term, more than any president in history at the time. In his first year back in office, he added another \$2.25 trillion, according to the nonpartisan Peter G. Peterson Foundation. Trump promised to "end inflation and make America affordable again" starting "on day one," and pledged to cut energy and electricity prices in half within 12 to 18 months. Inflation has instead risen to a three-year high. Gas and grocery prices have climbed sharply since the start of the Iran war. Nearly three-quarters of Americans disapprove of how Trump is handling the cost of living, according to a recent ABC News/Washington Post/Ipsos poll.

On May 12, departing the White House for China, Trump was asked by reporters how much Americans' financial struggles were motivating him to reach a deal with Iran. "Not even a little bit," he replied. "I don't think about Americans' financial situation. I don't think about anybody. I think about one thing, we cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon. That's all."

The disconnect from the financial reality of Americans is obvious.

Consider a different leader. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani took office on January 1 and immediately inherited a \$12 billion budget deficit left by the previous administration. Eight days into his term, he joined Governor Hochul to announce a historic \$1.2 billion investment in universal childcare, the first time in city history

that free, full-day care would be offered to two-year-olds. Working families will save more than \$20,000 per year, per child.

By his 100th day, his administration had secured more than \$9 million in restitution for workers exploited by large corporations, expanded protected time off for 4.3 million workers, won more than \$34 million in repairs, settlements, and judgments on behalf of tenants, and filled over 100,000 potholes across all five boroughs.

On May 12, the same day as Trump's remarks, Mamdani unveiled a \$124.7 billion budget proposal that his office says closes the entire inherited deficit without raising property taxes, cutting services, or raiding emergency reserves. The budget, once approved, relies on \$7.6 billion in state aid from Gov. Hochul.

Mamdani's governing philosophy is unmistakable: keep services intact, protect working people, and find ways to make government work for the people paying for it. "New Yorkers deserve a government that works as hard as they do," Mamdani said.

Leadership and policies matters. One leader's approach tells Americans that prosperity will eventually trickle down from the top. (Full disclosure, it never does.) The other leader starts with the question: how do we make life better for working families, tenants, parents and small businesses?

Americans need leaders who understand what it costs to fill a gas tank, pay rent, raise children and retire with dignity. We need leaders willing to invest in affordability, public services and economic stability instead of unfairly burdening our children and grandchildren with a national debt they are stuck paying long after we are gone.

As voters we need to ask ourselves: which approach actually improves our daily lives?

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Killingly's Revolutionary War veterans

Note: The Killingly Historical Center will be closed Saturday, May 23 (Memorial Day weekend). It will be open as usual on Wednesday, May 27 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



The Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar is open for the season and will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. or by appointment. Volunteers are wanted.

KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER

ed. Could you donate two and a half hours a month? Training supplied. For additional information, please call (860) 207-6044 and leave a message.

Celebrate America 250/ Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Historical Society Museum will feature the exhibits of the General Putnam Gallery Sunday, May 24 from 1-5 p.m. (The Museum & Daniel Tyler Law Office will be open every Wednesday and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. through October 11th and by appointment throughout Walktober. Handicapped-accessible.

Celebrate America 250/ Putnam. Putnam Public Library. Retired Connecticut State Archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni will present a program on Revolutionary War Archaeology in Connecticut on Saturday, May 30 at 12:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society.

Celebrate America 250/ Killingly. Killingly Public Library will be presenting PBS's "The American Revolution" documentary directed by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt. Several have already been shown. The next one is Friday, May 22: The Soul of All American: December 1777-May 1780. May 29: The Most Sacred Thing: May 1780-Onward. All programs are 1-3 p.m.

Since this is Memorial Day weekend and the United States is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding, I thought I would pay tribute to several individuals from Killingly who served during the Revolution.

Windham County historian Ellen D. Larned wrote much on the involvement of troops from this area in the battles of 1776 and mentioned a number of Killingly soldiers who died or were lost during the conflicts. Sept. 15, 1776 was a difficult and disastrous day for Israel Putnam and a number of local men during the battle in New York, "Many Windham County men were slain, taken prisoners, disabled by wounds and cut down by indulgence or exposure. Captain Stephen Crosby of Thompson (Killingly), Conn. 3rd battalion, company 5 'being over hot went into a house and drank cold water and died immediately. Lieut. Buck was either killed or taken, and other Killingly men' "(her note says a letter from Thomas Dike to his parents). (Larned, Ellen D., History of Windham County, Co., Vol. II, p. 138). The Buck family lived a little north of the present Killingly-Putnam town line, not far from where I live so I was particularly interested in Lt. Jonathan Buck. Genealogical research revealed that he was the son of Samuel and Rachel Buck (Samuel's will, Ancestry.com). Larned had noted that Jonathan had been among the men who purchased land for a training field in 1775 (the present Putnam Heights common, p.76). His name was not among those who answered the Lexington Alarm in April 1775. However, siblings Samuel and Reuben

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pennies can be worth it

To the Editor:

This is in response to the "Abolish bottle deposits" letter in last week's Villager.

While 5 or 10 cents a can or bottle may not seem much to some people, collectively, the Paws Cat Shelter raises an average of \$1,000 a month, enough to pay our electric and gas bill at the shelter. Not only is this an income stream but it's also a sense of pride and worth to our donors and volunteers. Someone may not be able to donate cash but it makes them proud to donate a bag of cans they may have collected from family members or people they work with.

Other non-profits, such as Scouts, churches and schools, benefit from every

nickel or dime collected. It keeps trash off the street, supports recycling efforts and promotes community efforts and volunteerism.

We have containers in the rear of the building where anyone can put their redeemable cans and bottles. You can also donate redeemable cans and bottles at our upcoming can drive on May 30 at our shelter, 74 School St., Putnam, from noon to 3 p.m. We'll turn your trash into cash to help the cats of our communities.

Pennies are worth it.

FAY BERIAU
PRESIDENT, PAWS CAT SHELTER
PUTNAM

Tipping my hat to the hybrids

To the Editor:

We can run our mouths all we want about our pet causes. When push comes to shove, technology makes things practical and we roll with it.

This is what I've been thinking seeing all the Priuses on the roads since the Iran war shot up gas prices. Some folks around here scored themselves Teslas and Rivians, but I've seen more than a few refurbished egmobiles from the classic "Ha Ha It's A Prius" era of the 2000s. YouTube has numerous videos these days of hobbyists installing refurbished cells in old hybrid batteries or even replacing entire arrays, though I wouldn't recommend anyone DIY that in their garage without proper protective equipment as the high voltage battery lives up to its name, in my case with a Ford hybrid rocking 300 volts.

We're not the Hollywood celebrities of 20 years ago wanting to force our beliefs on the public with a then-unproven technology. It's about practicality not just with rising gas prices, but with how the gasoline world is just out of ideas and fuel economy now comes with tradeoffs. We have trucks nowadays that are so long due to fuel economy standards based on wheelbase that it's a project to get one around the corner at Putnam Price Chopper. Likewise we can't forget the self-destructing transmissions and CVTs turning gas cars into whirring appliances with no more physical gears.

Lastly, we can't forget my personal pet peeve of gas cars jumping through hoops - auto stop start systems! Having grown up in the days of coldblooded carburetor cars that instantly stalled if you put them in gear before the engine warmed up, a car that stalls on purpose is never going to be something I'm ever going to respect. A hybrid does that too, but in the sense of it going from four cylinder to golf cart, not something where it seems like the thing's designed to fry starters for a few more miles per gallon.

One hybrid though that I'd like to see around Putnam someday is the Ford Maverick. The idea of a 40 mile per gallon city all wheel drive pickup truck really makes me tip my hat to the tech folks that made that happen. How many guys have I seen over the years who just want to drive a pickup but aren't hauling stuff all the time and get clobbered by fuel costs? As always, necessity is the mother of invention, and we're long overdue to fight back against the oil politics that caused the gas lines a half century ago.

JAY BERTHART
PUTNAM

Pomfret petition is not a win

To the Editor:

If Pomfret residents are wondering what happened to their centuries old, classical democracy of the New England Annual Town Meeting to discuss and vote on the budget of the town's governance, look no further than the leadership of the Pomfret Republican town Committee.

The petitions to take the budget from the town meeting to a referendum (at \$2,500 to \$3,500) were circulated by the present Republican Chair Heather Semenza, former chair Chris Coyle, Selectman Martha Emilio, BOE member Christine Spasato, registrar of voters John Charest and a couple of other Republican town committee members.

Claimed to be a "Bi-partisan" effort to bring more information to town voters. How's that? Plenty of copies of very detailed education and general government budgets were available for months to all at the town meeting and online, and in the town hall. Plenty of time to study and ask questions of BOE and BOF if motivated.

the controversy?

Or you could just skip all that information and as our Republicans intend and just come in and vote the budgets down. Like Killingly and Thompson. Over and over until the tax bills go out late, town borrows money to operate, huge expense, lots of chaos. Gotta love it.

But we're Pomfret and I'd like to think we have excellent elected and volunteer town officials whom I trust. And a smooth, often creative and efficient town government. We had civilized Town Meetings before the conspiracy folks came to town. Alas.

I hope we overwhelmingly vote to approve both education and general government budgets with a combined 1.1 mill increase and never have to go through this expensive nonsense again.

Hopefully,

TIM McNALLY
POMFRET

MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mercury is an element that can be harmful to human health and the environment if not disposed of properly.

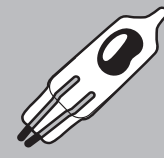
Mercury is found in products such as:



Thermostats



Thermometers



Mercury Switches



Fluorescent Lamps

Please contact your local Board of Health or Department of Public Works for information on where to safely dispose of these items.

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Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

PRIMARY CARE, RIGHT WHERE LIFE HAPPENS.

Our trusted providers are here for every age and every stage of life. From checkups and preventive screenings to managing ongoing and urgent health needs, you can count on our team for expertise, compassion, and care that fits your life.

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Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up



Baseball

Killingly Baseball (9-7) took their 9th victory of the season over Plainfield (5-12) at Owen Bell Park by a final score of 3-0!

Matt Poirier took the win on the mound for Killingly, pitching 3.1 innings allowing 2 hits and no runs while striking out 2! Joey Gould and Michael Fabiano Jr. combined for 3.2 innings of scoreless relief while striking out 5 to keep the Plainfield bats at bay.

In the 3rd inning, after back to back walks to Michael DeAngelis and Jake Voyer, Alex Murdock singled on a bunt that allowed DeAngelis to score on the throw to give Killingly a 1-0 lead! Killingly then scored their 2nd run on a double steal initiated by Murdock, allowing Voyer to score on an errant throw! Fabiano Jr. then drove Murdock in with a sac fly to give Killingly the 3-0 lead!

Jake Voyer led the offense with 2 hits, while Murdock, Gould, and Jacob Long each added a hit to their line for Killingly!

East Lyme 7, Killingly 0

Tristan Glover from East Lyme (14-3) threw a complete game no hitter to shut out Killingly (9-8) at home on May 15.

Jake Beaudreault started for Killingly on the mound and threw 3 innings allowing 4 earned runs and striking out 2. Joey Gould and Brady Girardin combined for 4 innings of relief allowing 1 earned run and also striking out 2 for Killingly.

Lyman Hall 8, Killingly 3

Lyman Hall (19-0) improved their record to a perfect 19-0 and showed why they are the #1 team in CT on Saturday at Owen Bell in a 8-3 victory over Killingly Baseball (9-9). Lyman Hall blasted 4 home runs and dominated from start to finish with the sticks.

Joey Gould battled around 4 innings of 5 earned runs while striking out 4 batters. Gaighe DeBella pitched 1.2 inning of relief allowing only 2 runs and striking out 2. Matt Poirier closed the game with 1.1 scoreless innings.

Killingly got on the board in the 2nd inning when Jake Beaudreault doubled to center, before Jacob Long (2 hits) drove a 2-run blast to left field to tie the score. Killingly tacked on another run in the 4th on an RBI single from Jake Voyer, but that was all the offense from Killingly.

Killingly 3, Stonington 2

The boys (10-9) took the win over the #1 team in ECC Division II Stonington (12-5) by a final score of 3-2 at Owen Bell Park on Monday!

In a classic pitchers duel, Junior RHP Gaighe DeBella (6 innings 4 Hits 2 Earned Runs and 9 K's) of Killingly outdueled his counterpart, George Washington University commit Cam Odgen (6 innings 2 Hits 3 Earned Runs and 12 K's) of Stonington!

In the first inning, DeBella set down the side in order capped by 2 strikeouts! In the bottom half of the 1st, Killingly struck first! After a walk to Alex Murdock and a HBP to Michael Fabiano Jr., DeBella looped a double down the right field line to score Murdock and Fabiano Jr all the way from first to give Killingly a 2-0 lead!

In the 3rd inning, after a Fabiano Jr. infield single and stolen base, he was able to score on an Odgen wild pitch to put Killingly up 3-0!

DeBella cruised into the 6th, before back to back singles by Mateo Panceira and Brayden Wolfradt of Stonington. Killingly intentionally walked Odgen to load the bases, when Michael Keefe drove a 2 run single to make it 3-2 score. DeBella induced a ground out by Sean Durham to end the frame with the lead however!

Fabiano, Jr. shut down the 7th inning to pick up the save and deliver Killingly the upset victory at home!

This win secures Killingly a home ECC D1 Playoff Tournament game next Tuesday, May 26, at Owen Bell Park at 4 p.m.!

Track & Field

Killingly Track & Field had their last regular season meet of the season on May 13, and celebrated 7 AWESOME gentlemen for Track! Killingly fought a tough battle against Putnam and took the W 105- 26!

In the 4x 100, it was Braydee Testa to Cameron Deschamps to Ossie Lugo to Brandon Harrison Jr for the WIN and a fresh Personal Record!

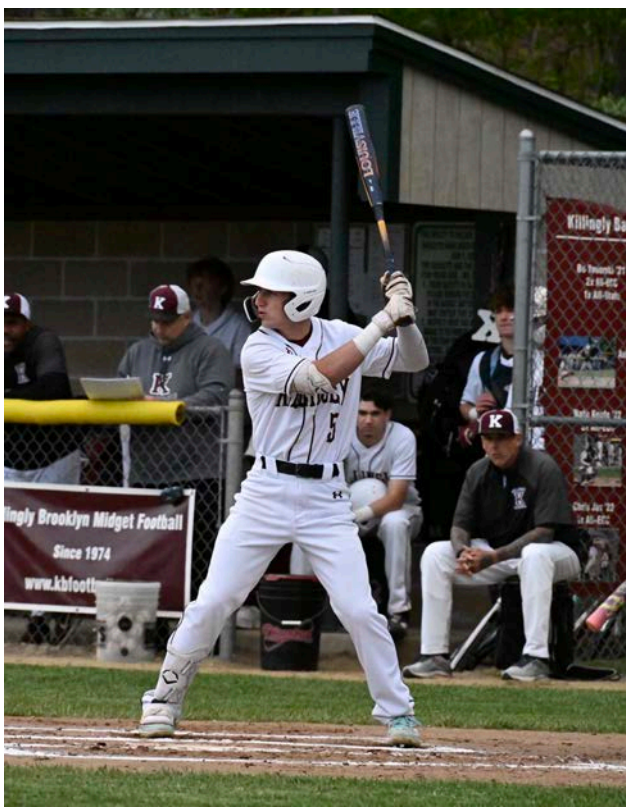
In the 4x 400, it was Liam LaMotte to Cam to Jon Palmer to Ossie for the WIN and a fresh Personal Record!

In the 100m, Braydee and Preston Suprenant flew to finish top 2 in the event!

In the 200m, Braydee and Brandon locked up the top 2 spots!

In the 110 hurdles and 300 hurdles, Jeremiah Smith has done what Jeremiah Smith does all year, FINISH 1st!

In the 400m, Killingly locked up the top 5 spots with Jon finishing 1st with a Personal Record, Isaiah Benoit 2nd,



and Liam 3rd with a Personal Record, Nathan Comtois also got a Personal Record!

In the 800m, Williams Polanco flew for a fresh Personal Record and 1st and also got 1st in the 3200m!

in the 1600m, Calvin Vandale ran a Season Best time and finished 2nd!

Down by the jumping pits, Jeremiah flew to finish 1st with a Season Best, Aiden Taylor also got a Personal Record!

At Triple Jump, Monty Niyomkham took 4th, Cal 5th, Cyncere Perry who received a number of great compliments for always helping out took 6th! Great job representing!

At High Jump, Killingly took the top 5 spots! Jeremiah took 1st, Coop 2nd, Braydee 3rd with a Personal Record, Cam 4th with a Personal Record and Rylan Roethel took 5th with a Personal Record!

At Pole Vault, Isaiah Benoit went vertically to get 9 feet and Gabriel Covington sprung up for 8 feet finishing 1st and 2nd!

Down by the throwing pits, Larry Cote continues to hoist his Shot Put further and further and took 1st! Ezekiel Benoit also scored points with a great throw finishing 3rd!

At Javelin, Killingly locked up the top 4 spots with Breydan Pearson throwing for 102 feet for a Personal Record! Calv finished 2nd with a Personal Record, Zeke finished 3rd and Larry took 4th with Jackson Olson with a great throw finishing 6th!

Annnd at the Discuss, Zeke absolutely launched his disc for 1st while Lary took 3rd!

Absolutely great job yesterday by all! Everyone represented Killingly and themselves proudly on and off of the track. Many compliments were given to soooo many of you and the ENTIRE team and could not be prouder as coaches!

Boys Tennis

Killingly 2, Woodstock Academy 5

Will Clayton lost Rodrigo Diez 0-6 1-6

Jackson Santese lost to Ryan Chabot 1-6 2-6

Evan Kozey lost to Daniel Jameson 3-6 1-6

Bradey Brezniak lost to Heath White 1-6 1-6

Max Richardson & Ed Purcell lost to Stephen Shen & Cayden Worth 4-6 4-6

Tomas Gutierrez & Glenn Leveille defeated David Bidd and Jackson Hayden 6-3 6-4

Riley Nolin & Naitik Pandya Jack Xia & Adian Newall-Vuillemot 6-2 6-4

Evan Kozey lost to Ethan Wang 3-6 6-7(7-9)
 Brady Brezniak lost to Jack Basset 3-6 0-6
 Max Richardson & Bradey Jonasch lost to Arthur Dherrilly & Jasden Compisi 1-6 1-6
 Ed Purcell & Tomas Gutierrez lost to Michael Gialpis & Cole Peckham 0-6 1-6
 Riley Nolin & Glenn Leveille lost to Zeb Dexter & Jeremy Peck 4-6 4-6

Girls Tennis

Vs. LHS
 May 13, match K-Trailblazers verse Ledyard
 KHS girls tennis loss vs Ledyard 2-5
 # 1 S: Talia Santese (K) defeated Teresa Eberly (LHS) 6-3, 6-4
 # 2 S: Nina Purcell (K) loss vs Rachel Kulterman (LHS) 3-6, 1-6
 # 3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) loss vs Callie Rice (LHS) 0-6, 3-6
 # 4 S: Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Jayla Sebastian (LHS) 3-6, 1-6
 #1 Doub: Kayce Edwards & McKenna Mulvey (K) loss vs Skylar Botts & Addison Lacosse (LHS) 6-2, 4-6 5-7
 #2 Doub: Samantha Smith and Corinne Daniels (K) defeated Emma Dean & Dana Vera Cox (LHS) 6-2, 7-6(TB)
 #3 Doub: Lillian Beach & Josie Sanchez (K) loss vs Jayce Lin & Caitrin Cassidy (LHS) 0-6, 5-7

May 15 match — K-Trailblazers verse Fitch
 KHS girls tennis defeated Fitch 7-0
 # 1 S: Talia Santese (K) defeated Katie Virtue (FHS) 6-1, 6-3
 # 2 S: Nina Purcell (K) defeated Esme Carlebach (FHS) 6-2, 6-1
 # 3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) defeated Sadie DiPiazza (FHS) 6-1, 6-0
 # 4 S: Mariette Vien (K) defeated Madison Ermler (FHS) 6-1, 6-2
 #1 Doub: Kayce Edwards & McKenna Mulvey (K) defeated Kaileen Berard & Anna Cieplik (FHS) 7-5, 6-4
 #2 Doub: Samantha Smith and Corinne Daniels (K) defeated Caely McDuffee & Hannah Masters (FHS) 6-1, 6-1
 # 3 Doub: Allegra Turbayevskiv & Lucy Gavis (K) defended Audrey Frank & Mrunmayi Patil (FHS) 6-4, 7-6(TB)

Girls Lacrosse

The Killingly girls lacrosse team faced off against Stonington on the afternoon of May 12. Stonington was up 6-0 going into half time. Riley Ritchotte had a day on the draw circle, winning 8 draws herself. Riley added a goal and an assist. She also gave 2 caused turnovers, making it her 50th career caused turnover. Catrina Turgeon turned on the jets in the second half, tallying 4 goals for Killingly and multiple ground balls. Tilly Jarvis netted 1 goal and 1 assist. Ella Dunn added 2 assists. Morgan Deojay added the final goal for Killingly. Defense played lights out the second half, allowing only 2 goals, including a shut out in the 3rd quarter. Overall, the full team efforts fell short with Stonington coming out on top 8-7.

The GIRLS came ready to play at their next match on May 14 against Griswold, with a dominant final score of 17-2. Riley Ritchotte had 7 goals, 3 assists, 9 draw controls, and 2 caused turnovers. Catrina Turgeon had 4 goals, 4 assists and 6 caused turnovers for Killingly. Tilly Jarvis netted 3 goals and added an assist. Ella Dunn added 2 goals and an assist. Finally, Haley Nolet tallied a goal, making it her first career goal. Killingly had lock down defense the entire game, having a shutout in the first half and only letting up 2 goals the entire game.

The team had their second win of the season on May 16 against Wheeler. It was a close game the whole way through, it was 7-7 at the end of regulation play. Killingly won in OT 8-7. Riley Ritchotte had another great game, scoring 2 goals in the first quarter, the second goal being her 100th career goal! Riley also scored the game winning OT goal! She added an assist, 6 draw controls and 2 caused turnovers. Tilly Jarvis had another hat trick and added 2 assists for a 5 point day! Catrina Turgeon added a goal, an assist, 5 draw controls and 3 caused turnovers for Killingly. Lylah Connetti also added a goal and 2 caused turnovers. Alexa Gregoire had another big day in the cage coming away with 11 saves. Overall the offense, defense and draw team were clicking on all cylinders to bring Killingly away with another win.

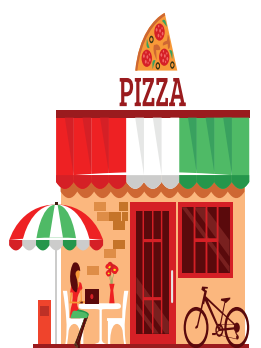
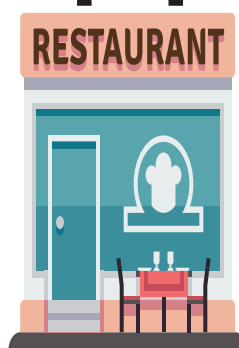
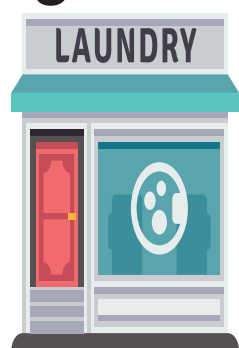
On May 18, the girls faced off against Tolland. Alexa Gregoire had a day in goal putting up 15 saves. The defense was tough to beat holding Tolland to 5 goals in the first and 4 in the second half. Riley Ritchotte had 2 goals, 2 draws, a caused turnover and 3 ground balls. Catrina Turgeon had a goal, an assist, a caused turnover, and 2 draws. Tilly Jarvis had 2 assists. Lylah Connetti added the 4th goal for Killingly. Ashley Boudreau had 2 caused turnovers and Reese Ritchotte came up with 3 ground balls. Overall the hard fight from Killingly fell short with Tolland coming out ahead 9-4.

Girls Golf

On Wednesday, May 13, the Killingly High School Girl's Golf team traveled to Norwich Free Academy and earned the victory. Killingly posted a score of 200 with NFA posting a score of 210. Killingly was led by Mackenzie Pothier with a score of 46. Also contributing to the win was Kate Crowley with a 49 and Gracie Pekarovic-West with a 50. With the win Killingly improved their overall record to 8-1 on the year.



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Danny Cates, RJ Marcotte split Midweek Modified Madness victories at Thompson



Jim DuPont — Courtesy

Danny Cates made his way to the front of the Thompson Sunoco Modified feature and never looked back to steal the \$5,000 grand prize away from longtime veterans Todd Owen and Keith Rocco.

THOMPSON — Midweek Modified Madness at Thompson Speedway kicked off midweek racing at the famed five-eighths-of-a-mile oval on Wednesday with a ‘locals-only’ special to highlight the track championship warriors that call the Speedway home all summer long.

Beginning with the \$5,000 to win special for the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, it was a rat race at the start with Mikey Flynn and Chase Cook leading the side-by-side action that lasted until lap 18. Powering out of turn two, Zack Sangermano and Derek Ramstrom collided to end both their days early. The restart saw Icebreaker double-header winner Keith Rocco and defending champion Todd Owen coming for leader Danny Cates with the two veterans making contact that busted Rocco’s spoiler and sent Owen nearly into the frontstretch grass.

The two stayed straight with Rocco and Cates swapping lanes and the lead, only giving Owen the momentum to rise back up to join the \$5,000 title fight. What had worked in Owen’s favor started to work against him now as he battled with Rocco for second, allowing Danny Cates to run all the way to victory lane in the 50 lap sprint with Todd Owen keeping second ahead of Keith Rocco. Jon Puleo took home fourth with Mikey Flynn holding out for fifth.

The SK Light Modifieds were the second portion of Midweek Modified Madness with their own 30-lap, \$1,000 to win special on Wednesday. Polesitter RJ Marcotte brought the field to green and began to march away with Icebreaker victor Kevin Davis, last year’s top rookie Austin Goff, Daltin McCarthy and Corey Caddick battling under a blanket behind him. Marcotte ran away with the lead with all eyes on Davis and Goff’s battle for second. RJ Marcotte nabbed the \$1,000 check with Kevin Davis getting the edge on Austin Goff at the line.

The Late Models had a mid-race restart that saw Connor Souza spin the tires on the inside groove, allowing Jake Johnson to put the Ford Power down on the outside. Jake ‘The Jet’ took some home cooking at his Thompson Speedway playground after several weeks on the Milton CAT American-Canadian Tour over Souza and Icebreaker victor Matt Lowinski-Loh.

Defending champion ‘Leadfood’ Larry Barnett sat on the Street Stock pole with outside polesitter Nick Anderson driving up and around on the start. Anderson took control with Jarrod Soucy and Al Stone III in tow. All the while George Baldwin and Ryan Lineham cut through the field and made their way to the front for a tussle all the way to the twin checkered flags. Baldwin would edge Lineham at the line with Soucy nursing a smoking right-rear tire to the end for third.

The Thunderstock Crown Vics rounded out the evening with the race of the night between Chase Curtis and the father/son duo of John Williams Jr. and Ethan Williams. Curtis barely edged Ethan Williams at the line by just 0.062-seconds with Icebreaker winner John Williams Jr. to round out the podium.

Thompson Speedway returns to racing action on Wednesday, June 24 with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series and Pro Truck Challenge Special. The mighty modifieds of the Monaco Tri-Track Series will chase down 75-laps on the Thompson high-banks alongside a special visit from the Pro Truck Challenge Series plus the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Thunderstock Crown Vics with a 6:00pm post time.

The North East Short Track Network (NESTN) will stream Wednesday Night Racing at Thompson Speedway all season long, visit www.nestn.tv for more info including Pay-Per-View pricing and ways to subscribe!

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@actour.com, or visit www.actour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passrac@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarseries.com. Don’t forget to “Like” the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens. To take advantage of marketing opportunities please call 207-577-1836 or inquire at OPSMARKETING50@gmail.com.



RJ Marcotte set sail in the SK Light 30-lap special at Thompson Speedway, beating out fellow youngsters Kevin Davis and Austin Goff for their \$1,000-to-win Special on Wednesday.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsons Speedway.com, or visit www.thompsons Speedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS Wednesday, May 13, 2026 Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park Midweek Modified Madness

- Thompson Sunoco Modifieds – 50 Laps
1. 2 Danny Cates Chaplin, CT
 2. 81 Todd Owen Somers, CT
 3. 09 Keith Rocco Berlin, CT
 4. 7 Jon Puleo Branford, CT
 5. 24 #Mikey Flynn Hampden, MA
 6. 77 Chase Cook Norwich, MA
 7. 1 #Andrew Brousseau Charlestown, NH
 8. 99 Mike Mayberry Naples, ME
 9. 24MA Nathan Pytko Oxford, MA
 10. 86 Robert Georgiades E. Hampton, CT
 11. 47 Zack Sangermano Plainfield, CT
 12. 35 Derek Ramstrom Worcester, MA
 - DNS 57 Justin Beecher Billerica, MA

- SK Light Modifieds – 30 Laps
1. 26 RJ Marcott Millville, MA
 2. 10 Kevin Davis Somers, CT
 3. 07 Austin Goff Stafford Springs, CT
 4. 27 Corey Caddick Richmond, RI
 5. 34MA Daltin McCarthy Oxford, MA
 6. 15 John O’Sullivan Norwich, CT
 7. 1 TJ Tomasi Blackstone, MA
 8. 96 Daniel Gamache Jr. Medway, MA
 9. 99 #Milania Shilosky Colchester, CT
 10. 6 Todd Douillard Palmer, MA
 11. 51 Ryan West Brooklyn, CT
 12. 57 Aaron Goff Stafford Springs, MA

- CT
13. 80 #Thomas Herrington Grafton, MA
 14. 55 Dennis Smeade Oxford, MA

- Late Models – 25 Laps
1. 91CT Jake Johnson Rehoboth, MA
 2. 38RI Connor Souza Riverside, RI
 3. 17 Matt Lowinski-Loh Thompson, CT
 4. 9MA Brian Tagg Oxford, MA
 5. 32 Jason Williams Colchester, CT
 6. 31CT Travis Hydar Woodbury, CT
 7. 73CT Jared Materas Somers, CT
 8. 42CT Manny Dias Danielson, CT
 9. 50RI Mike Benevides Westerly, RI
 10. 52 Jeff Belyea Swansea, MA
 11. 28 #Shaun Kekacs Bristol, CT
 - DNS 70 Rick Gentes Harrisville, RI

- Street Stocks – 20 Laps
1. 11 George Baldwin Lowell, MA
 2. 19 Ryan Lineham Warwick, RI
 3. 42 Jarrod Soucy Wales, MA
 4. 25 Al Stone III Durham, CT
 5. 22 Austin Erickson Ashland, MA
 6. 55 Nick Anderson Oxford, MA
 7. 85 Michael Viens Seekonk, MA
 8. 73 Larry Barnett Moosup, CT
 9. 30 #Charles Beal Ledyard, CT
 10. 19R #Ryan Pomposelli Smithfield, RI
 11. 66 Tyler Cinamella Willimantic, CT
 12. 10 Hank Stott Medway, MA
 - DNS 75 Ryan Waterman Danielson, CT

- Thunderstock Crown Vics – 15 Laps
1. 88 Chase Curtis Rutland, MA
 2. 14 Ethan Williams Pomfret Ctr., RI
 3. 4 John Williams, Jr. Pomfret Ctr., RI
 4. 53 Wes Monson Charlton, MA
 5. 9 Ty Mello Millville, MA
 6. 70 Brendan Nichols Chepachet, RI
 7. 42 Dustin Demers Quinebaug, CT

Members of the public are invited to

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0172-0541
Eastern Connecticut Accessible Pedestrian Signal Upgrades

Monday, June 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Learn More & Register: portal.ct.gov/DOTEasternCT0172-0541

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community with an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

Meeting accessibility and traffic control requirements, these features are expected to enhance pedestrian usage at traffic signals and is intended to reduce crashes between pedestrians and vehicles.

Right-of-way impacts are expected to be minimal around new pedestrian equipment and sidewalks at some project intersections.

Construction is expected to start in spring 2028, depending on funding, right-of-way acquisition, and permits. The estimated cost is \$6 million, with 90% federal funds and 10% state funds.

The public can submit comments and questions during two-week public comment period following meeting. Direct comments and questions by Monday, June 15, 2026, to Balazs Szoke at DOTProject0172-0541@ct.gov or 860-594-2020.

ACCESSIBILITY

Non-English language closed captioning will be available on Zoom. The recording will also be posted following the meeting in CTDOT’s public meeting playlist at portal.ct.gov/ctdotVPIArchive.

For audio access, call 877-853-5257 with Meeting ID 852 7784 2505. Project information can be mailed within one week by contacting Balazs Szoke at DOTProject0172-0541@ct.gov or 860-594-2745.

For hearing/speech disabilities, dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Request language assistance from CTDOT’s Language Assistance at (860) 594-2109 at least five business days before meeting.

TOWN OF KILLINGLY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
VISION COMMITTEE INITIATIVE

Don't Be Left Behind!

Killingly Vision Committee
Let your opinions and voices be heard! We are preparing a comprehensive plan for the Town's future — shaped entirely by the responses from our community meetings and online questionnaire.

We are in the **final stages** and are ready to prepare our report. Your voice still matters. Take a minute and scan the QR code to complete our online questionnaire. —

Last VISION Public Meeting at the Killingly Public Library - 25Westcott Rd
Saturday June 6, 2026 11:30am - Refreshments Provided



Courtesy

On April 28, the Annual VFW Community Awards Ceremony was held at Guinebaug Volunteer Department in Thompson. Each year, the VFW Post 10088 Auxiliary hosts this community event. Pictured above are members of the VFW Post 10088 Auxiliary that helped put on this annual Awards Night.

Business exit planning in an uncertain economy: What actually drives value today

For many business owners, the question isn't whether they will exit their business, it's whether they will be prepared when the opportunity presents itself. In today's environment of higher interest rates, tighter lending conditions, and more selective buyers, that distinction matters more than ever. Market conditions may influence timing, but they don't determine outcome. What determines outcome is how well a business is positioned around the drivers that buyers actually value today.



FINANCIAL FOCUS
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT ADVISER

is still available, but it's more selective. Financing is tighter. Risk is priced more carefully.

Valuation is no longer built on projected growth alone. It's grounded in durability—how confident a buyer can be in the future cash flow of the business. That shift is happening alongside a broader trend: a large portion of business owners are approaching retirement age, yet many still lack a formal exit plan. At the same time, a meaningful percentage of businesses brought to market never sell.

Many owners still overestimate terminal value, assuming steady growth and premium multiples that may not hold up under scrutiny. That gap between expectation and reality is where planning becomes critical.

The core drivers of value today

If you step back, most buyers, whether strategic, private equity, or internal, are evaluating a consistent set of value drivers. Not individually, but as a system.

Over the past several years, we've seen a meaningful shift in how buyers evaluate businesses. Capital

1. Reliable, transferable cash flow
At the center of valuation is EBITDA—but more importantly, the quality and sustainability of that cash flow. Buyers are underwriting future stability, not past performance. Recurring revenue, diversified client bases, and consistent margins carry significantly more weight than top-line growth alone.

2. Operational independence
If a business depends heavily on the owner, it becomes difficult to transfer—and that risk shows up directly in valuation. Businesses with documented processes, defined leadership teams, and clear operational structure are viewed as more stable and therefore more valuable.

3. Financial discipline
Liquidity, clean financial reporting, and manageable leverage signal a business that is both well-run and investable. In uncertain markets, these factors often carry more weight than growth projections.

4. Scale and market position
Size alone doesn't create value, but scale influences who can buy your business—and at what multiple. Reaching key thresholds can expand the buyer pool and improve outcomes.

5. Buyer readiness and competitive tension

One of the most overlooked drivers of value is external. Owners who begin building relationships with potential buyers early create optionality. Optionality creates competition—and competition drives valuation.

How uncertainty is reshaping exit strategy

Uncertainty doesn't eliminate opportunity—but it changes how opportunity is evaluated. Buyers are more cautious. Financing requires more equity. Deals take longer to structure and close.

For example, tighter lending standards have narrowed the buyer pool and increased the need for structured deals such as seller financing or earn-outs. These approaches can help bridge valuation gaps, but they also introduce additional layers of complexity and risk that need to be planned for well in advance.

The risk of waiting without a plan

One of the more consistent patterns we see is delay. Owners wait for clarity. For improved market conditions. For a stronger valuation environment.

But a large percentage of businesses brought to market never sell, not because they lack value, but because they weren't positioned in a way that aligned with buyer expectations. That's the real risk. Waiting without preparation doesn't preserve optionality. It reduces it.

Exit planning as a long-term process

The most effective exit strategies are built years in advance, not months. They integrate business strategy, personal financial planning, tax strategy, and estate planning into one coordinated approach.

At WHZ, we view a business exit not as a transaction, but as a transition from concentrated business wealth to a diversified and sustainable financial structure. That transition requires coordination, discipline, and time.

A useful exercise is to shift perspective: If you were a buyer evaluating your business today, what would concern you? Would you see concentrated revenue? Key-person dependency? Inconsistent financials? Limited scalability?

That perspective tends to surface the real work that needs to be done. Because ultimately, value is not what the owner believes the business is worth. It's what a buyer is willing to pay, and why.

Uncertainty will always be part of the landscape. Markets will shift. Policy will change. Financing conditions will evolve. What tends to matter more is how prepared you are when opportunity presents itself.

The businesses that exit successfully are rarely the ones that waited for perfect conditions. They're the ones that built value deliberately, reduced risk thoughtfully, and approached the process with clarity and discipline.

If you're a business owner thinking about what the next chapter looks like—whether that's five years away or fifteen—this is the time to begin planning.

Schedule a discovery session at whzwealth.com or call 860-928-2341 to build a financial strategy for both your business and yourself that's designed to help you achieve Absolute Confidence, Unwavering Partnership, For Life.

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WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors offers securities and advisory services through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Fixed insurance products and services offered through CES Insurance Agency. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not offer exit planning or business valuation services. You should consult an exit planning or business valuation professional regarding your individual situation.

Woodstock honors Memorial Day

Aspinock Historical Society holds annual meeting



Courtesy

Terri Pearsall (curator), Bill Pearsall (town historian), John Miller (president and treasurer), and presenter Claire Laporte.

PUTNAM — The Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam held its Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 12, at the Putnam Municipal Complex, drawing nearly 100 members and guests for an evening

of history, reflection, and community engagement. The meeting included a comprehensive review of the Society's activities and accomplishments over the past year, providing attendees with an update on ongoing preservation efforts

and future initiatives. A highlight of the evening was a featured presentation by Claire Laporte, a former employee of the Belding-Heminway-Corticelli mill. Laporte delivered an in-depth look at the company's extensive

manufacturing operations across the country, with particular emphasis on its historic Putnam location. Her presentation included a rich collection of visual materials that illustrated the mill's impact on the region. Laporte also shared a personal and powerful account of a payroll heist she experienced during her time at the mill, recalling the moment she was threatened at gunpoint—an event that underscored the human stories behind Putnam's industrial past. Following the presentation, refreshments were served, and attendees had the opportunity to purchase the book "Perspectives of Putnam" by Margaret Weaver, highlighting the history of Putnam. The Aspinock Historical Society continues its mission of preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Putnam and the surrounding region through educational programs, events, and community outreach.

WOODSTOCK — The Town of Woodstock will once again gather to honor the nation's fallen service members during its annual Memorial Day observances on Monday, May 25.

The day begins bright and early at 9 a.m. with the traditional Memorial Day Road Race, which will kick off from the field house at The Woodstock Academy. Runners, walkers, families, and longtime participants are expected to line up for the annual event, which has become a familiar start to the holiday in town.

Later in the morning, community members will gather again as the Memorial Day Parade assembles near the historic Woodstock Inn at 11 a.m. Veterans, civic groups, local officials, students, scouts, and residents will make their way through town toward the Woodstock Common.

At approximately 11:45 a.m., memorial services will take place on the Town Common, where residents will pause to remember those who gave their lives in military service to the country. The annual ceremony traditionally includes prayers, patriotic music, remarks from local officials and veterans, and the placing of wreaths in tribute to the fallen.

Town officials encourage residents to attend the events and take part in honoring the true meaning of Memorial Day.

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KILLINGLY
continued from page A4

were. I was happy to discover both Jonathan's will and inventory on Ancestry. Jonathan took the time to write a will prior to leaving for battle. I wonder how many other men did? Note the July date. This would not have been long after the residents of this area received word of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. "In the name of God this fifteenth Day of July ano Domini 1776 I Jonathan Buck of Killingly in the County of Windham and Colony of Connecticut in New England yeoman (farmer) being a going to Engage into the Service..." He mentioned his wife Olive and stipulated that she pay David Buck, Jr. twenty pounds "if he lives with her till he shall come of age..." The will was signed by David Buck, Joseph Richard Jun. and Anne Buck. Although Jonathan was missing in September, 1776, David and Anne Buck did not appear until April 29, 1784 to state that they had seen Jonathan Buck sign this will. Jonathan's inventory was taken March 25, 1784 by Jacob Leavens, Sampson Howe, and Benj(amin) Leavens...being appointed to appriz (sic) the Estate of Lieut. Jonathan Buck late of Killingly who has been absent ever since the month September 1776 and (implied?) to be dead."

Captain Stephen Crosby,

of Thompson Parish, Killingly, also died in that disastrous September 15 engagement with the British. He has a gravestone marker in West Thompson Cemetery although his body was not brought back to Killingly. Born in January, 1734, Captain Crosby's stone records the place of his death as Harlem, New York County, New York (a reminder of the battle) and the fateful date Sept. 15, 1776. Unlike Jonathan Buck who left no known children, Crosby left not only his wife Hannah but a number of children including Hannah (Johnson), Elijah, Stephen, Sibbel (Russell), Sarah (Carroll), Betty (White), Pearson. (findagrave, Ancestry.com. Colonial Families of the USA, 1607-1775 [database on-line]). Crosby was well-respected in town and had served as a representative to the Connecticut Assembly earlier in 1776. His inventory covered three pages so he was probably one of the area's wealthier individuals. It mentions an old wig, several velvet "jackcoats", a "Grate Bible and small ditto in addition to many other items." I found it particularly interesting to see a loom and its "tacklin" mentioned. I often see spinning wheels listed in inventories but not looms. (Remember, the woman owns practically nothing in this era. Even the spinning wheels, looms, and chums belong to the husband--another example of coverture that I mentioned with Mary Kies).

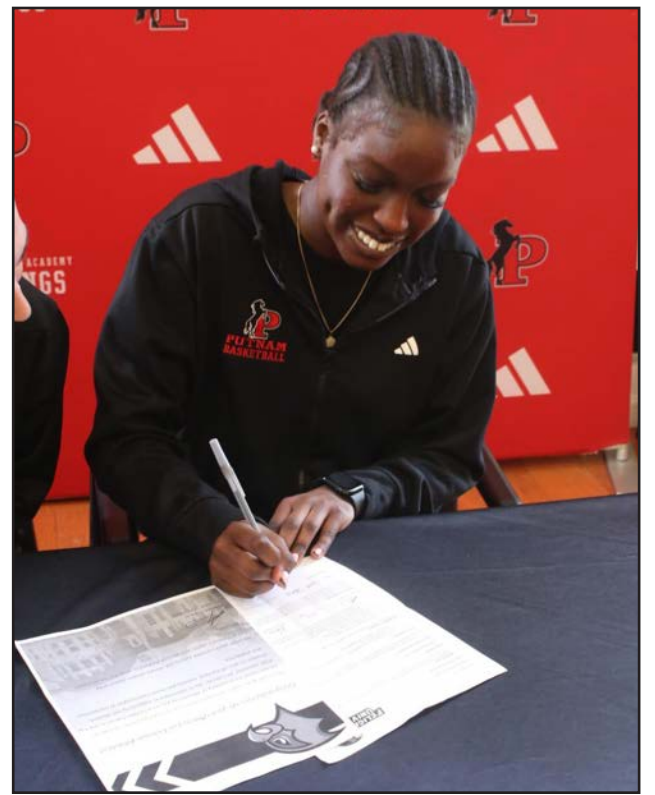
This Memorial Day weekend may we remember Jonathan Buck, Captain Stephen Crosby, and all those who have given their lives for our country. May they rest in peace!

I recently received an email from the town manager's office with a request from an individual about Hoskins Island in Old Killingly Pond. My research revealed that it was named for a recent Killingly resident who also gave his life in our country's service — Army Specialist Christopher Hoskins. The Connecticut State Wall of Honor site had this to say, "Staff Sergeant Christopher Hoskins, August 7, 1983-June 21, 2005, was born in New London, Connecticut and graduated from Killingly High School, where he competed on the wrestling team. He died in Ramadi when his unit came under small-arms fire. Hoskins was an Army specialist assigned to the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and the 2nd Infantry, based in Fort Carson, Colorado. He drove a Bradley fighting vehicle and was a gunner on a Humvee. Hoskins is survived by his father Richard Hoskins and his mother Claudia (Schiele) Hoskins, two sisters Kristin Mayo and Erin Hoskins and one brother, Sean Hoskins, all of Danielson; his maternal grandparents, Louis and Iren Schiele of Kent, OH; his paternal grandparents, Bill and Alice Hoskins of Randolph, OH, and

one niece, Allyssa May." (<https://portal.ct.gov/v/wallofhonor>). A WINY Radio post, dated March 8, 2022, announced the naming of the Old Killingly Pond Island for Hoskins. "A small island on the southern end of Killingly Pond has now officially been named 'Hoskins Island' after Staff Sergeant Christopher Hoskins, a fallen military hero from Danielson---as announced by Killingly Town Manager Mary Calorio on the WINY Talk Show on Monday. Calorio confirmed the Town Council's name request for the island has been approved by the US Board on Geographic Names (BGN)."

I imagine you will celebrate Memorial Day with barbeques and family gatherings. Do take time to give a silent prayer for those who sacrificed their all that we might live in peace. There are many Memorial Day parades and wreath-laying ceremonies in the area so you might try to attend one.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, May 2026. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.



Putnam Science Academy's Adut Tour commits to Felician University

PUTNAM — Putnam Science Academy proudly congratulates Adut Tour on her commitment to continue her academic and basketball career at Felician University.

Tour has been a member of the women's basketball program at Putnam Science Academy for the past two seasons. Originally from New Hampshire, she previously attended and played two years at Trinity High School before transferring to Putnam Science as a junior.

After spending her junior season adjusting to a new program, Tour emerged this past year as one of the team's top leaders both on and off the court. Known for her toughness, defensive intensity, and relentless rebounding ability, she became a key piece of the program's success.

"Felician is getting a great athlete," said Putnam Science Athletic Director Thomas Espinosa. "Adut helped lead the Lady Mustangs to a national final four this year, and we were probably one of the hottest teams in the country during February and March. Adut is one of my favorites to come through Putnam Science. She always has a smile on her face, while also always being ready to work and compete. It's been really fun watching her development over the last two years."

Head coach Marigona Bacaliu credited Tour as one of the driving forces behind the team's turnaround season.

"She really became a vocal leader of the program," Bacaliu said. "Everyone went to her for the things that needed to be said or done. We know she has a bright future, and we can't wait to follow her career at the next level."

Tour developed into a strong, versatile wing player whose defense and rebounding became major strengths for the Lady Mustangs throughout the season. Her growth as both a player and leader helped elevate the program to one of its most successful seasons in recent memory.

Putnam Science Academy wishes Adut Tour continued success as she begins the next chapter of her basketball journey at Felician University.

Deyanira Betancourt named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Deyanira Betancourt of Putnam has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Spring 2026 Dean's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of Robert Dennis Page “Bob”



Robert Dennis Page passed away peacefully, after a short illness, on May 6, 2026 surrounded by family in Stuart, Florida. Robert will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend.

Robert was an avid cyclist and a dedicated Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan. His love for sports and the outdoors began during his childhood years in Dayville, CT. He graduated from Killingly High School and immediately began his career at General Dynamics Electric Boat. He worked there for 35 years, beginning as a welder and retiring as a Nuclear Ship Manager.

In his early retirement years, Robert spent half the year on the Treasure Coast of Florida and the other half at his home in South Chatham, Cape Cod. There, he could often be found working in his gardens, clamming, or getting a lawn tractor stuck between two trees at one of his many retirement jobs. In his later years, he lived year-round in Stuart, Florida, where he enjoyed “happy hour” with his beloved wife, Nancy, at Two Georges Dockside Grille.

Robert was full of life, laughter, and

love. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Robert is survived by his wife, Nancy of Stuart, FL; his daughters, Jennifer Dauphinais and her husband, Mark, of Brooklyn, CT, and Carla Dion and her husband, Paul, of Brooklyn, CT; his stepson, Scott Bristol of Pittsburgh, PA; his grandchildren, Lindsay Sweeney of Brooklyn, CT and Jace Lafortune (Courtney) of Plymouth, MA; and his great-grandchildren, Thomas James Sweeney “TJ” of Sterling, CT, Bailey Sweeney of Brooklyn, CT, and Makayla Sweet of Brooklyn, CT.

He is also survived by his sister, Sandra Bove of Dayville, CT; his brother, Ralph Page, and his wife, Joyce, of The Villages, FL; as well as many nieces, nephews, step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family members, and friends.

Robert was predeceased by his parents, Floyd Page and Rita Piche Page, and his stepdaughter, Lisa Manroe.

A funeral Mass will be held at Our Lady of La Salette Church, Brooklyn, CT, on Saturday, June 13, at 10:00 a.m.. The family asks that those attending wear Boston Red Sox red or Patriots blue in Robert’s honor.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Robert’s memory to the American Heart Association.

Priscilla D. Dexter

1939 – 2026



Putnam – Priscilla D. (Verraneault) Dexter, 86, of Sabin St., entered peacefully into the presence of her Lord on Monday evening, May 11, 2026, at home surrounded by her loving children. She was the wife of the late Bruce W. Dexter, who died on September 27, 1984. Born in Plainfield, CT, she was the daughter of the late Ephraim and Ellen (Babcock) Verraneault.

Priscilla lived her life with a deep and unwavering devotion to God. A non-denominational Christian with a scholar’s grasp of Scripture and a disciple’s heart, she carried the Word of God with a clarity and conviction that inspired everyone around her. She could hold her own with theologians, yet she shared her faith with a gentleness that made people feel seen, loved, and welcomed. She formed remarkable friendships with people of many backgrounds, including those of all religious beliefs, embracing them with the love of Christ and building bonds rooted in mutual respect, compassion, and genuine friendship.

Mrs. Dexter worked for many years for Whole Life, Inc., caring for adults with disabilities. She also served as a resident attendant in the psychiatric ward at Day Kimball Hospital and as a teacher’s assistant in several Northeast CT elementary schools. Her work was always an extension of her ministry. She cared for the vulnerable, the hurting, and the overlooked with the compassion of someone who saw every person as a child of God. Priscilla cared for others with patience, dignity, and

a servant’s heart.

A lifelong lover of animals, Priscilla was known for feeding every stray or feral creature that wandered near her home — raccoons, opossums, and especially her beloved cats. She will be fondly remembered as “the crazy cat lady of the neighborhood,” a title she wore with humor and pride. She was also a member of the VFW Auxiliary Post 10088.

Priscilla is survived by her children, Frank Dexter and his wife Sharon of Sterling, Todd Dexter and his wife Barbara of Sterling, Cindy Sliva and her husband Danny of Putnam, Bruce Dexter II and his partner Sara DiIorio of Pomfret Center, and Rosanne Boudreau of Thompson; her eleven grandchildren, Brock Arsenault, Mark Dexter, Kristen Scandariato, Morgan Vargas, Rylie Dexter, Sarah Dexter, Haylee Boudreau, Bruce Dexter III, Juliana Sliva, Kennedy Dexter, and Kambryn Dexter; her two great-grandchildren, Wilder Vargas and Lucien Dexter; and her beloved, larger-than-life cat, “Giant.” She was predeceased by her daughter, Susan Dexter, and was the last surviving of her siblings.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00AM on Monday, June 1, 2026, in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT. A private burial will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to PAWS Cat Shelter, 74 School St., Putnam, CT 06260. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

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



POMFRET

continued from page A1

est gratitude for the overwhelming support,” wrote Pomfret Fire Chief Brett Sheldon and Fire Company President Pat Boyd in a joint statement on social media following the town meeting vote. “The unanimous passing of the amended tax abatement ordinance is a powerful statement of the trust and value you place in our department. While our trucks and tools are essential, our members are truly our greatest commodity. Seeing the community come together to support

them provided a significant morale boost, making every volunteer feel seen and appreciated for the hours of training and emergency responses they provide.”

The second ordinance will now allow for a “vote for three” format for the Board of Selectmen race, allowing voters to cast their vote for as many candidates as there are seats to fill and both political parties to present full slates for the Board of Selectman race. The ordinance change will increase the number of eligible candidates, specifically for selectmen, and allow voters more options to fill

the board at large.

Each political party will now be able to provide a full slate consisting of a First Selectman candidate and two Selectmen. Voters will have the freedom to vote for any three individuals from the two-party slates to determine the new board with statutory provisions for minority representation also determining successful candidates. First Selectmen candidates will still be the only ones eligible for the board’s leading seat with the unsuccessful candidate eligible to be elected as a selectman if they receive enough votes.

THOMPSON

continued from page A1

unteers with youth or to a youth who volunteers in the community. Christine LaBonte was the recipient of this year’s award for her work with and promoting the Scouting Program in Thompson.

For implementing a new and unique program in the Town of Thompson, the Citizen of the Year was awarded to Rene Morin for inaugurating the “Veteran of the Month” Program.

The VFW and Auxiliary sponsor several contests in the Thompson School System. Thompson Middle School Students participated in the Patriot’s Pen Youth Essay contest. This contest encourages young minds to examine America’s history

along with their own experiences in modern American society by expressing their views based on a patriotic theme. Winners were: Emalyn Wellington, 1st place; Amelia Hachigian, 2nd place; Luke Palma, 3rd place.

Tourtellotte Memorial High School students participating in the Voice of Democracy audio essay contest were: Estela Freitas, 1st place; Calleigh Levesque, 2nd place; Andrew Marquette, 3rd place.

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Teacher Program. Nominated for this award and recognized by the local VFW were: Grade K-5, Ellen Huie; Grade 6-8,

Alissa Lynch; Grade 9-12, Thomas Smith.

The Illustrating America Art Contest for Grades K-8 which encourages and recognizes young artists with patriotism through art. Winners in Grade K-2 were: Beckett Freeman, 1st place; Skylar Frempong, 2nd place; Ronnie Larcheveque, 3rd place. Winners in Grade 3-5 were: Zachary Mayer, 1st place; Sofia Bastis, 2nd place; Rylie Larcheveque, 3rd place.

The Officers and members of Thompson Memorial VFW Post 10088 and Auxiliary Congratulate and Thank all of our Community Volunteers who keep us safe, educate our youth and work to make Thompson a better place to live. Well done!!! You make us proud.

George Foint of Thompson named to Dean’s Honor List at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — George Foint of Thompson was named to the Dean’s Honor List at Cedarville University for Spring 2026. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online programs across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio’s largest private universities and is ranked among the nation’s top five evangelical universities in The Wall Street Journal’s 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S. Cedarville is also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates. Learn more at cedarville.edu.

Celebrate the joy of reading at Woodstock’s Libraries in the Park

WOODSTOCK — Families will celebrate the Joy of Reading with the Woodstock Libraries on Saturday, May 30 from 1- 4 p.m. at the Roseland Park Pavilion during Woodstock Libraries in the Park! (Rain date May 31.)

There will be craft tables, wagon rides, free books, reading partners who will read to you or listen to you read, the ARC Cookie Truck, and from 2-3 p.m., Storyteller and Musician Davis Bates.

Bring a picnic, blanket, chairs, and books, as you wish, or pick a book to read from our library collections! Purchase cookies and milk from the ARC. Kids may sign up for three different Summer Reading Programs offered by the Woodstock Libraries.

How many books can we read in one afternoon? Help us keep track on our giant coloring page!

Sponsored by BankHometown, Connecticut Humanities, Woodstock Farms, Roseland Park, Bracken Memorial Library, May Memorial Library, and West Woodstock Library.

Area residents awarded diplomas from Salve Regina University

NEWPORT, R.I. — On May 17, on the oceanside campus of Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, president, conferred 525 bachelor’s degrees upon the Class of 2026 at the University’s 76th Commencement. These local students were among them.

Gianna Ormstead of Dayville Ella Davis of Brooklyn Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. It offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 students from around the world are enrolled in Salve’s 60+ academic programs, which include bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees along with graduate certificates and combined bachelor’s/master’s programs. Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year experience that charts a personalized, values-based path connecting college to a successful, fulfilling career and life. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy and ideas. For more information visit salve.edu.

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF

Frantz Charles (26-00091)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 8 2026, 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: Nahomie Charles c/o ROBERT JOSEPH SANTORO, KNOTT & SANTORO, LLC, 125 MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410 May 22, 2026

TOWN OF KILLINGLY SEWER ASSESSMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00-4:30pm, Tuesday 8:00-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. Also by mail, online, or in

our drop box.

Sewer assessment bills are due June 1, 2026 and becomes delinquent on July 1, 2026 and subject to interest from the due date. Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month with a minimum interest charge of \$5.00.

Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killinglyct.gov.

April Lamothe, CCMC Revenue Collector Town of Killingly

May 22, 2026

June 6, 2026

June 26, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF

Robert A La Chance (26-00176)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 13, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fidu-

ciary 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: David J LaChance c/o ERNEST J COTNOIR, MAHER AND COTNOIR, 163 PROVIDENCE STREET, P.O. BOX 187, PUTNAM, CT 06260 May 22, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Michael C

Lamoureux, Sr. (26-00191)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 13, 2026, 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:

Daniel P Lamoureux c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, EDWIN C. HIGGINS III, 168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260 Michael C Lamoureux Jr. c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, EDWIN C. HIGGINS III, 168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260 May 22, 2026

Auction

The equipment was owned and abandoned by John Carpenter of Carpenter Molds, located at 316 County Home Road, Thompson CT 06277.

The items listed are HURCO CNC MILL

The auction will be held at 342

Compass Circle,

Unit B4

North Kingston, RI 02852

June 12, 2026 at 9am

May 21, 2026

May 22, 2026

May 28, 2025

June 4, 2026

OBITUARIES

Jessica B. Cox Valade 1981 - 2026



Putnam - Jessica B. Cox Valade, 45, passed away peacefully on Wednesday afternoon, May 13, 2026, at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Surrounded by her loving family, Jessica left

this earth after a long and courageous battle with Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

Born in Worcester, Jessica was the daughter of Caro (Curtis) Cox and the late John C. Cox. She grew up in Worcester and was a 1999 graduate of Burncoat High School. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Worcester State University in 2005.

For more than 22 years, Jessica was a devoted employee of CMHA: The Housing Alliance. She began working there during her college years and served in many roles throughout her career, ultimately becoming Vice President of Operations. Jessica loved her work, cherished her colleagues, and found deep meaning in helping others.

Jessica met her husband, Troy, in 2009, and they were married in 2012. Troy was the yin to Jessica's yang, and the two could not have been more perfectly matched. They brought out the best in each other, and every day together was a new adventure. Jess and Troy eventually built a beautiful home together in Putnam, Connecticut. In 2018, they welcomed their beloved son, Adrien, into the world. Adrien was the sun in Jessica's sky, and she loved him with her whole heart. As a family, they enjoyed camping, traveling, and simply spending time being wonderfully weird together. Troy and Adrien plan to continue their camping traditions in Jessica's memory.

Jessica lived a full and vibrant life filled with many passions and hobbies. She adored dance throughout her life and most recently practiced aerial arts. An avid reader, Jessica always looked forward to book club gatherings with friends. A self-proclaimed true crime enthusiast, she enjoyed listening to podcasts and watching crime documentaries and television shows. Jessica loved the beach and treasured the memories she made with Troy and Adrien while camping at Hammonasset Beach. The Wells, Maine area also held a special place in her heart and was the setting for many cherished family memories. Music was another great joy in Jessica's life, and she loved attending concerts with family and friends. Jessica loved makeup and

shopping, and she never turned down an opportunity for a little retail therapy.

A survivor of cervical cancer, Jessica was first diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer in 2021. She experienced two and a half wonderful years of remission before receiving a Stage 4 TNBC diagnosis in 2024. Jessica faced every challenge with positivity, optimism, and grace. She rarely complained and often viewed her weekly visits to Dana-Farber as adventures to be shared with loved ones. Jessica leaned into her spirituality for comfort and strength, embracing holistic and alternative therapies such as reiki and crystals throughout her journey. Even in her final days, she remained more concerned for the well-being of others than for herself, a true testament to the kindness and goodness in her heart. Jessica will forever be remembered as a source of joy and light - a peacemaker, trusted confidante, loyal friend, and one of the best people anyone could ever hope to know.

Jessica is survived by her husband of thirteen years, Troy A. Valade; her son, Adrien Valade of Putnam; her mother, Caro (Curtis) Cox of Worcester; her siblings, John Turner and his wife, Cheryl, of Spencer, Massachusetts; Cheryl Hull and her husband, Brian, of Dudley, Massachusetts; Mark Turner and his wife, Mary-Beth, of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts; Terry O'Malley and her husband, Brian, of East Brookfield, Massachusetts; and Monica Charest and her husband, Jason, of Holden, Massachusetts. She is also survived by her father- and mother-in-law, Joseph and Linda Valade of Woodstock; her sister-in-law, Chelsea French and her husband, Michael, of Killingly; twelve cherished nieces and nephews; and seven great-nieces and great-nephews. She was predeceased by her father, John C. Cox, and her brother, Matthew G. Cox.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Jessica's family from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the Valade Funeral Home, 23 Main Street, North Grovesnordale, Connecticut. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at St. Michael's On-The-Heights Episcopal Church, 340 Burncoat Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01606 (please meet directly at the church). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in support of Adrien Valade, care of Troy Valade, 551 River Rd., Putnam, CT 06260. For an online memorial guestbook, please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Linda G Surozenski, 76



Linda G Surozenski, 76, of Woodstock, CT passed away May 6, 2026, at Matulaitis Nursing Home, Putnam, CT. She was the beloved wife of Joe Surozenski. Born May 16, 1949 in Killingly, CT, daughter of the late Robert and Doris (Blanchette) Greene.

Linda enjoyed volunteering for the Bungay Fire Brigade selling hot dogs at the Woodstock Fair and helping at the chicken BBQ. She also volunteered at the annual festival at the Most Holy Trinity Church chicken BBQ and other church events.

Linda attended St. James Catholic School and Killingly High School and Quinebaug Community College, receiving an associate's degree.

She worked at Bates Shoe and Uncle Bill's before volunteering at the Woodstock Elementary School and then was hired by the school, helping children with math and reading. She worked at Crabtree & Evelyn as the assistant to the training director and then accessory manager and buyer at the Woodstock and Boston offices. When the opportunity arose, she was able to live her dream and became the owner of Java Jive, in Woodstock, CT, feeding and sharing stories with a community that loved her. When she retired, she babysat her four grandchildren and enjoyed every moment

of being a grandmother.

Everyone will remember Linda for her amazing cooking. She loved to feed people and share her recipes with everyone. She also loved the beach and racing, her favorite trip was the yearly adventure to Daytona with Joe. She also went to Charlotte, Las Vegas Speedway and Loudon, NH. However, her favorite race team was Team 28, where she was MVP always providing the team with amazing meals.

She leaves her husband of 46 years, Joe Surozenski; daughter Tammy Marchini David, Yorktown Heights, NY, son William Schellinger, Thompson, CT; grandsons Michael, William, Gianluca, and Vinni from Yorktown Heights, NY; siblings Diane Hansen, NJ, Donna Rose, CA, Carol Wadsworth, PA, Sharon Burkhart, CA, Dave Greene, CA, and Richard Greene, PA; brother and sister in law; Gary and Jeanne Surozenski, Thompson, CT, many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her brother Robert Greene, PA, sister Nancy Lockwood, CT.

Services were Friday, May 15, 2026 from Smith and Walker Funeral Home, Putnam, with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary Church of the Visitation, Putnam, CT. Burial in West Thompson Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her memory to the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Church in Thompson CT. www.smithandwalkerfh.com

Jacqueline "Jackie" Landry, 84



Jacqueline "Jackie" Landry, 84, of Dayville, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2026, at St. Joseph's Living Center in Windham, Connecticut. She was born on August 17, 1941, in New York, New York, the daughter of the late Herve and Florence (Paul) Saucier. Jackie was the beloved wife of the late Ronald Charles Landry, with whom she shared a lifetime of love, family, and cherished memories.

Jackie dedicated much of her life to her church and community. She faithfully served for many years as a Eucharistic Minister at both St. Ignatius Church in Rogers and St. Joseph Church in Dayville. She was also a familiar and hardworking presence at Knights of Columbus fundraising events, especially during Lent, where she volunteered countless hours at the Friday night Fish Fry dinners.

Jackie worked for many years as a secretary at Danielson Curtain and later in life as a cook for TVCCA Meals-on-Wheels, where she enjoyed caring for others through her work. She was known for her kindness, generosity, and strong sense of family and community.

Jackie and her husband, Ronnie, shared a love of travel. Together, they enjoyed summer vacations on Cape Cod and were devoted Boston Red Sox fans, making trips to Boston and Baltimore to cheer on their team. Jackie also loved spending time with friends playing cards at St. Joseph Hall and enjoyed many fun-filled visits to Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.

Above all else, Jackie was a devoted mother and grandmother who took immense pride in her family. She treasured every moment spent with her sons and grandchildren, whose lives were enriched by her love, warmth, and support.

Jackie is survived by her sons, Jeff Landry and his wife, Ina, of Salt Lake City, Utah; Rob Landry and his wife, Michelle, of Merrimack, New Hampshire; and Joel Landry and his wife, Madiley, of Andover, Connecticut; her cherished grandchildren, Jack, Dillon, Jake, Kate, and Kyle; her brother, JP Saucier, and his wife, Paula; her sister-in-law, Betsy Saucier; her brother-in-law, Thomas Landry; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brothers, David Saucier and Richard Saucier.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, May 22, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Saint Mary Cemetery, Putnam, CT. Share a memory at SmithandWalkerfh.com

Jeanne M. Huhtala, 82



PUTNAM - Jeanne M. (Caron) Huhtala, 82, of Ballou St, passed away peacefully on Friday May 15th, 2026 at Hartford Hospital after a fall & brief illness.

Jeanne was born in Putnam on May 2nd, 1944 to the late Gerard & Marie (Dumont) Caron. She graduated with honors from St. Mary's Parochial School, Putnam Catholic Academy, and then Annhurst College in Woodstock, CT. Jeanne was a French teacher at Helen Baldwin Middle School (Canterbury) & Norwich Public Schools for several years, before changing careers to become a CNA. She spent several years working at St. Christopher's in Norwich, CT, before moving back to Putnam where she spent the remainder of her career working at Matulaitis Nursing Home. Her favorite hobbies were group activities with her friends at Ella Grasso Apts., spending time with family, and

also became an avid Boston sports fan later in life.

She was pre-deceased by her parents, her brother Gerard E. Caron, ex-husband John Huhtala, & her later fiancé Richard Carignan of North Grovesnordale.

She is survived by her sister Pauline LaRocque of Warwick RI, her son Erik (Charlotte) Huhtala of Putnam, her granddaughter Hayleigh Huhtala of Baltic CT, nephew David (Judi) LaRocque of Warwick RI, niece Laura (Stephen) Majeski of Estero FL, niece Allana (John) Christian of Londonderry NH, several great-nieces & nephews, her weekly caretaker & "other daughter-in-law" Amanda (Roland) Gaucher of Putnam, and a long list of relatives & friends that she loved and cared for deeply.

Services will be held at the Smith & Walker Funeral Home 148 Grove Street, Putnam on Friday, May 29th at 9:30, to 10:30 will be calling hours, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church of the Visitation at 11:00, with a private burial at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Patsy H. Converse 1934 - 2026



Woodstock - Patsy Converse, 91, passed away May 11, surrounded by her family. Born in Garner, TX, she was the daughter of Ammon and Sarah Jane Howard. When she was 19, she met and married

the love of her life, Franklin Converse, Jr. They were married for 68 years, before he passed in 2022. Married in Texas, they moved to Woodstock, Frank's hometown, where she embarked on a lifelong love of her new community and contributed greatly to it.

Patsy was proud to be the first female bus driver and female constable for the town of Woodstock, jobs she held for more than three decades. She was also part of the Muddy Brook Fire Department EMS team. She was a long-term trustee of the Roseland Park Board and recently was honored as a lifetime member. She impacted the lives of many, whether on the school bus, collecting lunch money in the cafeteria, or from her civic involvement.

Outside of community initiatives, she brought her southern flair to the kitchen table, especially with the use of okra grown in their backyard garden. Patsy was a standout on the Milsap High School

basketball team, and always supported her children's, grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's numerous sporting events. Anyone that knew her, was well aware of her love of Scottish Terriers, especially Freddy, Barney and Dixie.

She is survived by her daughter-in-law Susan Converse, grandson Thomas and wife Amanda, and great grandchildren Abigail, Kaylyn and Thomas; son Glenn Converse and his wife Diane, and grandchildren, Ian, Adam, Heather and her fiancé Erik; son David Converse and his wife Lynn, and grandchildren Jillian and her partner Jordan, Scott and his partner Molly; She also leaves her sister, Marilyn Ober and husband Richard, and sister-in-law Pat Howard, and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son, Thomas Converse and her brother, Henry Howard.

A celebration of life is planned for Patsy and Frank on June 14th, 12-2pm, at Roseland Park in Woodstock.

In lieu of flowers, Patsy requested donations in her name to Muddy Brook Fire Department, East Woodstock Congregational Church, or Roseland Park.

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

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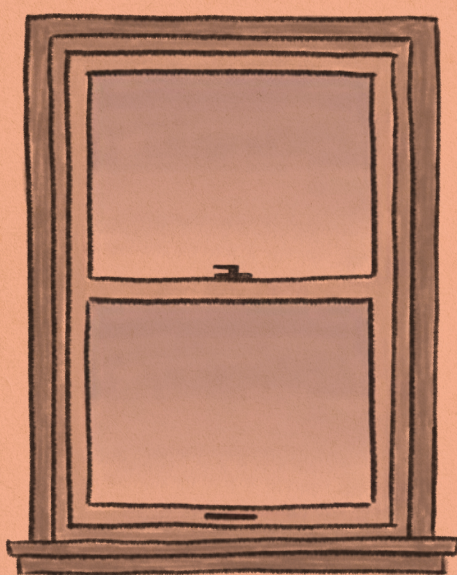
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