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PUTNAM VILLAGER

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Jason Bleau

Members of the East Brooklyn Fire Department at the food drive.

East Brooklyn Fire Department holds food drive for Feed the Need

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

BROOKLYN — The East Brooklyn Fire Department started a new food security initiative on Aug. 9 and 10, collecting food to benefit the Feed the Need mobile food pantry.

The event saw members of the department stationed outside of Walmart in Brooklyn collecting all sorts of shelf-stable foods to help Feed the Need in its ever-growing mission. The mobile pantry is operated out of Lighthouse Church of God in Plainfield and serves several local com-

munities including Brooklyn, Canterbury, Griswold, and Killingly.

For East Brooklyn Fire Captain William Wheaton, the drive hit close to home as he attends Lighthouse Church of God and his mother-in-law recently took over organizing the pantry. After learning of the significant need in local communities, Wheaton and the rest of the department wanted to do their part to help.

“They’ve been running low on supplies – We figured we’d try and raise some food for them. If it goes well, we might do another one next year

and we might include a couple other organizations,” Wheaton said.

The event also served as a way for the East Brooklyn Fire Department to interact with the public and remind them they are here to help. It was a common sight seeing department members taking time to engage with donors young and old as they entered or exited the store, providing them well wishes and sharing what they do and the mission of Feed the Need.

“This is all very important to us. We want to do what’s best for our communities and

we figure that this is a good way to help reinvest in the community and show that we’re out here trying to help people,” Wheaton added.

The department collected not only numerous bags of food but also nearly \$1,500 over the course of the two-day drive. Wheaton said continued donations can be dropped off at the department at 15 South Main St. in Brooklyn, and they will ensure the food gets to Feed the Need, or donations can be made directly to the pantry at Lighthouse Church of God in Plainfield.

Parties announce candidates for municipal elections

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Election season has officially begun, as local Republican and Democratic town committees have now put forward their candidates for consideration this November.

The Villager newspapers has produced a roundup of the candidates selected for the Nov. 4 election. Voters are encouraged to call their Town Clerk offices or visit town websites for more information on elections.

Putnam

Putnam will host its first contested mayoral election since 2019. Incumbent Barney Seney joins the Democratic slate after leaving the Republican Party that has long supported his candidacy and registering as unaffiliated. Republicans in turn have put forward a new candidate, current Board of Finance Chair David Coderre

The rest of the Republican selectman slate remains the same, with incumbents Roy Simmons, Rick Hayes, Michael Paquin, and David Pomes seeking reelection. The Democrats have put forward familiar names as well, incumbent selectmen Gloria Mario and Scott Pempek, who are joined this year by another former Republican candidate Mike Bogdanski who lost a primary to join the GOP slate in 2023.

The Board of Finance slate includes Republican nominees Lisa-Jean Clifford, Julie Quinn, and Scott Irwin, all incumbents although Irwin currently serves as an alternate. The Democratic nominees are Shane Donahue and current board alternate Paula Hanlon. Republicans have put forward Mike Stewart & Chris Steinbrick as candidates for alternates while Democrats did not endorse any alternates.

For Board of Education, Republicans have put forth incumbents Monique Mailloux, Thomas Goyette, and Jamie Purdon while incumbents Chad Neal and Jill Zangerl are joined by Elizabeth Beman, Fran Bousquet, and Jamie Heath on the Democratic ticket.

The election will also decide seats on the Library Board of Trustees, Special Services District Authority, and Board of Assessment Appeals.

Killingly

After taking control of the Board of Education in 2023, Killingly Democrats are hoping to maintain that majority and build on their numbers on the Town Council where they face a mix of new and returning candidates from the GOP.

Four at-large seats, all currently filled by Republicans, are up for grabs on the Town Council in this election, and both parties have presented a full slate while one petitioning candidate hopes to continue her tenure with the Council albeit without party

Killingly chooses Palaia as Town Manager



Brian Palaia

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council has chosen a new Town Manager, Brian Palaia, announcing and approving the hire during a special meeting on Aug. 14.

Palaia was chosen from a pool of candidates after a month-long search following the departure of former Manager Mary Calorio in May. He most recently served as Town Administrator in Dunstable, Mass. until 2022, and previously served at Town Manager of Oxford, Mass. until 2018.

Palaia’s appointment was not without some concern from citizens who took to social media noting his resignation from Oxford after failing a surprise alcohol test. Despite this, the Town Council leaned on Palaia’s experience and the positive feedback from his references in determining him the best candidate for the job. In fact, the only negative comments during the meeting focused more on the hiring process rather than Palaia as a candidate.

Council Member Andy Whitehead was one of a few Council members who voted against the appointment, but made it clear he took issue with the process not the candidate.

“I do have a problem with the way the position was negotiated. I know that has nothing to do with (Palaia) - I just have

a serious problem with the way it was negotiated,” said Whitehead.

Concerns were raised about the firm that assisted the town in the hiring process, Randi Frank Consulting. As is the case for most town hall hires, negotiations for Palaia’s contract were held outside of the public forum in executive session. Palaia’s past also remained a talking point, although the consensus seemed to be that he had proven to be a capable and dedicated leader in his role with other communities.

Council Vice Chair Tammy Wakefield noted Palaia as the most soft-spoken candidate she has seen for the job, but supported his hire saying he deserved a chance to show he has moved on from his past.

“I know there’s been concerns raised about some things that happened in the past. As a nurse, I understand that we’re all human. We all make bad choices and mistakes,” Wakefield said. “The difference between succeeding and not succeeding is not following those same mistakes and learning from them and changing.”

In his statement, Town Council Chair Jason Anderson said he felt Palaia’s experience will be an asset to Killingly, while also acknowledging the concerns some have shared about the hire.

“I look forward to working with Brian. I look forward to the knowledge and expertise that he brings with him,” said Anderson who then said he did his

own “due diligence” reaching out to Palaia’s references, particularly from Dunstable, Mass., to get a better idea of his character. Those references complimented Palaia’s thoroughness, professionalism and his ability to work collaboratively with his staff and the local select board.

When the time came to vote, Palaia was officially hired by a 6-3 vote with Council members Andy Whitehead, Patty George, and Kevin Kertulla voting against the hire.

In his first comment fol-

lowing the decision, Palaia thanked the Town Council for their confidence in him as he enters in his new position.

“I’ll do my best to go forward and work with all of you for the best interest of your residents and your town,” Palaia said. “I look forward to a positive relationship with yourselves and your department heads and your staff.”

Palaia’s hire is effective Aug. 25. His annual salary will be \$160,000.



Perfect day at 2025 Mustang Golf Classic

HARMONY, R.I. — Putnam Science Academy’s sixth annual golf tournament got a perfect day of weather and outstanding participation. All in all, it was a great success.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better golf day than today,” said Thomas Espinosa, PSA men’s basketball coach and Athletic Director. “I really want to thank our sponsors and all the golfers that continue to come back every year and support the program.” The event, held at Melody Hill Golf Club on Aug. 15, featured 21 groups and about 84 golfers that turned up to play. Money was raised in support of the reigning 2025 Men’s National Prep Basketball Champions the Putnam Science Mustangs. Nate Brodeur, Chris Logan, Ryan Logan and Dan Gomes were the winning foursome, finishing the best-ball round with a 54. That was three strokes better than second-place team Mark Verdone, John Searles, Ron Vargas and Mike Dupont. Finishing in third place with a 58 were Colby Livingston, Eric Livingston, Gary Rudman, and Noah Rudman. 77 year old Ron Vargas capped off a successful day by striking the longest drive, and Jon Marz landed 22 inches from the cup to take home closest to the pin honors. PSA recognized the tremendous community support for the event as well as their major sponsors – Gerardi Insurance, Kazantzis Real Estate and Cigna Healthcare – plus many tee sponsors.

Woodstock Building Associates named leader in customer satisfaction by Qualified Remodeler

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Building Associates(WBA),aleadingdesign/build firm based in northeast Connecticut and south central Massachusetts, has been recognized as a Customer Satisfaction Leader in Qualified Remodelermagazine’s annual Customer Satisfaction Report. The feature highlights WBA’s commitment to excellence and showcases the company as a top performer in the remodeling and home improvement industry.

As part of the report, WBA

Principal Steven Keene was profiled to share insights with fellow industry professionals. His leadership and client-centric approach have helped WBA maintain exceptionally high satisfaction ratings, setting a benchmark for excellence in customer service.

The annual report is a collaboration between Qualified Remodeler and GuildQuality, a respected customer satisfaction surveying platform. WBA was selected based on its outstanding performance, includ-

ing a 97 percent All-Time Recommend Rate on GuildQuality—an achievement maintained even during a busy 2024, when the company completed 64 building projects.

“At WBA Homes, client satisfaction is at the heart of everything we do—and it shows in our consistently top-rated reviews,” said Keene.

In the profile featured on Qualified Remodeler’s website, Keene shares key elements driving WBA’s success. These include:

- A Clear and Phased Design/Build Process – Clients are involved from day one through structured planning, detailed contracts, and showroom-based decision meetings.
- Superior Job Site Management – WBA maintains clean, safe, and organized job sites with floor protection, zip walls, and air scrubbers—minimizing disruption so clients can often remain in their homes throughout the project.
- Modern Communication Tools – The team uses digital platforms for daily logs (including notes and photos), weekly progress updates, and direct access to team members—ensuring transparency and peace of mind.
- This recognition reaffirms WBA’s commitment to delivering not just quality craftsmanship, but also a client experience that exceeds expectations.

Freshen up your late season gardens and containers with strawflowers

As summer is winding down and fall approaches, your thoughts may turn to mums, asters, and pansies. Consider changing things up this year by adding deer-resistant strawflowers to your late summer and fall containers and gardens.

Grow strawflowers (Xerochrysum bracteatum formerly Bracteantha) in full to part sun and moist well-drained soil. They are heat and cold tolerant, grown as annuals in most areas, and short-lived perennials in zones 8 to 10. You’ll enjoy continuous blooming and visiting pollinators from spring through summer and into fall until frost. Plant some now to replace fading summer annuals, freshen up your late season garden or create fall containers.

The range of flower colors makes them easy to include in your late season displays.

Plant strawflowers in the garden or a container with drainage holes and fill with a quality potting mix. Select a pot, at least 12 inches in diameter to avoid the plant becoming rootbound and drying out too quickly. Although the flowers look dry, the plants prefer moist well-drained soil. Check containers daily and water thoroughly as needed. Those growing in the garden should be watered thoroughly when the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist.

Strawflowers unique blossoms look and feel dry to the touch, making them extra fun for kids to grow. This straw-like texture of the flowers inspired the common name. You may also hear them referred to as everlasting flowers since they don’t wilt readily when picked and retain their shape and color for years once dried.

Granvias (suntory-flowers.com) are larger, vigorous plants with much bigger blooms than other strawflowers, making them excellent thrillers in containers and showy in the garden. You can



find these supersized strawflowers in gold, pink, white, Crimson Sun, Harvest Orange, Peachy Keen and Orange Flame.

Set a pot of colorful strawflowers among your pumpkins, ornamental squash and other fall décor. Combine them in containers and garden beds with other fall favorites like ornamental kale and cabbage, grasses, ornamental peppers, pansies, cali-

open as they dry so waiting too long results in a more open bloom. Harvest regularly to encourage even more flowers.

Recut the stems at an angle and place the strawflowers in fresh water and condition them in a cool, dark place for a few hours or overnight when using in fresh arrangements.

Hang the stems in bundles upside down in a warm, dry place when preserving them dried. You may opt to remove the stem and place the strawflowers in a wreath or an arrangement where a stem is needed. As the flower dries, it secures the wire in place. Remove the flowers from the stems once dried if you plan on using just the flowers

in crafting projects.

Discover the beauty and many uses of strawflowers this fall. Then next season, start early and grow even more to enjoy all season long.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD and instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Suntory Flowers for her expertise in writing this article. Myers’ Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

brachos, and more.

Grow plenty so you’ll have enough to enjoy as cut flowers and even more to dry for crafting wreaths, garland, flower spheres, and adding to dried arrangements. Harvest strawflowers when two to three layers of their petal-like bracts have unfolded but the center is still tightly closed. The flowers will continue to

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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



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Clarification

THOMPSON — It has come to our attention that an error on our part in a recent headline has generated an unintended stir in the town of Thompson.

The Aug. 8 edition of the Villager featured a press release laying out the methodology behind Thompson’s proposed budget which we initially, and mistakenly, credited to the town Assessor under the headline “Assessor explains methodology behind Thompson’s proposed budget.” It was subsequently brought to our attention, however, that we were mistaken in our assumption, and that the article should, in fact, have been attributed not to the Assessing department, but to the Board of Finance.

It is our understanding that this regrettable error on our part has sparked accusations that there was a deliberate effort on the part of town officials to mislead the public, but we assume full responsibility, and we hope this clarification that a simple and honest misunderstanding is to blame for any confusion, and not nefarious intent on anyone’s part, will settle the matter.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Seize the waning days of summer

Oh, no! Summer is coming to an end; however, we know the weather will stay warm likely through September; then it's on to what we New Englanders affectionately call "Sweatah weathah." But for now, let's focus on making the most of what we have left of our coveted New England summer days.

Time passes so quickly that we forget we had meant to do this, or go here and see that, or visit this old friend. The good news is that there is still time for a no regrets summer.

The most fulfilling thing we can do is to reconnect with friends. Plan a night out having appetizers, or a last-minute summer grill session. Even planning a short meet up for a walk or a hike is a great idea. Find a lake or a river with some nice rocks and just relax and catch up, taking in all that summer has to offer.

Nostalgia tells us that time spent with friends on our bikes until the lights came on were the best carefree times during the summer months. Why not take a night and watch old movies to bring you back, and escape from the go, go, go that is adulthood. Our favorite blasts from the past include "Field of Dreams," "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," "Crocodile Dundee," and anything with Steve Martin and Martin Short.

Spending time outdoors during late night hours is always a treat. Look up at the stars, even if it's from your own porch and enjoy a peaceful moment, listening to the crickets and the frogs have a chat.

That book sitting on your coffee table that's been staring at you all summer? Pick it up, and give yourself a goal to read at least five pages...just do it, before you know it, you'll be engrossed in it.

Get outside and go for a run, bike ride or a hike in a new place. Find places that you can revisit when the snow falls! Snowshoes and Nordic skis, heck even moon boots do the trick! But alas, let's stay focused on summer.

Take a refreshing swim in a nearby lake or river. Pop yourself onto a floaty and just bob as all of your cares float away.

Try to cook as many meals as possible outdoors on your grill. Soon it'll be too cold to wait to flip your burgers and dogs.

We love all seasons, and every time one ends, we get excited for the next. One of the benefits of living in New England is enjoying a solid four-season year. Pretty soon it will be pumpkin everything, apples and crisp fall leaves, but for now...let's stay in summer mode!

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is this the way Trump supporters express themselves?

To the Editor:
This past Monday night or early Tuesday morning, somebody stopped in front of our house and ripped down a sign that has been on our mailbox post since 2020. It was a small sign expressing our views on basic freedoms. Apparently this free and constitutionally protected expression was abhorrent to someone in our neighborhood.

It is so sad that our country has come to this; that if somebody disagrees with your views they can commit acts of destruction and violence with impunity. This is what occurred in Hitler's Germany leading up to the second world war. History is beginning to repeat itself.

BRUCE P. SHAY
POMFRET CENTER

We need to hear your voice

To the Editor:
While it has been an honor to serve as an educator in our area (The Woodstock Academy, QVCC, and Nichols College), I would be remiss if I did not practice what I have preached to my classes over the years. Certainly, others have said it better, but I believe that it is a moral wrong to see a moral wrong and not do anything about it. I write to add my dissenting voice to the comments that have been made in these pages by Messrs. Boland, Etzel, and Graseck, along with those of Ms. Arends and more recently, Ms. McNally.

The current state of our American political system is toxic. An admitted liberal, I cannot turn a page of the New York Times without disgust. Whether it is a misguided tariff

policy or President Trump's neglect of starving Palestinians, war-torn Sudanese, and war-besieged Ukrainians, our current geopolitical status is not representative of the America I was proud to grow up in and serve as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer.

While the laundry list of American ills is too long to mention here, I would like to inform young readers of the Villager that we are not living in normal times. And I'd like to hear from you about your thoughts and encourage you to add your voice to this public discourse. You do not have to bow to a political leader. Question authority. The welfare of our citizenry deserves no less.

JEFFREY SUSLA
WOODSTOCK

Garcia-Gomes will bring common sense and caring to Pomfret's BOE

To the Editor:
Greetings, neighbors and friends in beautiful Pomfret!

I am writing this letter as an endorsement for the upcoming town elections, and specifically for Ms. Sara Garcia-Gomes in the hopes that she retains her current seat on the Pomfret Board of Education.

Sara is my nextdoor neighbor, and that proximity grants me the confidence to speak comfortably and strongly on her behalf. She and her husband Dan are exemplary neighbors, and I think she will likely carry our little neighborhood rather comfortably as they are admired and appreciated by everyone I know here.

They are not just good neighbors, but terrific parents. Their two little ones are great pals of mine, not just very bright and well behaved children, but also exceedingly kind and caring little kids, especially to the funny old fellow living next door! Children such as these do not simply grow out of a vacuum; they are the product of the environment that has nurtured them, and I have been an appreciative witness to that for the last decade.

I am not a regular writer to the Editor; the last political endorsement I penned was on behalf of Mike Alberts when he ran for state rep several years ago. Mike, too, impressed me with his gentle demeanor and common sense approach to the often ugly world of politics. He served our community admirably and I believe my support for him was wholly justified.

Sara Garcia-Gomes was approached to fill a vacancy on our BOE during the last election cycle, and stepped up to do just that. She has done so admirably, and earned the respect and even admiration of several of our local political leaders from both sides of the aisle. In this day and age, that is no small feat.

There has been scuttlebutt of late on social media and in the press of the circumstances surrounding not being endorsed by a major party in this current election. Many, I am sure, are already familiar with that tale, a glimpse at the underbelly of local politics, I am afraid. I do not seek to address that matter; most will have already come to their own conclusions, and my contribution would only add to an already noisy mess.

As a concerned citizen of Pomfret for the last 30 years, I have always been pretty pleased with the way our town has been governed. There has been a genteel tone about it all, one that we have seen lacking in some of our neighboring towns. It is this observation that prompts me to speak out.

As an older fellow, I distinctly remember a time when politics was a far more noble endeavor. When opposing views were often debated openly, civilly and with obvious respect. I miss those days and I think many in my own age group would agree, regardless of which 'side' they are on.

I think it important, and possible, to combat this deterioration at the local level first. If we want things to change, we have to start here in our own communities.

Where, then, does it make more sense for an 'unaffiliated' voice in our local governance than with the Board of Education? Such is not the place for political party scorekeeping or shenanigans. The only 'affiliation' that counts here, is the one that binds the person in the job to the best interests of our children, our families and our community. Party politics really should not matter at all. There are, after all, no Democrat or Republican children in our schools, just children who need the care and guidance of good and decent people whose primary focus is on common sense.

Sara Garcia-Gomes is, in fact, just the right kind of person for this role. She has clearly demonstrated that in the time she has already spent in the job. I am reminded of the old adage, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.'

The only reason to change course at this point, as far as I can tell, is to win the scorekeeping on the political front for one party over another. It is ironic that such motivation, lacking wisdom and maturity, would be applied to a position aimed at overseeing children's education...but I digress.

We have been blessed in so many ways in this little town of ours, not the least of which has been the performance of our schools. I would assert that retaining the commitment of someone like Sara to continue the excellence we have all come to appreciate, is vitally important. I would further assert that her now 'unaffiliated' status, in this time of so much political polarization, beholden to no one but her neighbors and their children is actually essential to continuing the forward momentum of our schools and the town itself.

To be clear, this letter is not intended to besmirch any of the candidates running for office in Pomfret. I commend any and all who seek to work to better our community. It is the process that I have some misgivings with.

I hope others and my many friends and neighbors will see the truth of these assertions as well, and come out and vote in support of Sara. This is especially true for those who might not regularly vote in local elections. I think it is high time that 'we the people' assert ourselves and take part especially in our local governance. We are lucky folks for sure, and voting is the least we can do in thanks for our good fortune.

Please vote, and consider the very real advantage of the common sense and caring voice of Sara Garcia-Gomes for Board of Education in Pomfret.

Thank you,

CHARLES F. HARRINGTON
POMFRET

Give us a break!

To the Editor:
Democrats, give us a break! You'll never like anything President Trump does, but like it or not, he's still your President for the next three and a half years.

I didn't like President Biden, never did, never will, but I didn't complain in the Villager every week. I did what adults do; I

waited until Nov. 5, 2024.

If you spent half the time explaining what you're for rather than what you're against, maybe people would pay attention.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL FLABONTE
PUTNAM

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

brendan@villagernewspapers.com



Fear of rides

My granddaughter and I were talking about the upcoming local fairs and trips she enjoyed to Six Flags and Disney. Our conversation turned to the variety and scariness of rides and what she preferred. She doesn't like roller coasters and rides that spin at a dizzying rate, but a few rotations on a Ferris wheel are just fine. Since childhood, I've

gone to many fairs and a few amusement parks, where my taste in thrilling rides aligns with my granddaughter. What scares us? Why do some of us seek frequent doses of fear both emotionally and physically?

Fear is always with us. In 1975, the movie "Jaws" was released, and changed how many felt about swimming forever. The story is so riveting that it has become a cultural touchstone. Everyone knows the narrative and most of us shiver when we hear the John Williams theme song, which captures the sense of dread better than anything else ever written. Peter Benchley, the author of the book, later lamented the near universal fear of sharks he inspired. The real sharks swimming off our shores today are seen as more terrifying because of the fictional account.

Movies ramp up fear. As a teenager, I saw Alfred Hitchcock's movie, "The Birds," starring Tippi Hendron. She antagonizes birds and they take revenge in a big way. The suspense builds as the black birds swirl into larger and larger groups and attack the inhabitants of a small town. In the late afternoon, when swallows swoop and dive across a hay field near my home, I recall scenes from the movie for a few seconds before I admire the agility and beauty of my feathered neighbors.

Common fears are listed by rank on the Internet. Spiders, heights, enclosed spaces, snakes and needles hold top spots. Emotional fears include fear of darkness, being alone, death, failure, the unknown, and silence. I've always been afraid of snakes even though I know in most instances, the slithery creatures are harmless. I don't even like to look at pictures of snakes, but when my father announced that perhaps I would go to college in Florida, he and I went to a reptile show.

I felt sure the emcee would pick me from the crowd to hold a snake. He wrapped a huge king snake around the back of my neck and put its head in one hand and its tail in another. I stood frozen until I felt a ripple of movement. I flung the creature off and ran back to my seat feeling humiliated and proud. The experience did not relieve or minimize my ophidophobia, the fancy word for my terror. Years later, I abandoned a nice raspberry patch because a snake called it home.

The dare devils among us often are surprising. The mildest person turns out to love the wildest rides or the most chilling horror movies. An NYT article quoting research says that: "the appeal of scary or exhilarating activities emerges at an early age." That's true based on the kids I knew. A study in Denmark (Andersen/Clausen-Recreational Fear Labs) says: "Fear can be a thrilling form of play, a tool for personal growth and possibly a way to build resilience..."

The movie "Jaws" was a blockbuster and Hitchcock films scared us many times. Current cinema probably makes those look like kiddie shows and people happily see them. The wildest rides at our local fairs will have the longest lines. This year, I'll try to hear joy in the screams of the riders as I watch safely from the ground.



NANCY WEISS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There are two sides to the ‘disgusting’ coin

To the Editor:

I would like to address the letter by Kevin Mack in the Aug. 8 issue where he discusses “Disgusting Democrats.” Now, I’m not going to question, specifically, any of the claims Mr. Mack made in his letter, but I do hope you do.

As an initial disclaimer, let me say that the first president I ever voted for was Richard Nixon in 1972. Since that time, I’ve only voted for one Democrat for president, and that was in 2024, the only way to actively vote against Donald Trump, the person that I voted for in 2016.

Now, I do not deny that Democrats lie, as Mr. Mack points out. They are politicians, like Republicans, and the surefire way to know they are lying is to see if their lips are moving. But Mr. Mack is so obsessed with his devotion to the president that he can only look in one direction.

Here is something the Trump lovers will never tell you. You see, being so obsessed with Trump, morning, noon, and night, you have to laugh. Trump has them so enthralled that they have to write, week after week after week, complaining about Joe Biden, a man who is not president. It’s OK; it’s called obsession, “Trump Devotional Syndrome,” also known as “Trump Delusional Syndrome” or TDS. They take every word uttered by their demigod as Gospel, and they repeat it ad nauseum without verification.

So, before taking any of Mr. Mack’s claims as valid, I suggest everyone research every one of them on non-Fox broadcasting sites. I strongly recommend snopes.com, as they not only research, but they cite their sources, something Mr. Mack failed to do with his claims. Also look specifically at any quotes, and find where they were actually used in context.

But also, ask yourself these questions. If there was criminal evidence of wrongdoing by Joe Biden in Hunter’s laptop, why, with control of both houses of congress, and a compliant Supreme Court, did they not find anything? The only felonies Hunter Biden faced were three convictions for illegal purchase and possession of a firearm. Why was it that with both houses of Congress and a compliant Supreme Court could they not find a single impeachable offense by Joe Biden? Please remember that Trump was impeached twice, the only

president ever to have this honor.

And while asking those questions, look up why Biden cut deliveries to Ukraine, and remember who controlled both houses of Congress at that time.

Again, yes Democrats lie, and many Democrats commit adultery. Bill Clinton did both, and was impeached and disbarred for it, though he did admit to it in the end. Trump did it while his wife was pregnant, paid off the woman, denied it repeatedly, still does, and was found guilty of 34 felonies. Just like Trump still denies that he lost the election in 2020, and claims he had a landslide victory in 2024, even though he never, in three elections, won a majority vote. He did win a plurality in 2024, but still with less than 50 percent of the votes. (For those with difficulty with math, more than 50 percent is required for a majority).

But while we’re on the topic of various Democrats and Democrat appointees lying about the laptop, why are we not looking at the lies about the Epstein files? First they exist, then they don’t exist, then they are sitting on Bondi’s desk, then they were never on Bondi’s desk. See, those of us near the center, and I am center right, can see the hypocrisy on both sides. We do not have to first take the log out of our own eye, in order to see clearly to take the speck out of our brother’s eye.

Democrats did not say they would end both wars by inauguration day. Democrats did not promise grocery, and specifically egg prices would come down by inauguration day. Democrats did not promise 90 deals in 90 days, then not follow through. Democrats did not say the churches would be open by Easter back in 2020. Do Democrats lie? Again, do their lips move? But that log in Mr. Mack’s eye, can only see one side of a coin.

But as disgusting as the Democrats are, Democrats never attacked the Capitol in order to try and overturn the results of a lawful election. It was not a Democrat that pardoned the convicted persons who were arrested on that day for destruction of property, trespassing, and actions that lead to the deaths of five people. It is not Democrats, spurred on by their president, attempting to redistrict the state of Texas out of the 10 year census requirement specified in the Constitution for the specific and stated reason of gaining five more

Congressional seats.

Am I a Trump hater? Well, I do not like the word ‘hate,’ but I do despise the man, and I despise what he is doing to this country, with the compliance of the Republicans in Congress that are letting him, and all future presidents, take away their power. I regret that I voted for him in 2016, but at that time, I thought he would do less damage than Clinton would have done. We’ll never know if that was right.

DAVE CLARK
THOMPSON

Americans are paying the price — but the Trump/Vance administration isn’t

To the Editor:

Americans are bracing for higher prices on goods, rising medical bills, and job losses; While enduring devastating cuts to Social Security, education, Medicaid, food assistance, workers’ rights, voting rights, women’s rights, veteran services, civil rights, immigrant rights, due process rights, disaster relief, national parks, and independent news. The list goes on and on.

These sacrifices don’t apply to the Trump/Vance Administration and their billionaire donors.

The so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) cost taxpayers an estimated \$600 billion, more than it has saved, despite the Trump/Vance promise to crack down on reckless spending. Instead, public funds are being spent on personal luxury.

Since January 2025, Donald Trump has cost taxpayers millions to play golf, often at his own properties which he personally benefits from. It is reported that it cost \$800,000 each time he travels to Mar-a-Lago which is just about every week.

According to news reports the costs to taxpayers to pay for Trump’s personal indulgences are significant:

- A trip to his golf course in Ireland — \$10 million
- Super Bowl — \$1 million (likely

more according to SNOPEs)

- Daytona 500 — \$5 million
- Trump’s 79th birthday military parade — \$30 million
- Renovating a private Qatar 747-8 jumbo jet to use as Air Force One, nearly \$1 billion, which Trump plans to keep after leaving office.

Then there’s Vice President JD Vance’s birthday indulgence. Reports say the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers altered water levels at Ohio’s Caesar Creek Lake just so he could kayak.

Meanwhile, according to financial documents, Trump’s net worth has more than doubled since returning to power, fueled by selling bibles, crypto tokens, sneakers, fragrances, watches and more (CNN). The Economic Times reports that the current administration is packed with billionaires and their spouses, many using their positions to enrich themselves at our expense.

This is not a government of the people, by the people, for the people. This is self-enrichment on the taxpayer’s dime.

Fellow Americans, it’s time to take our government back before it is gerrymandered out of existence and we’re past the point of no return. A price Americans are unwilling to pay.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Words matter...language matters!

and followed, we might find a more productive outcome among our neighbors, communities, and regions of the country. Can we dare hope that we will live in ONE country again, instead of making a move that doesn’t depend on the color of a State? Will there come a time when we aren’t only grateful for a blessing, but also grateful for the awareness of the blessing? There are so many blessings that go un-noticed! Whether they come from your Creator or your mom! Well, we can take a deep breath and recognize a blessing that may be staring you in the face! Breathing also provides clarity on the path towards conversation!

Never-the-less, one of those blessings is being collectively able to change our circumstances. Purposeful use of “people power” has already proven to bring about change in behavior; i.e. smoking and solar power! When defense of common ground becomes an issue, this country comes together and votes accordingly, if given the opportunity. The roadmap to accomplishing this goal cannot be following a disjointed and unrealistic mantra” of “Thy Will Be Done.” A change is needed in the approach to this mission. A change in messaging is critical, in my humble opinion.

A college certification exists in Marketing. Companies spend million\$ in packaging a message that is acceptable and is very lucrative. Professionals and Non-Professionals KNOW that a product will “sell,” long term, if marketed successfully. With this in mind, is it time to realize and accept the fact that the concept of “peace” is no longer viable? Is it time to understand that “peace” IS a concept, proven to be unrealistic among human beings? Could this be the reason for it being unattainable?

As a concept, it is only achieved at the time of death, as a spiritual elevation to a state of rest. “Peace Be With You” is synonymous with “God Be With You”. Our Creator is the source of any degree of peace. However... If you have ever been married, or have experienced a committed relationship, or have been a parent of someone over the age of 12, or have ever shared office space... you will understand and even describe the appropriateness of another term. A real term that sparks immediate internalized meaning...harmony! Whether you can relate to it in human relationship terms, or musical composition, or related to the balance between you and your natural surroundings, it is real, not abstract! Balance is an indispensable component of Harmony, and natural to the human condition based on the premise of... Where there’s a will, there’s a way.

I propose we try it on for size, and experience how it can fit us better in our daily communication as individuals, families, neighbors, towns, etc. It may be the blessing we’ve been ignoring!

Sincerely,

LYDIA RIVERA-ABRAMS
DAYVILLE

Proudly deranged

To the Editor:

I tried really hard to ignore the Aug. 8 “Big Mack Attack, Volume 2.” Since I am a hopelessly disgusting Democrat afflicted with TDS, I’ll just take this opportunity to relax and breathe slowly.

First and foremost, I would like to say keep up the good work Lisa and Claudia. Don’t let Mr. Mack trouble you, I’ll handle him. By the way, Kevin, who pays the tariffs?

Your letter was impressive not for content, but sheer volume. A wayback machine history lesson composed of the usual whataboutisms.

Let me quote you: “Didn’t some Trump haters flip out when Trump bombed Iran’s nuclear facilities without Congressional approval?” Not nearly as much as when Trump enacted, without Congressional approval, unnecessary and illegal tariffs. There was no emergency, what with trade imbalances being normal, like they have been for the last 40 years. There is an emergency now though with one of our closest allies, Canada, standing up to an insecure tyrant. Copper, steel, aluminum, lumber...

Trump took credit in 2024 for Joe Biden’s robust economy. In 2025, when his economy started to slide, Trump blames Biden. Come on; he is not only a failed President, but a failed human being as well. What goes through your mind to support someone like this?

To paraphrase California Gov. Newsom: “His war on institutions and knowledge; on history, science and public health; his war on all of us...”

So much to say, so little time to waste.

My point being, what were you actually trying to accomplish? My guess was to try and impress another resident of No. Grosvenordale. How did any and all of this (stuff) add substance to the public discourse at hand, the times we are living in right now? Aren’t you at all aware of the dire straits Trump has put us in with his fever dream of autocracy and dictatorship? “Absolute power corrupts absolutely” And you support Trump, the total embodiment of the phrase? A guy who once said of Jeffrey Epstein, quote, “A terrific guy.” What must go through your mind.

All you have proved, unwittingly, I imagine, is that politics on both sides of the aisle can produce questionable actions. It’s happened before and it will undoubtedly happen again. It’s called the nature of human beings endowed with political power. But never have we seen the likes of Trump, who takes it all to a new level of ignorance and corruption right before our eyes.

Here are but a few topics (out of dozens) you should be concerned about today, never mind about bringing up the name of George W. Bush.

What are your concerns about the recent loss of \$500 million earmarked for Covid and flu vaccines? Is it in our best interest for the Dept. of Health to be decimated?

\$1 billion has been deleted from the Department of Education, the burden to be place on the states. If you believe the states can now handle the pressure, why is it that every year, we hear how teachers are reaching into their own pockets to buy classroom supplies?

Since statistics show crime is down in Washington, D.C., why then did Trump deploy the National Guard when, on Jan.6, he waited until after 100 plus police officers were pummeled? Perhaps because Mayor Bowser is a Democrat? Maybe the reason was that DOGE punk staffer “Big Balls” got his kicked around while out on the streets at 3 a.m. Don’t even tell me this proves Trump’s point. There is violence in every big city coast to coast. I doubt you will ever see boots on the ground in any red state big city.

If you had a friend who you found out to be cheating on his wife or cheated at his business or even his golf game (where honesty is rule number 1), would you still want to be his friend? If so, you must really need a friend.

These are just a few of the many things we anti-Trump Americans are deranged about.

By the way, Mr. Mack, you yourself may be a victim of “Brennan Derangement Syndrome”. After all you did mention his name 11 times.

Mark your calendar: On Sept. 3, Democrat Rep. Ro Khanna and Republican Rep. Thomas Massie will hold a joint press conference in Washington concerning the sordid “Epstein Files,” the same day the House reconvenes. This is also the day gutless Mikey Johnson will have to show his face again after running away from the vote to release them to the public. I believe there were 11 Republicans willing to side with the Democrats on this mess. I wonder how many of them or their loved ones have been threatened by Trump. We’ll see if this number has changed. Some of the victims are expected to be there as well. No surprise that Trump calls it all a hoax perpetrated by the radical lunatic left. Let’s see what these brave women have to say about that.

One final note: 90 years ago this month, Franklin Roosevelt changed America forever, signing The Social Security Act, to the continued dismay of Republicans. MSNBC’S Lawrence O’Donnell said it right: “90 years from now, no one will be commemorating anything Donald Trump said...or did.”

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Key impacts of the Big, Beautiful Bill Act

President Trump’s One Big, Beautiful Bill officially passed in Congress and was signed by the president, which officially makes it the One Big, Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). The extremely large and complex piece of legislation contains tax cuts for individuals and businesses, increases spending on defense and immigration enforcement, and cuts spending on “green businesses” and Medicaid. The law will give consultants and tax advisors topics to write about for years. For now, let’s look at some of the ways the OBBBA may directly affect your pocketbook.

Lower taxes
The biggest thing the One Big, Beautiful Bill Act did was extend most of the tax breaks under the Tax Cut and Jobs Act (TCJA), which was enacted during the first Trump administration and was set to expire at the end of this year. Had the OBBBA not become a law, individual and business tax rates would have jumped sharply.

The new law also provides some new individual tax benefits. Individuals working in qualified tipped occupations can deduct up to \$25,000 of tip income from their taxable income and individuals can deduct up to \$12,500 of their overtime pay from their taxable income (\$25,000 for those filing joint returns). Both deductions are available starting this year and continue through 2028. The deductions are available for individuals who earn up to \$150,000 a year (\$300,000 for joint filers) and phase out for those earning greater amounts.

In addition, consumers who purchase American-made cars can deduct up to \$10,000 of the interest paid on their auto loans annually from 2025 through 2028. The benefit phases out for individuals with a modified adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or more annually or joint filers who earn more than \$200,000.

Higher SALT deduction

In a move appreciated by anyone living in a state with high taxes, the One Big, Beautiful Bill Act increases the cap on the deduction for state and local taxes (SALT) to \$40,000 for those filing taxes jointly and \$20,000 for those filing separately. That’s a nice increase from the \$10,000 cap placed on the deduction under Trump’s TCJA, but it’s still a far cry from the lack of any cap prior to the TCJA.

The deduction is only available to those who itemize their taxes. The deductible amount and income threshold each increase by 1 percent annually through 2029. And the maximum deduction available is gradually reduced for joint filers with modified adjusted gross income of more than \$500,000 (\$250,000 for separate filers.) Less advertised: The deduction, which is available this year, reverts back to the \$10,000 cap in 2030.

New tax benefits for the young

Under the One Big, Beautiful Bill Act, parents receive a child tax credit of \$2,200 for each of their children, up from \$2,000 starting in 2025. There is no stated expiration date on this credit. The credit is permanently indexed to inflation and phases out for single filers making \$200,000 or more and joint filers making \$400,000 or more.

The OBBBA also creates Trump Accounts. The US government will place \$1,000 into an account created for any baby born in the US between Jan. 1, 2025 and Dec. 31, 2028. Accounts can be opened for children born before and after those dates, they just won’t receive the seed money from Uncle Sam. Accounts can be opened for anyone up through the calendar year before they turn 18.

Parents, relatives, and friends can contribute up to \$5,000 a year in after-tax dollars to the account



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until the year before the child turns 18. Employers can contribute up to \$2,500 a year to an employee’s account or to the account of an employee’s dependent. The accounts will be invested in a low-cost fund that tracks the US stock market and can grow tax-deferred.

When the child turns 18, the account converts into a traditional IRA, and the beneficiary can withdraw funds at any time — with caveats. If they use the proceeds to pay for college, buy a home, or start a business, they will pay a federal income tax on the amount withdrawn. If they pull money out for any other purpose before turning 59 and a half, they’ll pay

federal income tax and a 10 percent tax penalty on withdrawals. If the funds are withdrawn after the person hits 59 and a half, the withdrawal will be taxed at the federal income tax rate. The tax implications are varied and complicated, so consider talking to your financial advisor about the pros and cons of making contributions to a Trump account. It’s expected that accounts will be available through banks or other financial institutions starting in 2026.

The One Big, Beautiful Bill Act also reduces government support of college finance. Under the Parent Plus student loan program, parents can only borrow \$20,000 per student per year for college and the total amount borrowed is limited to \$65,000 per student. Previously, parents were allowed to borrow an amount equal to their child’s cost of college. The change goes into effect on July 1, 2026.

The Grad Plus loan program, which provided loans to graduate students, will be shuttered as of the 2026-2027 school year. And, students who take out loans should be aware that income-driven repayment plans will no longer be available after July 1, 2026.

New tax benefits for the old

Seniors receive new benefits under the One Big, Beautiful Bill Act, too. Couples who are 65 and older can deduct up to \$12,000 from their taxable income if they make less than \$150,000 annually. Accordingly, individuals can take a \$6,000 deduction if they earn less than \$75,000 annually. The deduction shrinks as income exceeds the noted levels. Again, less advertised is the fact that this deduction is only in effect from 2025 through 2028, unless it’s extended by Congress.

Trump did not eliminate the tax on Social Security, as he promised during the campaign. But

the new senior tax break will go a long way toward offsetting the tax that most seniors pay on their Social Security benefits. Those who won’t benefit are the poorest seniors, who never pay taxes on their Social Security benefits, and the richest seniors, who won’t qualify for the tax break.

Understanding how the many moving parts of Trump’s One Big, Beautiful Bill Act will affect your financial plans is challenging. At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we’re happy to help. Our “Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™” process includes regular portfolio reviews and strategic adjustments to keep you on track toward your goals. We’re committed to being your partner every step of the way as we provide you with “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.” Contact us for a complimentary consultation at whzwealth.com or call (860) 928-2341.

What is it about money?

What is it about money? At first glance, it is nothing but paper, or digits on a screen, or the shimmer of gold, silver, or crypto code. It seems to hold no intrinsic value—and yet it governs nearly every movement of our world.

We pursue it because we must: to feed our families, to build our dreams, to secure the lives we long for. In this society, money is a necessity. And yet, it slips through our fingers like water. One can possess it in abundance, only to watch it vanish overnight. It is a teacher disguised as currency—revealing what we value, fear, and chase. A balancing act of spirit and matter. For what does it profit a person to gain all the money in the world if, in doing so, they lose their soul—their inner compass, their true Self.

How much of our lives have been shaped by money? Not only by its absence, but by the illusion that once we finally possess it, we will at last feel safe, valid, and real. Whispering to ourselves: “Once I get enough, I’ll relax. Once I’m promoted, I’ll be whole. Once I buy that thing, I’ll finally become someone.” But the finish line keeps moving, always just beyond reach. If we don’t awaken to that trick, it pulls us deeper into its labyrinth.

And if we fall into that trap, money ceases to be a tool. We no longer use it—we worship it, potentially turning us into something not unlike a modern-day Scrooge—rich in possessions, but poor in spirit.

Carl Jung, the famous psychiatrist, taught that when money

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
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aligns with our values and purpose, it stops being just currency—it becomes a mirror, a symbol, a servant of the Self.

It can express who we truly are, fueling work that brings meaning and relationships that nourish life. But when we separate money from our purpose, or never discover one outside of accumulation, money begins to work against us.

When we chase it for the shimmer of cars, clubs, houses, and status, it’s just a mask. Yet behind that mask, nothing is there.

Society tells us this chase is typical, even noble. Careers are chosen, lifestyles built, identities forged on its foundation. But deep down, the psyche knows the truth: money without meaning is hollow. It leaves us restless, dissatisfied, still searching for something we cannot name.

And it is a double-edged sword, because money not only shows up in greed—it also hides in fear. Fear of financial instability can bind us just as tightly as the lust for wealth. It can stop us from risking, from creating, from offering the gifts of our soul. In that fear, we trade potential for safety, burying our talents in the ground. The shadow of money lies not only in hoarding gold, but also in the person who never becomes what they could be because of the fear of instability.

It seems that Jung saw money not simply as coins, paper, or digits, but as energy—a collective symbol, created by society and invested with psychic weight. To him,

money’s value was never inherent but symbolic, reflecting what we project onto it: security, power, or even self-worth.

At its best, it can serve as a tool for expression, growth, and care. But when money becomes the measure of meaning, when we pursue it for its own sake, it can easily slip into darkness - confusing worth with wealth.

The endless chase for wealth and status leaves us mistaking accumulation for wholeness; we try to patch inner wounds with outer excess. In truth, Jung thought, the only wealth that endures is the journey of individuation—the slow, lifelong work of becoming who you truly are.

Money, then, should serve the soul—not the other way around. In hands guided by purpose, it expands creativity and generosity. In hands ruled by fear or greed, it magnifies insecurity and imbalance.

And so the real question is not how much you can make, but whether your relationship with money is rooted in alignment with who you are.

If you find yourself trapped in fear or endlessly chasing status, Jung would call you back inward: discover your purpose, and let money serve that higher calling.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

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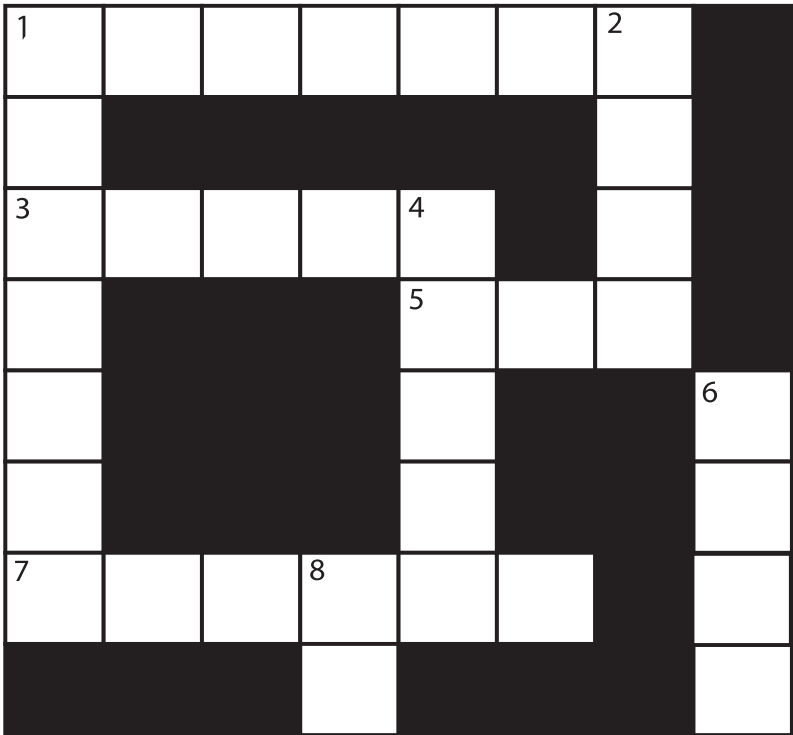
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Crossword Puzzle



THIS DAY IN HISTORY



- 1680:** Pueblo Indians capture Sante Fe from the Spanish.
- 1911:** The Mona Lisa is stolen by Vincenzo Peruggia, a Louvre employee.
- 1959:** U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower signs an executive order proclaiming Hawaii the 50th state.

Nature FACT:

This outdoor activity involves climbing rocky terrain using hands and feet.

Answer: Rock scrambling

ACROSS

- 1. Wooded areas
- 3. Water area in desert
- 5. Conjunction to connect words
- 7. A well-lit sky

DOWN

- 1. Sweet-smelling blooms
- 2. Granular material at the shore
- 4. Enjoy completely
- 6. Body of water
- 8. "The Ocean State" (abbr.)

Answers: Across 1. Forests 3. Oasis 5. And 7. Starry Down 1. Flowers 2. Sand 4. Savor 6. Lake 8. RI

NEW WORD

QUEST

a long and difficult search for something

How they say that in...

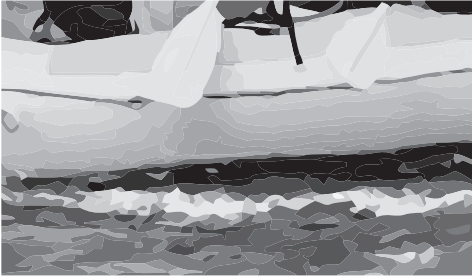
- English:** Adventure
- Spanish:** Aventura
- Italian:** Avventura
- French:** Aventure
- German:** Abenteuer

Did You Know?

Recreational vehicles can be great ways to travel and see the countryside. People can stop and go as they please along the way.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Rftt

CRYPTO FUN

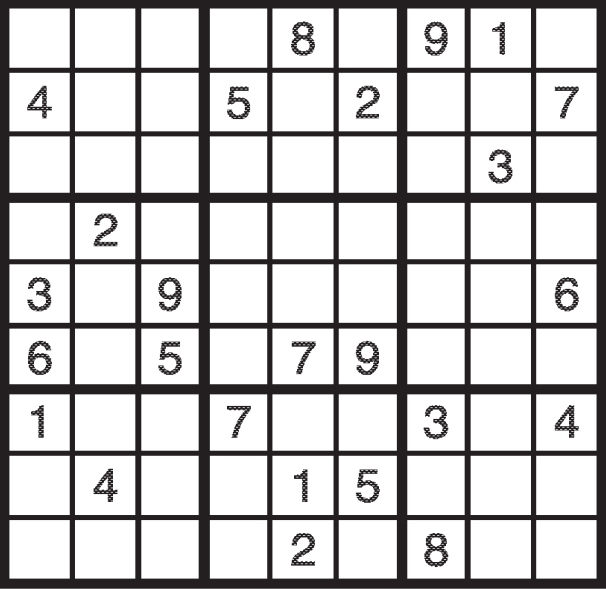


Solve the code to discover words related to state fairs.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 18 = E)

- A. 16 1 5 18 19**
Clue: Amusement thrills
- B. 4 13 16 26 1 14 13 20**
Clue: Traveling amusement
- C. 20 1 14 18 19 21 12 4 2**
Clue: Farm animals
- D. 20 18 17 12 26 13 5 18**
Clue: Tart beverage

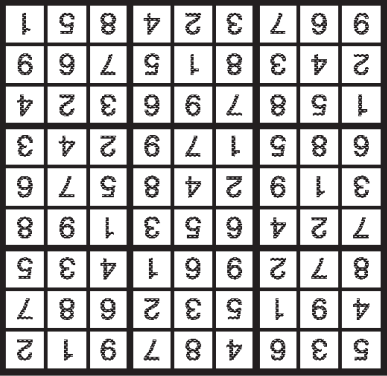
Answers: A. rides B. carnival C. livestock D. lemonade

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

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



ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA



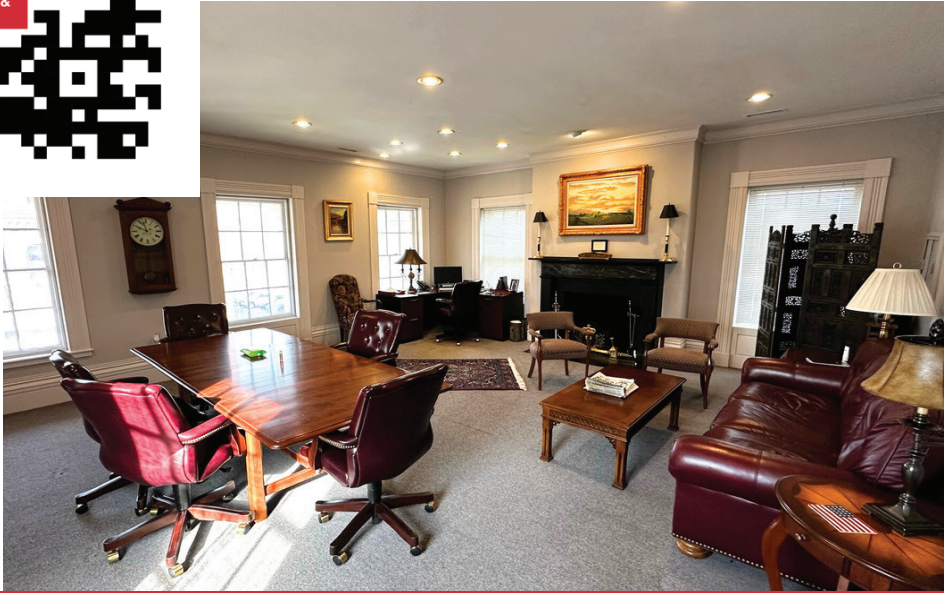
9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING
FOR SALE



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



- Listing price: \$550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



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1819: The dawning of a new era

It's a Bald Eagle! Saturday, Sept. 6, 1-2:30 p.m., Putnam Public Library, 200 School St. Join Ginny Apple, a Master Wildlife conservationist with the State Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, who will present a slide show and talk about the bald eagle and its resurging population in Connecticut. Open to the public.

Author Talk & Book Signing sponsored by Putnam Public Library & the Aspinock Historical Society. Wednesday, Sept. 10, 6-7:30 p.m. Author Karen Warfield and "the Emancipation of Hannah Faythe Winslow: A Woman's Journey in Colonial America. Historical fiction about the fate of a 12 year old orphaned girl in Connecticut after the Pequot-Mohegan War of 1637.

I recently had the good fortune to watch a Webinar presented by David Lambert from American Ancestors (The New England Historic Genealogical Society) about "When the Record Doesn't Exist: Strategies for Determining Vital Data About Your Ancestors." Although I've been doing genealogical research for many years, I came away with a few new ideas to try.

Keep in mind that dates on gravestones do provide a clue to a person's death date but are not always reliable. Try to find an actual death record, a church record, an obituary, or probate records to back up the date. For early marriages, where intentions are recorded,

keep in mind that the marriage itself could be in another town. Note both in your records and their sources. The 1880 and 1900 censuses provide information on when a person is born; compare the records to obtain the most information. Don't forget church records. It never occurred to me that a minister might take them along to his next church, but he considered them "his" records. I must say that Killingly is fortunate that we have many Congregational Church records. Copies are available at the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center. David Lambert supplied the link for the Congregational Library in New England: Congregational Library - Hidden Histories (online Church Records from various Congregational Churches in New England) <https://www.congregationallibrary.org/nehh-church-records>.

If you are gathering materials to apply to a lineage society such as the DAR, Mayflower Descendants, etc. note that printed genealogies without footnotes are not acceptable. David suggested taking the biographical sketch and creating your own list of footnotes with sources. Tedious to be sure, but documented sources are necessary.

In the past, many obituaries could be found in local newspapers (many are online). Today, most obituaries come from funeral home Web sites. David suggested that you print out fam-



KILLINGLY
AT 300

MARGARET
WEAVER

ily obituaries since you have no idea how long they will be available.

Don't forget if you want help with your family genealogy, we will be glad to help you at the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center. Researchers at American Ancestors are also willing to chat. Visit their website for additional information. The Killingly Public Library does have a subscription to American Ancestors which you can access at the library. Sometimes just talking to someone will point you in a direction to research that you hadn't thought about.

Last year, I did research for an individual in the Killingly Town Meeting Records. In the process, I discovered that in 1819, a List of Polls and taxable property of the town of Killingly "Rateable By Law" was taken on August 20, 1819. Putnam did not yet exist in that year (inc. 1855) so the northern part of the Killingly extended to about the intersection of Upper Walnut Street, Tourtellotte Road and Pitkin Road in present-day Putnam. Killingly was divided into four societies (for church and taxing purposes) — North, South, Westfield, and Eastfield (the Chestnut Hill-East Killingly-Route 101 area). Some items which would not be taxed today were

then taxed. I think you'll find some of them quite interesting. (I will not give you the entire list but will put a copy at the Killingly Historical Center; from Killingly Town Meeting Book 1817-1853, pp. 28-29).

The list does provide a nice overview of the town in 1819, and there is a census the following year in 1820. Even the number of horses and neat cattle were included; I won't have room for them. Dwelling houses-residents: North Society 113; South Society, 71; Westfield Society (the present Danielson area), 56; Eastfield, 53. Non-resident dwelling houses-North Society-7; South Society, 8; Westfield, 1; Eastfield, 8. Acres of land-North Society-10,246---nonresident, 812; South Society-6,270, non-resident, 1,039; Westfield- 5,668---non-resident 31; Eastfield, 7,256---nonresident, 902.

The list provides very interesting information about the earliest cotton mills in town, and lists the four cotton mills by name since they were exempt from taxation (see next paragraph). There were six mills (presumably grist and sawmills) and one distillery in the North Society. The distillery was at present-day Attawaugan. Two mills in the South Society. Four mills in Westfield Society (apparently included Cundall's woolen mill). Six mills in the Eastfield Society (keep in mind that the Whetstone Brook had numerous millsites; some became the sites of textile mills by 1836). Eastfield had two stores; Westfield had

one; the South Society had one. No taxable stores were listed for the North Society; however, there was a store in what is now Attawaugan (see Stone Chappel).

The cotton manufacturing industry was so new in 1819 that the mills and their associated dwellings were exempt from taxation. The North Society had two mills---Killingly Manufacturing Company (present-day Daniels' Village site) which had a mill and 7 homes and Stone Chapple Manufacturing Company at present-day Attawaugan. It had a cotton mill, 11 dwelling houses, and a store (also the taxable distillery). In the Westfield Society the Danielson Manufacturing Company had two mills, 11 dwelling houses and a store. One of the operators of that store was Comfort Tiffany, father of Charles L. Tiffany who became the co-founder of Tiffany's in New York City. The Chestnut Hill Mill (Young's) in the Eastfield Society was the fourth mill. The number of houses in that mill village was difficult to read. In addition to the mill, Chestnut Hill Mfg. Company also had a company store.

How many clocks and watches does your family own? They were taxable in 1819. Westfield Society-34; Eastfield-18; North-47; South-37. Carriages & chaises were also taxable, except for the minister (the fore-runner of our automobile taxes). Westfield -17; Eastfield-1; North-18; South-10.

Men also paid a poll tax at that time although a number of individuals

were exempt by military certificate. Westfield-29, 42 exempt; Eastfield-32, 47 exempt; North- 77, 63 exempt; South-41, 35 exempt. "Historically, Connecticut utilized a poll tax in various forms for almost 300 years, from 1649 until it was abolished in 1947. Initially, it was levied on all male inhabitants aged 16 and older, with some exemptions. Over time, it evolved into different forms like the military commutation tax, personal tax, and the old age assistance tax, each with varying age ranges and payment amounts. The Connecticut poll tax, in its final iteration as the old age assistance tax, was repealed and replaced with the sales and use tax in 1947.

It is important to note that the 24th Amendment to the US Constitution, ratified in 1964, prohibits the use of poll taxes in federal elections, and the Supreme Court later ruled them unconstitutional in state elections awell". (connecticuthistory.org).

Sit back and think about 1819, the end of the decade in which Killingly's cotton manufacturing craze came to fruition. Life certainly was different! A new era was dawning.

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



The month of August has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in August 1925.

- The National Football League awards franchises to four new teams on August 1. Among the newly minted franchises is the New York Giants, a team that remains in the league today.
- The Fascists win local elections in Sicily on August 3. The Blackshirts, an all-volunteer militia loyal to Fascist leader Benito Mussolini, are stationed at voting booths throughout Sicily during the election.
- The last United States Marines are withdrawn from Nicaragua on August 4. The U.S. occupation of the country began thirteen years prior.
- The President of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal, divorces his wife of less than two years on August 5. Kemal is upset that his wife, Latife Usaki, publicly promoted emancipation of women and encouraged their independence in regard to choice of clothing.
- The Dallas Hilton opens on August 6. It is the first high-rise hotel to bear the Hilton name.
- Tens of thousands of Ku Klux Klan members march down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. on August 8. Heavy rains force the cancellation of

a planned ceremony that had been scheduled to begin at the conclusion of the march.

- Twin brothers Norris and Ross McWhirter are born in Winchmore Hill, Essex, England on August 12. The brothers would eventually create The Guinness Book of World Records.
- American sculptor Gutzon Borglum is invited to the Black Hills region of South Dakota on August 14. Borglum, who is now best known for his work on Mount Rushmore, visits the region to scout for a location for carving a monument on the side of a mountain.
- The Cuban Communist Party is founded in Havana on August 16. The party eventually merged with Fidel Castro's Integrated Revolutionary Organizations in 1961.
- The Fourteenth World Zionist Congress opens in Vienna on August 17. Protests by Austrian fascists outside the Congress turn violent and result in injuries to 30 people and 50 arrests.
- Fidel LaBarba defeats Frankie Genaro in a 10-round decision to win the vacant World Flyweight Championship in Los Angeles on August 22.
- A boxing match between welterweight champion

Mickey Walker and William "Sailor" Friedman ends in a no-decision in Chicago on August 24. In a dressing room meeting prior to the match, Walker was advised by Al Capone to go easy on Friedman.

- A Spanish naval bombardment effectively levels the Moroccan city of Rif during the Rif War on August 25.
- African American singer Marian Anderson first achieves fame after performing with the New York Philharmonic orchestra on August 26. Anderson would go on to perform with renowned orchestras throughout the United States and Europe in a decades-long career, all the while serving as an important figure as African Americans struggled to overcome racial prejudice in the U.S. in the mid-twentieth century.
- Several notable Nicaraguan politicians are kidnapped in Managua on August 28. Armed men ultimately take the hostages to La Loma, a mountain-top fortress.
- Babe Ruth is fined \$5,000 and suspended for one week by New York Yankees manager Miller Huggins on August 29. Ruth was disciplined after failing to show up for batting practice.

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CANDIDATES

continued from page A1

affiliation. Republicans have put forth incumbents Michelle Murphy and Jason Anderson for the Council along with Brian Briere and Jonathan Cesolini. The Democrats have nominated Jim Rivers, Robin Lofquist, Arlene Gauthier, and John LaBelle for the seats. Providing some added drama to the election is current Council Vice Chair Tammy Wakefield who has decided to run as a petitioning unaffiliated candidate rather than joining the Republican slate that had supported her previous elections.

The Board of Education will have four Republican and four Democratic nominees on the ballot. Democrats flipped the school board from Republican control to a 5-4 Democrat majority in 2023 and look to maintain that hold this year with incumbents Susan Lannon and Misty Murdoch as well as the recently appointed Nelson King, looking to secure a full term, and Kyle Provencher on their slate. The Republicans have nominated incumbents Kyle Napierata and Kelly Martin as well as Diane Summa and Stephen Schroth.

A contest for Board of Assessment Appeals between Republican candidate Kevin Goudreau and the Democrat's Nancy Grandelski caps off the Killingly election ballot.

Thompson

The Town of Thompson is guaranteed to have a completely new Board of Selectmen after November as the current slate consisting of Republican First Selectwoman Amy St. Onge, fellow Republican Susan Witkowski, and longtime Democratic Selectman Kevin Beausoleil, who will seek a seat on the Board of Finance, have chosen

not to seek reelection. This leaves control of the town's highest board wide open for either party in 2025.

Democrats have presented Andrew Irby as their First Selectman candidate while Nick Donohue has been nominated by the Republicans, both local businessmen. Irby will be joined by running mate Nathaniel Lenky while Larry Consiglio will run alongside Donohue.

For Board of Education, Daniella Caverly and incumbent Danielle Armstrong-Carlson were nominated by Republicans and Amanda Lincoln and Melissa Dragon were put forward by the Democrats. The Board of Finance will see Beausoleil and Kristen Schultz represent the Democrats and incumbents Robert Werge, Jr. and Stephen Herbert represent the GOP.

The election will also see contests for Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning and Zoning, Library Board of Trustees, Board of Assessment Appeals, and the Water Pollution Control Authority. While both Town Clerk and Tax Collector are up for election this year, both parties have cross-endorsed Gail Livingston and Scott Antonson for those respective posts. Current Town Clerk Renee Lapalme-Waldron is not running for reelection.

Brooklyn

Brooklyn has a mix of familiar and new faces on the ballot this year highlighted by the contest for First Selectman. Incumbent First Selectman Austin Tanner will seek another term with a new running mate in Board of Education member Kayla Burgess. Joe Bellavance, current chair of Brooklyn's Economic Development Commission, will represent the Democrats as the First Selectman candidate with Agriculture Commission member Sherri Vogt as his running mate. Mike Rekola,

an unaffiliated candidate, has also announced his intent to seek the First Selectman seat.

Incumbent Sandra Brodeur is joined by David Fuss on the Board of Finance ballot for the GOP while Democrats have presented Rick Ives for reelection to the board. In addition to her candidacy for Selectman, Kayla Burgess will seek reelection to the Board of Education alongside fellow incumbent Republican Justin Phaiah. They are joined by Dann Stuyinski on the ballot. Incumbent Democrat Melissa Perkins-Banas is the only Democrat nominated for the board. The election will also include votes for Board of Assessment Appeals while Kate Bisson has been cross endorsed to remain the Town Clerk following the town's recent vote to keep the position an elected post for future elections.

Pomfret

Pomfret First Selectwoman Maureen Nicholson will run unopposed for the third consecutive municipal election, barring any petitioning candidate, as the Republicans only put forth a candidate for selectman. Nicholson, the first woman to hold the town's top elected post, is joined by fellow Democratic incumbent Patrick McCarthy as her running mate while the Republicans have put forth Martha Emilio to fill the third selectman seat.

Democratic incumbents Christian Smutnick and Norine Reingold will seek reelection to the Board of Finance while Republicans have put forward Heather Semenza. With only three open seats they are virtually guaranteed to join the board while Republicans also put forth Joanne Johnson for fill a vacancy on the board. The Board of Education sees Democratic incumbents Nicholas Stellitano and Leigh Grossman up for reelection and

Republican incumbent Brent Tuttle joined by Kathleen Sposato on the ballot. Pomfret will also see elections for Board of Assessment Appeals, Constables, and Library Trustees.

Woodstock

The Woodstock Democrats made headlines in a rare decision to cross-endorse incumbent Republican First Selectman Chandler Paquette for reelection along with several other GOP candidates setting up a rather uneventful Election Day for the town.

Paquette has served 18-years on the Board of Selectman and took over First Selectman duties for the first time after the passing of Jay Swan. The Woodstock Democratic Town Committee voted to support Paquette meaning he will appear as the only option for the town's highest elected post. Democrats also cross endorsed Republican nominees Christine French (Town Clerk), Philip Parizeau (Board of Finance) and John Davis (the lone candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals).

From their own party, incumbent Democratic Selectwoman Kate McDonald was endorsed along with incumbent Board of Education Chair Dr. Sonia Greene who received her own cross endorsement from the GOP. Sue Swan, an unaffiliated candidate, and educator Matthew Bennet are also on the Democratic ticket for Board of Education. Shawn Brodeur and Judith Folkerts complete the Republican Board of Education ticket alongside Greene. Ivar McDonald will join Parizeau on the Democratic ticket for Board of Finance while David Fortin will round out the Republican ticket. Democrat Margie Wholean and Republican Wendy Costa were nominated to fill a Board of Finance alternate seat. The election will also see elections for positions on Planning and Zoning Board. Incumbants Joseph Polulech, Joseph Adiletta, Syd Blodgett, and Douglas Porter represent the Democratic ticket along with Amy Monahan for an alternate seat while Republicans put forward David Morse.

Eastford

Eastford's election promises little drama as the entire Board of Selectmen will remain intact. Republicans and Democrats cross endorsed incumbent First Selectwoman Deborah Richards while Republican incumbent Selectman Paul Torcellini and Democratic incumbent Selectwoman Athlyn Ellsworth also received nominations for November.

Republicans have endorsed incumbents Lauren Barlow and Stephen Bowen for reelection to the Board of Education while Democratic incumbent Michael Bilica is joined by Nancy Neff on the Democratic ticket. The other major elections, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and Tax Collector, all have one candidate on the ballot from either party making them all but decided contests. Other elections for Board of Assessment Appeals, Constable, and Library Trustees will round out the ballot on Election Day.

OBITUARY

Gail Hicks Jackson, 72



Webster, MA - Gail Jackson, a devoted nurse, passionate gardener, and beloved Mother and Grandmother, passed away peacefully at the age of 72. Born and raised in Eastford, Connecticut, on September 16th, 1952, Gail spent most of her adult life in Webster, Massachusetts, where she worked as a nurse and cared deeply for her community.

Gail's nurturing spirit extended far beyond her profession. She found joy in gardening and her kitchen was a place of warmth, filled with the comforting aromas of home-cooked meals and the laughter of family. Gail had so much love for her cats Tovi and Bowie. They brought her endless companionship. She cherished vacations in New Hampshire, where she enjoyed nature

and time with loved ones.

Gail's presence was gentle and grounding, and her love for her family was unwavering. She is survived by her sons, Matthew Bard and Erik Jackson; her brother, Rodney Hicks; and her grandchildren, Liam, Aidan, and Rory Bard. Gail was predeceased by her husband, Gilbert Jackson, with whom she shared many years of love and partnership and her parents, Priscilla and Raymond Hicks.

Gail's legacy is one of kindness, resilience, and devotion. She touched many lives through her work, her passions, and her quiet strength. Her memory will live on in the gardens she tended and the hearts of those who knew her.

A private memorial service will be held by the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a local animal shelter or library in Gail's honor.

She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

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

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF

Alison Kyle Smith (25-00318)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 13, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Andrew Gray-Smith
c/o CHARLES KENNETH NORRIS,
CHINIGO LEONE MARUZO, 141
BROADWAY,
P.O. BOX 510,
NORWICH, CT 06360
August 22, 2025

Linemaster Interim ROD Amendment Public Notice – August 2025

On August 11, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an Interim Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment to amend the 1993 ROD at the Linemaster Switch Corp. Site in Woodstock, Connecticut (“the Site”). The amended remedy includes additional treatment of contaminated soil, as well as an expansion of the existing groundwater extraction and treatment system.

EPA held an informational meeting on the amended plan on December 11, 2023. During the informational meeting, EPA presented the results of the investigations conducted at the site, the cleanup options that were evaluated, and the preferred remedial alternative identified in the Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan presented EPA's proposed changes to the current (ongoing) remedy for the site. A comment period then ran from December 13, 2023, to January 12, 2024, and included a public hearing on January 10, 2024. EPA considered public input received during the 30-day comment period in selecting this amended remedy. Responses to comments received by EPA from stakeholders during this period were considered when this amended remedy was chosen. These responses are addressed in the Responsiveness Summary Section of the ROD.

To review the final Interim ROD Amendment document, please visit <https://semsub.epa.gov/src/document/01/689771>

The Administrative Record for the Site can be found at: <https://go.usa.gov/xtdKt> (case sensitive)

For more information, please contact Liz McCarthy at mccarthy.elizabeth@epa.gov

View Site information online at: www.epa.gov/superfund/linemaster
August 22, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF

Thomas F Doherty (25-00264)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 30, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Rebecca Ann Rodrick
c/o STEPHEN J ADAMS,
STEPHEN J ADAMS, ESQ,
158 MAIN STREET,
P.O. BOX 682,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
August 22, 2025

Woodstock Hist Dist Comm public hearing Aug 27, 6:30 pm at Town Hall for Town of Woodstock, 415 Rt 169 for student crosswalk North Common; Dawson, 582 Rt 169 for banister and metal roofs carriage house, corn crib, chicken house.
G Usher, Chair.
August 22, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

MOTOR VEHICLES

Residents of Woodstock are hereby informed that the Board of Assessment Appeals for the Town of Woodstock will hold sessions beginning at 6:00 PM on the following dates in the lower level of Town Hall:

**Tuesday, September 9, 2025 and
Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

Appeal forms are available by calling the Assessor's Office at (860) 928-6929 ext. 327 or by downloading the form from the website at www.woodstockct.gov/board-assessment-appeals. The deadline for appeals is 4:00 PM on September 4. You will be contacted to schedule an appointment. The sessions will be held solely for appeals related to the assessment of motor Vehicles for the 2024 Grand List. Vehicle in question must be present at the appeal session. Notice is given in accordance with section 12-110 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

John M. Davis, Ronald Cabana,

George (Geoy) Wetherell

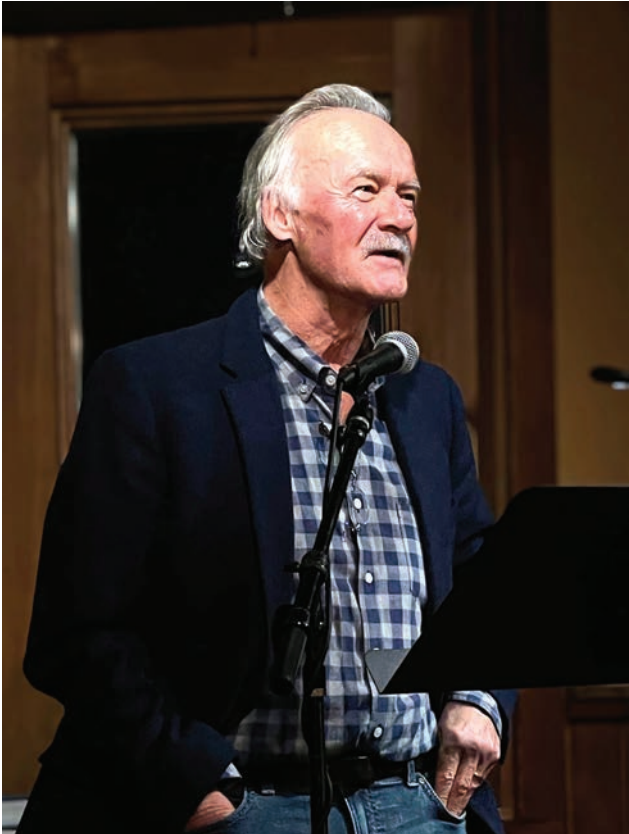
August 22, 2025

Worcester poet to read at Roseland Park

WOODSTOCK — Worcester, Mass. poet John Hodgen will bring his talents to Roseland Park in Woodstock at the last free poetry event of the 2025 Poets at Large season. Hodgen will read along with Catherine DeNunzio of Ledyard.

These seasoned poets will perform on Sept. 7 at Roseland Park in the barn at 205 Roseland Park Rd. in Woodstock. The event will be held from 2-4 p.m. Poets at Large is a regional group of poets who read in Connecticut and Massachusetts, now in its sixth year.

John Hodgen is the Writer-in-Residence at Assumption University in Worcester, and Advisory Editor for New Letters at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. Hodgen won the AWP Donald Hall Prize in Poetry for Grace (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005). His fifth book, “The Lord of Everywhere,” is out from Lynx House/University of



John Hodgen

Washington Press, and his new book, “What We May Be,” is forthcoming also from Lynx House. He has won the Grolier Prize for Poetry, an Arvon Foundation

Award, the Yankee Magazine Award for Poetry, the Bluestem Award, the Balcones Prize, the Foley Prize, the Chad Walsh Prize from Beloit Poetry



Catherine DeNunzio

Journal, the Collins Prize from Birmingham Poetry Review, and a Massachusetts Cultural Council Award in Poetry.

Ledyard’s Catherine DeNunzio is the author

of “Enough Like Bone to Build On” (Antrim House 2022). Her poems have appeared in “The Breath of Parted Lips: Voices from The Robert Frost Place,” Connecticut Literary

Anthology, Delmarva Review, Connecticut River Review, Italian Americana, Marin Poetry Center Anthology, Scapegoat Review, and “Waking Up to the Earth: Connecticut Poets in a Time of Global Climate Crisis.” She has poems forthcoming in Delmarva Review.

Contact Poets at Large coordinator Karen Warinsky if you are interested in reading in the open mic at karen.warinsky@gmail.com. There is a five-minute limit for open mic readers, and these events are recommended for ages 18 and up.

Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. Roseland Park is ADA Compliant. This series is sponsored in part by bankHometown, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, and Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, Linemaster Switch and The Putnam Area Foundation.

EAST WOODSTOCK CORNET BAND

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398 Pomfret Street, Pomfret CT



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Horns for Kids is a (501c3) non-profit that donates refurbished instruments to Connecticut Schools.

