

Killingly begins negotiations with Frito-Lay as sewer limitations persist

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly continues to work towards a resolution that will allow the end of a moratorium on new sewer connections to the town's overloaded system. While the district got good news in the form of grant funding news, officials are also working with Frito-Lay to negotiate a new agreement to reduce their impact on the system.

Killingly and Frito-Lay, which has a production facility in Dayville, operate under a user agreement regarding their impact on the local sewer and water systems. Over the last year Killingly instituted a pause on new connections to that system due to limited capacity, which has also impacted neighboring Brooklyn which has an intermunicipal agreement for hookups to Killingly's system. There is no easy solution, but Killingly town officials are hoping a new agreement with Frito-Lay can at least offer some reprieve.

New Town Manager Brian Palaia provided an update in his first report to the Town Council in early September first discussing the Frito-Lay situation. While the town seeks out longterm solutions for the capacity problem, they are working with Frito-Lay to at least reassess how they can work together to reduce the factory's impact on the system.

"We are meeting with corporate and local Frito Lay officials – We'll see what kind of progress we can make," Palaia confirmed.

While he couldn't offer much insight into the negotiations, which had barely begun as of the Town Council's Sept. 9 meeting, the back-and-forth is seen as an important first step towards a larger resolution.

Palaia did offer good news when looking at the bigger picture as well. The town received verbal conformation from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection that they have been awarded a Wastewater Planning Grant.

"This is our first step in looking at capacity upgrades. That will take into account desired land uses in the town, engage various stakeholders, boards, and commissions on what they want to see and then begin to look at solutions on a higher level before we go into the design phase," said Palaia.

That grant totals roughly \$155,000, matched 45 percent by the town. Once official written notice is confirmed, the town can proceed with work towards creating a better picture of the required upgrades to the facility to end the moratorium.



Pictured at the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Boho Beauty bar on Providence street in Putnam are, left to right, Dennis Baker, Jackie Salter, Kate Cerrone (PBA), Mike Bogdanski (vice chair economic development), Maryann Chinatti (Economic Development Director).

Putnam Library hosting book signing, talk on suicide

PUTNAM — When Pomfret School valedictorian Patrick Wood killed himself in 2006, his mother, Lisette Rimer, was faced with the hardest question of her life.

"I had to learn why outwardly successful people kill themselves," Rimer said. "I had to learn how the disease of depression led to Patrick's death. A big part of that was the vulnerability of young gay people. They're twice as likely to attempt suicide than the general youth population."

Rimer's search for answers led to her

Killingly Therapeutic Academy, Adult Ed programs off to strong start

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — With the start of a new school year the Killingly Public Schools is celebrating the early success of two new programs within the district: adult education and the Killingly Therapeutic Academy.

Superintendent Dr. Susan Nash provided early data to the Board of Education on Sept. 10 celebrating the successful opening and launch of both programs which have further expanded the offerings within the district, bringing two services in-house that the district had previous contracted out to third parties. The Therapeutic Academy has launched with 13 initial students while the adult education program has enrolled a handful of GED prospects.

Starting with the Killingly Therapeutic Academy, or KTA, Dr. Nash complimented the new programs and the "impeccable" staff on hand who "really understand the students' needs." The program has been touted as a way to offer extra assistance to students in-house rather than having to send them to other communities for their education. This, combined with the potential for bringing outside students in and charging tuition, has presented the program as a money-saving initiative that could pay for itself over time.

Dr. Nash said the early success has increased anticipation for the program's future growth, adding "We have some room for our own students who may need to seek a different kind of placement, or students who are moving into Killingly that we will no longer need to outplace because we do have a place right here."

The other new program is an adult education

memoir, "Back from Suicide: Before and After the Essential Patrick," which will be available at the Putnam Library, Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 6 p.m. The book talk and signing will include a presentation on suicide risks and prevention.

Rimer said, "Ninety percent of suicide is connected to mental illness, which can descend into unbearable pain, hopelessness, and the lure of permanent relief. I want others to benefit from my journey to understand that decline. They may not perceive chronic sadness as a medical issue. Neither did I, and that meant I had to learn after it was too late."

Patrick attended Pomfret School on a full scholarship and graduated as valedictorian with perfect SAT scores in 2001.

Less than a year after he graduated from Stanford with honors, Rimer struggled to understand his death.

"He had everything to live for, especially his twin sister Libby, who will never recover from his loss. She became a psychotherapist to help people in crisis like Patrick," Rimer said.

"Back from Suicide" was a BookLife quarter-finalist with a perfect score of ten and won the Storytrade Prodigy Award and the Bookshelf honorable mention writing award.

Rimer said the presentation will show how the disease of depression can turn deadly, adding, "We need to think of suicide as the mental health crisis that it is. We need to normalize talking about it. I hope that those who have been affected will bring their questions and their stories so that all of us can benefit."

Marie Lisette Rimer grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. and earned a BA and MA in Secondary Education at the University of Connecticut. She was a publicist in the Connecticut legislature and an award-winning English teacher at Rectory School in Pomfret, Connecticut. The joy of three children and country living with her husband Robert Wood was shattered by the suicide death of her youngest son, Patrick Wood.

More information is available at: www.backfromsuicide.com/events.

Woodstock Scouts to hold "Scout Expo"



A Cub Scout has fun with a giant slingshot built by the Boy Scouts.

WOODSTOCK — Do you like hiking, camping, canoeing and other outdoor adventures? How about interesting field trips and fun learning opportunities? Boy Scout Troop 27 of Woodstock will be hosting a "Scout Expo" on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 21 to give families in the area a taste of what Scouting is all about; there will demonstrations and activities for boys and girls ages five to 17 (Kindergarten – high school).

Scouting is one of the foremost organizations for youth, with emphasis on character development, life skills, leadership skills and citizenship, all through interesting and fun activities (especially outdoors!). Troop 27 members enjoy hikes, camp-outs, pioneering projects, canoe trips, summer camp and field trips, as well as exploring a variety of interesting subjects through merit badges. They have also contributed significantly to the community through many Eagle Scout service projects over the past several years. Boy Scouts of America is now open to girls as well as boys, and recently changed the name to "Scouting America" in order to be more inclusive.

Families are invited to come join the fun and find out more on Sunday, Sept. 21 from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. on the Woodstock Town Lawn, right across from the First Congregational Church of Woodstock. For more information contact (Troop 27) Craig Embree at 860-974-1345 or email cembree@earthlink.net, or (Pack 27 Cub Scouts) Mark Collins at 860-208-1182.

Mary Dixon Kies

Mary Kies Bench Dedication: Saturday, Sept. 27, 11 a.m. Lions Park, Lewis Blvd., Danielson. Sponsored by the Killingly Historic District Commission. Mary Kies is considered by many to be the first woman to be granted a U. S. patent in her own right. All are welcome. Visit the Mary Kies exhibit at the Killingly Public Library during regular business hours.

DAR Book Discussion. You do not have to belong to the DAR to participate. Killingly Public Library. Friday, Oct. 17, 1-2 p.m. "Rosa Parks, My Story" will be discussed. Stop at the library desk for a copy of the book.

Author Talk and Book Signing sponsored by Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society. Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6-7:30 p.m. Major General Israel Putnam, Hero of the Revolution by Robert Ernest Hubbard. Putnam Public Library. 200 School St.

Saturday, Sept. 27, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Cocktail Culture: The Madmen Era. Putnam Public Library. 200 School Street. Using actual fashions Ren Antonowicz from the Spirits of Fashion will present a program exploring the connection between fashion and cocktail during the period from the late 1940's through the 1960's. Home décor and accessories were also impacted. Free & open to the public.

Author Talk and Book Signing sponsored by Putnam Public Library

and Aspinock Historical Society. Saturday, Oct. 4, 1-2:30 p.m. Before Salem--Witch Hunting in the Connecticut River Valley 1647-1663 by Richard S. Ross III. 200 School St., Putnam. All are welcome.

Support a Killingly Historic Property. Saturday, Sept. 27, Killingly Grange #112, 801 Hartford Turnpike, Dayville, will sponsor a Pulled Pork Dinner from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Cherry coke pulled pork, BBQ Beans, French fries or onion rings, cole slaw, apple hand pie. \$15. Dine in or take out. Limited number of meals. Call 860-884-1813 to reserve a meal. The Grange is collecting non-perishable food for the local food pantries.

I have spent many enjoyable and interesting hours these past few months updating my research on Mary Kies for the dedication of a bench in her honor by the Killingly Historic District Commission on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 11 a.m. in Lion's Park on Lewis Blvd. in Danielson. You may ask, "Why is the town honoring her?" Mary Kies is considered by many to be the first US woman to be granted a patent in her own right (under her own, not her husband's name). She was granted a patent on May 5, 1809 for a weaving of straw with silk, a fabric which could be used for the straw bonnets that were fashionable at the time. I believe that it is right to recognize not



KILLINGLY
AT 300

MARGARET
WEAVER

only her achieving the unique weaving but also her courage in trying something that women had not done. None had received a patent even though patents had been available since 1790.

You might not know, that married women in 1809 had few rights. They were under the legal jurisdiction of their husbands and were referred to as *femes covert*. In "Liberty's Daughter" Mary Beth Norton summarized the situation this way, "Married women legally became one with their husbands, and so they could not sue or be sued, draft wills, make contracts, or buy or sell property. If they earned wages, the money legally belonged to their husbands; if they owned property prior to marriage, any personal estate went fully into their husbands' hands and any real estate came under the spouses' supervision. Furthermore, the children of the marriage fell entirely within the custody of the father." (p.46). In other words, property which they had before the marriage was controlled by the husband. Household items, even "feminine" articles like spinning wheels

and cooking implements, were the husbands. The law was on the side of the husband! That knowledge makes me wonder what part her husband John played in the whole story. Keeping *femes covert* in mind, he had to have "allowed"

Mary to begin her cottage industry and had to have "allowed" her to file for a patent. He may well have encouraged her. That in itself is good food for thought!

The seeds of Mary's invention probably were sown in the last decade of the 18th century. In 1798 Betsey Metcalf, a twelve-year old Providence girl, with the assistance of an aunt, perfected a method of flattening and braiding oat straw for women's bonnets. A cottage industry developed as she taught other women the process. However, despite the fact that patents were instituted in 1790, Betsey never obtained one.

Mary experimented with using straw in a different fashion. Because of its importance, I repeat, on May 5, 1809, Mary Kies of Killingly became the first woman in the United States to be granted a patent, for a method where straw was woven with silk to produce material for bonnets. (Woven on a loom--not braided). The fact that her brother William Dixon and her sons Daniel Kies and Samuel Kies were all lawyers may have been a

factor in her procuring a patent. Mary could have had much assistance in filling out any necessary paperwork and filing for the patent. The patent was "signed by President James A. Madison. Historian Ellen Larned noted that President Madison's wife Dolley expressed her appreciation of the fact that a woman had obtained a patent by sending a note.

Since imports from abroad were being blocked at this time due to non-importation acts during the Napoleonic Wars, particularly the Non-Importation Act of 1806, articles manufactured in the young United States were in demand. Perhaps Mary and her family hoped to profit from that fact. Sadly, a number of factors combined, including the deaths of Mary's husband John in August, 1813, and the deaths of adult sons John (by 1812) and Harvey (1813) and daughter Abigail (1814), so the straw weaving was not profitable. Apparently, the family lost money on the venture. Still, Mary is to be commended for what she accomplished. A giant leap had been made for women when Mary Kies acquired her patent. In time other women would also file for patents. (Ellen D. Larned. ("History of Windham County, Connecticut, Vol. II," p. 432; genealogical research on the family

available at the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center).

Mary Dixon Pike Kies died in a house on Green Hollow Road in 1837 and was interred near her husband in the South Killingly Cemetery. It was not until 1965, under the leadership of Mervin Whipple, Master of Grange #112, that a stone marking her grave and commemorating her achievement was placed there. Mary Kies was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame in 2006. Now, we in Killingly honor her and recognize her as a pioneer, a Killingly Trailblazer.

Stop and visit her exhibit at the Killingly Public Library. Please do come to the bench dedication and ribbon cutting on Sept. 27. Hear the Connecticut State Troubadour and other honored guests. Honor Mary Dixon Kies, one of Killingly's own!

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

Access Housing Education and Counseling Center hosts free "Let's Talk Energy" workshop

DANIELSON — Access Community Action Agency is excited to invite the community to its "Let's Talk Energy" workshop on Tuesday, Sept.

30, from 5-6 p.m. at the Access Housing Education and Counseling Center, 140 Main St., Suite 5, Danielson (right above the Chubby Dog Café).

This free, interactive workshop—presented by Theresa Washington of Eversource—will give participants the tools and knowledge they need to take control of their energy use and bills.

Topics will include:
Understanding Your Bill – Learn how to read and make sense of your utility bill
Supplier Choice – Discover how to shop around and choose the best options for you
Bill Help – Explore discount rate programs to lower monthly costs
Ways to Save – Get practical tips on home energy efficiency to reduce usage and save money

"Energy costs impact nearly every household budget, and we want families to feel empowered with knowledge and strategies to keep those costs manageable," said Helen Scanlon, Program Manager – Housing Education and Counseling Center.

To register for this free workshop, email Helen Scanlon, Program Manager – Housing Education and Counseling Center, at helen.scanlon@accessagency.org.

Don't miss this opportunity to get informed, ask questions, and start saving!

Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency for northeastern Connecticut. We are committed to providing food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable, limited-income families and individuals throughout the region.

SNHU announces Summer 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 Summer 2025 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

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.

Lisette Hernandez of Putnam
Makayla Evans of Putnam
Jessica Lang of Dayville
Sabrina Berard of Dayville
Brandon Tucciarone of Killingly
Amy Tucciarone of Dayville
Melisa Moone of Danielson
Anthony Thompson of Danielson
Jacob Rivard of Danielson
James Soler of Brooklyn
Chloe Knight of Brooklyn
Briana Simons of Brooklyn
Justin Bressette of Woodstock
Julia Eddy of Woodstock

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-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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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

A library card opens more than books

September has become more than the start of the school year in Killingly. Thanks to an innovative partnership between the Killingly Public Library and local businesses, it is also a month when a simple library card can unlock discounts, free treats, and community connection.

The annual Library Card Sign-Up Month campaign, now in its third year, is a reminder that libraries are not relics of the past. They are vital, evolving institutions that knit together the threads of community life. A library card still offers access to books, but it also provides entry to digital resources, research databases, job tools, and programs for every age. Now, in Killingly, it even brings added value at local shops, cafés, and restaurants.

This initiative does more than encourage literacy. It strengthens ties between residents and small businesses. By showing a card at the counter, a patron supports the library, supports local merchants, and affirms the idea that communities thrive when their institutions work together.

It is a model worth celebrating—and repeating. Other towns across the Quiet Corner could take note. What if every local library partnered with local businesses to highlight the importance of reading while driving traffic into Main Street shops? What if students signing up for their first library card also discovered their first local café, bookstore, or gift shop as part of the experience?

At a time when rural towns often worry about declining foot traffic downtown or the rise of online everything, this program provides a tangible way to draw people into both the library and local storefronts. It's a reminder that supporting literacy and supporting the local economy do not have to be separate goals.

The effort is capped with creativity, too. The library's bookmark design contest invites young people, teens, and adults to showcase their talents. It is a small gesture that reinforces an essential truth: libraries aren't simply warehouses of words; they are stages where imagination, community pride, and shared learning come alive.

Across Northeast Connecticut, we are fortunate to have libraries that do more with less, led by staff who understand that their mission reaches beyond shelves and circulation desks. By linking hands with small businesses, Killingly Public Library is proving that a library card is not only a ticket to knowledge—it's a passport to community.

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

Pointing fingers when we should be holding hands

To the Editor:
At a time when we should all be holding hands, instead we point fingers.
I weep for my country, the once upon a time shining city upon a hill.

DAVE CLARK THOMPSON

Earth - “Sun Day” is here!

To the Editor:
Ever since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, humanity has burned increasing amounts of fossil fuels each year. At any given moment, a billion fossil fuel fires are underway on planet Earth. We now release 60 times more carbon dioxide than all the world's volcanoes, and that CO2 is accumulating in Earth's thin atmosphere. Almost by some intelligent design our atmosphere allows the sun's heat energy in and releases much of it back out to space, creating warm days and cool nights. But as the concentration of CO2 grows, less heat energy escapes and remains trapped in our world. This is driving global heating and the damage from climate change is accelerating faster than scientists—or even the insurance industry—anticipated.

The personal security of Americans is increasingly at risk. By 2021, more than one million people in the United States had already been displaced by climate-driven disasters. In California, the world's fifth-largest economy, the wildfire season is now 78 days longer than it was just 50 years ago. Floods and hurricanes are intensifying and 500-year and 1,000-year floods now occur every year. Food security is also under threat as these floods or droughts ravage farms worldwide. Entire regions may soon lose the ability to grow crops.

Meanwhile, the stability of the global insurance industry—the fifth largest sector on Earth and a pillar of the U.S. economy—is being undermined. Home insurance markets

in the U.S. face potential collapse, with many carriers sharply raising premiums or withdrawing coverage altogether. My premiums increased 30 percent last year. In Florida, average homeowners insurance now costs \$12,000 a year—if you can find a provider at all.

We deny these realities at our own peril. Yet paradoxically, at the very moment when destruction gathers, the tools of liberation have also arrived. We now stand at a crossroads: continue down a path of denial and devastation, or seize a historic opportunity. With renewable energy now cheaper than any other form of energy on Earth, we can power our world cheaply and sustainably - free of pollution. After two centuries of reliance on digging up and burning ancient fossils to power our world, we now can cut out the middleman (Exxon and Peabody Energy) and go straight to the source of Earth's energy - the sun! By stepping out of the darkness of dependence on fossil fuels, and into the light of the sun, we can heal our planet and secure humanity's future.

Humanity's energy future — green energy — will be celebrated this weekend across the U.S. and around the globe in an event called Sun Day. There are at least six Sun Day locations here in Connecticut, including in nearby Storrs on Saturday, Sept. 20 and dozens more across New England on Sept. 21. For more information, please see [sundayearth](#).

KEN WOLSLEGEL
WOODSTOCK

Your lonesome mountain of indignation

Woe unto you on your mountain of indignation,
You sit all alone, crouched in frustration.

You cast your eyes down on all of the nation,
Smug and alone in your own consternation.

You perch up high, your point of observation,
You see nothing below but utter desolation.

From such lofty height comes all your condemnation,
And your eyes can see nothing but complete degradation.

Your virtues self-exclaimed in loud proclamation,
Lead inevitably and sadly, toward complete abdication.

Your lonely perspective of pointed incrimination.
On constant alert, for the next provocation.

How is it you've earned such complete exoneration?,
And license to issue, such widespread denigration.

Woe unto you and pity your isolation.
Your perfect self-image and self-fascination.

Those many below, you view with infuriation,
Have at least in their hopes, possible reconciliation.

You with no flaws, in a state of inoculation,
Are blind to the cost of your wholesale devaluation.

To stumble, to fall, to suffer humiliation,
Is the most common of many of our human situations.

We all are caught up in the struggles of our own fabrication,
Not you of course, you have been granted, divine invocation.

To look down your nose with quick categorizations,
Serves only to heighten your own lionization.

The unwavering path of your heavy exhortations,
Bars completely any hope, of real rehabilitation.

Woe unto you, so privileged in your presumptions,
And pity to you for your lonely classification.

Oh you without sin, without any mutilation,
Still suffer alone, never quite beyond, harsh recrimination.

For those you have judged, with such subjugation,
They still have some hope of eternal redemption.

From up on your mountain, your seat of perfection,
Your left only to hope and pray for reflection.

What have you done to deserve absolution?
Have you ever thought once, to offer solution?

Our common cause and shared connection,
Is rooted most firmly in kind participation.

To sit so alone, in a state of coronation,
Deprives you of all, the great gifts of creation.

Come down from your peak, your precious postulation,
Come join the rest of us, the beleaguered population.

When placed on this earth, we were offered vocation.
To walk hand in hand, to find shared identification.

Woe unto you in your lonely vexation,
true comfort eludes, without gentle consolation.

And pity your lonely calls of damnation,
your self-righteous perch, offers no salvation.

We must all do better, myself included;

I think we have all climbed and perched on this lonely mountain.
I know sadly that I have. We were never intended to sit up there.

CHARLES F. HARRINGTON
POMFRET CENTER

We are at a turning point

To the Editor:

Reading countless letters to the Editor in your publication spreading venomous language, which I feel is not productive and many believe has created and fostered an atmosphere of hate and division and has led to violent outbursts.

I was inspired to write in today, given recent events over the past couple of weeks, which included:

- the murder of Iryna Zarutska, on a bus in Charlotte, traveling home from work
- the assassination Charlie Kirk, of Turning Point on a college campus in Utah
- the 24th anniversary 9/11
- and just breaking today - another mass shooting in Chicago South side, 4 men hospitalized.

One shooting, one car jacking and one murder in communities large and small is too many.

There are countless other examples of violence and hate that continue to plague our country today that need to stop.


This can be a Turning Point for our country if we reflect and refocus to what matters, ... our faith, love of family, and love of country. Elect leaders and representatives that will come together to share and debate ideas, rather than demonizing and stirring hate and division.

There is a vortex that amplifies hate speech and rhetoric ...including the mainstream news media, the 24/7 cable news and opinion shows, podcasts and of course, the worst culprit social media, which is poisoning the hearts and minds with hate speech via the algorithms that relentlessly place hateful content in the hands of our impressionable youth all hours of the day and night. It is time to stop!

Now is the turning point, for all our political leaders, media, and leaders to remove hate speech and rederick and the demonization of all public figures. This hate is than sent out through social media posts via algorithms to millions of smartphone users and stokes the fires of division 24/7.

Turn To **LETTER** page **A8**

Thinking straight



BEYOND THE PEWS
BY BISHOP JOHN W. HANSON
ACTS II MINISTRIES

I recently had the opportunity to stand before Egypt's Great Pyramid of Giza, which stands 481 feet high, is the world's tallest pyramid. But the world's largest, but less famous, pyramid lies half a world away in Cholula (chow·loo·Luh), Mexico. The Great Pyramid of Cholula was built by The Toltecs. This was a mighty civilization that many have never heard of. This pyramid is about 217 feet tall with a base of 1,476 by 1,476 feet. It boasts a total volume of 157 million cubic feet; that is almost twice that of the Great Pyramid of Giza!

Many of the pyramid's stairways, platforms, and altars have been unearthed. Historians believe the massive monument was built in several stages from 300 BC to 700 AD. The temple built above the pyramid served as a center of worship for Quetzalcoatl. He was the Aztec god of learning and books. But the temple was abandoned around the 8th or 9th century AD. As years passed, the pyramid was covered by heavy vegetation.

The structure blended in so well with the nearby hills and mountains that the Spaniards, who conquered Mexico in 1521, mistook it for a natural hill. They destroyed the temple on its summit and replaced it with a colonial church. The pyramid only came to light in the 1930s when the dirt started to fall away. Since then, archeologists have excavated many of the pyramid's stairways, platforms, and altars. They have also dug over five miles of tunnels in and around the pyramid.

The reader may be aware that Egyptians, the Olmecs, the Mayans, the Incas, and the Aztecs all built pyramids. Almost all societies have built tall structures. Many times people are attempting to do what those who built the tower of Babel were trying to do. Those at Babel thought they could build high enough to avoid the judgement of God. The societies who buried their kings in pyramids also buried the rulers' servants and wealth, in an effort to equip the king for the afterlife. Their efforts only provided loot for thieves.

Looking back at many societies we can see that they all had ideas about life and the afterlife, but they were not God ideas. God wants the truth to make us free. That is why the Bible is such a powerful force in the believer's life. His word can correct bad mindsets. He can heal our thinking. This is true of people with well minds that are misinformed. It is also true for people whose minds have become confused or deceived.

Here are a few scriptures that give us hope that God can help us think right.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones. – Proverbs 3:5-8

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. - Romans 12:2

God went to so much trouble to write a manual for life. It is well worth reading and heeding.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more resources or sermon videos please visit [www.ActsII.org](#).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We must keep our heroes alive

To the Editor:
I am a part of one of the generations of Americans who stand for patriotism, integrity, and a deep sense of duty. I am also a veteran.
Veterans Day is Nov. 11. Please take time out to honor those who fought for the freedom we enjoy today. In the past, at age 18 boys were required by law to register for the draft just as they were expecting to be free of parental controls. They had few choices...wait for their number to be called and be drafted into the US Army for two years, get married, have a child, and hope for a family exemption, or volunteer. For that, you would have to be physically fit to join up. Just flat feet or even a minor bone spur could exempt one from military service with a deferment.
Fortunately, we have been blessed with men and women who have been willing to defend our freedom. Many of them have made the supreme sacrifice. We must never forget them. Veterans who are still alive today also need to be honored and thanked for their service.
As I have gotten older and reflect on my life, I realize how defining my military time was to my years since then. It was an education like no other which took me from Woodstock to the other side of the world in Southeast Asia.
A visit to Washington is also an education like no other as well. The Smithsonian Institution describes itself as “the World’s Largest Museum, Educational and Research Complex Spanning Every Facet of Science, History and Culture.” These gigantic, granite buildings are home to Natural

History, Air and Space, the National Museum of the American Indian, and many others. Let us hope that the contents of these museums will not be disturbed due to politics. They are our heritage.
The most visited museums today are the World War II monument and the Vietnam Wall. When I first visited the WWII site, it was as a member of a CT Honor Flight of some 120 WWII veterans as well as some Vietnam veterans. As we arrived on buses at the site, we were greeted by Sen. Bob Dole. He stood at the door of each bus and thanked each person for their service as they left the bus. He actually stayed with the group as they enjoyed box lunches.
The Vietnam Wall was built as a promise to never forget those who sacrificed their life for democracy in the misdirected conflict in Southeast Asia in the 1960’s. As you walk by the wall, you see the impact of it on all who visit it. The newest statue in that area is of the nurses who served in field hospitals under mortar and live fire attacks saving our soldiers. This monument was dedicated on Veterans Day 1993. The wall and the nurses monument were paid for by private donations and public gifts. No tax money was expended.
Over the past years, I’ve learned that every veteran alive has paid a price. I pray your grace surrounds them not just on Veterans Day, but every day. We must keep our heroes alive.
God Bless America.

G. TOD STEVENSON
WOODSTOCK

When lobbyists win, children die

To the Editor:

On Aug. 27, at least two children were killed and 17 others wounded during a mass shooting at a Catholic Church in Minneapolis, Minn. As of August, we were at 286 mass shootings in the United States. That number has grown since with two more school shootings in September and no end to the gun violence in sight.
The U.S. has more guns per capita than any other nation. Americans make up just 4% of the world’s population but own 42 percent of civilian firearms. As a result, mass shootings occur nearly every day, and America’s gun homicide rate is far higher than that of any other developed country.
Despite this, Congress has repeatedly failed to act, paralyzed by the influence of the National Rifle Association and other powerful lobbies that place profits over lives.
Even conservative leaders have acknowledged how distorted the debate has become. Former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger once said: “The gun lobby’s interpretation of the Second Amendment is one of the greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word fraud, on the American people by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime.”
Writing for the Associated Press in 1991, Burger explained that “the real purpose of the Second Amendment was to ensure that state armies, the militia, would be maintained for the defense of the state.” He stated: “The very language of the Second Amendment refutes any argument that it was intend-

ed to guarantee every citizen an unfettered right to any kind of weapon he or she desires.”
Experts have laid out clear, proven solutions Congress could act on today to address America’s gun violence:
Close loopholes that allow guns to be bought without background checks from private sellers, websites, or gun shows. Over 80 percent of gun owners support this.
Institute universal background checks for all gun and ammunition sales and require gun licenses, policies backed by the majority of Americans.
Fund community-based interventions like the Ceasefire program, a proven but chronically underfunded initiative that reduces gun violence through education and public health strategies.
Reinstate the assault weapons ban or pass new legislation banning high-capacity magazines and military-style assault weapons.
The United States’ staggering rate of gun deaths is not inevitable. It is the result of political choices and the refusal of lawmakers to put public safety above special interests.
After Sandy Hook, we said “Never again.” Yet here we are, still burying children more than a decade later. Why should money and lobbyists hold more power than the people Congress is supposed to serve?
We must demand action. Tell Congress to choose lives over lobbyists. No parent wants to bury their child. How many more senseless deaths must we endure?

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Fairs should offer more allergy friendly food options

To the Editor:
Fair season in Northeastern Connecticut is winding down. I am writing to share my opinion because, in my opinion, there isn’t enough allergy friendly fair food. O
ne of the main reasons people go to the fair is for the food. I attended the Woodstock Fair this year, we were mountain climbing with the troop the weekend of the Brooklyn Fair, and the only food that I could find at the Woodstock Fair that I could find that was advertised gluten and dairy free was Ray’s French Fries. I understand that lots of fair food is made with gluten (wheat) like fried dough and dairy products like cheese and ice cream. It

would be nice if the fair could attract more vendors that sell allergy friendly food at our fairs. I also understand that cross contamination is a big deal and vendors might not be able to guarantee that the food they serve is entirely free of allergens, but they could offer food that was labeled as ‘sensitive to allergens’ or something where the kosher/gluten/dairy/egg/soy, etc. free meal wasn’t a bland salad. If my troop of 10-to-17-year-olds can plan allergy friendly meals for our campouts, food vendors can, too.
Yours in Scouting,

NATHAN CARTER
PLAINFIELD

Our community is lucky to have the organizers of Particle Accelerator

To the Editor:

I am writing to highlight Eric Gould, Jack and Grace Young, and the other organizers of the annual Particle Accelerator event, a benefit concert that raises funds and awareness for mental health. Eric spent many years being my student and I have watched him grow into a special young man. His event has been making a real impact in our community for years.

The Particle Accelerator concert, founded by Mr. Gould, is an incredible example of how a community can come together to address a serious issue. By using music and civic engagement as a platform, the event helps to destigmatize mental illness, which is crucial for encouraging people to seek help. This is particularly important for young adults, as the event promotes music as a healthy alternative to substance abuse.

The funds raised by the concert directly

Free speech — love it or lose our republic

To the Editor:
Charlie Kirk’s assassination should be a wake-up call about just how central free speech is to our republic. Lose the First Amendment and we might as well take down the stars and stripes for good. We don’t have a country if you can’t speak up as an American.
First, I found a lot of stuff that Charlie Kirk stood for to be repulsive and stupid... and it was his right to toss around repulsive and stupid ideas. Second, the psychopath liberals who celebrated his murder without an ounce of remorse or sense of common humanity had the right to look completely nuts. For all the talk about how liberals are the champions of cancel culture I’ve been quite appalled at MAGAs on TikTok doxxing and brigading all those liberals who were fired from their jobs over the past several days. Gray consumption is a central feature of capitalism. Don’t tell me you support freedom and markets if you can’t wrap your head around something that basic.
When it comes to free speech, one of its many benefits is that it gives people an outlet for grievances that stays verbal. Words can be harsh, but they’re still just words. If we have to choose between someone sharply disagreeing with us or someone pulling a gun and pulling the trigger, which would we rather have?
That’s an extreme example, but a less

Michelle Murphy exemplifies community-first leadership

To the Editor:
I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for Michelle Murphy, a dedicated public servant whose integrity, fiscal responsibility, and unwavering commitment to her community set her apart as a truly exceptional advocate.
Michelle has consistently demonstrated sound financial judgment, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and transparently. Her approach to fiscal responsibility is not only pragmatic but deeply rooted in her belief that every dollar should serve the public good. She brings a sharp analytical mind to budgetary matters, always balancing long-term sustainability with immediate community needs.
As a passionate veterans’ advocate, Michelle has worked tirelessly to ensure that those who have served our country receive the respect, support, and services they deserve. Her efforts have helped bridge gaps in access and awareness, and she is known for her com-

passionate and proactive outreach to veterans and their families.
Michelle’s advocacy for the people of Killingly is equally commendable. She listens intently, speaks thoughtfully, and acts decisively. Her non-biased approach to governance fosters trust across diverse groups, and she consistently puts the needs of her constituents above politics or personal gain. Whether addressing local concerns or championing broader initiatives, Michelle leads with empathy, fairness, and a deep sense of civic duty.
In every role she undertakes, Michelle Murphy exemplifies the values of transparency, service, and community-first leadership. I wholeheartedly recommend her for any position or endeavor that requires principled decision-making and a genuine commitment to the public good.
Yours Truly,

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

ANDREW WHITEHEAD
DANIELSON

Join me in voting for Kyle Napierata

To the Editor:
I am writing in support of Kyle Napierata’s candidacy for the Killingly Board of Education. I have known him for over 14 years, and I believe he will continue to be a contributing member of the Board of Education. He is dedicated, level-headed, and has always worked well with a wide variety of people. He has already served on the Board of Education for more than five years. This allows him to be current on matters facing the Board. He takes the time to do his homework, and he fully understands the issues that are most important to the students and staff of Killingly Public Schools.

One of the things I have always admired about Kyle is the enormous knowledge he brings to financial discussions. He possesses a wealth of background and experience in the areas of financial details, understanding budgets, and creating projections, all of which are necessary in making responsible decisions as a member of the Board of Education. For all these reasons, I urge you to vote again for Kyle Napierata as a member of Killingly’s Board of Education on Election Day in November.

BRIAN LYNCH
THOMPSON

Ramping up the violent rhetoric

To the Editor:

In the aftermath of the senseless murder of racial supremacist, demagogue, and conspiracy theorist Charlie Kirk, people on both sides of the political spectrum correctly condemned it. To his credit, Republican Utah Gov. Spencer Cox stood out from his political allies, making a balanced and reasoned response.
Contrast that with the typically divisive reaction from Donald Trump. A responsible President of the United States would have set an example by toning down the rhetoric, but he placed all of the blame for political violence on liberals and called for a crackdown on left-wing groups.
Even though Trump jump-started the current divisive environment by denying the results of a fair election, fomenting a violent insurrection, and pardoning scores of cop beaters. Even though he called opponents “scum,” even though he called Kamala Harris and other Democrats “fascists” and “Communists,” even though he mocked the brutal attack on Paul Pelosi that almost killed him. Even though Charlie Kirk himself said that gun deaths were “worth it” to protect the Second Amendment when commenting about children mass murdered in school. It didn’t turn out that his assassination was “worth it.”
Prominent right-wing Republicans like Trump’s Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, Laura Loomer, and Steve Bannon are calling for war against liberals. No prominent left thinker or politician reacted similarly when Democratic politicians were mur-

dered, had their homes set on fire, were shot in the head, or had spouses nearly killed. The violent rhetoric is almost overwhelming. The Republican-led US government is explicitly racist and anti-democratic. The rest of the world sees it. Why can’t more Americans?
Unless you haven’t been paying attention, or have little, or no, understanding of history, or are “informed” by the Fox News propaganda machine, you must recognize where this is all going. Trump is following the autocratic playbook— demonizing the left and immigrants, sending out masked agents to kidnap and detain US citizens and legal residents, intimidating and silencing his political opponents, inventing emergencies to justify occupying US cities, and killing people on the open seas without proof of guilt or due process. The Supreme Court already ruled that Trump can kill his political enemies as long as he does so as an official act. He has declared leftist groups to be “terrorists.”
Trump and his allies are lying about a supposed liberal war against America and are using the Kirk murder to further justify clamping down on dissent and the rights of his opponents. We have a faint hope that the Supreme Court will rein him in. Failing that, the election of a Democratic Congress might stop his destruction of democracy. Or, just maybe, massive non-violent protest and civil disobedience can be successful as they have been in some other countries. Will Americans stand up before it’s too late?

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

ADDITIONAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, SEE PAGE A-8

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PARTICLE ACCELERATOR CELEBRATES DAY OF HOPE AND MUSIC

PUTNAM — The 19th edition of the annual Particle Accelerator Music Festival may have been rained out initially, but, as they say, the show must go on and indeed it did on a beautiful and dry afternoon on Sept. 13. The annual concert series at Rotary Park serves as a way to spread awareness for suicide prevention and honors the memory of Jack Young, Jr. The day helps those struggling know they are not alone in their fight and connects them with resources that could help them feel heard and conquer their battles against mental illness.

AT LEFT: Connecticut State Troubadour and Particle Accelerator regular Kala Farnham kicked off the afternoon as the first act on the Main Stage.



The Putnam Leos were on hand all day providing beverages on a beautiful early fall/late summer afternoon in Putnam.



The National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) of Windham County was on hand to remind those in needs they have a voice and are not alone.



A small early crowd of spectators claimed their spots for the day's musical entertainment.



The Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse had a booth at Particle Accelerator promoting their programs for veterans in need.



Nameless was the first of many bands to hit Stage 2.



The Wall of Angels, a staple of Particle Accelerator, served as a tribute to those who lost their lives to suicide.



Time Van rocks the Main Stage at Rotary Park.



Pocket Vinyl brought a unique flavor to their Main Stage performance, with an added art element to their set.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Briere will bring his work ethic to Killingly’s Town Council

To the Editor:

I am writing to endorse Brian Briere for Killingly Town Council at Large.

Brian is very passionate about keeping the taxes down. He cares about the town and the people who live here. He is an extremely hard worker, and I think

that will carry over to his work as a Town Councillor. It is for these reasons that I endorse Brian Briere for Killingly Town Council at Large.

KEVIN MARTIN
DAYVILLE

Annual Friends Book Sale and autumn programming

BY JARED JACAVONE
DIRECTOR
THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The leaves are starting to change, school is back in session, and pumpkin-spiced products have appeared in your local coffee shop and supermarket. This means two things: first, fall starts next week, and second, the Friends of the Thompson Public Library Annual Book Sale is almost here! On Saturday, Sept. 27, you can stop by the Thompson Public Library and the Louis P. Faucher Community Center between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for some fantastic deals on books, movies, TV series, puzzles, board games, and much more! Selling hard-cover books, DVDs, and puzzles at \$1 a piece and paperbacks at 50 cents, not only will you make out with a deal, but your purchase will help support the Library. Funds raised by the Friends of the Library support the Summer Reading Program, holiday programming, the Maker Lab, the Seed Library, and many other services that promote childhood literacy and lifelong learning. While visiting the

book sale and stocking up for the cold seasons, check out some of our upcoming events and programs at the Library. In addition to our regular Preschool Story Hour, Roll & Play, Crafty Crew, and other regular events, our team will be introducing some new programming. This includes pumpkin carving in October, Light Saber Training during Community Day, an Herb Planting Workshop, Horror Movie Trivia, and much more! See below for details:

Toddler Time: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. until Nov. 13, open for ages three and a half and under

Preschool Story Hour: Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. until Nov. 4, open for ages three and a half to five

Sensory Play: Tuesdays, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, and Nov. 4 at 11:30 a.m.; open for ages five and under

Roll and Play: Wednesdays, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, and Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m., open to ages 12 and up

Crafty Crew: Every Friday from 1 to 2:30 p.m., open to all ages

Herb Planting Workshop: Saturday,

Sept. 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Take and Make-Leaf Dish using Salt Dough: Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Writer’s Club: Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m., ages 16 and up

Fun with Ms. Fiona: Saturdays, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m., open to all ages and Oct. 25 is pumpkin carving (preregistration required)

Community Day and Light Saber Training: Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., open to all ages

Spooky Stories for Little Monsters: Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 10:30 a.m., open to ages three and under

Horror Movie Trivia: Thursday, Oct. 9 at 6 p.m., open to all ages

Art at the Library Reception: Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m., open to all ages

World Building Book Club: Saturday, Oct. 18 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

If you have any questions about our program offerings or our upcoming book sale, stop by the front desk or call us at 860-923-9779. Have a great day, and we hope to see you at the Library!

To the Editor:

Moving on from past challenges and criticism from some Thompson residents regarding the district’s classification and test scores, Thompson Public Schools remain steadfast in their commitment to student success. Administrators and teachers have continued to focus on implementing the newly revised curriculum, refining instructional strategies, and using interim assessment data to guide improvement. Rather than being discouraged, they have chosen to move forward with purpose and resilience. Parents and guardians have been essential partners in this journey, ensuring that students arrive at school each day on time, prepared, and ready to learn.

As a result of these collective efforts, Thompson Public Schools were recognized at Connecticut Department of Education Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker’s press conference this month, where she released the Smarter Balanced Assessment results along with updated attendance data.

District-wide, Thompson students outperformed the state average in English Language Arts and matched the state average in mathematics. As an Alliance District showing improvement, it is essential to maintain the staff, resources, and services currently in place to support our students. Continued budget referendum failures and funding reduc-

tions threaten to halt—and ultimately reverse—the academic progress our students are making.

After years of revising curriculum, participating in professional development, engaging with current research, reading professional books and presenting at conferences both in Connecticut and across the country, Thompson teachers are finally being recognized for their skill, dedication, and perseverance. This month, they saw the fruits of their labor reflected in improved standardized test scores and higher attendance rates. This momentum is a powerful motivator to start the school year strong and shake off the negativity of a prolonged budget process.

Thompson teachers remain committed to providing a high-quality education for all children in our community. Thanks to generous community donations—and the baking talents of our culinary students under the guidance of Chef Fran Zentgraf—the district will celebrate this success with a “High Tea” during upcoming faculty meetings.

While there is still work to be done to continue improving student outcomes, it is gratifying to see that our perseverance is paying off.

MELINDA A. SMITH
SUPERINTENDENT
THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

leader, I have seen an outpouring of support and love for this cause and I remain optimistic that this message of faith, importance of family, and love of the country, is a message which will continue to grow

Encouraging all of us to be better, do better, and expect better from ourselves, our friends and family, as well as our political leaders, no matter your affiliation. Let’s come together for common goals to lift people up, pledge to have spirited debates with civility where we have differences of opinion, with words and ideas, ... and most importantly, for all of us to refrain from and condemn hate speech in all its forms.

God bless America.

STEVE FIEDLER
BROOKLYN

Motivation. We all want it, but half the time it feels like it walked right out of the front door. It has a way of slipping through your fingers. One minute you’re fired up, ready to conquer the world. Next, you’re sprawled on the couch, scrolling through your phone, telling yourself you’ll “start tomorrow.”

What is it? Testosterone? Purpose? Willpower? Is it in the food we eat, or is it some mystical force that appears from time to time?

Here’s the truth: motivation isn’t magic, and it isn’t a mood. It’s not some lightning bolt from the gods. Motivation is a pattern your brain runs, a rhythm you can learn to catch. The real question isn’t “Where did it go?”—it’s “How do you make it show up tomorrow, the next day, and the day after that?”

We’ve all started the project with lots of motivation, but it often disappears before the finish line.

Scientists recently discovered something fascinating about motivation. In September 2024, researchers hooked participants up to brain monitors while they worked on learning tasks. What they found was striking: the instant someone realized they were making progress, their brain lit up like a switchboard. Focus sharpened. Distractions faded. Engagement skyrocketed.

Think about that for a second, it isn’t about standing at the finish line—it’s about noticing that you’re moving forward. Each time you recognize progress—no matter how small—your brain tosses you a reward—effort feels light-

er. Momentum builds.

But here’s where some of us get stuck. We’re so focused on how far we have to go, we forget how far we’ve come.

I’m not a mountain climber, but I have hiked some challenging trails. It’s easy to start at the trailhead with determination, but when you’re only halfway and passing out on a boulder from exhaustion, complacency can take over fast. Perhaps you didn’t want to reach the top. Still, maybe you did, and you just lost motivation. Why?

It’s called finish line fixation. When you only measure yourself against the summit, your brain feels incompetent. When you’ve been hiking for 14 hours, night is approaching, and you still have another 14 to go, it’s easy to feel inept, to think, “I thought I’d be at the peak by now!”

It’s no good to beat yourself up, especially when you’re giving it your all.

A 2018 study found that people do best when they keep two things in mind: big, meaningful goals and the small victories along the way.

So when you’re only part of the way towards your goal, and frustration sets in, look back at the ground you’ve already covered. That perspective shift turns discouragement into momentum.

There have been many studies on motivation, and the science is clear: People are far more successful when they regularly track progress. Recognize how far you’ve come.

The summit matters,

but so does the trail. Looking back at the challenges you’ve overcome thus far and recognizing your progress produces the dopamine your brain needs to gather more steam.

The brain doesn’t hand out dopamine for nothing—it’s a survival mechanism. Progress signals that you’re learning, adapting, and moving closer to a reward, which is exactly what kept our ancestors alive. That same wiring still runs the show today: every step forward tells your brain, “This path is working—keep going.

Your brain doesn’t reward perfection—it rewards progress. That’s why some people quit inches from the breakthrough—not because they weren’t moving, but because their brain couldn’t recognize how far they’ve come. No receipts equals no motivation.

Of course, there will still be days when even focusing on your progress feels like it’s not helping. That’s when you pitch a tent, take a break, and start climbing again the next day.

So, here’s my challenge. Don’t wait for a spark. Don’t wait for the mood to hit. Today, write down one thing you’ve already done that proves you’re moving. Then take another step forward. Track it. Tomorrow, repeat it.

Do this long enough, and you’ll stop wondering where motivation went.

Because motivation doesn’t reward the dreamers. It rewards the doers.

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

LETTER

continued from page A4

A turning point is upon us, let us all commit to eliminate hate speech, which then serves to dehumanize and desensitize impressionable individuals and radicalizing them into committing haneous acts of violence. We have seen this play out right in front of our eyes.

The assassination of Charlie Kirk, the founder of Turning Point, a conservative ambassador and messenger of god and faith, going to college campuses and debating students of all races, genders and creeds on all topics, can serve as the Turning Point, as a shining example of how our founding fathers crafted the principles of our democracy, not with hateful speech and violent demonstrations, but with words and ideas. Deeply saddened by the loss of this thought

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Plant this fall for beautiful spring bouquets

This fall plant an array of spring flowering bulbs to brighten your garden and bouquets. There are plenty of daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and alliums that will delight with an assortment of flower colors and sizes that will bloom throughout the spring.

Include animal resistant double, bicolor, and split cup daffodils that provide unique beauty and impact in floral arrangements. Create a simple bouquet with just a few stems of daffodils or an elegant arrangement of single and double flowered varieties.

Harvest daffodils when the buds show color and are perpendicular to the stem like a goose's neck. Don't worry about the sap daffodils exude, shortening the life of the other cut flowers in the arrangement. Properly conditioning the daffodils will eliminate the risk to your other spring favorites

Consider wearing gloves as some people report itching or rashes when handling these plants. Use your hands to harvest daffodils for the longest stems possible and to reduce sap released from the stem. Reach into the base of the flower stem, thumb pointed down and pull up. Cut the stems of freshly picked daffodils to the desired length for condi-

tioning. Place them in a clean container of cool water and floral preservative. Leave them in the water for three to six hours when the sap stops flowing. Do not recut the stems before adding them to mixed flower arrangements.

Tulips have long been a favorite of gardeners and floral arrangers. Grow some taller varieties like Finola, Foxtrot, Silver Parrot Tulips and Negrita Double (longfield-gardens.com).

Gardeners growing tulips strictly for cutting will plant the bulbs in trenches and treat them as annuals. The first-year bloom is always the biggest, but you can enjoy them cut and try for a second and third year of flowers. Just cut the stems short and leave at least two to three leaves on the plant to create and store energy for next year's bloom.

Harvest tulips when the buds are just starting to show color for the longest vase life. Wait for double and parrot type tulip buds to be fully colored but not yet open. Remove the whole plant, bulb and all, if you do not plan on saving the plants for the following year. Store the tulips upright with the bulbs attached. Cut and rehydrate the stems in water just before arranging.



Courtesy — Longfield-Gardens.com



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

A bouquet consisting of unique daffodil varieties found in one of Longfield Gardens' daffodil bulb collections.

grow after cut so plan for this when creating your arrangements.

Harvest hyacinths for cutting as you did tulips. Pull the whole plant, bulb and all, out of the ground if you are growing them as annuals for cutting. Otherwise, cut only the stem and leave all the leaves behind if you want the bulbs to bloom again

Wrap the stems in brown paper if they are cut in the garden or when you rehydrate the stems and set them in several inches of cool water for 12 to 18 hours. Keep in mind tulips continue to

next year.

Include a variety of alliums in your planting plans this fall. Alliums' long and sturdy stems make them easy to harvest and arrange. Purple Sensation, Mount Everest, drumstick allium and Allium atropurpureum make excellent additions for floral bouquets.

Cutting and arranging flowers is a wonderful way to bring the beauty of your garden indoors. The more you do it, the easier it gets, and you'll soon be sharing your flowers with friends, neighbors, family, coworkers, and everyone who stops by to

admire your gardens.

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" 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 Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Brooklyn's Molly Landis named to College of the Holy Cross Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Molly Landis of Brooklyn was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring 2025 Dean's List.

A member of the Class of 2027, Landis was named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

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

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

New Al-Anon meeting in Pomfret

POMFRET — The recently formed Together We Can Do It Al-Anon Family Group is meeting at Christ Church in Pomfret (Route 169) on Tuesdays at noon. Enter the lower level through the door by the flagpole in the pollinator garden. This is an open meeting, meaning not only family and friends of people suffering from the effects of addiction are welcome, but also professionals who may have clients they would like to recommend attend the meetings.

Al-Anon is a worldwide program for people just like you, who are worried about someone with a drinking problem. This Pomfret group will also welcome folks concerned about someone suffering from drug addiction.

Utilizing the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, the group will discuss the Steps, Concepts, and Traditions as well as offer support for your specific situation. No advice is given; understanding and support in a confidential setting are the largest benefits of membership in the group.

For more information about Al-Anon, visit www.al-anon.org. For information about the meeting in Pomfret, call 203-561-7954.

Spaghetti dinner to help Putnam Cub Scouts

PUTNAM — Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam will host its fall spaghetti dinner, including meatballs, salad and garlic bread on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 4 until 7 p. m., at the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523, 207 Providence St., Putnam. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children 12 and under eat for free. Take-out or eat-in. There will also be a bake sale and raffles.

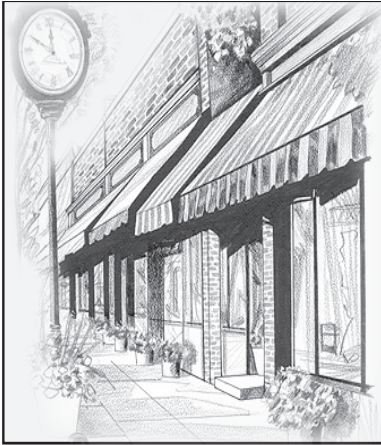
Advance tickets are available at the VFW Post and at Joseph's Jewelers, 153 School Street, Putnam, or by calling (860) 928-5873. Please leave a message when you call. Proceeds will benefit the Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 Activity Fund, to help our Cub Scouts grow. Parking is available behind the building and in the municipal parking lot at 175 Providence St.

community and the district.

"It's just such a blessing to have this building and to have the opportunities that this building offers. We're just starting and we're going to expand," Nash said.

Information on both programs has been made available on the Killingly Public Schools website, killinglyschools.org.

[www.Villager
Newspapers.com](http://www.VillagerNewspapers.com)



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Nature

FACT:

Leaves change color in the fall due to the breakdown of this substance.

Answer: Chlorophyll

Crossword Puzzle

1			2				3
4							
			5		6		
7					8		
9							

ACROSS

1. California city (abbr.)
2. Sudden fear
4. Dull pain
5. Rest on knees
7. One who feels superior to others
8. We breathe it
9. Place for learning

DOWN

1. They grow on trees
2. Game played with a baby
3. Not as hot
6. Digital message

Answers:
ACROSS
1. LA 2. Panic 4. Ache 5. Kneel 7. Snob 8. Air
DOWN
1. Leaves 2. Peekaboo 3. Cooler 6. Email

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

SEP

17

1778: The Treaty of Fort Pitt is signed between the United States and a Native American tribe.

1961: The world's first retractable roof stadium, the Civic Arena, opens in Pittsburgh.

1983: Vanessa Williams becomes the first Black Miss America.

NEW WORD

HIBERNATE

remain in an inactive state, typically during winter

How they say that in...

English: Cool
Spanish: Fresco
Italian: Fresco
French: Frais
German: Kalt

Did You Know?

Raking leaves by hand is a great form of exercise that enables people to enjoy the fresh air and does not contribute to noise pollution caused by leaf blowers.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Pumpkin

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to fall.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 13 = L)

A. 22 18 2 9 8 19
Clue: Cleaning up leaves

B. 3 4 9 13 13 15
Clue: Slightly cold

C. 1 23 24 21 23 26 14 23 22
Clue: Falls starts here

D. 17 18 13 13
Clue: Autumn

Answers: A. raking B. chilly C. September D. fall

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

ANSWER:

OBITUARIES

Sr. Lorraine Deziel, DHS
October 10, 1936 – September 5, 2025



Sr. Lorraine Deziel, DHS, 88, a member of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, entered into her eternal rest on Friday September 5, 2025 at St. Joseph Living Center in Windham, CT where she had been in residence since 2024.

Marie Lorraine was born October 10, 1936 in Waterbury, CT, the middle daughter of Donat and Azeline (Grenier) Deziel. She entered religious life in 1956 and made her religious profession on April 9, 1958. She was then known as Sr. Antoine de l'Enfant Jesus.

After receiving a BA in education with a minor in theology from Diocesan Sister's College, South Woodstock, CT, Sr. Lorraine taught in elementary schools in MA, CT, VT and Quebec. An accomplished musician, she also gave piano lessons, directed school and DHS choirs and composed several musical pieces. Retiring from education in 1997, she served the congregation as

an administrative assistant and receptionist. In 2019 Sr. Lorraine moved to The Card Home in Willimantic before joining the community at St. Joseph Living Center in 2024.

Sr. Lorraine is survived by the Daughters of the Holy Spirit spiritual family – her Sisters in community, the Consecrated Seculars, the Associates; and a niece, Diane Colucia. She was predeceased by her sisters Doris LaMothe and Claire Cote.

Calling hours will be on Tuesday September 23, 2025 at 10:00 AM at Corpus Christi Parish/ St Joseph Church, 99 Jackson St., Willimantic, CT with a prayer service at 10:15 AM. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11:00 AM followed by burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Putnam, CT at 2:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the DHS Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 497, Putnam, CT 06260. The Gilman-Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT is in charge of arrangements. A memorial guestbook is available at www.gilmanandvalade.com.

Dana F. Basto, 85



Dana F. Basto, 85 of Woodstock, CT passed away Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at Davis Place in Danielson, CT.

He was born on June 9, 1940 in Putnam, CT, son of the late Francis and Dorothy (Rainville) Basto. Dana was known as a man who could live off of nature with his hunting, fishing, and unrivaled gardening abilities. Dana worked for Buell's Greenhouse as a botanist for over 30 years. He could identify local plant life and was skilled with cross-pollinating local plants. He had many legendary hunting and fishing stories, including a 'Secret Sauce' recipe which he served with his freshly caught fish.

Dana was a proud member of the Masonic Lodge. He was also co-owner of the Woodstock Stand, along with his partner Mary. Dana was a fierce friend to so many people, and will be remembered as a kind and generous man.

Dana is survived by his forever love, Mary Gratton, as well as his children Melinda King, Laurie Snelling (Dennis), Kevin Basto (Jennifer), and Julie Basto. Dana was also like a father figure to the Gratton children, Debra Reynolds (Russ), Martin Gratton (Cindy), and Arlene Goodwin (Bruce). He is also survived by his siblings, Carolyn Novak, Judy Sevcik, Gail Darling, Faith Allen, and Ronnie Basto, and Dana's many grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Dana was predeceased by his sister Natalie Alexander, and stepchildren Audrey Giorgi (Ken), and Brian

Gratton.

Calling hours were held Tuesday, September 16, 2025 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam CT. A Graveside Service will be held Friday, September 19, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the East Woodstock Cemetery, 248 Woodstock Rd, East Woodstock CT.

Please share a memory at smithandwalkerfh.com

But for now, sail out to sea, and make a cast in memory, to all the good times from the past, so forever they will last. And if the fish no longer bite or seem no longer worth the fight, don't let it be me you're missin', be glad, I've only gone a fishin'.



Celebrating the life of
DONALD L BROWN

SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

at 11 AM

SERVICE TO BE HELD AT
East Woodstock Cemetery
Military Salute

Interment of Donald and Patricia Brown

FOLLOWED BY A CELEBRATION OF LIFE
East Woodstock Church and Common
220 Woodstock Road, Woodstock, CT 06281

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



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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P3071GD

NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor

In the interests of
Jyzel Escobar
of Spencer, MA
Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED
PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 9/03/2025 by by **Vanessa Ivette Valentin-Gaskill of Spencer, MA** will be held **10/10/2025 08:30 AM**
Guardianship of Minor Hearing
Located **Worcester Probate and Family Court**

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at

the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)

IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by the sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.**

If service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party, **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to the date of hearing listed above.

If the identity of whereabouts of an interested party is **not known**, **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **Webster Times, Webster** publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date.

If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be accomplished by regular first class mail at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may af-

fect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

Date: September 3, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

September 19, 2025

Town of Woodstock IWWA

On September 8, 2025, the Town of Woodstock Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency made the following decisions:

- Approved permit #07-25-04 – 4 Little Horn Lane (MBL 7272/34/OC19), Marilyn & Bob Rath – Stabilizing wall & adding/improving grade access to water
 - Approved permit #09-25-02 – 47 Grey Fox Landing (MBL 6397/58/4-11), Joseph Olivo – Accessory Dwelling Unit in URA
 - Approved, permit #08-25-02 – 48 West Quassett Road (MBL 6393/65/224A-1), William Barrette – Placement of 12' x 16' shed on gravel within URA
- Details of these approvals may be obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at landuse@woodstockct.gov
September 19, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF

Theodore T Wish, Jr. (25-00342)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 5, 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:
Amanda Waufile
c/o NICHOLAS SEAN MAZZARELLA, KAPLAN AND BRENNAN, LLP,

643 NORWICH ROAD,
PLAINFIELD, CT 06374
September 19, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF

Crystal Ann Sullivan (25-00325)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 5, 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:
Ashley Sullivan
c/o EVELINA MONIKA RUSZKOWSKI, THE PRUE LAW GROUP, P.C., 720 MAIN ST 4TH FL, WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226
September 19, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF

Joyce M White (25-00346)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 5, 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:
Windsor N White
c/o WILLIAM J MONTY, LAW OFFICE W MONTY, 930 ROUTE 169., P.O. BOX 266, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
John W White
c/o WILLIAM J MONTY, LAW OFFICE W MONTY, 930 ROUTE 169., P.O. BOX 266, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
September 19, 2025

“Walktober” event planned at Great East Thompson Train Wreck Memorial Park



THOMPSON — The Thompson Trails Committee and the Thompson Historical Society are hosting a Walktober event on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 10 a.m. celebrating the completion of the grant-funded work at the Great East Thompson Train Wreck Memorial Park. Participants will meet at the Air Line State Park Trail parking lot at the corner of East Thompson Road and New Road, in Thompson.

After gathering for a brief ceremony at the redesigned and enlarged Air Line State Park Trail parking lot to thank all

the funders, volunteers and supporters that made upgrades to the area possible, there will be a short walk to the original location of the East Thompson Train Station where archaeological work by Thompson Historical Society members have uncovered some original building foundations. There will be a history-based talk about the 1891 Great East Thompson Train Wreck itself and the building of the local efforts that led to the newly reconstructed train turntable area.

Rain Date is Sunday, Sept. 28 at 1 p.m.

This work was made possible by a CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant, the Thompson Historical Society, and a land acquisition from the Butlers of Morning Beckons Farm.

To learn the history of the Great East Thompson Train Wreck in 1891, visit these links:
<https://bit.ly/3II9Njg>
<https://bit.ly/47GYNXU>

To learn more about the 35th Annual Walktober events in The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, visit <https://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore/walktober/>.

Putnam Board of Education hosted community forum on student cell phone use, screen time



Courtesy

Mike Bogdanski, Dr. Cracco, and Board of Ed members Jill Zangerl and Chad Neal.

PUTNAM — The Putnam Board of Education hosted a Community Forum on “Student Cell Phones in School & The Opportunity Cost of Excessive Screen Time” at the Black Box Theater at Putnam High School.

The event opened with a

presentation by Dr. Betsy Cracco, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Campus Life and Wellbeing at UMass Amherst. Following the presentation, there was an open discussion for parents, educators, and community members to share their perspectives.

Attendees engaged in dialogue about the effects of student cell phone use and excessive screen time. Attendees found the discussion was valuable as the board works to support academic achievement and a healthy school environment for all students.

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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To find out more information, please contact Ruth Bentley, Director of Human Resources at 860-774-8574, extension 119 or email your résumé to rbentley@westviewhcc.com

