

Robert Surprenant Memorial sees success in year one

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY / BROOKLYN — It's been a successful first year for the Robert Surprenant Memorial Fund founded in honor of a lifelong member of the Brooklyn and Killingly communities to continue his spirit of giving and supporting local community endeavors.

The Robert Surprenant Memorial is actually a larger organization named after the man many affectionately called "Supe" which his daughter Bethany Tucker said was founded in December of 2024 to keep his memory alive. Supe passed away in August of that year and was known for his time as a coach, volunteer, and a one-time member of the Killingly Board of Education. In the year since the organization was founded the funds raised have helped support local youth sports and recreation programs with plans to also contribute to holiday giving initiatives.

Tucker said the organization has grown quickly, holding its first major fundraiser in 2025 called the Bob Supe Classic, a golf tournament held at Foster Country Club, which was a huge success in its first year and is expected to become an annual event. So far the organization has donated money to NECONN soccer, which Supe coached



In August, the Robert Surprenant Memorial organization donated to the NECONN soccer organization which the fund's namesake coached for nearly 15 years.

for around 15 years, Killingly youth hoops, the Killingly and Brooklyn summer cands, and Supe's grandkids have also contributed to the cause by holding a lemonade stand with plans to donate the profits to support local holiday toy drives.

After such a successful first year, Tucker said she's proud they have been able to continue her father's spirit of giving.

"A lot of the money we're giving away is going back to youth sports and other community programs," she said. "My dad loved community; he grew up in Brooklyn and went to high school in Killingly and lived here his entire life. We want to keep most of our fundraiser money in the community that he grew up in, and he loved so much."

Proceeds from the golf tournament, which attracted around 136 participants, will also support the American Heart and American Lung Associations. Year two of the event has already been announced for next June. Tucker revealed that they are looking to expand their fundraising efforts possibly with a celebrity bartender night and other concepts yet to be announced.

Those looking to support the Robert Surprenant Memorial organization can learn more by visiting robertsurprenantmemorial.com.

Courtesy

Two Stop & Shop fundraisers benefit Eastern's resident food pantry this October

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University's food pantry, Shawn's Cupboard, will receive support this October through two Stop & Shop charitable giving programs. Throughout the month, the Willimantic grocery store will donate \$1 to the campus pantry for every \$2.50 spent on a reusable "Community Bag." In addition, Eastern has been chosen as a nonprofit partner in Stop & Shop's "Bloomin' 4 Good" initiative, which fights hunger statewide by donating \$1 for every specially marked \$11.99 bouquet of flowers sold in Connecticut stores.

"Eastern utilizes donations to purchase fresh produce and other high-demand items, which keep the shelves in Shawn's Pantry stocked throughout the year," said Michelle Delaney, vice president for Student Affairs. "Every dollar raised will be used to support Eastern students who are experiencing food insecurity."

Shawn's Cupboard is overseen by Eastern's Campus Ministry, which reports steadily increasing usage and visitation among students to the food pantry.

"In the 2024/25 school year, there were a total of 1,327 visits with a total of 8,717 items taken," according to Nancy Brennan, Campus Ministry administrative assistant and Shawn's Cupboard coordinator. "For this fall 2025 semester, we've already had 250 visits with a total of 1,724 items taken."

With three months remaining in the calendar year, the ministry reports 539 unique students who have used Shawn's Cupboard so far in 2025.

"The ultimate reward received from Stop & Shop's generosity is the realization that they are helping to fulfill our Mission Statement," said Brennan. "It is through their generosity that students are getting enough to eat, which makes them able to meaningfully engage in their classes and in society."

Brennan also noted that the Campus Ministry relies on student volunteers and monetary donations to help operate Shawn's Cupboard.

"Without our wonderful benefactors, Shawn's Cupboard would not be able to keep the Cupboard as full or offer as much of a variety of food to our students," she said. "I am very lucky to always have my wonderful student volunteer Zaine Gutierrez-Valenzuela who helps get all the volunteers to staff Shawn's Cupboard, as well as helps shop and keep track of the volunteer hours."

Shawn's Cupboard is located in the Knight House Multifaith Center and is open to any Eastern student experiencing food insecurity.

Danielson Fire Chief announces resignation; Borough Council appoints Interim Chief

DANIELSON — At the Borough of Danielson Fire Commissioners' meeting on Sept. 23, Fire Chief Charles Kelleher announced his resignation, effective Oct. 1.

To ensure a smooth transition in leadership, the Borough Council convened a special meeting on September 30, 2025, and unanimously appointed Deputy Chief Jason Burgess as Interim Fire Chief. He will serve in this role until a permanent Fire Chief is appointed.

Burgess has been a dedicated member of the Danielson Fire Department since 2002, beginning as a junior firefighter and rising steadily through the ranks. A

third-generation firefighter, he brings both deep experience and a strong commitment to the community. The Borough Council expressed confidence in his ability to provide steady leadership and uphold the department's strong tradition of service during this transition.

"We are deeply grateful for Chief Kelleher's years of service and leadership to the Danielson Fire Department and the community as a whole," said Heidi Clifford, Borough of Danielson President. "During his tenure, he guided the department through numerous challenges, strengthened

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Courtesy

Jason Burgess is sworn in as Interim Chief of the Danielson Fire Department.

Hale YMCA hosts annual Ride for Wellness



Jason Bleau

Roughly 50 riders took to stationary bikes to take on the two-hour Ride for Wellness challenge to support the Hale YMCA's Livestrong program.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The Hale YMCA Young and Family Center in Putnam host-

ed its annual Road to Wellness event on Oct. 5, raising funds to support the Livestrong program which helps provide free fitness opportunities for

cancer fighters and survivors.

The annual event sees a series of fitness-related challenges take place at the Putnam Riverview

Marketplace all to support Livestrong. The area was equipped with 50 stationary exercise bikes with participants

Turn To **RIDE** page **A11**

Rawson Materials acquires Quarry, Associated Assets from Hylka Construction Company, Inc.

PUTNAM — Rawson Materials, a leading producer of quality aggregate materials, is pleased to announce the acquisition of substantially all the assets from the aggregate line of business of Hylka Construction Company, Inc. including its quarry, located at 73 Potter Village Road in Charlton, Massachusetts. Effective Oct. 1, the facility will operate as Rawson Materials - Plant #10 and will continue to deliver the reliable service and high-quality aggregate products for which both companies are known. The strategic acquisition followed extensive discussions between Rawson Materials' President and CEO, Jeffrey Rawson and Hylka Construction President, Francis Hylka, Jr. and Vice President, Jonathan Hylka. "I'm proud to share that Rawson Materials has acquired a new plant and quarry location from Hylka Construction," said Jeffrey Rawson. "As a long-standing, family-run business rooted in the Charlton community, Hylka has built a strong reputation for reliability and integrity, which are values that deeply resonate with our own. This marks an exciting new chapter in our company's growth, and we are thrilled to bring their outstanding team into the Rawson family." The Charlton location not only expands Rawson Materials' geographic footprint but also strengthens its presence in central Massachusetts. This allows the company to maintain operational excellence at this location while honoring the legacy established by the Hylka family, who first purchased the property in 1948. This acquisition highlights Rawson Materials' ongoing commitment to growth, strong community partnerships, and continuity of providing high-quality materials to customers across the region. Hylka Construction Company, Inc. will continue to operate its trucking and construction lines of business independent of this transaction. Rawson Materials has proudly served Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island & New York for more than 75 years. For more information, contact Crystal Simonson, Director of Communications, at (860) 963-6584, ext. 1304 or visit www.rawsonmaterials.com.

Brooklyn Town Library clock ticks once again

BY LISA BURBANK
DIRECTOR

BROOKLYN TOWN LIBRARY

BROOKLYN — It stopped at 6:24, either a.m. or p.m., sometime before Sept. 18, 1962. We know this because of some archived minutes from a library executive board meeting where repairs to the clock were discussed on that date, and then-president of the board, Eleanor Bergland, offered to have it repaired at her expense. Whether the clock had only recently stopped in 1962, or had been still for some time before this, is unknown. We also don't know how long the clock has hung on the wall at Brooklyn Town Library. It had been hidden behind a bookshelf when one current staff member first started working here in 2020. As the shelf was dismantled to make way for a new children's room, and mys-

tery paperbacks moved upstairs into the adult fiction section, the beauty of the old timepiece was revealed. It is easy, due to the age of the clock, to assume that the clock has been here since the library took residency at 10 Canterbury Rd. in 1913, but as the old adage states, never assume. The timepiece, identified as an E. Howard Gallery Clock by horologist Pete Belmore, would have been crafted sometime in the 1880s or 1890s. Though Brooklyn Town Library Association was incorporated in 1893, we lived in the basement of the Brooklyn Town Hall for our first twenty years. Our current building was originally constructed for the Windham County Bank in 1822, later becoming The Windham County National Bank just after the American Civil War in 1865. The Windham County National Bank then moved to Danielson in 1895, and the building became

home to Brooklyn Savings Bank sometime after that. When Brooklyn Savings Bank later moved to East Brooklyn in 1913, a group of Brooklyn citizens purchased and donated the building to the library. Was the clock already here? Did it come with the building, as we assume due to the year of clock's manufacture? Or was it purchased by, or for the library? These questions and more may never be answered. However, three weeks ago, Pete Belmore, who visited our library as a patron, caught sight of the clock as he passed our children's room. Confidant that he could repair it and bring it back to life again, and after much deliberation with our executive board, Pete removed the face of the clock, took the inner mechanism home to his workshop in Webster, Massachusetts and made good on that promise. The E. Howard Gallery Clock started its new journey of life at 3:25 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 2, its gentle ticking welcoming patrons to the Brooklyn Town Library after more than six decades of silence. Welcome back, E. Howard!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OCTOBER 10-17

Friday, Oct. 10 — Putnam, 7:30 p.m. Poirot on stage, the clues take flight, Bradley's train departs tonight. "Murder on the Orient Express," Front Street seats, best guess who's next.

Saturday, Oct. 11 — Pomfret, 7 p.m. Hush the path and dim your light, Audubon's Screech Owl Night. Boots and layers, meet on time, Let the woodlands hoot in rhyme.

Tuesday, Oct. 14 — Pomfret, 8 a.m. Binocs up for birds in flight, Tuesday walk at first-daylight. Trails and field notes, crisp and clear, Fall migration's finally here.

Tuesday, Oct. 14 — Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m. Wetlands board will take the floor, Maps and motions, regs galore. Town Hall clock will set the beat, Public comment, front-row seat.

Wednesday, Oct. 15 — Woodstock, 10 a.m.-noon Flu-shot clinic, sleeves rolled high, Town Hall nurses standing by. Quick and easy, in you go, Autumn armor, health in tow.

Wednesday, Oct. 15 — Pomfret, 8 a.m. Plainfield Hatchery bird stroll start, Feathered traffic, fieldcraft art. Early call, don't miss the thrush, Morning chorus in the brush.

Wednesday, Oct. 15 — Brooklyn (two-step civic night) 10 a.m.-noon: Housing meets, Budgets, units, needs and seats. 6:15 p.m.: Capital Plan, 7 p.m.: Finance, numbers scan.

Thursday, Oct. 16 — Woodstock (Town Hall double bill) 6 p.m. Selectmen take the mic, Roads and bids and budget hike. 7:30 p.m. P&Z convenes, Parcels, plats, and overlay means.

Thursday, Oct. 16 — Brooklyn (twin meetings, back-to-back) 6 p.m. Parks & Rec on deck, Fields and fall events to check. 7 p.m. Emergency crew, Readiness run-throughs to do.

Friday, Oct. 17 — Putnam, 7:30 p.m. Back on board that snowbound train, Bradley's curtain lifts again. Who did what and why to whom? Find your seat and meet your doom.

Heirloom Food Company hosting art exhibition

DANIELSON — Heirloom Food Company is hosting "Encore," paintings by Ann C. Rosebrooks and collages/ mixed media by Donna O'Scolaigh Lange. The show runs from Oct. 7 through Dec. 1, with a reception Friday, Oct. 17, from 6:30-8 p.m. Heirloom is located at 630 N. Main St., Danielson, right past Bill's Bedding.

www.VillagerNewspapers.com

VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the Week of Sept. 29: Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, American Restart, Red-eyed Vireo, Red-Shouldered Hawk, White-throated Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Meadowlark, Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bluebird



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Autumn’s quiet harvest

October in Northeast Connecticut carries a rhythm that no clock can keep. The mornings are slow to warm, the air smells faintly of wood smoke, and the fields hum with a final burst of effort before winter stills them. Farmers bring in their last loads, but around here, harvest is about far more than crops. It’s the season when the community itself gets gathered in.

Walk through the Quiet Corner and you’ll see how much happens when no one’s really watching. The Thompson Fire Department rakes leaves outside the station between calls. Pomfret seniors stack canned goods for the food pantry. At the Woodstock Fairgrounds, volunteers take down banners and fold tables, already talking about next year. In Brooklyn, scout troops and church youth groups are helping older residents cover storm windows or split firewood before the first frost. None of it makes the front page, but all of it keeps these towns stitched together.

Maybe that’s what defines this corner of Connecticut more than anything else — the instinct to help without needing to be asked, the refusal to let neighbors fend for themselves. It’s not the loud kind of community spirit you find at parades or ribbon-cuttings. It’s quieter, steadier, built from the same hands that mend roofs, pack lunches, and wave from pickup trucks on Route 169.

There’s a lesson in that, especially as the days shorten and the election signs start to sprout beside the pumpkins. The headlines can make the world feel divided, but the work of small towns is cooperative by nature. The person who disagrees with you at a meeting might be the same one who plows your driveway after a storm. The teacher who volunteers on the town green is also the parent coaching Little League on Saturday morning. We depend on each other in ways that don’t fit neatly into slogans or party lines.

The local harvest fairs, library fundraisers, and craft shows filling the October calendar all serve a purpose beyond entertainment. They raise the money that keeps senior lunches running, youth programs afloat, and volunteer departments equipped. When we buy a raffle ticket or toss a few dollars into a donation jar, we’re paying forward the support that makes our communities resilient.

It’s easy to overlook that kind of labor because it isn’t dramatic. There’s no breaking news in a neighbor dropping off soup, or a teacher buying extra supplies for her classroom. But the quiet kindnesses of a small town are what keep the lights on — literally and figuratively. They turn a cluster of roads and ZIP codes into something that can endure a tough winter, or a tough year.

So before the last leaves fall, take a moment to notice the people who make this region what it is: the volunteers who line the fields for the Memorial Day parade, the high-school band that keeps practicing long after sunset, the local boards trying to stretch every tax dollar. Thank them. Support them. And if you can, join them.

Because when the frost comes and the noise of the outside world grows louder, the true harvest of the Quiet Corner won’t be measured in pumpkins or corn stalks. It will be measured in how much we still care about one another — and in how willing we are to keep showing up, season after season, for the place we all call home.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote Democratic on Nov. 4!

To the Editor:

There’s good news and bad news in Killingly. The bad news is that the Republican Town Councilors are running Killingly into the ground, wasting our tax dollars while making it harder for our families. Property assessments and taxes have skyrocketed, but the community is seeing little to no benefit. All the Town Council seems to do is hire consultants for tens of thousands of dollars. Our wastewater treatment plant is maxed out, which they knew was a potential problem years ago. But those managing capacity were never held accountable. For years to come, Killingly won’t be able to pursue reasonable economic development because there will be no way to treat the resulting wastewater. Even now no one knows where in the world the money to expand this plant will come from. Just ask at the next Town Council meeting. Finally, the members of our community have had to intervene to make sure Killingly retains its natural beauty and rural character. Now I understand that several years ago the Planning & Zoning board approved a huge warehousing and distribution complex to go in off Westcott Rd., which is being advertised now. I can’t wait to fight my way through a snarl of tractor trailers 24 hours per day as I head to the grocery store. Haven’t you had enough of Republican rule? Isn’t it time for a change? Vote for Jim Rivers, John Labelle, Dave Griffiths and Petros Kostaras

To the Editor:

I am writing to endorse Mike Bogdanski as a candidate for Selectman in the town of Putnam in the upcoming November elections. I have known Mike going back to my days as Mayor of Putnam 1989-1991 and have found him to be a dedicated and successful businessman, a community supporter for numerous organizations, and a person who helped to build character in thousands of young people in Northeastern Connecticut. Mike has served, or is serving, on numerous boards and commissions over the years. He has found the time and energy to serve on the Putnam Zoning Board of Appeals, the Inland – Wetlands Commission, the Economic Development Commission and the Redevelopment Agency. He has provided countless hours to the Aspinock Historical Society and as a member of the NE CT Chamber of Commerce to name but a few. Mike has the values and community spirit that make him an ideal Selectman:

To the Editor:

Well, the Destruction Duo had their meeting of the Brass, and it was a resounding – oh, what’s the word – bore, proof of stupidity, wasted millions of dollars? Almost everything said had been said before or could have been done on-line. The most frightening thing Hegseth said was his emphasis on war. The message was unmistakable — a return to war-fighting and preparation for winning wars as the main mission of the Military. The Administration’s increasing use of the word War is only meant to inflame and intimidate other countries and US citizens. At the meeting, Donnie Despot said, “I’ve never walked into a room so silent. If you applaud, applaud.” He doesn’t know Military protocol prohibits applause to prevent expression of partisanship and politics. He also said, “You can do anything you want. If you don’t like what I’m saying you can leave the room.” Yeah, right. And I’m sure the Generals and Admirals hung on every word about how Despot goes

To the Editor:

Too often, we think the big elections are the ones that matter most. But the truth is, municipal elections hit closest to home. They decide who fixes our roads, funds our schools, and sets our local tax rates. In the 2023 municipal election, less than 30 percent of Brooklyn residents went to the polls to vote, below the state average which was roughly 33 percent. (CT Mirror) That means just a handful of voters decided how our town is run - our taxes, our roads, our schools, our safety. We can change that this year. This municipal election, Brooklyn Democrats have a strong slate of candidates who care deeply about our community and its future. Brooklyn voters will be electing candidates for: First Selectman: Joe Bellavance Board of Selectmen: Sherri Vogt Board of Finance: Bob Smanik and Rick Ives Board of Education: Melissa Perkins-Banas Board of Assessment Appeals: Susan

for at-large Town Council. The good news is that our Board of Education, where Democrats hold the majority, have improved our kids’ education and mental health enormously in just a couple of years. The graduation rate at Killingly High has risen from 88% to over 93 percent. Chronic absenteeism has been cut almost in half. Test scores are improving across multiple grades. Staff turnover, which was among the highest in the Quiet Corner, is lower. More students report feeling safer at school, and feel they can talk to someone if they are down or feeling anxious. These results have been achieved without busting the budget. (Republicans are now pushing a lie that bullying is up, but just ask them where they got their data - it doesn’t exist.) Please return chair Susan Lannon and board members Misty Murdock and Nelson “Buzz” King to our Board of Ed, and elect Kyle Provencher to join them. Republicans are no longer the party of “fiscal responsibility,” and they ignore or bully Democratic and Independent voices. The Democratic Board of Education is getting fantastic results by collaborating across the aisle with their peers, and by listening to staff, parents and students. Killingly deserves the best in both worlds – Vote row A on Nov. 4. Thanks very much,

ROBIN LOFQUIST
DANIELSON

Mike Bogdanski has my support

Dedication to the Town of Putnam that he has called home for more than 20 years. The integrity to look at issues for what they are and not simply agreeing with the party line. The insights of a successful businessman that is critical to Board of Selectmen. The willingness to collaborate and listen to both sides of an issue, to ‘cross the aisle’ when information warrants a different direction. To be accountable to the people of Putnam – his adopted hometown. It is without reservation that I support and endorse Mike Bogdanski as he strives to continue his public service for the people of Putnam as a Selectman, as well as supporting the Democratic Unity Slate of Mayor Barney Seney, Selectmen Gloria Marion and Scott Pempek.

DONALD R. ST.ONGE
DAYVILLE

We are in a war...against despotism

down stairs slowly instead of “Da Da Da Da Da Bop” Bop’ing down like Obama. Another incoherent rambling was, “When I have a general and I have to sign for a General because we have beautiful paper, the gorgeous paper, I said throw a little more gold on it. They deserve it. I want to use the big beautiful firm paper.” Such brilliance certainly invites invoking the 25th Amendment. Despot also said something clearly un-Constitutional and impeachable. “The military brass is about America’s number one enemy: Americans. Last month, I signed an executive order to provide training for a quick reaction force that can help quell civilian disturbances. This is gonna be a big thing for the people in this room because it’s the enemy from within and we have to handle it before it gets out of control.” OK, yes, we are in a war after all, viz. the Constitution, the rule of law and a society built on trying to improve our lives against this Fascist cadre of Despot, Miller, Ludnick, Johnson, Hegseth, Project 2025 and a corrupt Supreme Court.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Brooklyn’s future is on the ballot — your vote matters!

Wasstrom These Democratic candidates are ready to lead with proactive leadership, fiscal responsibility, and a commitment to quality education and town services. To learn more about these candidates go to: brooklynctdems.com. Early voting starts this month on Oct. 20 and runs through Nov. 2 at the Clifford B. Green Building. Election Day is Nov. 4, with polls open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Brooklyn Middle School. You can register to vote online or check your voter registration status at MyVote.ct.gov. Every vote matters, especially in local elections, where outcomes are often decided by just a handful of ballots. If you want to see a town government that reflects your values, make your plan to vote and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. Working together we can make a difference in Brooklyn. Vote Democrat. Vote Row A. Your town. Your vote. Your voice is your power.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Additional Letters To The Editor, See Page A-8

U.S. Navy!

In the summer of 1803, six American warships sliced through the Atlantic, crewed by fewer than 2,000 barely trained men—farm boys, fishermen, and dockhands. The newly formed United States was broke, its Navy skeletal, its trade raided by Barbary pirates from North Africa, bleeding off an estimated 20 percent of American maritime commerce. Their orders: reach Tripoli and challenge a rogue regime that extorted even the greatest empires. Few expected them to return.

For generations, European powers had bought peace with gold—but as Barbary raids on American merchants

escalated, President Thomas Jefferson faced a choice: submit, or fight with a navy that barely existed.

When the Americans arrived, the enemy was waiting—light, fast, and ruthless. They were outnumbered, but not outmatched.

The Americans trapped them in port, daring the pirates to come out and fight. However, just as momentum was building, disaster struck. The Philadelphia, one of the strongest of the American warships, ran aground off Tripoli and was seized with all 307 aboard. The captured ship was refloated, turned against its own fleet, and now flew the flag of the enemy— one of America’s greatest warships, lost in a single day.

Refusing to let the ship be used against them, they launched one of the boldest raids in naval history: Under the cover of night, disguised as Maltese sailors, they floated into harbor on a captured pirate vessel, boarded the Philadelphia, and turned her into a floating inferno.

The raid ignited American morale, but the war dragged on—until one man dared to rewrite the story. Enter William Eaton—former US consul to Tunis, burning with vengeance, armed with a wild plan. Eaton’s target? Derna—a coastal city, lightly defended and exposed to the desert. Eaton would cross the sands and strike it from behind. The goal was to show that the US could do what no European power dared: land troops in North Africa, raise an army, and defeat the pirates on their own soil.

In March 1805, William Eaton assembled a ragtag force of 8 U.S. Marines, 40 Greek and Italian mercenaries, about 100 Arab cavalry, and scattered Bedouin fighters.

Fewer than 500 men—fractured by language, loyalty, and purpose—marched forward. They crossed hundreds of miles of desert where water vanished, men hallucinated, and camels collapsed in blinding sandstorms. Sun scorched by day, the cold bit at night. Food ran short, tempers flared, tribal help deserted, and the campaign nearly collapsed over broken promises.

The road to Derna was carved through hell.

After seven weeks, they arrived at the gates ready for war. Eaton attacked as US warships unleashed cannon fire from offshore. The fighting was brutal—gunfire ripped through tents, smoke choked the hillside, and Eaton was shot through the wrist, but pressed on with his arm in a sling. After fierce close combat, Derna fell, and for the first time in history, the Stars and Stripes flew triumphantly on foreign soil. It was this moment that inspired the famous line still sung today in the Marine Corps Hymn: ‘to the shores of Tripoli’.

The victory stunned the Barbary world. Eaton marched across a wasteland and took a city no one thought could fall. The pirates’ resolve broke, and they signed a peace agreement within weeks, and the American prisoners from the Philadelphia walked free. What began as a desperate gamble became one of the boldest military feats in the early history of the United States.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Promises made, promises kept

To the Editor:

First, I would like to point out the hypocrisy in Ms. Arends’ letter on the government shutdown. Every single Republican in the House and Senate voted in favor of keeping the Government open with the exception of Rand Paul. Ms. Arends quoted Senators Murphy and Blumenthal on how bad a shutdown would be residents of Connecticut and the rest of the country. Yet when it came time to vote both Connecticut Senators voted to shut the Government down despite their own warnings. I guess that represents leadership to some people. There have been 319 homicides in Chicago this year to date. Someone here praised Governor Pritzker because he refuses to allow the National Guard to help protect the people of Chicago. I bet the 319 families of the dead would have welcomed the help. It that leadership?

When I read some letters here, I am reminded of the quote “Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain – and most fools do.» Attributed to many different people. Each week, someone is attacking President Trump no matter what he does. What is always missing is solutions. The latest complaints are about First Amendment rights. At the end of his first term, Trump was banned from Twitter, Facebook and other social media platforms. Anyone critical of the Covid vaccine was de-platformed. The Biden administration pressured social media to silence anyone critical of their administration. The New York Post was banned from social media for reporting

Michelle Murphy will be an asset to Killingly

To the Editor:

My mother and grandmother were very involved in politics in the town of North Smithfield. They both supported the Democratic Party. I, myself, have never been very interested in politics. As time goes on, I realize there are things I like and dislike about both parties. I strongly believe that few things in life are all black and white. I believe much of life is grey. I feel politics should be based more on supporting policies and not parties.

I would like to endorse Michelle Murphy (Shelly) as Killingly Town Councillor at Large. I have lived in Killingly for 11 years. My friend Shelly is running for Killingly Town Councilor at Large.

I will vote for Shelly not only because she is my friend, but because she is passionate and capable in everything she does. I believe in her.

I met Shelly after the loss of her brother several years ago. Shelly and her brother share many wonderful and kindhearted qualities; both extremely hard workers that would give you the shirt off their backs and the last dollar in their pocket without ever looking for anything in return. Knowing the Murphys has been a blessing in my life.

Putnam’s future will be safe in Dave Coderre’s hands

To the Editor:

My name is Judy Rovero, and for many years, I was proud to stand by my late husband, Danny Rovero, as he served the Town of Putnam as Mayor. Danny dedicated his life to our town, always looking for ways to move our community forward. He was a lifelong Democrat, and he believed deeply in the values of our party.

But Danny also believed that good ideas and strong leadership transcend party lines. That is why I want to speak to you today about a man my husband respected and mentored: Dave Coderre.

Danny and Dave worked together for years. They did not always agree on every issue, but Danny saw in Dave a dedicated, forward-thinking leader with a true passion for our town’s future. He trusted Dave’s judgement

on the Hunter Biden laptop story.

Most non-biased people realized Joe Biden was not all there. Yet some we ready to give him another four years as long as that kept Trump out of office. We now know Biden had a a note card reminding him who Hillary Clinton was. When inflation hit 9 percent in 2022, the Biden apologists said “It is a world-wide issue - nothing Biden can do.” On the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, “Biden didn’t start those wars - what can he do?” And sadly, as Biden opened the border and let in 10 million illegals, the response was “The border is secure” and then “Only Congress can close the border.” Trump did what they said could not be done. That is leadership.

When Trump announced his tariffs, we were told it would cause high inflation and even a recession. Someone here declared our allies would not stand by the US in light of the tariffs. How wrong was that? Trump has used trade policy to end wars - Israel and Iran; Pakistan and India, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo; Thailand and Cambodia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. He is still working on Gaza and Ukraine but I am confident he will end those as well. Despite resistance he is also going to make Portland and Chicago safe as well. Someone said he would not go into a red state. Well, he sent troops to Memphis. That is leadership. It is nice to have a real President running the White House instead of an auto-pen.

TIM PIETTE
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Shelly contributes so much of herself to the things she believes in. Whether it is her community, her church, her job, the people she is close to, strangers and stray animals alike. She is selfless in her efforts to help in any way she possibly can. She has this passion, because she has had to work so hard to get where she is in life, overcoming several obstacles and hardships.

Shelly is one of the most authentic people I have ever met. She wins people over simply by being her true self. Knowing Shelly as I do, I believe she can offer support and knowledge that will aid our community to maintain all that is good, and help make the things that are working well, work even better. She has strong convictions, yet she is fair and able to listen and view situations from all different perspectives. She isn’t running for office to impress anybody. She is running because she wants to help the community. I know that Shelly will do what is ethically and morally correct, regardless of the situation. I know she will be an asset to the community, in the same way that she is an asset and a dear friend to me. This is why I endorse Michelle Murphy (Shelly) for Killingly Town Council at Large.

LORI BOURGAULT
DAYVILLE

and admired his ability to get things done for the community. Danny often spoke of Dave’s vision and his commitment to building a better Putnam for all of us.

I know in my heart that if Danny were here today, he would be endorsing Dave Coderre for Mayor. He would recognize that Dave has the same selfless dedication and commitment to moving Putnam forward that he did.

Today, I am proud to give my personal endorsement to Dave Coderre. He has the experience, the vision and the passion to lead our town. I ask you to join me in supporting him and ensuring that Putnam’s future is in the best of hands.

Sincerely,

JUDY ROVERO
DAYVILLE

When does political spin become misrepresentation?

To the Editor:

When does political spin turn into outright misrepresentation of facts? In a recent communication to voters, a Killingly BOE Republican member claimed that bullying has increased since “the Democrats took over.” That’s a serious charge — but also a false one. It’s a typical anti-public school scare tactic from a faction that doesn’t support quality public education.

Survey data from both students and teachers comparing 2022 to 2025 show no rise in bullying. In fact, the results point to stable improved perceptions of safety and respect in our schools. Facts, it seems, are stubborn things.

Let’s also clear up the “Democrats took over” myth. The current Killingly Board of Education has five Republicans, three Democrats, and one unaffiliated member. The working majority is actually a bipartisan coalition — one Republican, one unaffiliated, and three Democrats — who have been trying to focus on real educational priorities rather than national culture-war distractions.

That coalition deserves our continued support. They’ve shown that cooperation, not confrontation, gets things done. By backing Susan Lannon,

Misty Murdock, Nelson King, and Kyle Provencher, Killingly voters can help keep the focus where it belongs — on students, teachers, and the quality of education in our town, not on political grandstanding.

Our schools deserve leaders who care more about students than slogans — and who remember that local education should be about learning, not ideology.

DAVID SMITH
DANIELSON

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.

Are term limits really the solution?

To the Editor:

As I read Mr. Ed DeLuca’s letter in the Villager on Oct. 3, I was very impressed with his first two paragraphs.

We all complain about our members of Congress, yet we keep re-electing them again and again. Mr. DeLuca calls for term limits as the best solution, but is it? There were no constitutional term limits on the president until the 22nd amendment was ratified on Feb. 27, 1951. It was the Republican Party in Congress that pushed for this amendment after Franklyn Delano Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, a term that he never got to complete due to his death in office on April 12, 1945. His Vice President, Harry Truman, assumed the role of President, and then went on to win reelection in 1948. The recently ratified 22nd Amendment prevented him from running again in 1952. So for 20 years, the people chose to keep the Roosevelt/Truman administrations. The Republican Party took that power away from the people in 1951, because they did not want the people to be able to keep electing the president of their choosing. Of course, in ratifying the 22nd, they did not include term limits for members of Congress, because that would be like shooting themselves in the foot.

So, why did we end up with 20 years of the same administration? Well, among other things, Roosevelt got us through the great depression, gave us Social Security, and after Dec. 7, 1941, when the Japanese bombed our Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, laid the framework to end both the war in the South Pacific, and the war in Europe. The people did not wish to change ships, they were happy.

Many of us today want to see term limits imposed on members of Congress. But what we all forget is that the most powerful term limit of all rests in the hands of the American Voter. Every two years we have the power to fire the entire House of Representatives and 1/3 of the Senate. We choose not to. Do we really want to take that choice away from the voters? Mr. DeLuca does. To implement term limits, is to remove the choice of the people to elect their own representatives. If the majority of the people want that, they can push for an amendment to the constitution.

I would propose a different solution. First, there should be no pensions for elected officials, except the President. They can only have Social Security

and a personal retirement plan, similar to a 401K. They can only contribute to mutual funds, and cannot purchase any individual stocks or bonds while in office. Their health care plan ends with the end of their service. They cannot work as lobbyists until they have been out of office for 12 years. This removes many incentives to remain in office for more than two or three terms. Then, any incumbent protections, like access to ballots, must be removed. We do not have a democracy when we only have two choices. Then, if they wish to continue to serve, and the people want them, then, like now, we end up with the government we deserve.

But the irony in Mr. DeLuca’s letter is, he does not mention the push by Republican members of Congress to work around the 22nd Amendment in order to allow Donald Trump to run for a third term, but would ban Barack Obama from doing the same. Much like in 1951, they want the game rigged in their favor.

In Mr. DeLuca’s third paragraph, he reverts back to the person I’m used to reading. He displays some faulty memory, or he only listened to a single news source. There were many people, both in congress, and on broadcast media that complained about the mass deportations in the Clinton and Obama administrations, and not all from right wing sources, but NPR and prominent democrats. But another major difference is that Clinton and Obama did not send masked marauders into cities, elementary schools, and churches. They did not split up families. They did not attempt to violate the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. They did not deport people to countries other than their country of origin. They targeted specific individuals, using a scalpel, rather than a cluster bomb to root out actual criminal aliens. They did not just go after people with dark tans who spoke Spanish. There is a clear difference between the two methodologies.

DAVE CLARK
THOMPSON

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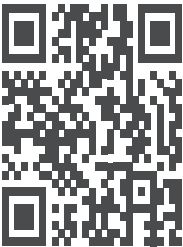
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CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley welcomes Dr. Mary Ellen Jukoski as new Campus President

DANIELSON — CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley is pleased to introduce Dr. Mary Ellen Jukoski as its new Campus President. A highly respected leader in higher education, Dr. Jukoski brings a deep commitment to student success, academic excellence, and community engagement.

Dr. Jukoski served for 20 years as President of Mitchell College in New London. In 2014, she was appointed President of Three Rivers Community College, where she champions student-centered initiatives and academic innovation. Under the new CT State Community College structure, she will now lead both the Quinebaug Valley and

Three Rivers campuses, helping to deliver high-quality, accessible education that aligns with regional workforce and community needs.

Dr. Jukoski holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in English and education from the College of St. Rose in Albany, N.Y. She also earned a master's degree in curriculum planning and development from SUNY Albany, and a doctorate in higher education curriculum and instruction from the University of Memphis.

Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Jukoski has received numerous accolades, including a W.K. Kellogg Foundation National Leadership Fellowship, the William Crawford Award, the Connecticut Women in Higher Education Leadership Award, and the Greater New London NAACP Education Award. Most recently, in 2025, she was honored with the CT State Three Rivers Campus Student Government Legacy Award, recognizing her exceptional service and enduring impact on students.

A passionate advocate for community and economic development, President Jukoski has served on the boards of several organizations, including the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board, Southeastern Connecticut United Way, Otis Library, The Williams School, Yale-Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, and the Chamber of Commerce of Southeastern



Connecticut.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with dedicated faculty, staff and students at the Quinebaug Valley campus," Jukoski said. "Creating synergies between the Quinebaug Valley and Three Rivers campuses will enhance both institutions. I look forward getting to know the people, businesses, and organizations in northeast Connecticut who support the mission of CT State Community College."

President Jukoski's student-centered approach aligns with CT State Quinebaug Valley's mission to provide accessible, high-quality education that meets the needs of the region. Quinebaug Valley will benefit from our new President's expertise and the energy she brings to campus.

Please join us in welcoming President Jukoski to CT State Quinebaug Valley!

Quinebaug Middle College Magnet High School student named National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student



August (gus) Holdridge, a senior at EASTCONN's Quinebaug Middle College Magnet High School, with his Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation

DANIELSON — A student from Quinebaug Middle College Magnet High School has been recognized as a National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student.

August (Gus) Holdridge, a senior from Taftville, earned this distinguished honor based on his outstanding 2024 PSAT/NMSQT performance, joining just 34,000 students nationwide and only 709 students in Connecticut to receive this recognition. A Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, has been presented to Gus by QMC Principal Edward Keleher.

"We are incredibly proud of Gus for earning this prestigious recognition as a National Merit Commended Student," says Keleher. "This achievement is a testament to both his academic dedication and the rigorous, college-level curriculum that defines the QMC experience. Gus exemplifies the kind of scholarly excellence our magnet program is designed to foster. Congratulations to Gus and his family on this well-deserved honor."

According to the NMSC, Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success. Recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is

vital to the advancement of educational excellence in the nation.

About Quinebaug Middle College Magnet High School: Quinebaug Middle College is a magnet high school that provides students with an innovative educational experience combining high school and college coursework through partnerships with CT State Community College - Quinebaug Valley. Learn more at www.eastconn.org/qmc.

EASTCONN is a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center that has been serving the education needs of northeastern Connecticut's schools and communities since 1980. Learn more at www.eastconn.org.

Local student shines on runway at New York Fashion Week



WEBSTER — Carter Meehan, a fifth-grade student at St. James School, is already turning heads in the entertainment world. The young actor and model recently took the spotlight at New York Fashion Week, walking the runway in the Rookie USA "RookieKids Runway on Broadway" fashion show.

Meehan was selected to model for the debut of 3Brand, the clothing line founded by NFL quarterback Russell Wilson and recording artist Ciara. The exclusive,

invite-only event drew a star-studded audience, including Wilson and Ciara themselves, along with celebrities such as Busta Rhymes, Ice-T and Coco Austin, Lil' Kim, Josh Hart, Adrienne Bailon, JWOWW, and Dascha Polanco.

This isn't Meehan's first time in the spotlight. He has already built an impressive résumé in television, film, and commercials. His work includes the role of Kyle in Season 14 of "Blue Bloods," as well as appearances in "Dexter: New Blood," "Evil Lives Here," and the holiday movie "A Royal Christmas Holiday." His commercial portfolio includes campaigns for Nerf, L.L. Bean, and Transformers.

Next up, Meehan will appear as Danny in the upcoming holiday film "A Royal Christmas Tail," set to premiere this December on the Great American Family Channel.

With his growing list of credits and high-profile appearances, Carter Meehan is quickly becoming a young talent to watch.

Greater Putnam Interfaith Council holds International Peace Day celebration



Peace Day participants Rev. Yana Cruz-Pagan, Jim Stahr, Sr. Michele Bisailon, Marge Guerin, Sr. Bonnie Morrow, Diane Cooney, Rev. Ross Johnson, Pam Rosenlund, Cheryl Kapelner Champ stand in front of the Peaced Pole.

PUTNAM — The Greater Putnam Interfaith Council and community members recently gathered at the Living Faith United Methodist Church to celebrate International Peace Day.

A GPIC tradition for more than 20 years, the program featured members of various faith groups offering prayers, readings and music.

This year the GPIC Peace Pole was transferred from its most recent location with the Daughters of the Holy Spirit to the Methodist Church. Made by GPIC member Steve Champ, the pole has the words "May Peace Prevail On Earth" in eight languages representing local nationalities. Through the years it has been place in various locations.

The program ended

with the singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth," followed by refreshments and fellowship.

International Peace Day was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, it was unanimously voted to designate it as a period of non-violence and ceasefire. This year's theme is "Act Now for a Peaceful World."



Courtesy

PUTNAM HISTORY MAKERS

The Aspinock Historical Society and the Putnam Rec department along with the Putnam History Makers committee are celebrating a diverse group of history makers both living or deceased, whose efforts have significantly benefited the Putnam area, directly or indirectly, done in the spotlight or quietly behind the scenes. "Putnam is built on the contributions of remarkable people," said committee member Mike Bogdanski. "This is an opportunity to formally recognize the honorable service and positive impact that has shaped our town's character and future. We encourage everyone to think about the people, past and present, who have truly made a difference. This prestigious awards ceremony will be held at the Putnam Elks club on Dec. 11. Doors open at 5 p.m. Appetizers and music will be provided free but please register thru the Putnam rec department 860.963-6811. Pictured, left to right, are Willie Bousquet, Mike Bogdanski, John Miller, and Emily Barnes (James Frost not shown).

Neighbors helping neighbors in Pomfret



POMFRET — For the past five years, the Pomfret Proprietors Association has organized and promoted a food drive every first Saturday at the Pomfret Community Center. This food drive supports the Pomfret Community Market, a food pantry run by TEEG at our community center. TEEG feeds about 45 families each month from the Pomfret Market. The PPA wishes to recognize and thank the people who donated food and money and the volunteers who donated their time and thoughtfulness to staff this effort for 2025.

From January to October, more than 2,500 pounds of food and almost

\$800 was donated for the year so far. Your efforts do make a difference in the lives of your neighbors in need. If you'd like to donate food or money to this monthly effort, please stop by Pomfret Community Center (207 Mashamoquet Rd.) every first Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. Volunteers with greet you in the parking lot.

- ~ January- 441.5 pounds and \$170 - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
- ~ February- 292.9 pounds - Pomfret School Girls JV Squash Team
- ~ March- 301.2 pounds - Pomfret School Pomfret Happiness Project
- ~ April- 296.4 pounds - Pomfret Recreation Department
- ~ May- 103 pounds - Pomfret Lions Club
- ~ June- 401.6 pounds and \$245- Pomfret Democratic Town Committee
- ~ July- 238.2 pounds - Pomfret School, Patrick Woods Scholars
- ~ August - 226 pounds - Weiss, Hale, and Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors
- ~ September - 21 pounds and \$45 - The Abington Social Library Board
- ~ October - 187.50 pounds and \$330 - Christ Church Outreach Committee
- ~ November - Rectory School Community Service Club (total not available yet)
- ~ December - Vanilla Bean & QC NEMBA (total not available yet)

With Thanksgiving approaching, specific needs include instant mashed potatoes, canned corn/peas/green beans, cranberry sauce, canned gravy, rolls, stuffing, pies, and large-sized beverages. They can always use Toiletries, paper products, and cleaning supplies. They do not need clothing.

Another helpful neighbor is The Pomfret School. Their curriculum offers a course called The History of Food Insecurity. One of the outcomes for the course is the opportunity for students to plan for and pack bags of food that are delivered to 20 Pomfret Community School families each weekend. These "Pomfret Power Packs" have been supported financially by the Pomfret Proprietors over the years with donations from Town Wide Tag Sale profits.

If you are interested in providing non-perishables specifically for Pomfret Power Packs, please consider donating 24 of the same item. These include pasta, cereal, pasta sauce, fruit snacks, granola bars, pudding packs, oranges, carrots, peanut butter, jelly, or canned protein. Please reach out to Louisa Jones to coordinate drop-off of these food items at Pomfret School.

For more information about the Pomfret Proprietors Association, see VisitPomfret.com. To learn about the Pomfret Community Market, visit <https://www.pomfretct.gov/home/pages/food-pantry>.

Donahue Industries pledges \$10,000 to Northeast CT Education Foundation in support of Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center Fund



Director of the AMTC Steve LaPointe, Donahue Industries President Kyle Wojcik, CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley Director of Institutional Advancement Monique Wolanin, Donahue Industries VP of Operations Joe Draleau, and Donahue Industries team members Scott Macleod & Jennifer Rudzinski.

REGION — On Tuesday, Sept. 16, members of Donahue Industries visited the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC) at CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley. They presented a check to the Northeast CT Education Foundation (NCEF) for the AMTC Fund which supports AMTC students and the program at Quinebaug Valley.

The story of how this donation came to pass is an excellent example of how this region thrives through collaboration and connectivity. After initially learning about

Donahue Industries through an ad on WINY Radio, AMTC Director Steve LaPointe contacted the company's President Kyle Wojcik and VP of Operations Joe Draleau to invite them for a tour of the Center. Both were impressed with the facility and the programs offered.

Donahue Industries President Kyle Wojcik commented on what a valuable resource the AMTC is to his business and other manufacturers, noting, "When we first visited the AMTC at Quinebaug Valley, we were blown away by how amazing the facility is,

how professionally it is run, and the fundamental skills that students learn during their training. Knowing that an employee came from the AMTC instills the confidence that we are getting the best candidate for the job, someone who is prepared and professional." AMTC Director Steve LaPointe noted the importance of partnerships between the college and local manufacturers, "Connecting the students we serve with our business and industry partners is crucial to growing the pipeline of skilled employees to benefit our community."

The mission of the Northeast CT Education Foundation is to provide scholarships and other financial support to residents of Northeast Connecticut who want to pursue higher education. To learn more about the NCEF, visit www.necteducationfoundation.org. For more information on how to support local students at CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley, please contact Director of Institutional Advancement Monique C.K. Wolanin at (860) 932-4174 or monique.wolanin@ctstate.edu.

Pet Pals to hold low cost rabies clinic

DANIELSON — Pet Pals Northeast, a local animal welfare organization, is holding a low cost rabies clinic at the Quinebaug Valley Veterinary Hospital, Rt 12, Danielson/Plainfield town line on Oct. 18 from 2 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$15 cash per animal. Pre-registration and appointment is required. No walk-ins, please.

For information, registration and appointment, contact Pet Pals at 860-317-1720. This is the last clinic until April.

POSITIVELY

continued from page A4

The message was clear: the United States would not just send ships; it would send men, cross deserts, storm walls, and bleed on foreign ground to defend its people and principles.

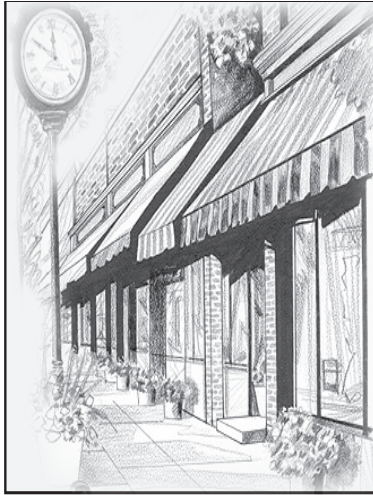
This October 13th marks the 250th anniversary of the United States Navy—born in uncertainty, and defined by resolve. From the shores of Tripoli to every ocean since, the US Navy, along with the US Marine Corps and the entire American

military, has stood as a shield for freedom and a symbol of courage. To all who have served and continue to serve: Thank You.

Today, we face new adversaries—One nation with a fleet much larger than our own. Once again, we may be outnumbered, but we will never be out-matched.

Like Eaton before us, we'll rise to meet the challenge. May God bless the USA!

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



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Everyone has a story worth listening to

To the Editor:

So often now, we hear how “divided” and “polarized” our population is over political differences or candidates or office-holders. Now that we are moving up toward local elections, it has been refreshing in my town of Thompson to notice that, so far, the candidates have treated each other with respect and friendliness on a personal level, while still articulating where their positions might differ. I hope that continues until election day and beyond. It might become a model for the future, as more and more voters realize the truth of what my Uncle Arthur Terwilliger said during my growing-up years: “We can disagree without being disagreeable.” I am so grateful that the adults around us never allowed their differing opinions or values to descend to the levels we are now subject to daily, especially on the federal level.

How to explain to young people who are just now learning about voting and politics that polarization and division not only are not necessary to govern competently, but that it is actually harmful to our nation to have its political leadership label and politicize everything? So, what has been politicized? The COVID pandemic; opinions of singers, artists and authors; whether or not women and people targeted by racism are worth as much as white men; gun ownership; immunization for infants; curricula in schools and colleges; immigration law and policy; how the military and National Guard should be used; sports teams; the brand of car you drive; and other opinions or supposed indications of whether you are Right or Left.

There are actually people who have assumed they know that I am a “deranged leftist” because one opinion I have posted online or maybe in one of these letters to the Editor lines up with their idea of what all leftists are like. In reality, I have found that most of us are much more complex than that, and that our beliefs are much more likely based upon our personal experience than on whether or not we agree with a political figure or party. Life is not as simple as black or white and nothing in between.

So, how do you find out what people truly believe or support? It is simple, but all too often lost in the chaos of talking over each other, walking away from people around whom you feel uncomfortable, taking offense at careless or ill-thought-out wording, or conversations that are loaded down with feelings. Another quote from Uncle Arthur: “The good Lord gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason.” Listening

to each other can make all the difference in defusing polarization. I don’t mean just not talking while someone else is speaking. I mean truly listening and not reactively composing your responses or arguments while another person tells you their experience or opinions.

This can be very hard to do: give your full attention to someone who is spouting ideas that you cannot abide or who is in the throes of anger, frustration or confusion. To truly show interest in what that person has to say and let them complete their thoughts, even to offer encouragement like: «and how did that experience affect you?» «what kind of help do you need with that?» «tell me more about what that meant to you.” or “I’m really glad that you can tell me what your experience has been.” We really can learn so much from one another by listening. And I have found that very often, when the person is finished talking to an interested listener, you may then be asked what your own experience or opinion is. You know, like a respectful, human conversation where people can actually connect with each other.

I think it is possible for each of us to decide what our own standards are for interactions with both strangers and with people we know have opinions or beliefs that do not line up with our own. And if those beliefs involve feelings of superiority or justification for cruelty to other people, I have found that it usually means there is something frightening or confusing, misunderstood or just plain ugly in that person’s past experience. Words are not the same as actions. Words have power, but only if we allow them to. If someone hurts my feelings, I could just tell myself that the person is having a bad day and I look like a safe target. These are all difficulties that we encounter in human relationships. Because we are all human and no one is perfect. (Except my mother, of course. Oh, and maybe Uncle Arthur.) But I think that it is worth it to try and figure out how to peacefully and respectfully interact and talk with each other even though media reports surround us with invective, trash-talk and blatant attempts to divide us for the benefit of someone who does not care what happens to us.

Suppose we all decided to just get along with each other because we have much more in common than not? That everyone has a story worth listening to? Agreement is not a requirement. Maybe worth a try.

Respectfully,
CLAUDIA TERWILLIGER ALLEN
THOMPSON

Your support for our schools is appreciated

To the Editor:

On behalf of Woodstock Public Schools, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the community for its ongoing support of our schools. As your new Superintendent, it is both my duty and privilege to communicate openly and frequently with all Woodstock stakeholders and community members.

It is essential that every resident, whether you have students in our schools or not, receives regular updates on the direction, progress, and priorities of Woodstock Public Schools. To that end, I invite all community members to sign up for district communication using the Woodstock Town Hall site: <https://www.woodstockct.gov/subscribe>. Enter your email. Then click in the Board of Education box under News or Announcements. This will help taxpayers and residents stay informed about important events, school news, and opportunities for involvement.

One such opportunity is the development of a new district vision. The voices of our entire community will help shape this vision. I hope you will participate in this process, and I look forward to meeting with you. Let’s find a time to connect! Whether you’re a parent, grandparent, alumnus, business owner, elected official, or concerned citizen, your input is extremely valuable, and I want to hear from you. I believe that, together, we can truly reach our full potential.

As we strive for exceptional educational results, I recognize that increased budgets must be paired with greater accountability and transparency. As a district, we are committed to ensuring that every dollar spent yields strong academic outcomes and is managed in a responsible manner. This requires clear expectations and open communication. We need to share the WPS story, highlighting and celebrating successes while acknowledging areas where we may have fallen short. Trust, honesty, and transparency form the foundation of this relationship, with a genuine commitment to working together in the best interest of our students and

community. I believe that a broader perspective on school finance, including how highly successful school systems operate and their associated costs can help illuminate the district’s needs and the expenses involved. We should avoid blame and focus on data and needs. My role is not only to ask but also to clearly explain our requests and connect budget needs to a vision, a goal, and a necessity. Therefore, I am committed to working with our Board of Education to develop a strategic plan that aligns with our vision and shared goals, guiding our district’s budget decisions. I believe this demonstrates transparency and responsible stewardship.

In my brief time here, I have been thoroughly impressed with every member of the WPS staff I have met, and I am confident that our collaborative approach will bring significant benefits and foster pride within our community. At its core, a high-quality education should create opportunities and empower all students to reach their hopes and dreams. When the school district has clear direction and vision, this roadmap for success will inspire confidence and build a partnership where our school’s success and our community’s success are closely connected. We have an amazing staff, incredible students and families, an outstanding Board of Education, and Boards of Finance and Selectmen that care deeply and work collaboratively to support our Woodstock community. Together, we can make this happen!

I believe that collaboration, active listening, and building trust through clear, honest, and multidirectional communication are essential. Thank you again for supporting Woodstock’s students and schools. I hope you will continue to partner with us as we take the next step toward a new level of excellence in our district. Thank you for the privilege of serving as Superintendent of Woodstock Public Schools. I look forward to working with you!

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Roche
Superintendent
Woodstock Public Schools

With my own eyes

I grew up in a family that was very active in church. As a toddler, I heard the Bible stories. Preachers and Missionaries routinely shared stories that built my faith. Whenever someone in our family got sick, we prayed for healing. I was blessed to grow up as a believer. I had no doubt that God could heal. Before I ventured into high school and college where people began to express unbelief, I thought it was normal to believe that God healed. I personally witnessed many healings.

One of the most dramatic healings I saw with my own eyes as a teen, happened on a Sunday night at our church. A teenager that my family routinely picked up for church came to church that night with a cast on his ankle. I don’t remember if he had broken or fractured it, but it was in a hard cast, and he hobbled into church on crutches that night. We had a powerful move of God during the service and his faith was inspired. He began to ask God to heal his foot. Eventually he was so confident that God had heard his prayer that he removed is cast and tenderly put his foot down. Realizing that God had done the healing he had prayed for, he began walking and then dancing in the altar area. When we took him home that night, he was not using his crutches.

But I also had a very different



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

experience in those growing up years. When I was eight, something happened that jarred my young faith. I had a friend who was very close to my age who attended our church. His name was Mitch and he had diabetes. Mitch had some diabetic complications and became sick. I remember being told he was very sick. So, when we visited his home, I was not allowed into his room. But I heard my parents and his as they gathered around his bed and began calling out to God for a miracle. I expected their prayers to be answered, but a few days later my mother told me that Mitch had died. That was a lot to process.

So, which is it? “Does God heal, or doesn’t He?” “Why should we pray for healing?” Those are fair questions. Here are a few truths that I keep in mind when I am trying to understand this topic:

God wants to heal and told us to pray for healing. If we never pray, no one ever gets healed.

Believers are not naive. We are not supposed to hide our head in the sand and pretend God will make everything turn out

smooth. Believers should not create a false narrative in order to protect our faith. We should not make up stories of healings that don’t really happen. We don’t have to make excuses for God. If he chooses not to heal, he is still God.

The truth is that God heals. The Bible tells us that we are healed by His stripes and we are encouraged to ask for healing. Physical healing was a huge part of Jesus and the Disciples’ ministries. There are many scriptures that bear that out. Here are two:

Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. – Matthew 14:14

They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed. – Matthew 14:36

The Bible makes it clear that God is the one who decides whether or not we are healed. It also teaches that sickness and death are not the worst things that can happen to someone. But it clearly demonstrates that God is a healer, and that it never hurts to ask. I’ve seen it happen many times with my own eyes!

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

Executives: How the Big Beautiful Bill Act affects your compensation and financial planning

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBGBA) has introduced some of the most meaningful changes to executive financial planning in years. For high earners, it brings larger tax savings, new opportunities for equity and benefits planning, and—perhaps most importantly—long-term stability in the tax code. Here’s a closer look at what this all means for executives and their financial strategies.

Bigger tax savings for executives

One of the most immediate benefits is the expansion of the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction. The cap has jumped from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for households earning under \$500,000. In high-tax states like Connecticut, New York, and California, that can translate into \$7,500 to \$12,000 in annual savings. For many executives, this reduces effective tax rates by two to three percentage points—a meaningful bump in take-home pay.

OBGBA also makes permanent several provisions from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, including lower marginal tax rates for high earners and the 20% deduction for qualified business income. Together, these changes provide a predictable tax environment that executives can plan around for the long haul.

Equity and deferred compensation opportunities

That stability is especially important when it comes to stock options, restricted stock units, and deferred compensation. With tax rates now locked in, executives can confidently design long-term strategies for exercising options, diversifying concentrated stock positions, or scheduling distributions from nonqualified deferred compensation plans. Extra cash flow from the SALT deduction makes it easier to fund these strategies without straining liquidity.

More room for benefits and perks

While OBGBA doesn’t directly change the rules for Health Savings Accounts, the additional cash flow it generates makes maxing them out far more achievable. HSAs continue to be one of the most powerful tools available, combining

upfront deductions with tax-free growth and withdrawals for medical expenses. The rising cost of healthcare also makes executive wellness benefits—such as physicals and comprehensive programs—more valuable. And with more cash available to contribute, flexible spending accounts can play a bigger role too, with less worry about the “use it or lose it” rules.

Estate and succession planning

For wealth transfer, OBGBA’s combination of stable tax rates and higher after-tax cash flow opens new doors. Executives can pursue more consistent annual gifting programs, leverage grantor trust structures with greater confidence, and strengthen charitable giving strategies.

Those with business ownership or side ventures should also pay attention to how the Act affects succession planning. Buy-sell agreement funding, insurance strategies, and business valuations may all shift in light of the new environment.

Putting extra cash to work

For many executives, the expanded SALT deduction alone frees up thousands of dollars a year. That money can be put to work in a number of ways: maxing out retirement contributions, building stronger emergency reserves, upgrading insurance coverage, or accelerating debt repayment. The key is to deploy it strategically, rather than letting it disappear into everyday spending.

Geography also plays a role. By making high-tax states more financially competitive, OBGBA may influence career mobility, retention decisions, and even real estate planning.

Next steps

For immediate impact, executives should consider adjusting payroll withholding to capture SALT benefits throughout the year, rather than waiting for a refund. Reviewing compensation packages for restructuring opportunities is also smart. Looking further ahead, the certainty OBGBA provides makes it possible to build

FINANCIAL FOCUS
• • • • •
JONATHAN MATTHEWS

more robust multi-year financial plans—whether that’s for retirement, education funding, business expansion, or charitable goals.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act gives executives a unique opportunity: more cash flow, lower effective tax rates, and greater certainty for the future. By weaving these changes into your tax, compensation, and long-term financial strategy, you can position yourself for some of the strongest wealth-building years of your career.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we’re experienced in executive financial planning that optimizes complex compensation packages and navigates evolving tax legislation. Our “Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™” process helps to ensure you capture every available opportunity while maintaining focus on your long-term financial objectives. Contact us for a complimentary consultation at whzwealth.com or call (860) 928-2341 to learn how we can help you turn these legislative changes into strategic advantages for your financial future.

Authored by WHZ Associate Vice President, Wealth Advisor Jonathan Mathews. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. Investments are subject to risk, including the loss of principal. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

Northeastern CT baseball notables

Mark Your Calendars: Saturday, Nov. 1 at 1:30 p.m. the Killingly Historical Society will present “The Web They Wove”; Women and their Wardrobes during New England’s Revolution by Dirty Blue Shirts. There will be a short business meeting at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome. 196 Main St., Danielson, CT 06239.

Abolition and Underground Railroad in Northeastern Connecticut. Saturday, Oct. 11, 1-2:30p.m. Putnam Public Library. Margaret Weaver, Killingly Municipal Historian and author of Perspectives of Putnam will do a PowerPoint presentation that covers people and sites from Canterbury to Woodstock. Special focus on Putnam’s Asa Cutler and Killingly’s Henry Hammond. There will be time for discussion. This is Walktober event #129.

Following the above presentation, on Saturday, Oct. 11 at about 2:45 p.m., Putnam’s Municipal Historian Bill Pearsall will do a companion walk pointing out several houses and sites which were used by the underground railroad in Putnam. This is Walktober walk # 134.

The Killingly Conservation Commission will sponsor a walk at Cat Hollow Park, 25 Cat Hollow Road, Killingly (enter off Dog Hill Road) on Sunday, Oct. 12 from 1-3 p.m. View

the 35 foot high waterfall and bubbling Whetstone Brook. Learn about mill history and unique plantings in the park. Easy, handicapped accessible, about 1 mi. Those who wish a longer hike can cross the bridge to moderately rough woodland. This is Walktober walk #138.

Dennis Landis will present a walk/talk entitled Social Ferment and the Old Meeting House at the 1771 Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 7 Canterbury Rd., Brooklyn, from 3-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12. Learn about religious crises and impassioned social movements. Subjects include Israel Putnam, Josiah Whitney, Rev. Samuel J. May, Bronson Alcott, and Celia Burleigh. Find the Unitarian Universalist Society on Facebook. This is Walktober walk # 140.

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.

Support one of Killingly’s Historic Properties. Killingly Grange #112, 801 Hartford Turnpike,

Dayville, will sponsor a Turkey Dinner with fixings on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. \$17. (\$1 discount if you bring an item for the food pantry). Roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, butternut squash, cranberry sauce, rolls, slice of pie. Dine in or take out.

Whole Apple or Pumpkin Pies \$16 each. To reserve a dinner, call Terry at 860-884-1813 or Penny at 860-230-7367, or visit them at www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/The Grange is collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantry.

Take me out to the ball game. I’m a big Red Sox fan but grew up in Pennsylvania rooting for the Phillies so now that the Red Sox are out, I guess I’ll root for them. The Killingly Historical Society has a photo of the 1906 Killingly High School baseball team. Perhaps one of the players was your relative: Warren A. Tanner, pitcher; Robert T. Burns, first base; Roy Keech, shortstop; Sidney P. Marland, right field; Henry A. Marlor, center field; Ray C. Smith, right field; ---Kenyon, second base; Charles H. Byles, catcher; Frederick H. Lawton, 3rd

base; Wallace M. Paine, center field; Willl Bailey, left field; Frank Gartland, right field; M. Marlor, left field.

Did you know that there was a Major League umpire who came from Danielson, Connecticut? If the name Frank Dascoli comes to mind, you are right. He umpired at a time when the National and American Leagues each had their own umpires (no interleague play). His first National League game was on July 4, 1948, and his final game was on Aug. 9, 1961. He umpired 2,056 major league games, three World Series, and two All Star games. Dascoli was born Dec. 26, 1913 in Canterbury, Connecticut, lived in Danielson, died Aug. 11, 1990 and was interred in Holy Cross Cemetery in Danielson. He was a 1931 graduate of Killingly High School and was inducted into the Killingly High School Alumni Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 2015. (https://www.baseball-almanac.com/players/umpire.php?p=-dascofr88; findagrave).

Two major league baseball players also had connections to Killingly High School: Roger LaFrancois and Bruce Boisclair. Roger LaFrancois was born in 1956 in Norwich, and was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in 1977. “LaFrancois was the catcher who

worked all 33 innings of ‘The Longest Game’ for Pawtucket, the first 32 innings played on April 18 (and 19, since it ran until 4:07 a.m.) and resumed on June 23. Pawtucket won, 3-2. LaFrancois was 2-for-8 in the game.” He caught for the Boston Red Sox in 1982. Although his major league career was brief, he continued to play, coach and manage baseball teams. Some may remember when he was at Killingly High School. Roger spoke about his career; ‘After my playing days’ he said, I had a long career in coaching. I took a couple of years off. I did one year of teaching physical education at a high school...He also did some coaching and recruiting work with the Cape Cod League in 1986-87. ‘My first [managing] job was in 1988 with the Montreal Expos, a short-season club in Jamestown, N.Y. We had a heck of a team. I had four or five guys on that team who ended up playing in the big leagues — Marquis Grissom and Wilfredo Cordero. That was my introduction to [managing in] pro ball and I had a pretty good club.’ The team was 49-27... Over the years, he has also been involved in a considerable number of philanthropic and community organizations, helping raise money for the Special Olympics and to help fight ALS, and for 10 years he was a

committee member with the Connecticut Sports Foundation. For nearly 20 years, he was chairman of a fundraising sports auction for Day Kimball Hospital, which raised over \$300,000 for pediatric programs. His primary focus now will likely revolve around a very successful annual event he runs. In 2003, he founded the World Baseball and Softball Coaches Clinics at the Mohegan Sun Resort in Connecticut, which attracts more than 2,000 coaches each year.” For more from this nice write-up read Bill Nowlin’s article at https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/roger-lafrancois/.

Bruce Boisclair was another pro baseball player with Killingly connections. I’ve run out of room to write about him in this column so will continue with him next week.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, October 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/killinglyhistorical-society

New support group offered for friends and family of people living with mental illness

PUTNAM — NAMI Windham County is offering a new, in-person support group for family, partners, and friends of people living with mental illness. This is a peer-led support group for any adult with a loved one who has experienced symptoms of a mental health condition. It is a place to gain support and insight from others who face similar experiences.

This new Family Support Group will be held on the second Monday of each month, beginning Oct. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hale YMCA Teen Center, 9 Technology Park Dr., Putnam.

NAMI Windham County also offers an online Family Support Group, on Zoom, on the last Tuesday of every month. It is also possible to join the second Monday support group at the YMCA via zoom.

NAMI’s support groups are free, confidential, and

led by family members of people with mental health conditions. No specific medical therapy or treatment is endorsed.

By sharing experiences in a safe setting, participants can gain hope and develop supportive relationships. The group allows participants’ voices to be heard and provides an opportunity for empathy, productive discussion and a sense of community. You’ll benefit from other’s experiences, discover your inner strength and empower yourself by sharing your own experiences in a non-judgmental space.

People who have participated in NAMI Family Support Groups have said:

“The most beneficial thing for me was that I am not alone. I found the NAMI Family Support Group at the time I really needed it!”

“Using the [NAMI] support group model is

so essential to the success of our family support groups. As a group, the collective wisdom covered a lot of possibil-

ities.”

“I felt I received constructive, practical and helpful information from group members.”

For more information about these support groups, call 860-821-3543, or email info@namiwindhamct.org.

NAMI Windham County is an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Access hosts free home buying workshop in Willimantic

WILLIMANTIC — Are you an aspiring homeowner? The Access Housing Education and Counseling Center (HECC) invites you to join our Homebuying Process Workshop, presented by Sue Esposito, of the Home Selling Team, on Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 5-6 p.m. at Access Community Action Agency, 1315 Main St., Willimantic.

This exciting workshop is part of our popular “Creating a Pathway to Homeownership” series—now available in Willimantic! Whether you’re just starting to dream about homeownership or you’re ready to take the leap, this workshop will break down the mortgage process in plain language so you can make informed, confident decisions.

Is this workshop for you?

✔ Buying a home is a dream you want to make real

✔ You feel overwhelmed by all the mortgage info out there

✔ You want clear, practical guidance from an expert

Still wondering if it’s worth it? Listen to Carmen, a past participant in the series:

“We’ve learned so much—from understanding the steps to buying a first home, to practical advice on managing debt and saving effectively. My son and I are already putting into practice what we’ve learned and remain hopeful and excited as we continue to move closer to applying and purchasing our first home.”

Seats are limited—don’t miss this free opportunity to get expert advice and take a giant step toward your future.

To register, email Helen Scanlon, Program Manager – HECC, at helen.scanlon@accessagency.org.

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.



Tom Lagasse

POMFRET — Poets at Large will present the Poet Laureate of Bristol, Tom Lagasse, on Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd., Pomfret.

Lagasse, a native of Bristol, was selected to be the town’s poet laureate following his recog-

nition as an Edwin Way Teale Artist in Residence last year, a tribute to his nature poetry. Lagasse’s poetry spans his interests in current events, nature, relationships and baseball. His poem “Open Field” was honored by the National Baseball Poetry Festival in 2024 and his poem “My Mother the Shortstop” won the 2025 E. Ethelbert Miller Prize. Tom writes a monthly “Creativity” column for The Bristol Edition. He currently runs an Open Mic at the Creative Jam Art Co.

Reading with him will be Karen Warinsky, awarded poet and the coordinator of Poets at Large, a group of regional poets who perform

in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Warinsky has published poetry widely since 2011. She is the author of four collections: “Gold in Autumn” (2020) and “Sunrise Ruby” (2022 Human Error Publishing), “Dining with War” (2023 Alien Buddha Press) and “Beauty & Ashes” (Kelsay Books, 2025). Her poem “Mirage” won first place in the 2024 Ekphrastic Poetry Trust, “Little League Moms” was selected as a winner by the National Baseball Poetry Festival in 2024, and she was made a Best of the Net nominee in 2023. Warinsky is also a former finalist of the Montreal International Poetry Contest. Find out

more at:

https://karenwarinskypoeetry.wordpress.com.

Poets at Large is now in its sixth year. PAL and is a part of Windham Arts. All events are ADA compliant. Admission to all Vanilla Bean events is \$15, which includes a raffle. All Poets at Large events are sponsored in part by Linemaster Switch, bankHometown, WHZ Financial Advisors, the Putnam Area Foundation and Charter Oak FCU. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to sign up for the open mic which is recommended for ages 18 and up and has a five-minute max as time allows

Access Community Action Agency offers free employment service workshops in October

WILLIMANTIC — Looking for a job but not sure where to start? Need help building a resume, navigating online employment platforms, or sharpening your interview skills? Access Community Action Agency has you covered! This October, the Access Employment

Services team is hosting a series of free, interactive workshops to help job seekers gain the tools and confidence they need to succeed in today’s competitive job market.

Workshop Dates: •Monday, Oct. 20 •Monday, Oct. 27 Time: 10 – 11 a.m. Location: Willimantic

Public Library, 905 Main St., Willimantic

Participants will learn:

•How to create and update a resume that stands out

•How to upload applications to employment platforms

•Practical tips to ace job interviews

•Guidance on manag-

ing finances while job searching

“These workshops are designed to empower job seekers with the skills and confidence they need to take the next step in their career journey,” said Maria Lolin Rivera, Program Contact.

For more information, call Maria Lolin Rivera at 860-450-7400, ext. 7433. Don’t miss this chance to boost your job search skills—space is limited, so register today!

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.

Historic New England presents annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival at Roseland Cottage

WOODSTOCK — Roseland Cottage holds its Forty-third annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival on Saturday, Oct. 18 and Sunday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The festival is one of the leading juried fine arts and crafts shows in New England, showcasing more than 150 artisans and their wares. Craft lovers are invited to view handcrafted jewelry, glass, photography, pottery, paintings, clothing, metalwork, and much more.

First floor tours of Roseland Cottage will be available. On Sunday, bouquets from Roseland Cottage’s historic garden will be given away. In addition to our historic parterre garden, guests are invited to visit our new native species pollinator garden, where master gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions.

The festival is a wonderful weekend outing to shop, sight-see, and enjoy a fall weekend in the beautiful Quiet Corner of Northeastern Connecticut. Daily activities also include live music, children’s activities, and food concessions.

Admission for adults is \$5. Historic New England members and children under twelve are free. Parking is free. The event is held rain or shine. For more information, call 860-928-4074 or 617-994-5924.

SPORTS

Killingly High School Sports Wrap-Up



Football
Killingly improved to 4-0 (2-0) with a 62-6 win at New London (1-3, 0-1) Friday night in a ECC Division 1 Game. From the opening whistle, Killingly imposed its will. Quarterback Quinn Sumner (#7) orchestrated a high-powered aerial attack, completing 4 of 7 passes for 207 yards

and three touchdowns. His deep connections to Aiden Lamotte (65 yards), Hunter Allard (61 yards), and Payton Wallace (64 yards) set the tone early, propelling the Trailblazers to a 35-6 lead by the end of the first quarter. Hayden Allard rushed for 111 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries

and added 2 Interceptions including a 77-yard interception return for a touchdown. Hunter Allard turned in a sensational all-around performance with a receiving touchdown and a 38-yard interception return for a touchdown. Killingly's defense was relentless, forcing five turnovers and recording

multiple sacks and tackles for loss. Standouts included Kaiden Guertin and Ryan Webster, each with a sack and tackle for a loss, and Joseph Gould, who forced a fumble. The Trailblazers have a bye this week before returning home to face defending Class MM State Champions Masuk High School.

Girls Soccer
Killingly hosted Griswold on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 1, and wasted no time getting on the board—Nina Purcell found the back of the net just seven minutes in, assisted by Adalyn Malarkey. Griswold responded with 16 minutes remaining in the first half, capitalizing on a free kick to even the score. But Killingly wasn't done. With just 20 seconds left before halftime, Malarkey struck again, with the go-ahead goal off a deflection. That score held through the second half, sealing a 2-1 victory for the home team.

The team hosted Lyman Memorial Saturday morning, Oct. 4, and put on an offensive showcase, securing a huge win and improving their record to 7-2-2! The scoring started just four minutes in with Adalyn Malarkey off a beautiful pass from Gracie Pekarovic-West. Gracie then scored her own goal assisted by Nina Purcell, who then netted one herself, assisted by Adalyn! Kezlee Morrarty finished the half's scoring, heading in a corner kick from Gracie. In the second half Ashley Boudreau scored her first goal of the season, Adalyn Malarkey added another from a pass by Layala Raymond, and Kate Crowley stepped up to finish the day with her first varsity goal on a penalty kick! Final Score: Killingly 7, Lyman Memorial 1

Volleyball
The Killingly Volleyball team hosted Ledyard High School on Wednesday, Oct. 1. The New Player record fell to 4-4, losing to Ledyard 0 sets to 2, 17-25, 14-25. The JV record fell to 10-3, losing to Ledyard 0 sets to 2, 25-27, 24-26.

Killingly 0, Ledyard 3
Killingly 9-4
Ledyard 12-1
15-25, 21-25, 11-25
The Varsity record fell to 9-4, losing to Ledyard 0 sets to 30, 15-25, 21-25, 11-25.

The team traveled to New London High School on Saturday, Oct. 4.

The JV record rose to 11-3, defeating New London 2 sets to 0, 25-17, 25-18. Emily Zadora had 3 digs; Evangelina Stockwell had 2 aces, 2 kills; Lillian had 3 assists; Lyla Rondeau had 7 digs, 5 aces, 2 kills; Haille James had 3 kills, 6 assists; Anna Kelly had 3 aces; Ellsie Antobenedetto had 3 aces; and Zoey Edwards had 5 aces, 5 kills to lead Killingly.

Killingly 3, New London 2
Killingly 10-4
New London 6-8
24-26, 25-10, 25-23, 20-25, 15-8

The Varsity record rose to 10-4, defeating New London 3 sets to 2, 24-26, 25-10, 25-23, 20-25, 15-8. Kalyann Dombkowski had 10 assists; Lyla Rondeau had 7 digs, 10 aces, 3 kills, 3 assists; Kayla Drinkwater had 4 digs, 3 aces, 12 kills; Kendall Rosen had 6 kills; Jaliyah Blair had 3 blocks, 4 aces, 3 kills; Shyah Baker had 3 digs, 4 aces, 9 kills, 14 assists; Jayden Durand had 3 digs, 4 aces, 8 kills and Zoey Edwards had 2 kills to lead Killingly.

Killingly was next scheduled to travel to Wheeler High School after this week's press deadline on Wednesday.

The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

Girls Cross-Country
East Lyme 23
Woodstock 37
The Centaurs took first place but the Vikings answered when they took the fifth through eighth spots to guarantee themselves the win on the road at the Woodstock Fairgrounds. Woodstock Academy freshman Emelia Langevin crossed the line first for a second straight time on her home course as she finished in 21 minutes. Anna Konon was 18 seconds behind the winner for the Vikings (4-0, 3-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) with Rachel Quadrato in third. Olivia Tracy snuck into the fourth-place spot for Woodstock Academy (2-2, 2-1) before the Vikings shut the door, taking the next four spots.

Boys Cross Country
East Lyme 21
Woodstock Academy 35
The Vikings left little doubt in this meet at the Woodstock Fairgrounds as Sam Leone, Jack Faitsch and Joey Papalia finished 1-2-3 for the automatic win for East Lyme (5-0, 3-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I). Sam Greene led the Centaurs (3-1, 2-1) with a fourth-place finish and Lucas Hecker was fifth.

Boys Soccer
East Lyme 2
Woodstock Academy 0
The Centaurs hung in against the undefeated Vikings (9-0) in the first half but gave up a pair of second half goals in their only match of the week. East Lyme scored with 23 minutes left in regulation and then added another four minutes later on a penalty kick to provide the winning margin against Woodstock Academy (3-3-3).

Woodstock Academy 1
Coventry 1
The Centaurs (3-3-4) established a one-goal lead when Matt Johndrow scored off a Zach Armbruster assist

just 16 minutes into the contest. But the Patriots tied the match with five minutes left on a penalty kick.

Girls Volleyball
Woodstock Academy 3
Waterford 0
The outside hitters played well both offensively and defensively for the Centaurs (10-4, 5-1 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) who reached double digits in the win column, winning in straight sets 25-23, 25-19, 27-25. Kaylee Bundy had 12 kills and 14 digs while fellow outside hitter Kennedy McCooey added 7 kills and 13 digs. Lily Morgis added 26 assists in the win for the Centaurs over the Lancers (6-5, 1-4).

East Lyme 3
Woodstock Academy 0
EAST LYME – The tables were turned inside the East Lyme gym as the Vikings (13-1, 7-0 ECC Division I) shutout the Centaurs in a Dig Pink match to clinch the Division I regular season title. East Lyme downed Woodstock Academy (10-5, 5-2) in straight sets, 25-12, 25-21, 25-15. Kaylee Bundy led the Centaurs in kills with nine and digs with eight. Kennedy McCooey added eight kills while Lily Morgis had 18 assists and five service points.

Girls Soccer
Stonington 2
Woodstock Academy 0
The Bears improved to 4-2-3 overall and 4-2-1 in Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I play with the shutout victory. Ellary Sampson made seven saves in net in the loss for the Centaurs (1-7-3, 1-3-3).
Woodstock Academy 2
East Lyme 0
The Centaurs picked up a desperately needed victory as they shutout the Vikings in the Terri Brodeur Think Pink match at East Lyme.

Senior Kaylee Saucier scored her first goal of the season for Woodstock Academy (2-7-3, 2-3-3 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) just 11 minutes into the match from outside the 18 off a corner from Avery Danis.

Sophomore Gia Baldyga followed with her second goal of the season with 2 ½ minutes left in the first half off a pass from Harper Simoneau to drop the Vikings to 2-6-3 overall and 2-5-1 in the division.

Woodstock Academy 2
Montville 0
It was a productive night under the lights for the Centaurs who improved to 3-7-3 with their second consecutive win thanks to a pair of second half goals. Freshman Lily

Gregorzek scored with 26 minutes left in regulation off an assist from Avery Danis. Harper Simonau then added a goal with help from Elise Coyle four minutes later to account for the final.

Woodstock Women's Golf League celebrates 32 years with first tournament at Roseland Park



WOODSTOCK — The Tuesday morning Woodstock Women's Golf League has been teeing off together for 32 years, and this season they decided it was time to give back to the course they've called home for so long. To celebrate, the League hosted its very first golf tournament on Sunday, Sept. 28 at the Woodstock Golf Course at Roseland Park.

The weather couldn't have been better as ten teams hit the course in a scramble format. Friendly competition,

lots of laughs, and great golf were the themes of the day.

Taking home 1st Place were John Aitken, Connor Liebscher, Cameron Seiffert, and Clara Siegmund with a fantastic score of 28 that included an Eagle on the 9th Hole. In 2nd Place, Michelle Andrews, Danielle Villella, Chi Vo, and Katie Werth finished strong with a 31, while the 3rd Place Team of Colleen Canty, Lindsey Canty, Moira Christy, and Karen Dion also posted a 31.

There were also special contests along the way: Closest to the Pin on The Ravine Hole #7: Women's – Moira Christy; Men's – Cameron Seiffert
Longest Drive on Long Tom Hole #8: Women's – Colleen Canty; Men's – Connor Liebscher

After the round, golfers gathered in the clubhouse for a light lunch and plenty of storytelling. The afternoon wrapped up with smiles, camaraderie, and a shared appreciation for the course and the League that

has brought family and friends together for over three decades.

The League looks forward to many more years on the fairways at Woodstock Golf Course at Roseland Park and to making this new tournament an annual tradition.

For more information about the Woodstock Women's Golf League, please email Margaret Young at youngmargaret421@gmail.com.

CHIEF
continued from page A1

operations, and fostered the next generation of firefighters. His commitment and dedication have left a lasting impact, and we thank him sincerely for his contributions.”

The Borough Council will begin the search for a permanent Fire Chief following the approval of a new job description at its next meeting on Oct. 15. In the meantime, the Danielson Fire

Department remains fully committed to protecting the community and continuing its tradition of professional service.

The Danielson Fire Department serves the Borough of Danielson and surrounding areas with professional fire protection, rescue services, and community safety programs. The department is dedicated to safeguarding lives and property through teamwork, training, and a strong commitment to the community.

RIDE
continued from page A1

spending two solid hours testing their endurance while a group of roughly 20 bicyclists took to the streets for a 30-mile ride of their own through Putnam. The day also included a youth fun run organized through a partnership with Northeast Opportunities for Wellness.

Hale YMCA Wellness Director Cindy Nowlan explained the Livestrong initiative is a 12-week program for cancer survivors and those currently fighting cancer to put a focus on their health and wellbeing. Many continue their involvement with the YMCA beyond

the course finding a sense of community among their fellow survivors and fighters and the many patrons of the center.

“It’s that connection with other people that are going through the same thing that’s so important,” Nowlan said. “Today we have a lot of our survivors out here riding and volunteering. We have signs up so people can read all of their stories. It is the most fulfilling program we can possibly offer.”

Jennifer Looney, Executive Director of the Hale YMCA, explained that while the Ride for Wellness is very fitness focused, the mission goes well beyond just riding bikes for a cause.

Located in the Town of Killingly, the Borough of Danielson is a historic and close-knit community known for its strong civic spirit and commitment to public service. As the center of commerce and culture for the surrounding area, the Borough takes pride in its heritage while continuing to foster growth, safety, and a high quality of life for residents and visitors alike. For more information follow us on Facebook.

OBITUARIES

Rollande “Jackie” Ritha (Flagg) Croteau June 7, 1927 – September 28, 2025



Woodstock - Rollande “Jackie” Ritha (Flagg) Croteau of Woodstock CT passed away peacefully on September 28th at the age of 98. She was born in Putnam to Louis and Eva (Viens) Flagg. She attended St Mary’s grade school. “Jackie” married the love of her life Arthur J Croteau on March 14, 1946, and raised their family in Woodstock. Her husband of 55 years passed away in 2001; however, Rollande remained in their beautiful home on Harrisville Rd for over 75 years until her passing.

She worked in the Woodstock school system in the 1970’s as a “cafeteria lady” where she formed many friendships that lasted throughout the years. Her bowling days became very special as all the members of the team grew to love her. She had a talent for creating beautiful custom greeting cards on special occasions for family and friends.

Rollande was predeceased by her parents, Louis and Eva Flagg; brothers Louis Jr; Richard and Donald Flagg; sisters Gertrude Paquette, Dorothy Maheu, Dorina Foden and Juliette Kruzel. Two siblings, Jean and Blanche Flagg died in infancy.

Family was always the focal point of

her life. She had a beautiful soul and was a thoughtful, loving, and caring wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was also a special sister, aunt and friend to anyone who had the pleasure of being in her company.

Rollande leaves behind a son, 3 daughters and their spouses; Glenn and Carolyn Croteau of The Villages, FL; Lynne Bergeron and Rene Morin of Thompson, CT; Sandra Blanchette of Thompson, CT; and Kristen and Robert Willis of Eastford, CT. She also leaves a sister Germaine Beck; 12 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews, and a legacy like no other. She was a true matriarch.

A funeral mass will be held at St Mary’s Church, 218 Providence St, Putnam, CT on Saturday, October 25th at 12 noon. A graveside service will follow at St Mary’s cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to the Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation/DKH Hospital Fund. The family extends their heartfelt thanks to the staff at DKH and all caregivers who demonstrated care and compassion when attending to her needs. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. May she rest in peace. For memorial guestbook visit [www. GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com)



Veterans of Livestrong at the Hale YMCA (dressed in yellow) volunteered for the Ride for Wellness challenge that helps fund the program. Also picture (right) is Hale YMCA Wellness Director Cindy Nowlan.

Heidi Clyne named to Dean’s List at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. — Heidi Clyne of Woodstock was named to the Dean’s List for the summer 2025 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 135 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.

Trinity Episcopal Church holding Fall Festival Saturday

BROOKLYN — Trinity Episcopal Church invites you to their Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 11 on the church grounds at 7 Providence Rd., Brooklyn (intersection of Routes 6 and 169.) There will be food, music, vendors, face painting and fun! Cash and Venmo accepted at <http://www.trinityepiscopalchurchbrooklyn.org>. Sunday services at 10 a.m., also on Facebook.

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.

Robert “Bob” Dragon, 81



Robert “Bob” Dragon, 81, of Dayville, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 3, 2025, at UMass Medical Center in Worcester, Massachusetts, surrounded by his loving family. Calling hours will be held at The Tillinghast Funeral Home, 433 Main Street, Danielson, CT, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 11, 2025. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11:00 a.m. at St. James

Church, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson, with burial immediately afterward at Holy Cross Cemetery, 371 Maple Street, Danielson. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a donation In Memory of Michael A. Dragon for Ewing’s Sarcoma Research to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Attn: Contribution Services, 10 Brookline Place West, Brookline, MA 02445 https://danafarber.jimmyfund.org/site/Donation2?df_id=2100&mfc_pref=T&2100.donation=form1, or to the Father John O’Neill Memorial Fund at St. James Church, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson, CT 06239. tillinghastfh.com

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
Robert J Dumaine (25-00381)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated, 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:
Elizabeth M Dumaine, 9 Sunshine Terrace, Thompson, CT 06277
October 10, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Hope K Fitz (25-00350)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 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:
Denise A Villefort
c/o WILLIAM J MONTY, LAW OFFICE
W MONTY, 930 ROUTE 169,, P.O. BOX 266, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
October 10, 2025

TOWN OF KILLINGLY/BOROUGH OF DANIELSON/SOUTH KILLINGLY FIRE DISTRICT TAX COLLECTORS
LEGAL NOTICE
Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00-4:30pm, Tuesday 8:00-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. Also by mail, online, or in our drop box.

The second quarter installment of taxes for real estate and personal property becomes due on October 1, 2025 and becomes delinquent after November 3, 2025 and subject to interest from the due date. Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per

month with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00.

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

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
September 26, 2025
October 10, 2025
October 24, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Matthew White (25-00376)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 24, 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:
Melissa Weagle
c/o MARK R BROUILLARD, ST

ONGE & BROUILLARD,
50 ROUTE 171,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
October 10, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Rosalyn A Bullock (25-00382)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 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:
Joshua Bullock
c/o THOMAS A BORNER, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE,LLC,
155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
October 10, 2025



31 DAY SALE

31 DAY SALE

31 DAY SALE



Renewal by Andersen are your local experts at providing affordable solutions to your window and door problems.

Book your consultation today:

959-456-0067

It costs nothing to meet with us,
and we'll provide you with an exact price quote!



SAVE \$350

on every window¹

+

PLUS

SAVE \$850

on every door¹

NO interest for 48 MONTHS² If paid in full

Interest is billed during promo period but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before 48-month promo period expires.

Don't wait!
This sale will not extend beyond **October 31!**

959-456-0067

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 6 or more windows and/or 2 or more entry or patio doors. \$350 off windows and \$850 off doors discount valid during first appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment with purchase must be made and documented on or before 10/31/25. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2025 Andersen Corporation. ©2025 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

²Plan 6148. Subject to credit approval. Loan term is 48 months at fixed rate of 0.00% APR. For example, assuming the full credit limit is used on loan approval date, for every \$1,000 financed at 0% APR, 48 monthly payments of \$20.84. This example is an estimate only. Actual payment amounts based on amount and timing of purchases. Call 866-936-0602 for financing costs and terms. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.