

Thompson Turkey Trot set for Nov. 10

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, and that means another year of the Centreville Bank Turkey Trot in Thompson.

Each year, runners and walkers from near and far turn out to take on the trail at the West Thompson Dam which includes challenging terrain and tight, forested areas in hopes of making it to the line first or setting a new personal best. Since 2008, the Turkey Trot has been a staple of the season for the region embracing the “turkey” motif in line with November’s Thanksgiving holiday. The event started as a recommendation from a member of the Thompson Trails Committee to promote and encourage the use of the town’s trail system and has since evolved into an annual endurance challenge and fundraising event.

Thompson Recreation Director Brian Lievense says the run has become an essential part of the town’s annual calendar and now helps provide funds for a variety of organizations that serve the community and its citizens.

“The event now supports three community organizations equally: The Thompson Trails Committee, Thompson Recreation, and TEEG. The event is now the primary source of funding for Thompson Trails Committee which uses the funds to maintain the trails throughout the year. Thompson Recreation uses funds raised from Turkey Trot to help contribute to various park improvements such as the recent renovation of the basketball and pickleball courts and Riverside Park. Last year, the event raised \$5,233.09 for each of the three organizations,” said Lievense.

Each of the beneficiary organizations provide volunteers and participants to make the event possible. TEEG, for example, benefits from the money to help stock and operate its three community markets and provides numerous volunteers to help run the event. TEEG Resource Developer Chalsea French says that while there is a fundraising aspect to the Turkey Trot, it’s also a fun day for the community to come together and enjoy good company and some of Thompson’s natural beauty.

“It is just a fun event, albeit usually a little chilly. Friends and family get to cheer on their loved ones as they participate in the 5K. Groups get together to walk and enjoy a morning of conversation and nature. The kids get to run and go through obstacles and just enjoy themselves. People get to deck themselves out in turkey attire, or other fun festive outfits - It is a different type of event as it incorporates different aspects which makes it fun for the whole family. You have the trail run, which is chipped, which is great for

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Killingly Public Library celebrates 30th anniversary

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Public Library has long been an important staple of Killingly’s downtown serving as not only a meeting location for local groups and organizations but also as a primary resource for students, adults, and visitors to learn about the town and the world around them through the extensive supply of literature at their fingertips. Even in an era of evolving media, the library continues to be an essential part of what makes Killingly special.

The Killingly Public Library celebrated that legacy during a special birthday celebration in October where town and state officials and local patrons enjoyed special activities, cake, music and more to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the building’s opening when it replaced the Bugbee Memorial Library which now serves as the home of the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Society. Killingly Library Director Claudette Stockwell reflected on the library’s mission and how the current building has allowed them to expand their offerings and become an even bigger part of the town’s overall character.

“One thing I think was the mission when they moved to this building was that they wanted to have a space for the community to expand their programs and be able to do more and I would say we’ve been able to reach those goals and then some. Just this year along



Courtesy

State Rep. Anne Dauphinais (right) and Senator Mae Flexer (not pictured) presented citations from the State House and Senate acknowledging the 30th anniversary of the Killingly Public Library.

we’ve had a little over 85,000 visitors. We keep growing year after year and keep expanding what we offer,” said Stockwell. “A lot of it is community oriented. We look to the community to see what they need. Thirty years ago, nobody was thinking about the needs for technology like we do today, so some of it is leaning into a space of knowing what you need right in the moment and some of it is looking forward. Early literacy is always going to be a concern. Some basic needs will

always remain the same, but how we provide those needs might evolve with time.”

The 30th anniversary celebration saw the library presented with citations from the state House and Senate recognizing the milestone. It also included the burying of a time capsule which contains projects from

2024, copies of the invitation for the anniversary, and contributed artifacts of what the world is like today to be opened in ten years for the library’s 40th anniversary.

Looking into the future, Stockwell sees the library continuing to thrive. Even as times change,

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Killingly continues to research bullying concerns

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — It’s been over six months since the Killingly Board of Education created a new ad-hoc committee geared towards tackling bullying concerns in the district schools. Since then, the committee has met several times speaking with different stakeholders to determine the extent of the bullying problem and explore potential solutions with official recommendation yet to be finalized.

The Board of Education received a brief progress update from board member and the committee’s chair Laura Lawrence in October where she explained the group met earlier in the month speaking with Transportation Supervisor Joseph Boulanger with a focus on how bullying is handled while the students are on the district buses.

“I believe they’re trying to do the best they can. I don’t see anything they’re really doing wrong. I think they’re doing a great job,” Lawrence said. “There’s always room for improvement, but they’ll get there. I want parents just to be patient with them because they are really doing the best they can.”

In March, the Board of Education heard from concerned parents and former students who felt the bullying had gotten out of hand over the years in both the buildings and on the buses. Like many districts, Killingly has touted a zero-tolerance policy on bullying but complaints from citizens and even Board of Education members themselves claim the district has not done enough to address the issue at its core. These issues sparked the formation of the ad-hoc committee which has been charged with exploring not only the extent of the bullying problem, but potential solutions to make sure everyone feels safe and welcome in the schools.

While the committee has only met a few times since its formation, their early focus is clearly on exploring how bullying is currently handled in the district. While their October meeting highlighted the response procedures for busses and drivers a meeting in June and July included principals from throughout the district and the Superintendent as well as members of the public to help create an open dialogue. The committee has also discussed ways to streamline the reporting process for students experiencing bullying and placing new signage throughout the district.

The committee will reconvene in the new year with their next meeting schedule for Jan. 13. A timeline for when any new recommendations will be brought to the Board of Education has not been set.

Interact ‘Active’ is an understatement



Courtesy

From left: Peter Neal, Director of Behavioral Health Services; Mickie Loucraft, Licensed Professional Counselor; Sherrie Wilkinson, Patient Care Coordinator; Savannah Nute, Licensed Master Social Worker; Larisa Zukic-Hallilovic, Licensed Professional Counselor; Roberta Rocchetti, Putnam Rotary Interact Club advisor; Tayler Shea, Behavioral Health Intern; Sofia Thurber, Co-President, Putnam Rotary Interact Club.

PUTNAM — October was a very busy month for the Putnam Rotary Club’s Interact Club.

Books
Oct. 16, the Interact club presented the “Little Spot” children’s book series to the Day Kimball Hospital Children and Adolescent Behavior Center.

Day Kimball officials said: “Thank you to the Putnam Rotary Interact Club for its generous donation of the A Little SPOT book series to our Behavioral Health Child-Adolescent team. These books, written by Diane Alber, are focused on emotional regulation and help children learn to identify and manage their emotions, develop coping skills, and improve their life skills. Visual learning is especially impactful for kids, and this resource is

a valuable addition to our clinicians’ therapeutic tools.

We are grateful to the Putnam Rotary Interact Club for stepping in to provide these essential resources when they were needed. Your support is making a meaningful difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.”

Toys

Oct. 19, the Interact Club manned a booth at Rotary Park at the Great Pumpkin Festival to raise money to buy toys for children at the Boston Children’s Hospital. The culinary department at Tourtellotte Memorial High School made chocolate chip cookies to sell and there was hot cider as well. The club raised \$206.54.

Club advisor Roberta Rocchetti said: “Thank

you to Sofia Thurber, June Ferraro, Pavanny Phav, Gianna Brinson and Serena Smith for this effort. We’re pleased with the generosity and

support the community gave.”

Helped racers

Earlier that morning, Paige Perry, Isabel D’Alieva-Bochain and Anthony Beaudreault assisted the children at the Tackle the Trail Jr. race beginning at the Putnam Lions Dog Park on Kennedy Drive and ending at the Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center.

And just for fun, the club members entered Putnam’s Scarecrow Contest, using a small hay bale for an Interact Minion.

For more information about the Putnam Rotary’s Interact Club, contact Rocchetti at 860-933-8603 or robertarocchetti4@gmail.com.



From left: Interact Sofia Thurber, Gianna Brinson, Serena Smith, June Ferraro, Pavanny Phav.

Killingly’s Stella Seney stars as Clara in “The Nutcracker” at The Hanover Theatre!



WORCESTER, Mass. — Fifteen-year-old ballerina, Stella Seney of Killingly, Conn. will grace the stage as Clara in “The Nutcracker” at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts, generously sponsored by Berkshire Bank on Nov. 29 – Dec. 1.

Seney will be joined by dancer Olivia St. Laurent, who is also a student in the Killingly Public School System.

Featuring live music from The Hanover Theatre Nutcracker Orchestra conducted by Eric Culver, this production of “The Nutcracker” will enchant you with dazzling lighting and scenery by Broadway designers, brilliant dancing and vibrant costumes.

Tickets are on sale now! “The Nutcracker” is a two-act ballet by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky first performed in Russia in December 1892 and based on the stories of E.T.A. Hoffmann and Alexandre Dumas. The story

revolves around Clara, a young girl who receives a nutcracker doll as a Christmas gift and then enters a fantastical world where the Nutcracker and other characters come to life.

Stella Seney is eager to play the role of Clara on The Hanover Theater’s main stage. She will share the stage with professional dancers on a beautifully designed set, a lifelong dream come true for this young performer. Seney currently attends Killingly High School, where she is an honor student pursuing a career pathway in criminal justice and law. Alongside her academic pursuits, Seney is a passionate and competitive dancer, skilled in all genres of dance. She trains at Taylor Studios and assists in teaching dance to younger students. She is a full-time student at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts and is also a member of the Youth

Ballet Company where she is in the junior company division.

Join Seney and the Nutcracker for a special meet-and-greet tea party on Nov. 3! Cookies and Tea with Clara is an enchanting event, where children are whisked off for a magical hour of dancing, storytelling, eating cookies and sipping tea. Learn more at TheHanoverTheatre.org!

Tickets to see in “The Nutcracker” on Nov. 29 – Dec. 1 range from \$39 to \$59 depending on seat location, performance and availability. Discounts are available for Broadway subscribers. Please contact the box office at 877-571-7469 or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org for more information.

Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more. To learn more about group rates call 508-471-1689 or email groupsales@thehanovertheatre.org.

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES Nov. 4 – Nov. 9

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

Tuesday the 5th
Economic Development Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 5 p.m.

Inlands, Wetlands, and Water Courses Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 6:00pm

Wednesday the 6th
Killingly Community Gardens (Westfield Ave) 5 p.m.

Permanent Building Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday the 4th
KPL Lit Talks (Library) All Day
An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day
Lit Loot Bag (Ages 13-17) (Library)
Wonderful Ones and Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Monday Mystery Matinee (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday the 5th
Teen Program Totes (All Day) (Library)
Craft & Chat (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon

Small Business Academy (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 6 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday the 6th
Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Little Listeners (Ages two to five) (Library) 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Anime & Manga Club (Ages 13-18) (Library) 4 to 5 p.m.

Teen Advisory Board (Ages 13-18) (Library) 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday the 7th
Virtual Author Talk: Navajo Ranger Stanley Milford, Jr. (Library) 7 p.m.

Saturday the 9th
Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

Little Chefs (Ages 4-5) (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon
KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/EVENTS COMING UP...

Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing – Nov. 18 through Dec. 2 (Mondays) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Pre-Season Basketball Skills Clinic – Nov. 4 through Nov. 7 (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Tuesday Pound for Adults with Chris – Session 2 – Nov. 5 through Dec. 17 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center) Relaxation and Guided Meditation – Session 2 – Nov. 5 through Dec. 17 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center)

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

Thursday Yoga with Mary – Nov. 7 through Dec. 26 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Getting in Line Beginner Line Dancing – Session 2 – Nov. 6 through Dec. 18 – Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Baseball Hit Club – Dec. 1 through Jan. 19 – Sundays (Killingly Community Center)

Softball Winter Clinic – Dec. 1 through Jan. 19 – Sundays (Killingly Community Center)

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!

For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at www.killingly.org.

Local residents named to Simmons University Dean’s List

BOSTON, Mass. — The following local residents have been named to the 2024 spring semester dean’s list at Simmons University in Boston.

* Olivia Sczurowski, Pomfret Center
* Avery Halloran, Woodstock

To qualify for dean’s list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering nearly 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended formats, or entirely online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life’s work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/>.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Oct. 21: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Turkey Vulture, Wild Turkey, Eastern Phoebe, Carolin Wren, Bluebird, Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Mockingbird, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.



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CLUES ACROSS

- ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- Highly impressed
- Pronoun to identify something specific
- Uttered in an impassioned way
- Outfits
- “Westworld” actor Harris
- Stewed game casserole
- Indignities inflicted on others
- Blood type
- Says beneath one’s breath
- Taxis
- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- NFL great Randy
- Where college students live
- Brief Yankees sensation Kevin
- Condiment
- frutti
- Polish city
- Astronomy unit of distance
- Romanian village
- Bears first overall pick Williams
- Irritated
- Clothing for sale has them
- One-time world power
- When you anticipate arriving
- Farm building
- Organize thoughtfully
- Detective
- One who reduces
- Nursemaids
- Partner to “Pa”
- World’s longest river
- Commemorates
- Compound
- The Lannisters and Starks fought for one
- Email function

CLUES DOWN

- Open-roofed entrance
- Japanese religion
- Dancer’s garments
- Distributes
- Yemeni port
- Spanish doctors
- It cools your house
- Engine variant
- Makes more manageable
- Days (Spanish)
- Milliliter
- Spread out from
- With two replaceable hydrogen atoms
- Respectful title for a man
- Equally
- Scarlett’s home
- Big Blue
- Subway dwellers
- One-tenth of a liter
- Central European river
- Distress signal
- Expression of sympathy
- Bar bill
- Football equipment
- Dance music
- Russian river
- Mary __, cosmetics
- Gym class
- Autos
- Fourth and honorable name in ancient Rome
- Defeats (abbr.)
- A way to color
- Planet
- Form of humor
- Taken without permission
- Go over again
- Auto parts manufacturer
- Detective’s source
- Home of the Flyers
- Short official note
- Emit coherent radiation
- In the year of Our Lord
- Atomic #18
- Not from, but...

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Courtesy

BLUMENTHAL RECOGNIZED BY AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal's voting record in the 118th Congress was recognized by the American Farm Bureau Federation. The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) bestows the Friend of Farm Bureau award to members of Congress who understand the needs of farmers in the United States as demonstrated by their voting records. Awardees are nominated by their respective state Farm Bureaus and approved by the National Board of Directors. Pictured, from left to right: Patty and John Wolchesky, owners of Lapsley Orchard in Pomfret, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Paul Larson, CFBA President, Joan Nichols, CFBA Executive Director, and Maureen Nicholson, First Selectman of Pomfret.

Access Community Action Agency receives funding for Transforming 254 Broad Street Project

DANIELSON — Access Community Action Agency received funding for its 254 Broad Street project in Danielson. Transforming 254 Broad Street is a new initiative that when completed will include additional program offices for Access, expanded food pantry and homeless prevention day services, renovated Cold Weather Overnight Shelter space, a permanent home for Access's Housing Education and Counseling Center as well the Killingly Community Store. Through the critical support of Sen. Mae Flexer, Access was included on the state's Bonding Commission agenda of Oct. 25. "This is a significant start to get-

ting us towards the full renovation cost to convert our church building at 254 Broad St. Danielson to program offices and expanded services in the Killingly-Danielson region," said President/CEO Peter DeBiasi. "We would not have received this funding without the support of Senator Flexer. Our sincere thanks go out to her." Access hosted Sen. Chris Murphy and Rep. Joe Courtney, along with other state and local leaders, including Flexer, earlier this fall. "We want to bring attention not just to our project but also to the important and transformational changes that we hope to see happen in northeastern Connecticut. Transforming 254 Broad St. will make a difference for the entire

region," said DeBiasi. Invitees toured the existing admin offices and food pantry and then were treated to a tour of the 254 Broad Street campus including Access's Emergency Shelter and new Mobile Food Truck. Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region. Learn more about Access by visiting <https://access-agency.org/>.

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CT Storytelling Center offers literacy programming at Goodyear Center

DAYVILLE — The Connecticut Storytelling Center is starting a new year of literacy programming at Goodyear Early Childhood Center. Storytellers are visiting the classrooms, engaging the children with stories, and helping to develop critical emergent literacy skills. Many thanks to the Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts for making this programming possible! Second graders at Killingly Memorial Elementary School also received an Environmental Literacy Program, based on the book, "How Will you Change the World?" thanks to funding from an Eversource Energy Community Impact grant. In November, teaching artists will build literacy skills through storytelling at early childhood centers in Putnam, Moosup and Killingly through EastCONN. Stories are for adults, too! During the month of November, the Storytelling Center will host Tellabration events, where professional storytellers entertain adults, families, and children in libraries, community centers, schools, and churches around the state. A schedule for these events, along with more information about our schools programming, is available on our Web site, www.ConnStoryCenter.org.

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Annual Harvest & Holly Festival at Thompson VFW

THOMPSON — Sponsored by VFW Auxiliary to Thompson Memorial Post 10088, the annual Harvest & Holly Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. according to an announcement by Auxiliary President, Virginia Livernoche and Festival Chairman, Anne Chrzanowski. The Festival will feature our famous Mix 'n Match Cookies and Bake Sale, Tea Cup Social, Crafts, Theme Baskets, Attic Treasures, Gift Card Tree and more. New this year, please bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to Toys for Tots and get a chance to win a free gift card. Join us for a continental breakfast. Luncheon will feature Chili, kielbasa or hot dogs. It will be held at the VFW Post Home, 654 Quinebaug Rd., Quinebaug, and will benefit Veterans and Community Programs.

Old Trinity Church announces upcoming events

BROOKLYN — The public is invited to the following events at Old Trinity Church, 60 Church St. Saturday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m. Donna Dufresne will lead a walkabout with story-telling, "Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Malbones." Preregister required at windsong@snet.net. Sunday, November 3, 10 a.m. All Saints Day service of Holy Eucharist. Saturday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m., Gospel Healing Service. Both services with acoustic music officiated by priest-in-charge, The Rev. Dr. Gretchen S. Grimshaw. Old Trinity is the oldest standing Episcopal church in Connecticut. For information visit <http://www.trinityepiscopalchurchbrooklyn.org>. Trinity's services are available online at <https://www.facebook.com/trinitychurchbrooklyn>.

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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The joy of America’s pastime

As the leaves change colors and the air turns crisp, the onset of fall brings with it the arrival of one of America’s most cherished traditions: baseball playoffs. For generations, baseball has held a special place in the hearts of Americans, to become a timeless pastime that brings happiness, unity, and a sense of belonging.

Baseball’s roots in America run deep, tracing back to the 19th century when it evolved from a simple game into a full-fledged professional sport. Over the decades, baseball has become more than just a game. From the crack of the bat to the roar of the crowd, baseball’s enduring appeal lies in its ability to evoke nostalgia and a sense of belonging. It reminds us of our history, spanning generations to connect grandparents, parents, and children through the love of the game.

During playoff season, this connection becomes even more profound. The excitement of watching your favorite team battle it out on the national stage, the suspense of each pitch, and the thrill of a game-winning home run all create moments of genuine joy and a bit of adrenaline as well!

But it’s not just the game itself that brings happiness; it’s also the sense of community and camaraderie that baseball fosters. Ballparks across the nation become gathering places for fans of all backgrounds to come together and share in the experience. Whether you’re tailgating in the parking lot, high-fiving strangers after a big play, or singing along to “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” during the seventh inning stretch, baseball erases our differences, just like that.

Baseball has seen the nation through some of its darkest days, offering a distraction and a source of comfort during times of crisis. From the Great Depression to the aftermath of 9/11, baseball has been a constant, reminding us that there is always some- thing to look forward to and that, together, we can overcome adversity.

With that, we all have our favorite teams, so please indulge us as we take this opportunity to say, in lieu of the Red Sox...go Dodgers!

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.

To the Editor:

Northeast Connecticut has a great opportunity to elect a ground-breaker, to follow in the footsteps of his father-in law Rick Hayes, for the 51st District. Chris Stewart has been selflessly serving our community for many years. Chris works for CABE, which helps many volunteer school boards learn about Connecticut education law and translates that into school policy. Chris saw that his skill-set working for CABE could be utilized on his own Board of Education. Chris volunteers his time outside of those commitments to coach WPTP Hawks football. Chris is married and has two kids. As a single dad with two children, this is what I feel Connecticut democrats miss about living in Connecticut. The cost of the policies of the last few decades have hurt families the most, especially the children!

The policies that concern me the most, that the democrat “super majority” have pushed, include the outlaw of new gas-powered

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OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spoken like a true Democrat, Doug Dubitsky

To the Editor:

I had to do a double take when I first heard about Doug Dubitsky saying nice things about muni power as an alternative to Eversource in more of our towns while referencing Norwich Public Utilities. I made sure to listen to the WINY debate stream replay to verify that my ears were indeed still working properly and the “Mister No” Republican was really saying nice things about a public option being created to address on out-of-control out-of-touch private sector.

Welcome to our world, Mister Dubitsky. What we’re seeing with Eversource and PURA is a grand example of what happens when public utilities stray too far from actually being public. When public utilities are privatized, it introduces profit motive, and when those companies become publicly traded you now have a fiduciary duty to the shareholders being added into something as banal as electricity or water service.

I know exactly what Doug’s talking about. I kept an eye on the recovery from the week-long power outages of storms like Irene and Sandy and saw NPU smoke CL&P and UI with their restoration times. I can believe they provide a better service to their customers by keeping things local. I also was suspicious of our partial deregulation of the electricity supply market and was never really impressed enough by the competitors to switch from Eversource standard service.

Why am I hearing this sort of pragmatic idea from a Republican though? This is normally where I hear right-wingers scream “Socialism!” at even the tiniest idea of a public service being developed where the pri-

vate sector isn’t delivering the goods. This is where I saw the southern red states jump in big telecom companies’ back pocket to ban or regulate municipal broadband out of existence when cable and phone companies ran outdated technology into the ground and milked customers with surprise charges and bandwidth caps to Wall Street’s delight. Other than wild exceptions like EPB in Chattanooga, Tennessee, I’ve come to not expect Republicans to support public options for anything after seeing them constantly call people Socialists or Communists for merely suggesting that public options for anything could be feasible.

Despite us winning the Cold War, most of the capitalist world has some kind of mixed market economy. It wouldn’t be the worst thing in the world if municipalities took matters into their own hands on certain things the private sector might gloss over us for. You still have a market even if we’re talking about a local market where the incumbents don’t have it together and the voters acting as a community introduced their own competitor to the local market. Chattanooga still has multiple options for ISPs despite EPB, and I don’t think it would be the end of the world if public utilities were made public again either at the municipal or regional level.

Ultimately, it’s all about results and not deliberately leaving ideas on the table because of something we heard on a podcast somewhere about how we’re less American if we don’t let companies walk all over us – Eversource or otherwise.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

A vote for Harris is a vote for hope

To the Editor:

For a long time now, Trump has been touting how he passed a cognitive test which he claims proves his “stable intellect”. This test is a simplistic 10-minute protocol which is used by psychiatrists as a first pass of cognition ability.

However, this isn’t the only assessment that has been done on Trump to rate his mental capabilities. There is overwhelming evidence that Trump is a pure psychopath, i.e., “a mentally unstable person, especially a person having an egocentric and antisocial personality marked by a lack of remorse for one’s actions, an absence of empathy for others, and often criminal tendencies.” (Ref: Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

The proof comes from a well-established and widely accepted test. In the ‘70s, a Canadian psychologist, Robert Hare, and his team developed a procedure to diagnose whether a person is a psychopath. The “Hare Psychopathy Checklist” consists of 20 items. These include such elements as: failure to accept responsibility for own actions, pathological lying and deception, lack of remorse or guilt, poor behavioral controls, grandiose self-worth, and callousness.

Working through this Checklist requires following stringent rules. First, you need to collect a huge amount of data throughout the subject’s life. This includes identifying many specific examples for each Checklist item. It also has to be clearly shown that the actions are life long and not just a one-off episode. And the findings have extensive validation from many sources.

Second, the person making the assessment must have specialized training.

This protocol has been carried out by two sources. The first was done by Vince Greenwood, Ph.D. and the second was in a book from the World Mental Health Coalition titled “The More Dangerous Case of Donald Trump” authored by 40 psychiatrists and mental health experts.

Each characteristic is increasingly rated

0,1 or 2 – so the top score, indicating a complete psychopath, is 40.

The two assessments are distressingly similar. For the average person you might meet on the street, the score is 4-5. After all, no one is perfect. The average for those in a maximum security prison, the score is 22. Trump scored 33-34. This is altogether off the map.

This goes way beyond just being narcissistic. This is full derangement and out of touch with reality.

As an everyday proof of his sickness, he threatens to use the military to wreak vengeance on “the enemy within.” Such retribution is clearly illegal both in law and the Constitution and should be abhorrent to every American.

I’m sure that full-blooded Trumpers are going to ignore this analysis. After all, it comes from experts whose only credibility is based on years of research, experience and extensive scholarship.

On Harris’s side, she only talks about improving the lot of the average American. We’ve already seen what the Democrats have done to better our existence. Regardless of the GOP’s lies, the economy is doing great. It is without question the best in the world. The stock markets are at all time highs. Just look at your 401Ks and IRAs. Gas prices are down. Food prices are stable. Inflation is below 3% and dropping. Unemployment is below 4%, which economists often consider to be “full employment.” Do your homework and compare the numbers right now with those when the Democrats came into office. Everything is showing great improvement.

You have to come to the conclusion that Harris offers a bright future based on accomplishment compared to a draconian, dismal and hateful society guaranteed under Trump. As we vote, our mantra should be “Save America,” not from what it is today, but what it will be if Trump is elected. A vote for Harris is a vote for optimism and hope.


STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Chris Stewart for The 51st District

vehicle sales in Connecticut, the commuting of prisoner sentences for violent murderers in historic numbers, tampons in the boy’s bathroom in public schools, mandating catholic hospitals to perform abortions, increase car value assessments for car tax purposes, ten cent bottle tax, and removing qualified immunity from our local police officers. The democrat “super-majority” has had eight years to address the electric bill crisis that we voters are facing and instead, we currently have four electric bills within that one bill. The extreme democrats, that protected Carleton Giles on the Board of Pardons and Paroles, stated that they urged Giles to be more aggressive in commutations which resulted in 71 commutations. Prior to last year, the number of commutations was four. Currently, with every republican opposing Carleton Giles reappointment to the Board of Pardons & Paroles and with 15 Democrats joining said Republicans, the extreme super-majority democrats confirmed him 79-67! They did this against the outcry from the community and victims’ families, which includes a member of the general assembly whose mother-in-law was murdered and it didn’t matter! A vote for Renee LePalme Waldron and Mae Flexer is just giving democrats a super – majority to ignore voters’ needs and make Connecticut unsafe! With Rick Hayes as his mentor, with his natural leadership qualities, as a husband that has children in Putnam and has experience coaching kids whose families are from all different backgrounds and walks of life, Chris understands the real struggles families are facing. He would be a better representative to fix Connecticut problems and to find solutions to help Northeast Connecticut. Vote Chris Stewart to restore some balance to Hartford.

DONALD DUNNING
POMFRET CENTER

We all want to dance as long as we can



NANCY WEISS

For several years, I avoided classes at the Hale YMCA that included the word “Senior” in the description. Although I grudgingly accept that I am deep into the world of old(er) age, I prefer to think I am not as ancient as my latest birthday indicates. One of my dearest friends, who is ten months older than I, often makes herself a year older than her birth certificate indicates. Good for her, I think, but quietly kid myself that I am really younger than I am. Senior isn’t a designation I’ve been quick to embrace.

But I’ve changed. Now I turn up two or three times a week for classes at the Y. In a gym full of people, mostly older women, we throw ourselves in to 45 minutes of lively exercise. Everyone has a chair but the majority don’t use them except for the exercises in which being seated is required. Some sessions are more rigorous than others but all can be fairly challenging. One very popular instructor, Cindy, cautions everyone by saying: “You do you.” Nonetheless, everyone pushes themselves a bit and that’s part of the allure.

Gym class in high school would have been more pleasant and impactful on my life if we had done more exercise programs and less hitting, kicking or chasing various balls. For people like me with no interest and poor eye-hand coordination, field hockey, volley ball and soft ball were nightmares. Basketball was played as it had been in my mother’s era where girls played half-court only. So much has changed for the better. Our local school offer team sports for boys and girls, including track, golf, and crew, which can lead to scholarships.

I was devoted to Jane Fonda exercise tapes and followed her instructions so often that I could recite every word. During the pandemic, my husband and I watched Miranda, a Canadian exercise guru, who directed her program to older adults. I learned yoga from Laurie McDermott at the Healthy Lady, a remarkable facility owned by the late Susie Franklin. Yoga classes brought us new friends, a reason to buy special clothes and more flexible joints, something that now is very desirable.

If Jane Fonda wanted us to go for the “burn,” yoga helped us center, breathe and try to meditate. What a great expansion in how we learned to move our bodies.

In a recent class at the Y, we hopped, reached out our arms and wiggled our hips to dance music. Our instructor managed to choreograph, more or less, about 50 people to follow dance steps while gliding across the gym floor with a modicum of grace. Most of us love to dance, but rarely have the chance. Weddings are the place to dance, but now that we go to more funerals than weddings, the opportunities are slim. At my brother’s funeral a few weeks ago, his grandson shared a video of my brother dancing with me. We were so happy. Dance whenever you can.

In “Outlive – the Science and Art of Longevity,” author Peter Attia, MD, offers recommendations on exercise, diet, and genes. I read his advice, even if I don’t follow it, except for his closing words: We get old when we stop thinking about the future. I can think about the future now even in the context of “senior.”

We all want a long, healthy life, and that is why the classes at the Y are full. We want to live forever, but we won’t. You do you and I’ll do me, and perhaps together, we can dance as long as possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My vote goes to proven leadership

To the Editor:
I did not want to chime in on how I feel regarding the selection of candidates running this year, but I am concerned, as everyone should be, with the lack of qualification of some. Our choices are a lifelong paramedic running for Senate and a youth football coach running to replace his father in law as our State Representative.
The question I have asked, and have not received an answer to, is What skills in local town government do they plan on bringing to Harford?
I am quite certain they are nice guys, but we need proven, skilled, qualified,

and knowledgeable leaders who have gotten their feet wet in local politics and know what the town voters really need.
I don't want to see the wrong candidates sitting in Harford and becoming overwhelmed or calling family members for advice. Rather someone ready to make the right decisions based on there past skills in local town government.
In closing, my vote is for proven leadership in local town government, not based on someone's personal agenda.
KARL KUHN, SR.
E. PUTNAM

Tired of Democratic mudslinging

To the Editor:
I am so tired of Democrats claiming to be the joyful, nice, wonderful party and then slinging mud and angry rhetoric in the same breath. Here's a local example:
Samantha Derenthal has posted a lot of incorrect, unnecessary attacks against Rep. Dauphinais on her social media platforms. Such as, saying Anne shakes your hand and tells you one thing then votes for another, essentially calling her a liar. Or saying Rep. Dauphinais refuses to debate her because she doesn't want to defend her voting record. If any of you have ever spoken with Anne, and I know many of you have because she is a very involved lifelong community member, you know she is ALWAYS happy to defend her voting record in detail and will always tell you exactly what she thinks even if

you don't like it.
The truth on the debate issue being Ms. Durenthal could not debate because she was going on vacation for a week and Rep. Dauphinais schedule was full, working for us locally and in Hartford, the week before.
I think Ms. Derenthal should put more time into telling us where she stands on issues facing the Quiet Corner and how she will specifically address them than attacking her opponent.
I see zero mudslinging coming out of Anne Dauphinais campaign, I assume it's because she has a higher moral compass than to stoop to such tactics and because she is too busy doing her job, fighting for the residents of the 44th District just like she always has.
JILL PRIVEE CHOINIERE
DAYVILLE

Vote for common sense — vote for Anne Dauphinais

To the Editor:
I am 100 percent voting for Anne Dauphinais for State Representative in the 44th District on Nov. 5!
I just read this quote from Anne's opponent Samantha Durenthal's Facebook page: "Great news, District 44! Connecticut has early voting, giving you more flexibility to make your voice heard in this crucial election."
Is it great news? Maybe Ms. Durenthal should reassess that statement. Perhaps ask the registrars and poll workers if they think it's great news?
If she can't realize that this "one size fits all" early voting mandate is a financial disaster for our small towns in the Quiet Corner, then she has no business representing us! Early voting is costing our towns tens of thousands of dollars. For what? Has anyone in the 44th District ever been turned away from a

polling place? Have you waited in line for hours? I am going to guess no. I could get behind one or two days for people who can't make it on a Tuesday, but this is insanity.
In addition to the monetary costs, it is also costing us in manpower fatigue as people can't work 14 days straight at the polls and so many registrars are opting not to run again across the state. If this mandate stays intact soon there will be no one willing to run for these positions at all so, "great news"? No. Not great news.
Just another example of supporting party politics over our local districts' reality.
Vote for common sense ... Vote for Anne Dauphinais!
RANDY MOSSEY
MOOSUP

We can't afford more nonsense

To the Editor:
Voters of the 44th, please do not vote for nonsense!
I just went to the Democratic candidate for 44th District State Representative's Facebook page and Web site, and I really cannot believe this is what they think the 44th needs.
On her Web site, under "Public Safety" she says "promoting diversity and inclusion in all public programs and services will ensure equitable access and fairness to all residents." Who talks like this? That is the problem with public safety in the 44th? Come on. Her signs say "acceptance, safety,

advocacy," as if those are our biggest issues here. They should say "economy, electric bill, inflation."
We have a diverse community where people are included and have access to all the opportunities the towns and the state have to offer. I am tired of hearing we don't. Stop creating division where there is none and stop imagining issues so you can pretend to fix them.
I am voting for Anne Dauphinais on Nov. 5, and I hope you all do the same because we can't afford to pay for any more nonsense in the Quiet Corner!
ANDY HOFFMAN
PLAINFIELD

We are lucky to have Anne Dauphinais as an advocate

To the Editor:
I am writing in support of State Rep. Anne Dauphinais. I believe Anne should be re-elected for the District 44 State Representative position once again.
I know Anne personally. She is a stand up, dedicated, untiring fighter, on behalf of our community and our families. Her beliefs, based on the conservative principles, are small government, individual freedom, less taxation/ regulation, and the articles spelled out in our constitution are based solidly in her belief that these are the principles that work best generating prosperity, equality, and good quality of life for all. I share these beliefs.
Anne is pragmatic and consistent in

her actions and her positions. She is not a knee jerk partisan politician. She will always tell you what she believes, why she believes it and why she voted a certain way. She is constantly researching and learning from her colleagues, constituents, and the situations around her. Her positions are firm, but her mind is open to growth.
I feel in this turbulent world right now, we are lucky to have her steadfastly advocating on behalf of the 44th District. It is for these reasons that I would like to endorse Anne Dauphinais for State Representative of the 44th District.
MICHELLE MURPHY
DAYVILLE

Re-elect Jeff Gordon to state Senate

To the Editor:
I have known Jeff Gordon for over 15 years, and worked closely with him on Woodstock's Planning and Zoning commission for seven years. I had the opportunity to observe Jeff's work ethic and professionalism . Always prepared, prior to each meeting he would review every application in detail, review all applicable state states, and consider the potential impacts to the community. As the Chairman he treated every applicant with respect and courtesy. Jeff brings these same qualities to his work in Hartford.
Jeff has spent decades making contributions to the Woodstock community by supporting our local fire departments,

public education and many worthy charities too numerous to list in a short letter.
A doctor for over 30 years, he understands the importance of access to public health care and the value of supporting our local hospital.
As State Senator, Jeff will continue to work for everyone in the 35th district bringing his integrity, work ethic and a common-sense bipartisan approach to the State Senate to get things done.
Please join me in supporting Jeff Gordon for re-election as State Senator for the 35th district.
DAVID FORTIN
WOODSTOCK

When “no scents” makes good sense

To the Editor:
There are so many products on the market today that are scented, hoping to appeal to a buyer's like of a particular fragrance, be it for their body or to make their home or clothing smell good. The perfume industry creates more and more products for men and women to buy. There are scents that are subtle and pleasing and some that are so overpowering that the slightest drop of them lingers along the entire path of the wearer as he or she moves from place to place, especially indoors.
There are some people among us so sensitive to inhaling these scents that it is causes them to sneeze, cough, lose their voice, or to succumb to severe respiratory distress to the point of anaphylactic shock that requires immediate medical attention. I happen to have a husband and daughter with this extreme sensitivity as well as acquaintances from over the years.
I have been in a few establishments where it is clearly posted advising visitors or patients to refrain from enter-

ing their facility when wearing scents because of employees within who have reactions to such. I know for a fact that our local hospital has a policy whereby their employees have been advised to refrain from wearing scented products in the work place out of consideration for others who may suffer ill effects from them.
This scent issue is everywhere you go...waiting rooms, stores, restaurants, movie theaters, libraries, etc. Unless you or a loved one have experienced a health issue from being in close proximity with a person wearing highly scented perfume or after-shave, you probably are unaware that this problem even exists.
In a world where we are nowadays trying to promote that kindness matters, please be mindful of others when applying scented products, especially if your presence while wearing them will place you in an enclosed public space for any length of time.
WENDY HARRINGTON
BROOKLYN

Now or never

To the Editor:

The days and hours are counting down to the time we will decide our future democracy, or will it be the demise of “The Great Democratic Experiment?”
The Founding Fathers crafted the beginnings of a country later to be called “Land of the Free, Home of the Brave.” Ronald Reagan once called America “This shining city on a hill.” Trump recently called our country a trash can. This master of projection, himself a trash can on two legs.
Along with my likeminded cohorts, I have endeavored to make as clear as possible why voting for Trump is a slap to the face of the memory of the “Greatest Generation”, Americans who fought and died to defeat fascism. A Trump victory would spell the end of American Government Institutions as we have come to know them, and probably took for granted.

We thought Trump's degeneracy knew no bounds, but no, he has proven us wrong again. The latest startling revelation? None other than sitting in The Oval Office and admitting, to a four star Marine Corps General, no less, his admiration for Adolph Hitler. The President of the United States admires a madman who was responsible for over 400,000 U.S. servicemen casualties, six million exterminated Jews, untold civilian deaths, and turning Europe into rubble. The leader of the free world, wearing an American Flag pinned to his lapel, saying Hitler did “good things.”
How many of you have Fathers, Grandfathers, or other family members buried in European gravesites because of Hitler's good things? These same gravesites that Trump says are filled with suckers?
Go right ahead, Mr. Ferron and Mr. DeLuca, vote for a pervert who rapes women and loves Hitler. Then show your face in public and be proud of yourselves.
There is a sign in my neighborhood that reads “Trump ‘24 Take Back America.” It would be laughable if not for the fact that it is so frightening. Take back America to what? To a concept of an America devised in the cesspool of Trump's unfit mind and that of his minions?
I believe Kamala Harris will win this election because I must believe it. The thought of my country becoming like 1930's Germany, because of one man, again, is too much to bear.
Send Trump back to the trash heap of history.
RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

These thoughts are not for the cultists, they are long lost. They are for those, inexplicably, still on the proverbial fence. Look at the darkness Trump exemplifies: hatred, prejudice, retribution, violence, crimes and misdeeds. Are these the qualities you would want to endorse in your President?
Our allies would look at us and say “What has become of America? They vote for an abuser of women, a man who stole classified documents that may put our security at risk; who would cheat after an election and cause a riot at their Capital, the Shrine of Democracy. They vote for a person who openly states he will eliminate their Constitution.”
Indeed, what has become of us?
Can you look upon an adjudicated rapist and say “Yes, that's my President” and be proud of it?

We have no stronger ally than Anne Dauphinais

To the Editor:
What can I say about Anne Dauphinais? I am just one single vote in a part of the state that seems to be forgotten and ignored by the politicians in Hartford. After all, I am not a big city politician, but then again, neither is Anne.
She is a relentless advocate to have in Hartford. She is my voice when my cries are not heard. She is my presence when I feel invisible. She is my strength when I feel I have been beaten. She is my hope when I feel helpless. She, like me, is a wife, a mother, a daughter; a grandmother...a friend.
Anne was raised on the same small-town values that we all were. The same values that we raised our children with, and our grandchildren now inherit.
Anne is part of our community, and not just at election time. When she is not reading bills, in session or meeting in Harford, you can find her here in town. Attending our local fundraisers, participating in our civic organizations and shopping and supporting our small independent businesses.
She is always welcoming with a

smile, a hug, and in-depth conversation regarding current concerns of the local public, personal or political. Because many bills influence our personal daily lives, each one Anne votes on with personal interest. Politics are personal. How they shape and form the lives of our loved ones that gather around the dining room table, the education they receive, their healthcare, their livelihood, and the ability to feed, clothe, house, and enjoy the freedom and tranquility that living in rural northeast Connecticut affords us.
Anne is our protector against the dismantling of our basic right to govern ourselves as we see fit, rather than through executive orders. To live free from disturbances that upend the bucolic routine of daily life and to be able to pass a sense of peace and balance onto future generations is a task that must be undertaken and protected today. There is no stronger opponent, no greater ally, no force more determined than Anne Dauphinais.
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ADDITIONAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR,
see page A8-A11

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30TH
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she feels there will always be a place for the library and what it provides to the community at large.

“I think what libraries bring to the table is we are the heart of our communities. We remain the place where people go when they need information. Thirty years ago, it might have been a school report, and they needed the physical books to write those reports. Looking at today and the future it could just be needing relevant facts or sources and technology needs for those who may not have the skills or technology at their home. We look to still educate. We’re

still the information providers for people and a trusted source. People know we’re going to give them the most accurate and relevant information. For some people it’s also still the socialization. For young families it’s trying to build a love of literature in their children and for people that are retired they just want to be able to go out into the world and still feel like they’re learning things and connecting with people,” Stockwell said.

The Killingly Library is open Monday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.



The Killingly Public Library celebrated 30 years in the community during a special event in October.

TROT
continued from page A1

competitive cross-country runners. The wobble which is open to anyone and is a great way to see the beautiful scenery at the West Thompson Dam, and then the children’s fun run which allows the kids to get involved and have a good time. There is a little of something for everyone and I think that is why it has been such a staple in the community,” said French.

Online registration for the 5K trail run and 3K walk is open until noon time on Nov. 8 for a \$25 fee. Day-of registration

is also available for \$30 cash or check. Awards will be presented to the first male and female to cross the line for the 5K and the top three of each gender from seven different age categories will also receive recognition. Honors will also be presented to the largest team and the school with the most members. The Turkey Trot takes place on Sunday, Nov. 10 at the West Thompson Dam rain or shine with the Kids’ Fun Run at 9:30 a.m., the 3K Walk and Wobble stepping off at 9:45 a.m., and the 5K starting promptly at 10 a.m. Registration is available by visiting www.thompsonrec.org.

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MORE INFO:



Coat
and
blanket
collection
for local
needy
Nov. 9

PUTNAM — There will be a collection of used winter coats and blankets for men, women and children, in good condition please, to be distributed this fall to needy people throughout northeastern Connecticut.

The collection will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., at the Cargill Council 64 Knights of Columbus Hall, 64 Providence St. in Putnam. It’s a big blue building. Please bring your donations of used winter coats and blankets at that time. For information, please call (860) 928-5873 and leave a message.

Quiet
Corner
Al-Anon
group meets
Wednesdays

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

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

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Know the early signs of Alzheimer’s – and how to proactively protect your finances

Alzheimer’s disease affects nearly seven million Americans today and that number is projected to double over the next 40 years.¹ The impact on those affected by the disease and on their families is, of course, immense and multifaceted. The impacts on health and lifestyle are the most important and obvious. But the financial impacts are another big source of struggle that can greatly increase stress at an already difficult time, especially for those who didn’t have financial protection strategies in place ahead of time.

As the nation observes Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregivers Month in November, we at WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors thought it the perfect time to raise awareness about this critical and all too common issue.

So we’ve partnered with Kristen Cusato, Director of Communications at the Alzheimer’s Association Connecticut Chapter, to raise awareness about the early signs of Alzheimer’s to watch for as well as the financial strategies everyone should have in place to protect your assets should you or a loved one ever be diagnosed with Alzheimer’s or any other debilitating disease.

Know the 10 signs of Alzheimer’s

Cusato says there are 10 common signs that

indicate you or a loved one may be suffering from early Alzheimer’s disease. They are:

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks
4. Confusion with time or place
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
8. Decreased or poor judgment
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities
10. Changes in mood and personality

“If you notice several of these signs in yourself or a loved one, it’s important to see a doctor for an evaluation,” Cusato advises. “Early diagnosis allows for better planning and care.”

If you suspect Alzheimer’s, don’t delay testing – recent advances mean early treatment could make all the difference.

Cusato notes that there have been several significant advances in the early detection and treatment of Alzheimer’s recently, and that further advances in research are happening at a much more rapid pace than in previous decades – which means that early diagnosis truly does make a big difference.



FINANCIAL FOCUS
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INVESTMENT ADVISER

“More and more research is showing that the earlier Alzheimer’s can be detected, the better a person may respond to treatment and lifestyle changes,” she says. “On top of that, new drug therapies approved by the FDA in just the last couple of years could help slow cognitive decline, giving people more months and even years to enjoy life and make new memories with their loved ones. But that can only happen if they get diagnosed in the first place.”

When it comes to finances, proactive planning is crucial.

Memory loss can leave individuals vulnerable to financial mistakes or even exploitation. In fact, difficulty with finances is a common early sign that someone’s memory or thinking may be suffering. That’s why it’s crucial to put protections in place for your assets before any signs of decline emerge.

“Many people don’t realize how significantly memory loss can impact one’s finances,” Cusato says. “Someone experiencing cognitive decline may forget to pay bills, make unwise purchases, or fall victim to scams.”

From a financial per-

spective, we at WHZ recommend several steps to proactively safeguard your assets in case of any serious illness:

1. Establish a durable power of attorney. This legal document authorizes someone you trust to manage your finances if you become incapacitated. Choose this person carefully and make sure they understand your wishes.
2. Set up a revocable living trust. This can provide for management of your assets if you become unable to do so yourself. You maintain control of the trust while you’re able, but a successor trustee can step in if needed.
3. Simplify your finances. Consolidate accounts where possible and set up automatic bill payments to reduce the chance of missed payments.
4. Review and update beneficiary designations. Make sure all your accounts and policies have current beneficiaries listed, and be sure to review them annually.
5. Document your wishes. Create a letter of instruction detailing your preferences for financial decisions and listing the location of important documents.
6. Consider long-term care insurance. This can help cover costs of care if needed, protecting your other assets.
7. Communicate with family. Have open discussions with loved ones about your wishes and

plans.

The key is to be proactive. By putting these protections in place early, you maintain control over your finances and legacy, even if cognitive issues arise later. It’s not something that anyone wants to think about, but as someone who has helped many clients put these protections in place, I can’t stress enough the difference it makes if they’re diagnosed with Alzheimer’s or any other debilitating disease in the future.

On the flip side, I’ve also worked with people who seek out financial planning strategies after the diagnosis has occurred, and it’s heartbreaking when they learn their options are limited.

Lastly, know the resources available to you.

If you suspect that you or a loved one might be suffering from cognitive impairment or early Alzheimer’s disease, schedule an evaluation as soon as possible. The Alzheimer’s Association provides a 24-hour helpline at (800) 272-3900 where you can get connected to care consultation, support services, and more.

If you don’t yet have a financial strategy in place to protect your assets in case of a serious illness like Alzheimer’s, we suggest you work with a trusted financial advisor as soon as possible to create one.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we

work with our clients to ensure these protections are in place as part of an overall holistic and strategic financial plan. It’s a crucial part of the commitment we make to each and every one of our clients to provide “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.” Visit our website at whzwealth.com to schedule your complimentary consultation or give us a call at (860) 928-2341.

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1. Alzheimer’s Association’s 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts & Figures Special Report

Family memories of the Quiet Corner

Are you interested in the trolley? Mark your calendar. The Killingly Historical Society will have a guest speaker from the Connecticut Trolley Museum for its program on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. at the Killingly Historical Center 196 Main St., Danielson. Learn about the history of the Hartford-Springfield Street (trolley) Railway system. Killingly Historical Society member Frank Aleman will also do a short presentation on the trolleys in our town including the ones to Alexander’s Lake/Wildwood Park.

There will be a short membership meeting at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Brooklyn Historical Society Annual Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Brooklyn. The program will be an illustrated lecture by local historian and educator Donna Dufresne. Out of the Shadows: Local Soldiers from the Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment will introduce us to northeastern Connecticut Civil War soldiers of African and Nipmuc descent. There will be a social hour after the program. All are welcome.



KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET WEAVER

House’). “The Bartlett family owned both sides of Rte 101, from the corner which turned up North Road to the hill where the cemetery is located today.”

“Almond Bartlett later built and lived in the small house the right side of the South road, just around the corner from Jim Smith’s general store. He would have no curtains nor any rugs in the house because there might be germs caught in the material.”

Jessie Wade also remembered “Postmaster Reynolds who tended the post office located at Robert Smith’s store next to the hotel...later it was moved up the hill to the center of the town in Jim Smith’s general store and Robert Smith’s store was closed. The post office remained in this location until 1933 when there was a change of politics. At that time it was moved to the first floor of the old hotel, and was run by Phillip Lewis, who also maintained a barbershop at the back of the post office,

“In 1905, when my mother (Jessie) was three years old, she was taught to waltz by Merrill Jacques in the ballroom of the old hotel. At that time the hotel was in operation.

“The meadow land and the land on the westerly side of the North Road was originally owned by the Peckham

family. At the time my mother was a child, the Sayles family owned the store at the beginning of the North Road. This store was located across the corner from Almond Paine’s store and later became known as Shippee’s Dance hall. The meadow land was known always a ‘Granny Peckham’s Meadow’ and at least three generations of children played on sleds on the meadow hillside. The ‘island’ was also approached from the lower part of the meadow. The island was formed as the waterfalls from the mill changed to a brook running through the meadow. When my mother (Jessie) was a child, school picnics were held on the ‘island,’ which was approached on a wide beam stretched across the brook. When on the island, there were ledges and huge rocks on which the children played. Wild grapevines provided natural swings. School picnics continue through the years until 1929 when I (Geraldine) was in the first grade. That was the last picnic on the island, as it was then deemed ‘far too dangerous for children.’ Future picnics were held in the schoolyard on the last day of school.

“It might be mentioned in passing that the waterfalls themselves provided cool showers in the summertime for the boys and girls of the village.

“The school was on the North Road. It had two floors. Three grades were on the first level and sometimes as many as five grades were on the

second floor. In later years the seventh and eight grade attended Junior High School in Danielson at Killingly High School.”

What were you doing in 1975? Gerald Ford was president of the United States. Thomas Meskill and Ella Grasso both served as governor of Connecticut during that year. Recently Bernie Mitchell, president of the Killingly Historical Society, was looking through a back issue of the Windham County Transcript from 1975. Here it was a special graduation edition so contained many congratulatory ads from local businesses, many of which have long since closed. I thought I’d list a few to spark your memories.

LaPointe Jewelers 83 Main St., Danielson and 10 Pomfret St., Putnam; Bosworth House (1763) “ 12 rooms of Fine Furniture and Gifts. Jct Routes 101 and 169, Pomfret Center, CT; Andert’s Carpet Service, Abington Road, Eastford; Macadam Associates Unisource, “Specialists in Packaging materials, 175 Connecticut Mills Ave., Danielson; R. J. ’s Sub Shop, Route 12 (Near Barker’s) Dayville; Clifford’s Interior Decorating Center, RFD Route 12, Danielson; Mary Cliff Rest Home, Main Street, Dayville; Lemery’s Auto Upholstery, 254 North Main Street, Danielson; Willie’s TV Service, Railroad Street, Dayville; The Country Greenhouses, Cook Hill

Turn To **KILLINGLY** page **A11**



Community Connection

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Teaching the difference between discipline and self-discipline

Thousands of books have been written on being the best parent ever. However, in my experience, teaching self-discipline is the foundation of building success in any person.

The dictionary defines discipline/self discipline as the ability to control one's feelings and overcome one's weaknesses; the ability to pursue what one thinks is right despite temptations to abandon it.

Discipline is the exerting of external control, like when you tell your kids to brush their teeth. This is how we as parents teach the littlest children the right and wrong ways to do things. Self-discipline is when children utilize an internal guide to direct them to do the right things. Self-discipline is the foundation of success in life and using character will give them a direction.

In my years of working with children I often asked if they made their own bed. Then I asked, did they do it on their own or after being told. Then I highlighted to them the difference between discipline and self-discipline.

Here are my top tips on teaching self-discipline.

One of the greatest well-known successes in athletics is Tom Brady. His recommendation is; "Quit focusing on all the things you can't control. Focus on being the best version of yourself. Work as hard as you can."

Succeeding with small goals eventually can turn into successes building great lifetime habits. Studies have shown that



LESSONS
FOR LIFE
.....
MIKE BOGDANSKI

people with written goals have greater success on tasks. I also suggest posting them around your house so you can see them every single day. My suggestion is that the goals be very specific (I will do a future article on S.M.A.R.T. Goals. You can google this if you are curious)

With the technology of today it would be easy to start with a video of how to brush with detailed cleaning of each tooth. Many electric toothbrushes have a handy 2-minute timer. When kids are done brushing, you can be their success coach and give your child feedback, finishing with a smile and praise. Create a routine (specific time of day) where you log your goals and build your habits.

Accountability and

support.

If you want to succeed in a certain area, tell your everone. Then every time you see your friends, they will check in on your progress and give you support. Your friends and family want you to succeed, especially on tough, long term goals. Parents, if your child is not immediately good at developing self-discipline don't worry, it's a journey, not a destination. It is perfectly fine to fail as long as you take this as a lesson in course correction.

Teach delayed gratification - I love the saying "Dig your well before you are thirsty". When I was in grammar school, the local bank got all the fourth graders to start a bank account. Each week, we brought in change to be deposited into our account. Week by week we could see the interest displayed on our passbook and watch our money grow. It was

very exciting. I am sure you can do a digital version today to help get the concept of waiting for rewards. (For teens or young adults, if you contribute \$135.00 a week, each year, to an IRA, it could take about 28 years to reach one million dollars)

Be consistent, and determined, and work for it. Don't sweat it if you fall back a little. Even elite athletes who eat right 6 days a week build in a cheat day where they can eat something not on their strict regimen.

I have learned that the difference between a dream and a goal is a timeline. When I was in college I knew the semester had a beginning and end and I needed to fulfill requirements week by week to succeed. I have met so many people that tell me "I should have started (their dream) twenty years ago". My response is, "then today is the next best day!" I want to remind you that "someday" is not a day of

the week.

Parents - reinforce and praise the behaviors you want to see. My recommendation is, If you can't praise the act, praise the effort. Highlight and recognize others you run into showing good self-discipline. It would be so great if you could model this skill with your own actions. How we conduct our lives will always speak louder than our words. In time all habits, good or bad, will be "built" in.

I will leave you with this thought written in the 6th century- "A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." (Lao Tzu)

Mike Bogdanski is a martial arts Grandmaster and Anti-bully activist. mikebogdanski.com.

Well, I know I said last week that my spooky season series was done, but with many requests for one more, I said, why not? I couldn't resist sharing just one more story for Halloween. And this one might be the strangest yet. It's the tale of a place where the mysterious meets the unexplained—where eerie lights dance across the horizon, and science and folklore collide. I'm talking about the Marfa Lights.

In a remote stretch of West Texas desert near the small town of Marfa, strange, glowing orbs have illuminated the night sky for centuries.

According to local

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history, the first recorded sighting was in 1883, when a rancher named Robert Ellison noticed lights flickering in the distance, initially thinking they were Apache campfires. But as he traveled closer, the lights seemed to move farther away, as if intentionally evading him.

Interestingly, Native American tribes in the area, including the Apache, were aware of these lights long before settlers arrived, referring to them as "fallen stars" and interpreting them as celestial or supernatural phenomena.

The Marfa Lights,

which appear as bright orange, red, or blue orbs, have been seen shifting, darting, and splitting apart only to rejoin moments later. Some say they float, while others claim they hover above the ground, weaving in and out of view.

During World War II, the Marfa Lights caught the attention of pilots stationed at the nearby Midland Army Air Field. Intrigued, these pilots attempted to locate the source of the lights, thinking it might be a natural or man-made structure. Despite multiple attempts, they never found the origin. It was as though the lights were aware of the pilots' presence, evading discovery every time they tried to

pinpoint their source.

What causes these lights?

Some say they are cars from a nearby interstate, Route 67, but that doesn't explain how they've been observed long before the automobile.

Some theories range from the scientific, like reflections or naturally occurring gases, to the supernatural, with legends suggesting they're spirits or entities keeping watch over the land. But one thing's for certain—the lights behave in ways that defy easy explanation, especially in encounters that seem almost personal.

Consider the story of a film crew that arrived in Marfa hoping to capture the lights on camera. After setting up equipment for hours, the crew finally spotted the lights flickering in the distance. But as they moved in, strange things began to happen. Cameras shut down inexplicably, and batteries drained without reason. Some crew members reported feeling as

though the lights were watching them, reacting to their every movement. No matter how they tried, they couldn't get a clear shot—the lights would appear just out of reach, then disappear, only to reappear elsewhere. By the time they left, the crew was convinced that the Marfa Lights weren't just a natural phenomenon, but something else—something almost... aware.

Another tale comes from a local rancher who encountered the lights late one night while driving home. As he traveled down the dark, empty road, he noticed glowing orbs trailing behind his truck. At first, he thought they were headlights, but the lights behaved strangely, veering off into the desert only to reappear closer to him, moving in sync with his truck. He described it as if the lights were "following" him, curious yet keeping their distance. Finally, as he neared home, the lights suddenly broke away and van-

ished into the mountains. Shaken, the rancher was left wondering—were the Marfa Lights watching him, guiding him, or simply toying with him?

To this day, the Marfa Lights remain a mystery. Scientists have tried to pin them down as reflections, atmospheric gases, or mirages caused by temperature inversions. Yet no explanation fully accounts for their behavior, nor for the strange interactions people report. And the stories continue to pile up, from locals who've seen the lights their entire lives to travelers who stumble upon them unexpectedly.

As Halloween draws near, and we gather around to share tales of the unknown, remember that some mysteries are closer than we think. They flicker on the horizon, waiting to be seen—but not necessarily to be understood.

Happy Halloween, and may all your mysteries be as strange as the Marfa Lights.

A winter season of colorful Amaryllis blooms



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

This winter, brighten your mood and surroundings by planting and growing a few amaryllis. Your thoughts may turn to red when considering this plant but now you can find a variety of colors and flower shapes. Select the color that best suits your mood and indoor décor.

Fill your home with these beauties for the holidays. Then keep the blossoms coming all winter long. Plant several different types of amaryllis bulbs, from the southern and northern hemispheres, and you'll get a long-lasting, colorful display.

Most amaryllis bulbs grown in the U.S. are imported from Holland, and their natural bloom time is January through March. Exactly when the flowers will open is impossible to predict. The best strategy is to choose several different varieties and plant them three to four weeks apart during November, December, and January so you'll always have flowers coming into bloom.

Kick off the holiday season with amaryllis bulbs imported from growers in the southern hemisphere. As we enter autumn, it's springtime in South America, and these bulbs are eager to begin to bloom. Pot them up before early November for flowerers in December.

Brighten the holiday

season with the pure white, fully double flowers of Alaska amaryllis (longfield-gardens.com). The white blossoms with lime green throat combine nicely with winter greens. Plant the bulbs in the fall and enjoy the blossoms throughout the holiday season.

Keep the flowers coming with an early bloomer such as Evergreen, which is always quick to break out of dormancy. Its flowers have narrow, lime/chartreuse petals on 20-inch plants adding a freshness to any room. Enjoy the impressive display as each bulb produces two to three stems with four to six blooms each.

Add a bit of fun and flare with the eight-inch flowers of Dancing Queen. You'll enjoy the showy layers of ruffled snow-white petals highlighted with brush strokes of red.

If you are a fan of the popular color pink, there is an amaryllis for you. Pink Surprise Amaryllis has enormous hot pink flowers with a silky sheen and a touch of white at the tip. It is a standout and perfect as a centerpiece on the dining room table or as a colorful welcome when displayed on a table by your front entrance.

For those who prefer something a bit more subtle, check out Terra Cotta Star. The soft watercolor hues of salmon, rose, buttercream and pistachio along with its dark veins add an artistic flare to each blossom.

Showcase and enjoy your colorful amaryllis by displaying it on a mantle, kitchen counter, or entryway table. Then watch the amazing show as the



Courtesy — LongfieldGardens.com

Plant Alaska amaryllis bulbs in the fall to enjoy pure white, fully double flowers throughout the holiday season.

first sprout appears, followed by buds and finally, its spectacular trumpet-shaped blooms. Or cut a few flowers to enjoy as long-lasting cut flowers.

Order these and other amaryllis varieties early for the greatest selection. Selecting an assortment of colors, flower shapes and bloom times provides months of beauty and enjoyment.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD instant video series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voters can help make this an historic Election in the 29th

To the Editor:

Voters can help make history by changing the current direction in Hartford's one-party rule!

One of Connecticut's largest protests in history took place in 1992 after a candidate for governor, that ran on his opposition to a state income tax, immediately changed his mind once elected and went as far as vetoing three budgets that didn't include a state income tax, going as far as closing State Parks for the Fourth of July! Aerial photographs of the Capital grounds were so thick you could not see the lawn!

Today our residents, regardless of party affiliation, are struggling with inflation and now have to pay the electric bill "Service Fees." Mae Flexer has had eight years to fix this problem but has chosen to not do anything. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

Mae Flexer had an opportunity to vote Chairman Giles of the Board of Pardon and Paroles, who commuted over 44 barbaric murderers' prison sentences and 27 other violent offenders' sentences, off the Board of Pardon and Paroles, but she chose not to. Mae Flexer wouldn't vote Giles off, even though many democrats did break rank and join republicans to hold Giles accountable for his unlawful authority. Mae Flexer did not meet with or show any concern for those 70 plus victims' families who have had to re-live those circumstances at the more frequent parole hearings.

Voters have an opportunity to make the Connecticut democrats in Hartford work together with Republicans. Mae Flexer is so extreme, that she has never voted for a republican amendment! Think about that for a moment. Not

a single one. At the same time, Mae supported bills that were so partisan that even their Democratic party leader, Governor Lamont vetoed it.

Voters should consider what Mae Flexer has done in life before getting involved in politics, the experiences she brings from what the people she represents have? She hasn't done any of the types of jobs we work. Mae Flexer hasn't started a business and attempted to follow the mandates that are placed on those businesses and somehow make a profit and create jobs for others to make enough to live in this extremely expensive State!

Mae Flexer claims to be a fighter for Day Kimball Hospital. She did not fight for Windham Hospital when they closed the birthing center for those moms going through pregnancy in their own community.

As a kid of the 1990's, I appreciate those protesters singing political protest songs in Hartford Connecticut, the bus loads of Connecticut citizens with handmade signs fighting for their children's future!

But correcting course now takes more than shouting. It takes putting aside partisan politics and focusing on our shared values and rights. These rights start with those who we elect actually representing those who elected them.

I'm not asking you to take a day off and head to Hartford with a handmade sign and political protest songs. I'm just asking that you vote Chris Reddy for State Senate and send the message to Hartford that they need to listen to us all.

JENNIFER RENZI
POMFRET

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I proudly endorse Anne Dauphinais

To the Editor:

I am proudly endorsing Anne Dubay Dauphinais for re-election as State Representative of District 44. Anne has been diligently and tirelessly serving our communities for several years. Many candidates have been elected to office under false pretense, making promises and then supporting and promoting their own legislative agenda. Elected to office because of conservative values, Anne supports the guiding principles that our great nation was founded upon, the principles under the United States Constitution of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Anne opposed the Democrat Police Accountability Bill that allows police officers to be sued civilly, which has led to decrease in active policing, a reduction in the recruitment of new officers, an increase in the retirement of officers, which in turn has led to an increase in crime leaving our once quiet communities vulnerable. Anne also opposed the repeal of religious exemption from mandatory school vaccinations by the Democrats.

Dauphinais’ dedication has earned my vote

To the Editor:

I’m voting for Anne Dauphinais on Nov. 5 for many reasons. One reason is Anne’s dedication to her district. I have seen her numerous times at small business ribbon cuttings, Veterans events, community gatherings and more. This is the kind of dedication we need in Eastern Connecticut. Anne’s voting record and attendance in Hartford demonstrates her passion and commitment to her constituents. This passion and dedication was a major influence on my decision to run for and win election to town govern-

Included in both state and federal constitutions, religious freedoms are being violated. She also opposed the Democrat bill that allows minors unlimited visits to mental health providers without parental approval of notification, destroying parental rights. Despite Gov. Lamont’s claims of Connecticut’s prosperity, the state continues to lose jobs that pay more than minimum wage. Even Lamont’s wife set up a new business in Nashville, Tennessee because it is too difficult to do business in Connecticut. If you want to learn the truth about how our elected officials stand, look at their legislative voting records. Connecticut ranks 50th for its fiscal health, down from 49th two years ago. The worst in the country! The only way to elicit positive change is to stop listening to the lies and propaganda. Anne’s legislative record speaks miles about her integrity. So, please join me on Tuesday, Nov. 5 in re-electing Anne Dubay Dauphinias.

ULLA K. THK-BARCLAY
KILLINGLY

ment in 2017. Anne has the ability to lead and deeply cares for the well-being of everyone in her district, no matter the color of their yard sign. She has always taken the high road and remained above the rhetoric, serving us proudly. As a homeowner, veteran, Elk member, father and husband, I believe Anne Dauphinais to be supremely qualified to serve another term in Hartford. Vote for Anne Dauphinais on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Sincerely yours,

CHRIS DILLON
DANIELSON

Anne Dauphinais has been a blessing and a friend to me

To the Editor:

Hi! I’m Jean Cyr, and I have lived in this community for over 30 years, when my husband and I and our babies relocated. I fell in love with the many wonderful people, and we have devoted our time to raising our family and being involved in the community. I first met Anne Dauphinais when our young sons started Kindergarten together at St. James. I found her to be an intelligent, kind, woman of faith. I also made friends with many mothers and some have shared with me their children have vaccine injuries. They

have shared the hardship this has created and lack of support. But they also shared that Anne Dauphinais is one of the few in Hartford that understands and gives them a compassionate ear. She has rallied with them for religious and medical freedom. And they are most grateful. Anne supports parental rights. She works hard for her constituents, and I consider her a blessing and a friend. She has my support!

JEAN MARIE CYR
EAST KILLINGLY

Let’s be clear

To the Editor:

The time to dot our i’s and cross our t’s is here...It is my opinion that clarity is imperative in our decisions right now, as they relate to the upcoming election event. First: Reproductive Freedom is not abortion... It is choice! It reflects the first conversation that I was taught in catechism, was held between our God and our human identity. This concept of God may depend on how you perceive the spiritual power of your faith or the universe, but if you understand that relationship to be defined according to the description provided in the Book of Genesis, the first order of business is establishing the rule of law! The premise that there were rules and consequences based on the principle of...free will. As a Catholic, there’s nothing more powerful than rules and the consequence of purgatory or burning in hell if we fail to follow the rules ! We’re pretty much on our own once we know those rules, unless the personal attention of Saints and angels has been assigned to guide and protect us! God would not use the leverage of the power of creation to force humanity into compliance with principles of reason, so as not to be used as a scape goat for our interpretation of compliance. So... it’s my own interpretation that free will was and IS the foundation of humanity and destiny. The outcome of choices that may be contrary to the best interest of humanity, whether it be your family, community, or country, will continue to be the consequences we will bear - personally or collectively. So, let’s be clear... a legislature or Supreme Court did not extend Free Will to humanity, almighty God did. There’s a Choice, and consequences for it. If Faith is not your cup of tea, try accountability! Second:

I do not believe for one moment, that my Puerto Rican blood poisoned the already mixed blood of my daughter’s father from South Bend, Indiana. Our wonderful daughter is proof of an improved version of her parents. History has proven that diverse genetic pools serve to strengthen and improve the larger scope of our human family. The practice of inbreeding has proven to be the cause of disease and even premature death in every genetic strain, including royal families. Cross cultural relationships serve to develop social stability, rather than a premise to divide and conquer, while diversity in racial and ethnic cultures only serve to strengthen the health of the general population in any society. Do we need Reform of Immigration laws and process? Yes! Can we fix the problem? Yes! If we created health Care

for 50 million, this is a no brainer! Bottomline...Who has credibility on the issue of genetic or racial purity? An inter-racial marriage bearing beautiful bi-racial children does not reflect campaign rhetoric, so why promote it? How can anyone argue against immigration when two or three wives were immigrants who gave birth to ethnically mixed children? What exactly are your genetic arguments based upon? Which children have “the” criminal gene? Do the criminal genes of the father pass only to the first born...or maybe the pervert gene is shared among all the offspring? Who is the obvious hypocrite? Third: No matter how many doomsday memes keep circulating or being promoted, the economy is stable and improving at every turn. Gas prices depend often on foreign markets, but our progress towards clean energy while producing more domestic resources contribute to stabilizing prices. The Stock Market has never been as high, and manufacturing is strong. Made in America is re-established and real. Inflation has been controlled and interest rates are lower. I can tell because more folks are spending more...eating out and traveling! If we understand the simplicity of avoiding tariffs, we will find how abuse of them will drain your family budget more than an interruption in the supply chain! There are no potential savings from a salary raise, or a new job, or a tax break, if we end up paying more for the daily necessities passed on to us by the small or mega retail stores! In fact, small business would be forced out of business, when their customer base cannot afford the increase of prices for the product or service they could pay for before new tariffs. Think it through folks! Cause and effect. To make a long story short...

I’ve come to the conclusion that the Republican presidential candidate is banking on losing this election! Sounds absurd, right? Well, consider this...in the event that he does lose, being the mentally disturbed individual that he is, he remains in the spotlight as he continues to raise money from the MAGA cult followers. He continues to live off of his favorite role...the Victim! Would you bet against this? If not, you’ve decided your vote on Tuesday! Common sense takes you to vote for Harris! But...if you cannot follow your God-given power of reason to such extremes... Leave the presidential preference BLANK, and make your choices for the state and local candidates! Go ahead! Be brave! You know it’s the right choice to make.

LYDIA RIVERA-ABRAMS
DAYVILLE

Dauphinais has brought a breath of fresh air to Hartford

To the Editor:

Rep. Anne Dauphinais is a breath of fresh air in the smoke-filled halls of the legislative building in Hartford. She is independent, compassionate, and truly cares about the people she represents. When my family moved to Connecticut 15 years ago, we had high hopes that it would be a great place to raise our family. The first election cycle proved us wrong. We were heartbroken to see the state we had chosen as our home spiraling out of control. Then came Anne Dauphinais. Anne sat with us and made notes on the issues affecting our family. She was honest about her positions, and discussed policy issues with clarity, proving she not only knew the issues but had thought them through. She was no partisan puppet. As unaffiliated voters, we

went away cautiously optimistic. Since that day, Rep. Dauphinais has proven she is a woman of her word. She stands strong even when doing so puts her at odds with her own party. She reads every bill that she votes on, and endeavors to make it the best legislation for the people of Connecticut. If we are truly going to make Connecticut shine again, we need more legislators with integrity who work for the good of the people and less who are controlled by corporate interests and put in office because they will stay quiet and vote the party line. We must have the courage to vote for these people. We will vote with confidence for Rep. Anne Dauphinais. Sincerely,

LOVE BARKHURST
PLAINFIELD

Jeff Gordon is an honest and hardworking state Senator

To the Editor:

I know State Sen. Jeff Gordon and his commitment to public service. Before becoming State Senator for the 35th District, he served 16 years on the Woodstock Planning and Zoning Commission (15 years as its Chairman). Jeff knows that how you do something is as important as what you do. Jeff looks to do things in a bipartisan way while standing strong on important principles. I support Jeff for re-election as State Senator for the 35th District. He is always on our side. His track record proves it. During this election, the differences between Jeff and his opponent are very clear. While Jeff has been doing the hard work, while his opponent has been doing zero on issues important to us. In fact, she has made no effort to discuss her policy stance. Jeff’s opponent talks about things she hopes to do, but Jeff has already gotten the work done. Here are some examples of Jeff’s work on our behalf:

Negotiated and helped pass in a bipartisan way, working also with the Governor, historic, big state income tax cuts for low and middle income people and families. Negotiated and help pass Expanded tax exemptions for seniors’ retirement accounts and pensions. Fighting to lower electricity bills by removing taxes on the bills. Electricity bills should only be about the electricity you use and nothing else. Sponsored and got passed property tax exemptions for certified service-related 100 percent disabled veterans. Fighting against state unfunded mandates on our towns that we pay for in their property taxes. Voted against legislation that would increase motor vehicle taxes. Supported child tax credits for working families. Did not pass this year but Jeff is working on it for next year.

DALE WARREN
EASTFORD

Gordon has real, common sense solutions to fix sky-high electric bills

To the Editor:

State Sen. Jeff Gordon has fought hard for us in order to fix this crisis of high electric bills that we are paying. He listens to his constituents and fights hard for issues impacting us. This is one of the reasons why I strongly support Jeff for re-election as State Senator for the 35th District. His track record proves it. Jeff says that “electricity bills should only be about the electricity you use and not anything else.” If the state wants to have certain programs, then it should fund them in the state budget, not force taxpayers to pay more than we already do. Residents of Connecticut already have an enormous tax burden and many of us have difficulty paying our high bills especially during these times of high inflation. Thanks to Jeff’s bipartisan work, a law was passed last year that requires transparency in our electric bills. Now we see the taxes in our bills that previously were hidden. Connecticut residents should know what state government is doing and because of Jeff’s hard work, we can now see where our money is going. With the high cost of living, it is difficult to make ends meet and pay the high cost of monthly bills, so it is outrageous to me that we also have to pay for people who chose not to pay their bills during the four-year-long electricity shut off moratorium enacted by the Governor through executive order. Think about that! Four years of people not paying their bills, but who could have and should have paid. You and I cover this big cost while at the same time we try to pay for what our families need, such as groceries, services, and medicines. In February, Jeff worked with colleagues in the legislature to propose ways to prevent the electricity rate hikes from happening. He advocated for moving these taxes off our electric bills and into the state budget, but these proposals were ignored by legislative leaders. Jeff warned us about the rate hikes and has never stopped working to fix the problem. He has a long list of common-sense proposals to help us in both the short- and long-term. Jeff

has met with Eversource and the Public Utilities Regulatory Agency to delve into the details of what can be done to help us and to hold their feet to the fire to get us help. Jeff has held many office hours and town meetings. He is out and about often in all 13 towns of the 35th Senate District to meet with and listen to people. He has not stopped fighting for us. This is what a State Senator should do, and Jeff is conscientious about his work for the people. This is why I whole-heartedly appreciate and support him!! Recently, Jeff was at the Capitol, holding a press conference, and presented in person a state-wide petition signed by over 68,000 people to remove the taxes from our electric bills. I hope that legislative leaders and the Governor accept Jeff’s offer to work with them so that state government works for us. This is just another example of how hard Jeff fights for us. One of the things he worked on - and was successful on - was in co-introducing needed reforms that better keeps us rate payers in mind when the state creates energy policies and enters into energy purchase agreements. Jeff did this by working with his fellow legislators, Republicans and Democrats alike, to get it done. Despite what some people say for their own political purposes, this law did not at all increase electricity rates but protects us better in the future. Jeff’s opponent has no plan, no real proposals, no meetings with people, no listening to us, and no discussion at all about what to do about the high electric bills. Why has Jeff’s opponent refused his offer to hold a debate? Because his opponent does not want you to know that she has done and is doing nothing, except running attack ads full of lies and a smear campaign. Jeff is doing the hard work, has serious proposals about energy policy, and he is getting things done. This is why we need to keep Jeff working as our State Senator. During early voting and on Nov. 5, please join me in voting to re-elect Sen. Jeff Gordon.

JOANNE WARREN
EASTFORD

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What kind of leader do we want?

To the Editor:
Donald Trump should not be elected to be President of our country.
Do we really want a leader who lies?
Do we want a leader who is a convicted felon?
Do we want a leader who has no respect for the law, the Constitution, and the vote?
Do we want a leader who encourages his followers and thugs to destroy our Capitol building and put our elected Congress people at risk?
Do we want a leader who thinks he can grope women with impunity because he is rich and powerful?
Do we want a leader who praises dictators like Putin, Hitler and others?
Do we want a leader who will go after his enemies with slander, lies and intimidation?
No! We want a leader who will stop the division and hatred that is our current reality. We want leaders who will unite people to work for the common good of all our citizens and make America great by upholding its principles of liberty and justice for all. We want a leader who will make immi-

gration safe and possible for deserving people.
The economy is strong; inflation is not the Biden administration's fault. Inflation started with the Covid pandemic and a broken supply chain because of west coast dock strikes. Companies found they could charge more for less and have continued to do so even when things became less dire. Greed and corruption cause inflation and miss use of supply and demand. Donald Trump will not help the middle class or the poor he is only in politics for himself and his rich buddies. His economic plans will result in higher costs for the people who can least afford it. The job seekers will find as they have before that there is no trickle down effect. Cutting the wealthiest people's taxes does not create more jobs or investment, it creates an elite with endless money for their own pleasure.
Donald Trump has no respect for the military or those who serve. He has no respect for a woman's right to reproductive freedom.

ANN ROSEBROOKS
THOMPSON

I support Jeff Gordon

To the Editor:

I support Jeff Gordon for State Senator. Jeff is a real person that spends considerable time connecting with his district's residents to understand their needs and concerns. I have seen Jeff out and about many times talking to people and remembering our names. Jeff understands his job and does it well. What has Jeff accomplished? Jeff Gordon has worked at many different angles to lower taxes for each of us and he has recently presented a petition with 68,000 signatures to help get our electricity bills under control. He has brought grant money to our town, and he has worked to keep spending under control.
Unfortunately, Jeff's opponent has run an aggressive smear campaign against him. It has been easy to see that the accusations are untrue and misinformed. Do your research on these accusations. For example:
Why did Jeff vote against HB 5424? According to action.ctcatholicpac.org, HB 5424 is "An Act Prohibiting Adverse Actions Against Health Care Providers for Providing Certain Health Care Services" would remove the religious rights of both Catholic healthcare workers and hospitals and punish them for failing to provide abortion services

or other services contrary to our faith." Requiring Catholic hospitals and workers to commit actions against their faith is a violation of religious freedom and would result in less health care workers and less hospitals. Hospital doors would close due to this bill. Workers would quit. This bill would be detrimental to the health of countless people. Thank you, Jeff, for voting to support religious freedom, and therefore, health care for all. I stand with Jeff.
Would Jeff help "enact the most dangerous elements of Trump's Project 2025"? No. Jeff knows his job as a State Senator has no involvement in federal work. Because he knows the limits of his job, he uses his time efficiently, and you will see him out interacting with the citizens of his district. Thank you, Jeff, for staying within the bounds of your work and spending your time effectively helping us here and now.
While the smear continues, I am convinced with each and every new flier in the mail that Jeff is the State Senator I choose. He has avoided retaliation and stood his ground on the truth and his hard work. I support integrity. I support Jeff Gordon. Thank you, Jeff, for your service.

JULIA TORCELLINI
EASTFORD

Democrat hypocrisy is laughable

To the Editor:
Even CNN analysts and pundits have had enough of Harris' "word salad" answers, of her constant avoidance in answering certain questions, and of her failure to blame administration policies. Instead of coming right out and answering questions, the only thing this evasive buffoon can do is deflect to Donald Trump.
JD Vance was questioned by a brain-washed stooge who said that it's "only a few places that have been taken over by Venezuelan gangs." His reply was: "Are you listening to what you're saying? It shouldn't be any!" Billy Taylor's response to Vance would be "so what?" and he'd continue with parroting his usual, but if it supports your narrative apparently two wrongs do make a right.
In what could be the biggest slap in the face yet, Harris's own hometown newspaper, the Los Angeles Times, along with the Washington Post (both liberal supporting rags), have refused to issue a presidential endorsement for 2024. In a desperate attempt at whatever, Harris has the disgraced Liz Cheney - who could be going down for witness tampering - in tow, and it's only because she's anti-Trump that's keeping her somewhat relevant if only in a few people's minds. And if Cheney does go down for witness tampering, Harris and the Democrats will toss her aside quicker than they did Joe Biden.

I laugh at these accusations that Trump will go after his political opponents when it's not even a thought that the Democrats and the Biden/Harris administration have been doing that exact same thing for how long now? Another funny thing was that Joe Biden was considered to be sharp as a tack and age was no issue, but now that he's gone, Trump's the old man who can't put coherent sentences together. When the Biden administration and the democrats had control of both the House and the Senate, why didn't they come up with "a good bill regarding border security back then?" I've asked that before, and I suppose Trump is to blame for that as well? Harris and the democrats have no plan other than to make these migrants future democratic voters, and her blinder-wearing followers are saying that electing Trump will result in a one-party rule. And in addition to being hypocrites, the Democrats have very short memories.
And as far as that Manhattan jury decision went, I equate that one-sided affair to having those two guys from Killingly being the deciders of me writing future letters to the Editor. Anyhow, pretty soon, we'll have a new President, and we'll see where that leads.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Reject the endless gas-lighting by the left

To the Editor:
Just when we thought that we had seen it all, we have much of the Democrat media claiming that a rally at Madison Square Garden composed of whites, blacks, Asians, Hispanics, Christians, Jews, Muslims, and every other segment of American society was a Nazi rally. I don't think that 'Nazi' means what they claim that it means. They are the ones that are in fact acting like Nazis, using outrageous lies and propaganda to try and sway a skeptical public.
When you have a presidential candidate and her followers running on almost nothing but outrageous false claims about her opponent, can't articulate a position on anything, or even answer a question with anything besides a word salad, it's very revealing. This shows that first and foremost, there is nothing in her past that would gain her votes.
The problem for Harris and the shameless liars in the chorus of her supporters is number one, her horrible record, and number two the great record of President Trump. Their fear mongering should not sway anyone, she is obviously a complete disaster and Trump

has already proven himself in the office. Harris has gone from being a horrible Attorney General in California, to her pathetic failure as Vice President under Joe Biden, the worst president in recent US history and her admission that she would have done absolutely nothing differently from what Biden has done. They insisted on out of control spending that resulted in high inflation, oversaw a disastrous pullout in Afghanistan, and also the enabled and encouraged millions of illegals coming into our country, hundreds of thousands of them proven criminals, including rapists and murderers, many of who have continued to commit those crimes here in the United States. The reckless, desperate smears against her opponent that have endangered his life, and her refusal to stop doing it are absolutely outrageous. These facts alone should disqualify her from the office. Send her packing along with her demented partner in doing damage to this country, Joe Biden and her weirdo running mate Tim Walz.

Best Regards,

NORM FERRON
DANIELSON

Extremism: how do we stop it?

To the Editor:
Both sides in this election are talking about how extreme the other side is. The fear of extremism has been capitalized to win votes. This only makes the problem worse.
Our current Rep. Pat Boyd and Sen. Jeff Gordon understand this problem well. They have run clean campaigns. They focus on local issues that matter. They don't capitalize on emotions to win more votes.
In contrast, Merry Garrett's campaign has tied Sen. Gordon to Project 2025, Donald Trump, and right-winged extremism. But let's pause for a moment. Project 2025 has been rejected by Donald Trump. Donald Trump has not endorsed

Sen. Gordon. Most importantly, Project 2025 deals with federal policies, not the state ones that state senators will be voting on.
This is the same pattern we see over and over again in our politics. The biggest reasons to be afraid are broad, sweeping, and often untrue. Fear is capitalized to help some people win.
It seems that our fear of extremism is making us vote for more of it. Before we vote this November, let's pause. Let's vote for values that are local. Let's vote for candidates who choose careful thought over fear.

ISAAC TORCELLINI
EASTFORD

Representative democracy means being present

To the Editor:
I've tried to maintain a balanced eye upon those vexing policy questions of our modern times, tempered by a career in public education as a history and civics teacher as well as other roles. I also try to find time to volunteer for preserving history within some of our community's ancient burial grounds. This question of representation has crossed my mind a lot lately, and I've seen what representation looks like and have been learning a lot about what it most certainly is not.
The Cambridge Dictionary defines "represent" as "to speak, act, or be present officially for another person or people." Being present for others, to be there instead of them, means being able to understand them, by listening and being accessible. How else can anyone truly feel represented if they aren't acknowledged or heard? Let me offer two contrasting case studies.
On the one hand, I remember a thoughtful, kind, humble, and ever-smiling Mae Flexer, who was a year younger than me at Killingly High School. On some days, remaining after school for some extracurricular engagement, I thought it was pretty cool how her dad was outside waiting to pick her up on his motorcycle; she'd put on a helmet and they'd ride away. I was glad seeing her at the register to ring up my CD at Dayville's Strawberries, where she worked after high school. Now I wonder, whatever happened to that Mae Flexer of my memories? I'd asked for her assistance in the past few years regarding issues relating to my parents and historic cemetery advocacy but never received any replies to my multiple outreach notes at all.
When she was listed as an honored guest at a college award ceremony in the spring, I looked forward to saying hello. After all, I was president of the creative writing club there and one of our members was receiving an award. Unfortunately, Senator Flexer did not show up until the end of the event and missed the chance to hear anyone's poems, explaining to the audience how she was delayed at an elementary school event with kids across the street instead.

When awardees prepared to pose individually for a photo op as initially planned, Sen. Flexer matter-of-factly asked, for the sake of expediency, that they just do one big group photo with her at the center instead.
As people then dispersed and Sen. Flexer stood chatting with someone for at least five minutes, standing a mere three feet in front of me at the reception, I patiently paused nearby, waiting for an opportunity simply to say hello. As soon as that conversation ended, she glanced at me, quickly grabbed her young daughter's hand, pulling her along and rushing away in a frenetic march towards the front exit door: Her back was turned, but I exclaimed, "Mae, it's Jason Bowns..." Glancing back, she quipped, "I know," continuing away at full throttle.
So where did that Mae Flexer I once knew go? Ironically, the daughter and son-in-law of Rep. Anne Dauphinais were in my graduating high school class although we moved in different circles. I've gotten to know Anne over the years and asked for her support when issues arose impacting my parents and for my own longstanding cemetery advocacy. She has made calls and written letters every time; Anne has always followed through, called or texted me back, and she's never left me hanging. Her support has helped us forge relationships with other elected officials and pursue non-profit funding goals.
Yes, Anne and I have different views on a range of policy issues. Yet her record reflects how I feel heard and respected here in the general public, living in a community which we all care deeply about, even when our individual visions for a best path forward may diverge.
At least there's a silver lining: I'm indebted to Sen. Flexer for truly exemplifying what G.K. Chesterton meant when he wrote, "It is hard for government to be representative when it is also remote."

Does a more urgent call exist for change when a representative does not represent?

JASON BOWNS
PLAINFIELD

Early voting has started!

To the Editor:
What a blast at the Brooklyn Republican Town Committee's Annual Fundraiser at Hank's Monday night! Gracious hosts...thank you, Amy and your fabulous staff!
Thank you to our friend Jocelyn for helping me with the first basket raffle I have ever done! It was super fun and we all had a lot of laughs!
Special thank-you to Joanne Eiler, BRTC's Chairman! Remember, this is all volunteer, folks. We all share a love of country and its values, foundation and hope for the future in a pretty crazy world.
Extra special thank you's to Chris Reddy, whose opponent sent out the hateful and untrue giant postcard that I received this week. It was great to receive his as well...not so giant, but reaffirming his values and stellar

reputation as a true public servant.
With regards to the reproductive rights dialog you will read in your giant postcard, young women were lied to in the '70s and continue to be lied to instead of using the many opportunities to avoid conception. This would be identified as being responsible...by the woman and the medical provider. Believers place equal value on both lives.
Thank you, Mike France, Anne Dauphinais, Chris Reddy, Mike Morey, Michelle Garabedian locals...Austin and Caroline Tanner, Deb and Lance (I called him Vance last night...oops) and all of our supporters, Hank's customers who joined in the fun and contributed as well. We love and thank you all!
Please pray for America! And vote!
TAMI WYKES
BROOKLYN

KILLINGLY

continued from page A7

Road, Danielson; Hi-Way Campers; G. . MacDonald Insurance, 162 Main Street, Danielson; Ridgewood Inn, 5 Main Street, Rogers; Brooklyn Savings Bank, Danielson; Barkers, Route 101, Dayville; Bargain Supply, 128 Main Street, Danielson; Imperial Cinema, 30 Front Street, Putnam; Langevin Electric Company, Route 169, Brooklyn; Bon Aire Motel, Route 101, Dayville; T. H. Ray Heating Oils, No. Main Street, Danielson; Pete's Lunch, 30 ½ Main Street, Danielson; S. E. Poludniak, Inc., Westcott Road, Danielson; Raymond Denomme Agency, 33 South Main St., Danielson; Danielson Sanitation, Cross Street; Logee's Greenhouses, 55 North St.; Da-ZI Dairy, Route 101, Dayville;

Chabot's Welding Shop, Furnace Street, Danielson; Garvey Sand & Gravel, Lake Road, Dayville; Dowe's Card & Gift Shop, Inc. 112 Main Street, Danielson; Dayville Package Store, Railroad Street, Dayville; Danielson Travel Bureau, Inc., 74 Main Street, Danielson; R & H Salvage Co., Inc. , Old Pond Road, East Killingly; Leo's Hilltop Auto Service, 58 North Street, Danielson; Basic Electronics, Inc., Danielson; The Connecticut Bank & Trust Company, 177 Main Street, Danielson; Beaudreau Electric, Inc., corner of Main & Maple Streets, Danielson; Ernie's Food Store, 138 Mechanic Street, Danielson; Eugene R. Fiteni, Agent Consolidated Insurance brokers, Inc. & Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance. There are many more. How many can you think of? Please share

your memories of these or other busiensses by emailing me or sending a letter to the Killingly Historical Center.

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



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²Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. 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.