

The Gazette

VOLUME 139, NO. 15

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

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Husky Parade Saturday in city

Governor Ned Lamont today announced that the State of Connecticut, the City of Hartford, and the Hartford Business Improvement District will host a victory parade and rally in downtown Hartford on Saturday, April 13, to congratulate the UConn men's basketball team for winning the 2024 NCAA National Championship.

UConn won its sixth men's basketball national title Monday with a 75-60 victory over the Purdue Boilermakers at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

The parade will begin at 11 a.m. and will step off at the State Capitol building at the intersection of Trinity and Elm streets. It will proceed north on Trinity Street, under the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, turn right onto Jewell Street, left on Trumbull Street and end at the intersection of Asylum and Trumbull streets.

A victory rally will be held outside of the main entrance of the XL Center on Trumbull Street where the players, coaches, and other guests will be invited to give speeches.

"For the second year in a row, the UConn men's basketball team wowed the nation by dominating the NCAA tournament, and now it's time for Connecticut to give them the victory celebration they deserve," Governor Lamont said. "I urge basketball fans from all over Connecticut to come to Hartford on Saturday morning and

See **HUSKY PARADE**, page 10

GLIMPSE OF AN ECLIPSE



OVER 200 RESIDENTS gathered Monday afternoon outside the Raymond Library to view the solar eclipse, using viewing glasses handed out by library staffers. Above, sixth graders Genesis H. and Journie B. take in the moment. Below left, Tricia with sons Jer, 13, and Zeke, 15 use a cereal box to view the partial eclipse.



InterCommunity to get \$561K in grants

InterCommunity health care centers of East Hartford was awarded \$561,113 through the state's Nonprofit Grant Program, the governor announced.

The funds will be used for an HVAC project at 361 Main Street, which is estimated to cost \$361,250, and \$199,863 for construction of a "Mobile Unit Barn."

The grants were among those announced by Gov. Ned Lamont, approximately \$35.5 million for state nonprofits for needed capital improvement projects. The state's Nonprofit Grant Program is administered by the state Office of Policy and Management. The grants will fund items not typically reimbursed through other sources.

"Connecticut's nonprofit providers support residents in every town and are a vital part of our social services safety net," Governor Lamont said. "Providing funding to make strategic investments helps these organizations deliver the services some of our most vul-

See **INTERCOMMUNITY**, page 10

VETERANS: Memorial Day Parade wants you!

At 10 a.m. on Monday, May 27th, the 2024 East Hartford Memorial Day Parade will step off on the Campus of Goodwin University. There are currently over 750 people who are registered to march in the parade, including a wide range of military, youth, community and musical groups.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday that serves to honor and mourn the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

In East Hartford, we'd also like to recognize any and all residents of East Hartford who have served in any branch of our Armed Forces.

Candy Guastamachio, Parade Chair, is encouraging any and all veterans to come down to the start of the parade and be front and center of the town's annual event honoring your service.

"Are you (or a member of your family) a veteran? Do you have a uniform (or any item of clothing that identifies your branch service) that still fits? Come on down!" she implores.

All veterans are invited to participate in the East Hartford Memorial Day Parade. You may officially register by clicking on this link: <https://www.east-hartfordct.gov/veterans-commission/webforms/memorial-day-parade-registration-2024> Although registration is not

See **VETERANS WANTED!**, pg. 10

AROUND TOWN

Man shot during dispute behind Silver Lane business

On April 7th, at 9:48 pm, Officers responded to the parking area behind Bare Bones Boxing at 467 Silver Lane on report of gunshots.

Police found a man in the parking lot who had been shot in the chest. Life saving measures were performed by East Hartford Police and the East Hartford Fire Department. The victim was transported to the hospital by ASM where he was said to be in stable condition.

Police later learned the victim had been involved in a physical dispute with the suspect prior to being shot in or around the gym when the suspect pulled out a firearm and shot,

then drove off.

Police identified the suspect as 33-year-old James Tate of West Hartford who turned himself in.

Tate was charged with Assault 1st degree, Reckless Endangerment 1st degree, Carrying a Pistol Without a Permit, Illegal Discharge of a Firearm, and Breach of Peace 2nd degree. He is currently being held on a \$250,000 bond.

East Hartford police are still investigating the incident.

Anyone with information can contact Investigator Briahna Martin at 860-291-7545 or call the EHPD tip line at 860-289-9134.

Wayne Dalton

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PLANNED DEVELOPMENT



A proposal to construct a cobination of residential and retail stores on a one-acre parcel at 351 Silver Lane at the corner of Warren Drive has come before the town's Planning and Zoning Commission. The proposed project consists of one three-story building which will include 3,400 square feet of retail/quick-service restaurant space, five studio apartments, twenty one-bedroom apartments, and ten two-bedroom apartments. The commercial space will consist of two units and will be located on the first story of the building. The proposed development will also include the construction of a 67 space parking lot, an amenity/dog walking area, landscaping, and other site improvements. The parking lot will be configured to the east and south of the proposed building, will full-movement intersections on Warren Drive and Silver Lane. Douglas Wilson, the Local Traffic Authority and Town Engineer, sees no immediate concerns with the application in regards to traffic, according to the documents submitted by owner, Nam Hue 351 LLC for the town's Planned Development District R-3 zone which calls for zoning flexibility in order to encourage a higher density of activity, mixed uses, more robust design standards and environmental protection.

Goodwin U LPN program approved

Goodwin University is excited to have received state approval to launch a new Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) certificate program to help further address an ongoing nursing shortage across the state of Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Public Health, Board of Examiners for Nursing (CT BOEN) approved the certificate program on Thursday, April 4, allowing the University to admit its first cohort of students in May 2024. With this LPN certificate program, Goodwin rounds out its broad range of nursing programs offered that includes Associate Degree in Nursing (RN), Accelerated BSN, RN-to-BSN, Master of Science in Nursing, APRN Family Nurse Practitioner, and APRN Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

The LPN program is led by Dr. Vivienne Friday, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions, and Karyn Therrien, Director of the LPN program. "LPNs are critical members of a healthcare team, and we're incredibly excited to have gained approval from the state to enroll our first cohort of LPN students this summer," said Therrien. "With teaching facilities in both East Hartford and Bridgeport, we're proud to be helping to address the state's nursing shortage head on."

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After hiking electric rates, utility reminds customers who need it to apply for relief

Eversource is alerting customers that utility service shut-offs for non-payment will resume on May 2, regardless of hardship status. Service shut-offs are a last resort, and the energy company encourages anyone who needs help paying their bill to take advantage of assistance programs.

Customers that meet state income eligibility requirements are eligible for financial hardship programs including:

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) - Households can get up to \$530 in CEAP funds this winter heating season.

Apply online at <https://ct.gov/heatinghelp> or apply with a Community Action Agency (CAA). Visit 211.ct.org or call 211.

The Matching Payment Program - For every dollar they pay and every dollar they receive from the CT Energy Assistance Program, we will subtract a dollar from the amount they owe. Customers should visit Eversource.com/billhelp to see if they qualify and enroll.

The New Start Program can help pay off a past due balance with on-time monthly payments, some of what is owed

will be subtracted each month.

Electric Bill Discount. A new electric bill discount is available to customers with a financial hardship status on their electric account. Based on their household income or receipt of a public assistance benefit, customers may be eligible for a 10% or 50% discount off their electric bill per month. Visit Eversource.com/billhelp

Music programs among the top

East Hartford Public Schools (EHPS) has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation for the 4th year in a row. This designation from The NAMM Foundation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement for providing music access and education to all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, EHPS answered detailed questions about its K-12 music offerings. This included information about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Responses were reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

"This recognition represents our district's long history of prioritizing music education at all

grade levels and our commitment to serving the whole child. Music education promotes creativity, taps into students' inner talents and ambitions and celebrates our community's diverse cultural backgrounds," said EHPS Superintendent Thomas Anderson.

EHPS Fine and Performing Arts Supervisor Andrew Clapsaddle said, "I want to thank the music teachers, family members and students for making music a priority in East Hartford Public Schools. We also want to extend our gratitude to our central office administration and community for their unwavering commitment to ensure all of our students have the opportunity to learn and grow with music."

2024 marks the 25th year of the Best Communities for Music Education designation. EHPS was one of 975 districts nationwide to be recognized.

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MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS**

MAY 27, 2024

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The Gazette

Thursday, April 11, 2024

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EDITORIALS

Insurance industry shores up resources to address climate change

The Connecticut Insurance Department (CID) announced its participation in the adoption of the first-ever National Climate Resilience Strategy for Insurance by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Commissioner Andrew N. Mais, also serving as the NAIC President, participated in a media briefing Friday, April 5th, to discuss this initiative.

The NAIC National Climate Resilience Strategy for Insurance aims to mitigate losses and expedite recovery from natural disasters, safeguarding the nation's property insurance market. Developed under the guidance of the NAIC's Climate and Resiliency Task Force, this strategy outlines state regulators' plans to collect data, blueprint flood insurance, leverage catastrophe modeling, develop new resilience tools, advocate for mitigation funding, and enhance solvency oversight.

"Closing the protection gap and ensuring insurance availability and reliability are paramount in the face of climate risks", said Commissioner Andrew N. Mais. "The National Climate Resilience Strategy provides a crucial blueprint for state insurance regulators to strengthen communities and enhance resilience."

Connecticut's participation in this initiative aligns with the state's ongoing efforts to mitigate climate risks and enhance consumer protection. Governor Ned Lamont has put forth a proposal in the current legislative session concerning climate resiliency planning, Senate Bill 11, that specifically directs the Insurance Commissioner to convene a working group of stakeholders to study the need, structure, and feasibility of a program to assist homeowners and small businesses—especially in vulnerable communities—with fortification activities, including incentive programs and funding sources to protect against climate-related risks.

CID is collaborating with states nationwide to establish a comprehensive database that will enable state insurance regulators to more effectively monitor their homeowner markets, pinpoint evolving trends, and identify potential coverage gaps on an annual basis.

CID has also adopted and implemented the NAIC's TCFD-aligned Climate Risk Disclosure Survey, which requests, on an annual basis, a non-confidential disclosure of certain domestic insurers' assessment and management of their climate-related risks across four

thematic areas – governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics and targets. CID reviews these survey responses, in conjunction with key data from other climate-related financial solvency tools, to inform its financial oversight of the marketplace and assure insurers' financial condition and ability to cover claims.

The big risks inherent in this small New England state include:

- Over \$700 billion worth of property insured on Connecticut coastline, 6th highest of 18 Atlantic states.
- 64% of all insured property in Connecticut is on the coastline, 3rd behind Florida and New York.
- Nearly 60% of Connecticut is forested and this state is among the most densely populated.

"Through initiatives such as the proposed Mitigation Grant Advisory Council, our active participation in the NAIC Climate Risk Disclosure Survey, and the annual Connecticut Conference on Climate Change and Insurance (C4i)", said Commissioner Mais, "we remain committed to safeguarding our communities, mitigating loss, and fostering resilience as we confront the challenges posed by climate change."

In Spring, schools bursting with growth, accomplishment - and music

Dear Friends,

This week, our 6,500 hardworking students and over 1,300 dedicated staff members are enjoying their well-deserved spring break. It's a great time for everyone to recharge and relax. We look forward to them coming back from break energized and ready for a strong finish to the school year. Global experiences are part of the teaching and learning process and we are very excited for the East Hartford High School students who are spending the break in Costa Rica. After much fundraising and planning, the group of 15 is enjoying the first EHPS international trip since before the pandemic. We know it's going to be an educational and enduring experience for these students.

We have several educators to congratulate on recent recognitions and awards. EHPS Secondary Mathematics Curriculum Supervisor Robert Janes is the 2024 recipient of the Associated Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut (ATOMIC) Mari Muri Award. This is awarded annually to an educator who exhibits outstanding commitment and successful service to the entire mathematics community in Connecticut. This year, EHPS has two teachers who were chosen as 2024 Fund for Teachers (FFT) fellows: Noah Bilmes, 5th Grade Teacher at Norris Elementary, and Ryan Jalbert, Physical Education and Health Teacher at Goodwin Elementary. This prestigious program provides public school educators with grants for self-designed summer fellowships and professional growth experiences to enhance their work. Since 2016, East Hartford

WHAT'S WELL FROM WELLS HALL



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent of Schools



Tyron Harris
Chair, EH Board of Education

Public Schools has had 69 FFT fellows.

We are also proud to announce that EHPS has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation for the 4th year in a row. This designation from The NAMM Foundation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement

for providing music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, EHPS answered detailed questions about its K-12 music offerings including information about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. EHPS was one of 975 districts to be recognized out of the entire country. This recognition represents our long history of prioritizing music education at all grade levels and our commitment to serving the whole child.

We encourage you to attend one of our upcoming spring concerts to hear some of this outstanding music firsthand. Our students practice very hard and you will be impressed with their talent. Also, spring sports are fully underway and the weather is warming up, so please come out to cheer on our athletes. All of this event information can be found at easthartford.org/calendar.

Your continued support of East Hartford Public Schools is appreciated. If we can be of service, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Harris at 860-622-5017 or harris.tv@easthartford.org, or Mr. Anderson at 860-622-5107 or superintendent@easthartford.org.

With East Hartford Pride!

Tyron V. Harris
Board of Education Chairman
Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
East Hartford Public Schools

East Hartford residents made their mark in our State Capitol building

by Robert Kanehl

Did you know East Hartford's handprints are clearly visible inside the state's Legislative Office Building (LOB) located alongside the capitol.

Walking through the LOB last week, for the first time in about forty years, I noticed East Hartford's influence across the structure. As a young reporter, I was introduced to John Larson by then Governor Bill O'Neill. Larson, at the time was a young Democrat leader working on the opening of the legislative building. His career is well known in town and reflects the importance of East Hartford in the state and the country.

Besides this connection, other East Hartford achievements and accomplishments fill several of the pictorial displays. But beyond this there are names enshrined across the complex if you know where to look.

The Connecticut Hall of Fame is located in the second-floor atrium. There are 27 names listed on the wall display. Among these names are town honorees Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted and Aviation Engineer pioneer Frederick Rentschler.

But not all the enshrined names reach into the distance past. Some of these remarkable Connecticut natives have been seen walking the streets in my life-time. A military display in the tunnel between the legislative office and the capitol, is dedicated to Connecticut soldiers, as well as outstanding veterans.

Among the names of the Wall of Honor for the Afghanistan/Iraq conflict is Army Sergeant Richard Ford, a resident of town.

Another item in the display, is a plaque noting the Connecticut Veteran Hall of Fame. This plaque dates from 2005 and is

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back on our East Hartford

headed by two very interesting names: the first inductee is Nate Agostinelli the second is President George Bush.

The first of these men is well remembered and respected here in the East Hartford and Manchester area. He served not only as a mayor of Manchester, but was President of the Man-

chester State Bank, and once held the elected position of State Comptroller.

Agostinelli died last month and few people who ever meet him had a harsh word to say. He was involved statewide in gathering money for various veteran organizations, while serving as a commander in the state national guard. He retired as a Brigadier General, having started as an enlisted man in the Korean Conflict. He then received a presidential appointment as a civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army.

His efforts helped save the Army-Navy Club in Manchester, the oldest such club in the na-

tion, older than the American Legion. He also helped obtain funds to various East Hartford organizations over his years of public service.

East Hartford's Thomas Sheridan shares the plaque with President Bush, Governor O'Neill and General Agostinelli. Enshrined in 2012, Sheridan was a lawyer, who was the longest serving Clerk to the state's Senate. He over saw the rules and procedures of the Senate during his public service.

Boy, the LOB has changed over the years since I was last there. Guess we should visit more often.

LETTERS

School Backpack Program is out of food supplies

To the Editor:

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

J J & C Contractors LLC has been collecting food to donate to the East Hartford Public Schools Backpack Program. Every year many families need a little extra help, and it is our mission that every child in our school has a well-balanced meal, even when they are not school.

For the first time in 12 years, our backpack program (EHPS) has run out of food! We help over 100 children each week with healthy meals over the weekends.

We are seeking donations of:

- Granola bars or oatmeal (individual)
- Ramen noodles/ Read to eat meals (small) NO GLASS
- Cereal
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned chicken/tuna
- Canned or individual fruit/applesauce

Monetary or gift card donations are always welcome!

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Please feel free to email Chris Tierinni at ctierinni@jjc-contractors.com or Ashley Tierinni at Ashley.tierinni4454@hotmail.com with any questions.

Thank you for helping us help our local community.

The Tierinni Family

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East Hartford
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This Drive will help the environment. All funds raised from the redemption of these recyclables will go to support our service to the Town of East Hartford through scholarships to High School seniors, eye screenings for pre-school children, holiday food baskets to families in need, the Quest Program which funds a drug prevention course at the East Hartford Middle School and many other services.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Rosarians to give cultivation pointers

The Connecticut Horticultural Society continues its season of speaker meetings with "Roses for New England" featuring Mike & Angelina Chute, at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 16 at Elmwood Community Center (and via Zoom). The presentation will be followed with a Q&A.

The Elmwood Community Center is at 1106 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford.

Roses for New England is a special presentation for every rose lover who wants to grow hardy, healthy, and disease resistant roses in their home gardens. This program specifically addresses the merits and challenges of rose gardening in New

England. Novice rose gardeners will find everything they need to know to successfully grow roses and experienced gardeners will utilize this program as a ready reference to enable them to grow better roses. Mike and Angelina Chute's book, *Roses for New England: A Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening* is the companion reference to this program. Mike and Angelina are co-owners of RoseSolutions, a landscape consulting company that specializes in roses. They are both certified American Rose Society Master Rosarians. Mike is an accredited ARS horticultural rose judge. They also serve as consultants

for both municipal and private rose gardens. Accomplished garden writers, the Chutes' second book, *Rose Gardening Season by Season: A Journal for Passionate Gardeners* joins *Roses for New England*. In addition the Chutes are contributing editors to the *American Rose* magazine, have written numerous garden articles and authored the chapter "Roses" in the *University of Rhode Island Sustainable Gardening Manual*.

The talk is free for members and \$10 for non-members. For more information or for non-members to register, or go to cthorthort.org.



Mike and Angelina Chute will talk all about roses May 16 at the Elmwood Community Center in West Hartford.



East Hartford Public Schools



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Society

'Libations & Creations' April 18

Make this handsome leather purse Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at Grassilini, Your Leather Genie, 1007 Main St. Gracia Martin, owner, leads the two-hour, fun class which is limited to 10 participants. Cost of \$150 per person includes all leather materials, wine, crackers and cheese, fruit and water.

Go online to grassilini.com or e-mail gracia@theleathergenie.com to reserve a slot.



Disco dinner dance at Senior Center

The East Hartford Senior Center is hosting a Disco Dinner Dance Thursday, April 25 at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15; \$12 for members of the Senior Center, which includes lunch of fried chicken, mashed potatoes and corn and ambrosia salad for dessert. Rereshments available.

Dress in 70's attire for a raffle ticket to receive a prize, then hit the dance floor to the sounds of the JCDC Duo. Performed by veteran musicians, the Duo features strong vocals backed by various instruments, a 70's sound sure to fill the dance floor. Register at the Senior Center, 15 Millwood Road.

AT THE LIBRARY

Blackout Poetry, Friday, April 12, 2 to 4 p.m. Stop by Raymond Library and take markers to old books and find the poems hidden within the pages. For ages 8 and up.

LEGO Play Day - Saturday, April 13, 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.; Sunday, April 14, 2 to 4 p.m. Use your imagination to build and create with LEGOs! Pick a design challenge card out of the bowl or make a creation of your own choosing. Completed LEGO

masterpieces will stay on display at the library for the rest of the week. Program is for children of all ages. Duplo blocks will be available for our youngest builders.

Register for reminders online. The Raymond Library is located at 840 Main St. The Wickham Library is located at 656 Burnside Avenue.

FMI go to www.easthartfordct.gov/library or call 860-290-4330.

STILL FRIENDLY

The Class of 1974 of Penney High School will soon be celebrating their 50th Class Reunion! On October 5, 2024 alumni will gather at Georgina's Restaurant in Bolton from 6 to 11 p.m. For more information, please contact Dawn (Kelly) Erikson at dkellyerikson@yahoo.com or Deb (Russell) Henderson at dhenderson128@comcast.net. The invitations will be going out via e-mail or snail mail in July. They hope to have pizza gatherings on Friday night and Breakfast on Sunday morning with their classmates too, but those details have yet to be established. They're looking for volunteers to plan those! Join their FB page George J Penney Class of 1974 Reunion for more details.

East Hartford High School Class of 1974 will hold its 50th reunion, "The Biggest We've Had", on **Sunday, August 25, 2024**. East Hartford High School Class of 1974 needs your help. They are looking for contact information for people who graduated in the class. If you know someone, or were a graduate of the class, please send the name (include maiden if changed), address, e-mail and phone number to: ehhs1974.classreunion50@gmail.com Confirm your e-mail address now to ehhs1974.classreunion50@gmail.com and follow the reunion page on Facebook.

Donate Life flag raising Monday at library

April is National Donate Life Month. The Town of East Hartford is observing by raising the Donate Life flag at the Raymond Library, 840 Main St., beginning with a ceremony on Monday, April 15 at noon.

In order to raise awareness for the critical need for organ donors, the flag will fly at the Library through the month of

April.

April is National Donate Life Month commemorating those who have given the gift of life through organ and tissue donation. For those whose lives have been saved or healed by a transplant, National Donate Life Month provides a chance to share their story to encourage more people to register as

donors.

In addition to organ donation, tissue donations help over one million individuals each year. Heart valve, bone and skin donations give recipients a new chance at a healthy life, the recovery of tendons and ligaments can help heal a severe sports injury, and cornea donations give the gift of sight.

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Selection 1) Geranium Basket	_____	X \$22	_____
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Selection 3) Trailing Petunia	_____	X \$22	_____
Selection 4) Calibrachoa Basket	_____	X \$22	_____
TOTAL:			_____

Mail this form with a check payable to:

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Questions? Call Lion Don Samartino - 860-416-9636

All Funds raised go back to the East Hartford Community.



NAME: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Notes: _____

EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

What a year for UConn hoops

Congratulations to the UConn women's basketball team. They exceeded most expectations with a magnificent run in the NCAA tournament, knocking off #1 seed USC to advance to the final four where they took another #1 seed, Iowa, led by Player of the Year Caitlin Clarke, to the final seconds of the game of the tournament, falling short on the tournament's most controversial call, a moving screen on Aliyssa Edwards with the ball in Paige Bueckers hands, UConn down one, four seconds to play. 14 million tuned in to see the nation's two best players, Clarke and Bueckers, go head up.

For all his success, this may have been Geno Auriemma's best coaching job.

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



The UConn men own the college basketball world today, claiming their second straight national championship with a 75-60 win over Purdue in a battle of number one seeds in Glendale, Arizona Monday night. The Huskies never trailed in this one, battling to a six point lead at halftime before dominating the second half, Final Four Most Outstanding player Tristen Newton nailing a three out of the gate to make it nine points, a margin they maintained until the first media timeout of the second half. At the second media timeout it was 13, at the third it was 17 and pretty much over.

Purdue's 7-4 national Player of the Year, Zach Edey, got his points and rebounds, but his supporting cast couldn't match UConn. Edey had 37 points and ten rebounds, many of his stats coming in cleanup time with UConn's 7-2 center Donovan Clingan on the bench with four fouls. Brandon Smith had 12 points, no other Boilermaker had more than five. Clingan and Samson Johnson, who eventually fouled out, effectively manned up Edey, limiting his effectiveness while the game was still a contest.

UConn's the first team in 17 years to win back to back championships. No team has ever accomplished the feat in such a dominating manner. The smallest margin of victory in their 12 straight tournament wins was 13 points, their average winning margin in this year's tournament was 23.3. Their point differential for the six games was an NCAA tournament record plus-140. UConn now trails just UCLA and Kentucky in total national championships, with six.

Four UConn starters, Newton, Clingan, Stephon Castle and Cam Spencer hit double digits, the fifth, Alex Karaban, had eight points. Hassan Diarra came off the bench with nine. Beyond Edey, Purdue didn't have the firepower to respond. Newton had 20 points, seven assists and five rebounds and was joined by Castle and Spencer on the All Final Four team. If Castle opts for the NBA, none of the three will return next season.

UConn coach Dan Hurley now stands shoulder to shoulder with such coaching legends as John Wooden and Mike Krzyzewski. Hurley, however, authored the greatest two year run in NCAA Tournament history.

The Huskies finish the season 37-3 and return to Storrs to breathe some rarified air. Nowhere in the nation does basketball enjoy the status the two teams at UConn have brought to their little corner of Connecticut.

Stafford Spring Sizzler April 27-8

The 52nd Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler® is set for Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28. Saturday, April 27th and will consist of two 40-lap NAPA Duel qualifying races for the Open Modified division. The 40-lap races will each pay \$3,500 to win and will set the field for Sunday's NAPA Spring Sizzler®. Stafford's Late Model, Limited Late Model, and Street Stock divisions will complete Saturday's racing program with qualifying and feature racing. Sunday, April 28th will play host to the \$20,000 to win 52nd NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler®. Filling out Sunday's racing card will be qualifying and feature racing for the SK Modified® and SK Light Modified divisions along with last chance qualifiers for the NAPA Spring Sizzler®.

Over the years at Stafford Motor Speedway, Matt Galko has proved to be a race-winning driver in car #3. Galko scored back to back SK Light championships in his first 2 seasons of

competition at Stafford in 2010 and 2011, winning 8 races between those championship seasons. Galko added two more wins in the SK Modified® division from 2012-2019 before going Open Modified racing in 2020. Galko is still in search of his first open modified feature victory.

"I'm 100% confident that we're going to be a contender," said Galko. "It's tough to win one of these races because you have to have your setup right, your tires right, your pitstop right, and I can't make any mistakes as the driver. I think we found a couple of things at the Fall Final last season and I think we had the car to beat that day, we just fell behind a little on our pitstop that cost us a couple of spots. We were able to drive from around 15th after the pit stop back up to third and I think if there was one more lap, we could have got by Ron Silk for second and then with traffic and things, I think

we could have made it a good show with Matt Hirschman. Our confidence is pretty high right now and if we can get the car half as good as it was at the Fall Final, we should be pretty good at the Sizzler®."

Galko's off-track career landed him in North Carolina back in January where he is now working as part of the engineering team in the research and development department.

"We're happy to have Stash Butova back on board as the crew chief after I tried to do my own thing last year and it ended up being a lot for me to drive and worry about everything else," said Galko. "Having him back with us is a huge help. Being down in North Carolina, I can't do this without my Dad, Stash, Dave, and all the guys. They've been busy picking through the car and even though I'm not able to help them, I have full confidence that they'll have the car in top shape."



Matt Galko's #3 in action around the Stafford Speedway track.

Yard Goats launch Reading Challenge

The Hartford Yard Goats announced the return of a student reading challenge for the 2024 season. Students (K-grade 8) who read five books outside of the school curriculum will earn two tickets to a Yard Goats game at Dunkin' Park in Hartford. A parent or guardian must register students on the Yard Goats website (yardgoats-baseball.com) from now until May 6, and students will have until July 15 to complete their books. One lucky student will be selected to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

emonial first pitch.

"We are extremely excited to once again partner with Ever-source on the Yard Goats Reading Challenge, which was very successful last season," Yard Goats President Tim Restall said. "This program is a fun way for students to set reading goals and get rewarded for their efforts with tickets to a Yard Goats game. We look forward to honoring these diligent readers at a game this summer."

The Yard Goats encourage all school principals, teachers and

parents to share this exciting program with their students. The Yard Goats introduced the 2024 reading challenge with a video of "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss, which is available on yardgoatsbaseball.com, and can be shown in class. The Lorax is a children's book concerning the danger of greed causing human destruction of the natural environment.

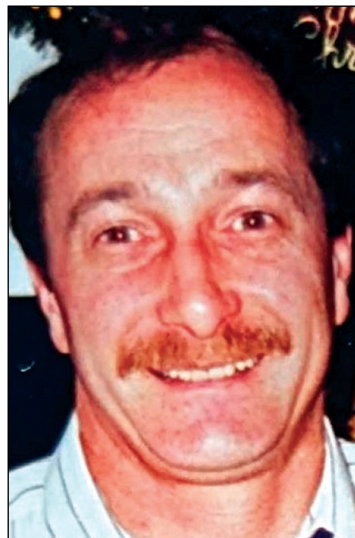
Tickets for all Yard Goats home games are on sale for the 2024 season by calling 860-246-GOAT.

OBITUARIES

Zenon 'Zen' Lasek, 69

Zenon "Zen" Lasek, 69, of East Hartford, loving husband of 37 years of Ewa (Mieszkio) Lasek, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born in Krosino, Poland on January 24, 1955. A son of the late Zygmunt and Józefa (Jasi ska) Lasek, he had been a resident of East Hartford for over 40 years. Zenon was a proud veteran of the Polish Army during peace time. A hard working gentleman, Zen was employed for many years as a Machinist by L.M. Gill Welding & Manufacturing in Manchester. Zen took great pride in making a beautiful home for his loving family. His yard was always impeccable and perfectly kept. As a lover of animals, he made large feeders for the deer that would come and roam in the yard. His outdoor interests also included vegetable and flower gardening. Zen was a talented craftsman and could repair anything for anyone and was always willing to lend his assistance, especially to his neighbors. Most of all, Zen was a devoted husband and father who cherished the time he spent with family.

Along with his beloved wife Ewa, Zen is survived by his loving daughter, Elizabeth I. Lasek and her partner Zachary J. Roy of Newington; two sisters, Halina Janowicz and Anna Dajnowicz both in Poland; sev-



Zenon Lasek

eral in-laws and extended family in Poland and in the United States, nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors, and friends.

Funeral service will be Tuesday, April 16, at 11 a.m. at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, (Section 2), Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury.

Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home chapel on Monday, April 15, from 4 - 7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Zenon's name may be made to the Defenders of Wildlife, 1130 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 <https://defenders.org/>.

On-line, please visit www.desopoe.com

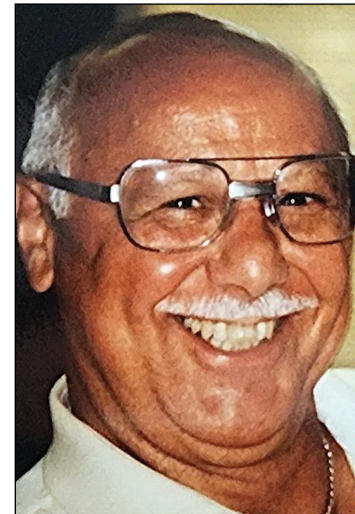
Charles 'Chuck' Koteen, 77

Charles Douglas Koteen, 77, died peacefully in his home on April 9, 2024. The son of Sherley and Bernie Koteen, Chuck grew up in Washington, D.C. and graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, taking up kayaking, a hobby that served him well when he moved to California to work at KCRA-TV as a cameraman and reporter. During his years in California, he kayaked most central and northern California rivers where the "Ground Chuck" rapid still bears his name. He moved to West Hartford with wife Lois and children Sarah and Jake in 1981, doing still photography, including for former Gov. William O'Neill and legislators. He developed the former Center School into the East

Hartford Community Cultural Center, creating studio apartments for artists. But the jobs he loved most were being dad to daughter Sarah, 46, and son Jake, 43, and grandfather to his beloved grandchildren, John, Aubrie, Sam, Ansley and Addie. Chuck was dedicated to his wife, Lois, doing most of the cooking so that she could work and volunteer. He will be sorely missed by those whose lives he touched. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. TODAY, Thursday, April 11, at Beth El Temple, 2626 Albany Ave., West Hartford. Donations may be made to the Koteen Family Fund at Beth El Temple, West Hartford, The Koteen Family Scholarship Fund at Central CT State University, New Britain, or charity of the donor's choice.

Angelo 'Andy' Fichera; Korean War veteran

Angelo "Andy" Francis Fichera, 88, peacefully passed away on Thursday April 4, 2024 surrounded by his loving family. Born on July 24, 1935 to the late Dominic and Lillian (Fallano) Fichera in Somerville, MA where he grew up. After high school, he enlisted into the U.S. Navy and proudly served our country during the Korean War. After being honorably discharged, he worked as a quality control engineer for the federal government for over 35 years before retiring. Andy and his wife Dorothy have been married for 65 years. Together, they have resided in East Hartford for over the last 55 years and have raised a beautiful family. In his free time, Andy was a golfer and became a member at Goodwin Park Golf Course, Hartford, and was an avid bowler having been in a Ten pin bowling league in Windsor. He enjoyed watching the Red Sox and the UCONN men and women basketball teams. He and his wife Dorothy loved spending time together whether it was doing cross-



Angelo Fichera

word puzzles, feeding their three bunny buddies in the yard, or traveling together including trips to Cancun and Jamaica. Above all, Andy was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and uncle.

Along with his wife, Andy leaves behind his son Stephen C. Fichera of Apache Junction, Arizona, and two daughters

Dawn A. Fichera of Marlborough, CT, and Sandra J. Thomas and her husband Christopher of Magnolia, Texas. Seven grandchildren; Christina, Cassandra, Christopher Jr., Scotty Jr., Angelo J., Shawn and Lindsey. Eleven great-grandchildren; Dominic, Sandie-Lee, AndrewJames, Elina, Xavier, Scotty III, Vee, Noah, Gianna, Jasmine, and Abrianna and his brother Gerald of East Hartford. Along with three nieces and one nephew in Texas. Andy is predeceased by his son Scott A. Fichera and his brother John A. Fichera.

Andy's family will receive relatives and friends on Friday, April 12, 2024 from 5-7 p.m. at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St. East Hartford. Burial will be private.

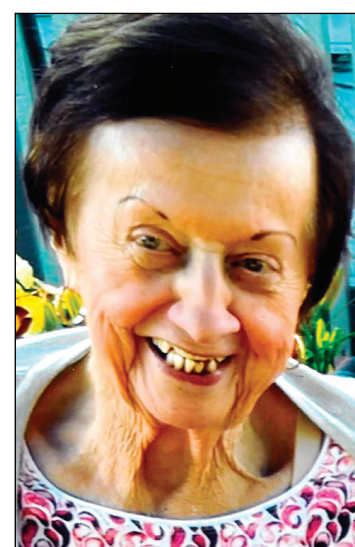
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Andy's name may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, P.O. Box 1525, Ranson, WV 25438. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoe.com.

Elaine (Trotter) Alger, 81

Elaine M. (Trotter) Alger, 81, of East Hartford, loving wife of 61 years of Robert Stephen Alger, Sr., peacefully went to be with our Lord on Saturday, April 6, 2024 surrounded by her caring family at her home. Born in Hartford on February 5, 1943, a daughter of the late Russell and Dorothy (Butler) Trotter, she had been a lifelong resident of East Hartford.

A devout Catholic, Elaine was a faithful communicant of the former Blessed Sacrament Church where she was also a member of the church Ladies Guild. Elaine was an avid reader who also liked playing bingo, especially at the casino. She was a loyal fan of the New York Yankees, and a talented Duck-Pin bowler who bowled in several leagues at the former Holiday Lanes in Manchester. She also enjoyed taking rides to the shore and having dinner at a restaurant along the ocean. Most of all, Elaine was a proud homemaker and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who cherished her time spent with her entire family.

Along with her beloved husband Robert, she is survived by



Elaine Alger

a son, Robert Stephen Alger, Jr. and his wife Toni of Charlotte, NC; a daughter, Diane Wilks and her husband Keyd of East Hartford; a brother, Richard Trotter and his wife Pam of East Hartford; a sister, Joan Davis of Vernon; four grandchildren, Justin Alger and his wife Christina of Tolland, Jeffrey Alger and his wife Audrey of Hebron, Lauryn Wilks of Hartford, Lexus

Marshall of Hartford; four great-grandchildren, Nolan James Alger, Wyatt Finley Alger, Nora Russell, Collin Russell; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Funeral service will be Friday, April 12, 2024 with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 11 am at St. Christopher Church of St. Edmund Campion Parish, 538 Brewer St. Private burial will be held at the convenience of the family. Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church on Friday morning. Elaine's family will receive relatives and friends TODAY, Thursday, April 11, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St.

Gifts may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284. On-line visit www.desopoe.com

The Gazette publishes obituaries of those connected to East Hartford free of charge.

LEGAL NOTICE

Members of the public are invited to

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 05868, I-84 EB TR 839 To I-91 NB

City of Hartford

April 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Register: <http://portal.ct.gov/DOTHartford63-731>

YouTube Livestream: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

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

The purpose of the project the rehabilitation of the I-84 Flyover Bridge, Bridge No. 05868, carrying I-84 EB TR 839 to I-91 NB over I-84/ I-91 Ramps and CSO Railroad in the City of Hartford. The primary purpose of this project is to address the operational, safety and preventative maintenance concerns as well as to evaluate and if necessary, improve the structural integrity of the bridge to a "state of good repair" extending its useful service life.

Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed project are not anticipated.

Construction is anticipated to begin Spring of 2026 based on the availability of funding, acquisition of rights of way, and approval of permit(s). The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$7,320,000. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 90 percent Federal funds and 10 percent State funds.

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at <http://portal.ct.gov/DOTHartford63-731>. Registration is required to participate. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please direct comments and questions by May 7, 2024, to: DOTProject0063-0731@ct.gov and (860) 594-2020.

ACCESSIBILITY

This meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube, and closed captioning will be available. Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom and YouTube. The recording will also be available on CTDOT's YouTube Virtual Public Information Meeting playlist: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

Persons with limited internet access, use the call-in number (877) 853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 844 8877 4792. Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting James Barrows II, Project Manager, at DOTProject0063-0731@ct.gov or (860) 594-2020.

Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS).

Language assistance may be requested by contacting CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

Husky victory parade in city

From Page One

show the Huskies how much this team means to our state and how proud we are of their accomplishments."

Parade and rally organizers are relying on private donations and business sponsorships to finance the event. No state or city funding is used.

As in previous years, this 2024 event is produced by the Hartford Business Improvement District in collaboration

with the State of Connecticut and City of Hartford, as well as a number of civic and business organizations.

To sponsor the event, businesses may choose from several sponsorship levels ranging from \$10,000 to \$2,500 or less. Those interested in sponsorship opportunities should contact Chip McCabe at the Hartford Business Improvement District as soon as possible at 860-770-0788 or cmccabe@hartfordbid.com.

Veterans: Take part in parade!

From Page One

mandatory, it will guarantee that you'll receive up-to-date information regarding our Memorial Day Celebration.

Veterans are also more than welcome to simply arrive on the morning of the parade.

The Military contingent will be forming on Colt Street Extension, which is on the north

side of the Connecticut River Academy parking garage. The Division will be led by our grand marshal.

All unaffiliated Veterans are asked to fall in behind the East Hartford VFW.

"The East Hartford Veterans Commission is hoping that many who have served will join us on May 27th," said Candy.

InterCommunity gets two grants

From Page One

nerable residents depend upon. This grant funding will help all of the residents that these organizations support be able to utilize their personal strengths, talents, and passions."

Established in 2013, this program has provided more than \$130 million to the state's non-profit organizations, supporting about 750 projects. Today's awards, which support 94 projects, are the program's eighth round of grants.

Over the past four years, the state has provided more than \$1 billion in additional funding to strengthen and support non-profit providers. During the

current biennium, additional state support for nonprofits totaled more than \$650 million — an increase of more than \$206 million over baseline appropriations. There is also \$50 million in capital funding for the next round of the Nonprofit Grant Program.

These grants fund facility alterations, renovations, improvements, and additions; new construction; health, safety, and Americans with Disabilities Act projects; energy conservation improvements; information technology systems; technology that promotes client independence; purchase of vehicles; and acquisition of property.

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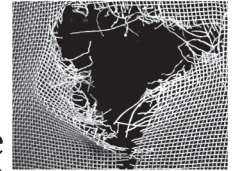
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
JEFFREY WILLIAM AKERLIND
(24-00162)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 3, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Elaine Akerlind, 26 Timothy Road, East Hartford, CT 06108

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
PAUL SARFO
(24-00143)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 2, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Mamata Sarfo
c/o Thomas Auger Robinson, Esquire; Falkenstein, Meggers, Paul & Robinson PC, 113 East Center St., Manchester, CT 06040

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
FRANK D. BREEN
(24-00163)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 4, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Connie Breen, 9 Heather Drive, East Hartford, CT 06118

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
ABUBAKAR QUARTEY
(24-00161)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 5, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Mohammed Quartey, 54 Canterbury Street, East Hartford, CT 06118

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

APRIL 14: FAMILY PAINTING PARTY at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., Sunday from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Celebrate the arrival of springtime with a splash of color and a spark of creativity. Come experiment with sponge painting, fingerpaint, puffy paint, and cotton ball painting, and create a masterpiece. All ages and abilities welcome; be sure to wear your "play clothes" in case we get a little messy! This event is free and open to the public and is a part of our South Church Service Sunday initiative which seeks to support, engage, and nourish the East Hartford community and beyond. Please call the church office at 860-568-5150, or email Lisa at cefe@southucc.org. If you would like to attend. We look forward to seeing you!

WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL: BRUSH UP ON THE BARD - Ever wonder why these four of Shakespeare's plays - Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth, and King Lear - are considered his greatest tragedies? University of Hartford President Emeritus and Shakespeare scholar Humphrey Tonkin will lead the discussion. Sponsored by Presidents' College Lifelong Learning at the University of Hartford. Wednesdays, Apr. 17, 24, 2-3:30 p.m. Visit hartford.edu/pc for info.

HOW TIE FLIES - Fly Tyers Roundtable, Monday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield the CT Fly Fisherman's Association offers its annual Fly Tyers Roundtable. Expert fly tyers from CFFA will be tying their latest creations. Learn the ins and outs of fly tying and how to tie some of their favorite patterns. Free. Open to all. Refreshments. CFFA practices catch and release to promote the sport of fly fishing. FMI go to www.ctflyfish.org or https://www.facebook.com/CTFlyFish

TROLLEY MUSEUM APRIL PROGRAMS - Looking for something to do during April vacation? LEGO Workshops are April 12 and 19, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$25 per person which includes admission. Advance registration required at www.ct-trolley.org. The Trolley Museum is located at 58 North Road (Rt. 140), admission is \$12 for adults, \$11 seniors 62 and up, \$11 for youth ages 12-17, and \$9 for ages 2-11.

APRIL 27: MISS FOLKLORE USA CORONATION NIGHT at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center at 3 p.m. Contestants vie for award titles and opportunity to compete in the Miss Folklore International event in the Dominican Republic. For tickets or info call 860-474-0506. Sponsors invited! This is sure to be a fun and exciting event for everyone in the community to enjoy!

APRIL 15, 29 & MAY 6: AMP UP YOUR GUITAR IQ - The modern guitar has come a long way from its 15th century beginning as a literal instrument of rebellion in southern Spain. roots. Join University of Hartford Professor Christopher Ladd Mondays, Apr. 15 & 29, May 6 from 2:30-

4 p.m. as he tracks the guitar's evolution to Bach, the Beatles, and Led Zeppelin. Sponsored by Presidents' College Lifelong Learning at the U of H. Visit hartford.edu/pc for more info.

APRIL 18: SILENT BOOK CLUB - TALK OF THE TOWN! Book clubs are undergoing a revamp, with people now loving the idea of reading quietly in the company of others. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Playhouse on Park, 244 Park Road, West Hartford. Bring a book of your choice, mingle for the first and last half hour, and settle into silent reading for the middle hour. Dive into the world of your own book while surrounded by other readers. Plus, you might spy your next read! \$10 admission includes snacks plus a \$5 River Bend Bookshop gift card. Sponsored by Presi-

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dents' College Lifelong Learning at the University of Hartford. Hartford.edu/pc for more info.

APRIL 18 - DESIGNER BAG BINGO - Win gorgeous designer handbags and other goodies when you play Designer Bag Bingo, to benefit the Manchester Sculpture Project's fundraising. Kate Spade, Coach, Michael Kors, Dooney & Bourke are just a few of the bags being showcased. Cheney Hall, 177 Hartford Road, Manchester will be the site of this event, featuring 15 games, silent auction, door prizes and more. \$35 per person, bring your own drink and snacks. Games begin at 7, but doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets sell fast and are available through the Cheney Hall box office, 860-647-9824 or on line at cheneyhall.org/designerbagbingo2024. Tickets at the door if available.

APRIL 18: BINGO NIGHT at the Glastonbury Grange, 7 p.m. at the Masonic Hall in South Glastonbury. There will be available, for folks to pick up, grange brochures and applications should someone be interested in joining. The Grange is a rooted, resilient and united organization organized on February 17, 1885 in South Glastonbury. They invite you to join.

APRIL 20: BOTTLE & CAN DRIVE sponsored by the East Hartford Lions Club, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at D'Addario's Auto Service, 117 Burnside Avenue. Support your local Lions by dropping off your plastic bottles and aluminum cans - no glass bottles, please. Together, We Serve.

APRIL 25: HILLSTOWN GRANGE ANNUAL 'BLUE GRASS NIGHT' with the Yankee Blue Grass Jammers. Come enjoy some down to earth music Thursday night at the historic Grange Hall, 617 Hills St. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. Open to the public, no charge for admission and refreshments. Great fun for all ages. This event is part of the Grange Month celebration. FMI call Frank at 860-690-2845 or e-mail hillstowngrange@aol.com.

APRIL 27: BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE:

Scouts BSA Troop 1 is holding a bottle drive Saturday, April 27 at First Congregational Church, 837 Main St., from 8 until 11 a.m. It will be outside in the parking lot. Proceeds support Boy Scout Troop 1 of East Hartford. Thank you!

MAY 11: RACE IN THE PARK registration now open. Run, walk and help save lives through the CT Breast Health Initiative. Stanley Quarter Park, New Britain on Mother's Day weekend, May 11. Sign up at www.ctbhi.org. Every dollar raised stays here in Connecticut.

MAY 19: 11TH ANNUAL STRONG FARM CHICKEN RUN is Sunday, May 19th. The Strong family wants to keep its 7-generation farm going as an agricultural learning center where everyone can experience the farm environment. Last year, a state "Good to Great" grant for \$108,000 was

awarded to the farm but the farm still needs to come up with \$21,000 for upgrades to their big old yellow barn, installation of a restroom. The farm is looking for sponsors, but the kick off will be at the 11th Annual Chicken Run on May 19th. Register at www.strongfamilyfarm.org/annual-5k-chicken-run.

MAY 17-25: GIANT BARN TAG SALE to benefit the Manchester Land Conservation Trust and its work to preserve open space lands. Shop Friday, May 17 through Saturday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at 330 Bush Hill Road, Manchester, in the old cider barn on the farm. Browse through 5,000 square feet of books, games, dishes, tools, artwork, jigsaw puzzles, toys, furniture, machinery, household and sports items, near-antiques, glassware, holiday décor, and items both useful and decorative. There are four miles of trails at the farm, a story book trail, and a sheltered pavilion so you can shop and hike on the same day. Info about the Land Trust and its events at www.manchesterlandtrust.org.

VETERANS COFFEE HOUR at the Senior Center, 15 Milwood Dr., 10 a.m. third Tuesday of the month. Veterans - drop in!