

Quilts stir emotions for veterans

By Bill Doak

In 21 years since it began, the Quilts of Valor program has draped the handmade patriotic-themed blankets around 379,974 veterans nationwide.

Tuesday 12 East Hartford men touched by war became the latest awardees, thanks to the work of the quilters, VFW Post 2083 and the East Hartford Senior Center Veterans Coffee Hour.

"I wish I had this when I was in Korea, huddled in the cold with nothing but a worn out blanket and a leaky air mattress," said Korean War veteran James Shelmerdine, quivering at the memory.

He and 11 others were similarly moved as the Quilts of Valor Award presentation took place. Each veteran was called up, his record of service read by Veterans Commissioner Rich Bates, and the colorful quilt was held up for a moment of admiration before cloaking the shoulders of the veteran by Louise Sapia of the Nutmeg Blue Star Mothers.

Awarded a quilt was Daniel Lareau, Art Parker, James Futner, Robert Jones, William Yebram, Shelmerdine, Kenneth Looch, George Mulligan, Joseph Martocci, Arthur Perrault, John McDermott and Conrad Rouillard.

Each Quilt of Valor has a hand-sewn tag with the maker's

See **QUILTS AWARD**, page 10

QUILTS OF VALOR PRESENTED



HANDMADE QUILTS OF VALOR were presented to 12 local veterans Tuesday at the Senior Center. Organized by the EH VFW Post 2083, Veterans Commission, Nutmeg Blue Star Mothers and the CT QOV organization.



Board of Ed OK's pacts for tech

By Robert Kanehl

It was a busy night of contract awarding and review at the regular monthly Board of Education meeting. Superintendent Thomas Anderson noted this flurry of contracts and reviews were the District's effort to align as much of the needed work for the summer break, so student class time would be affected as little as possible.

In updating the district's wireless and server needs, the Board approved over \$800,000 in four contracts. The future of the district's server will be addressed by Presidio Company of Glastonbury. This company was awarded a \$161,305.00 contract for a server and storage. It was also awarded the \$233,188.00 contract for infrastructure upgrading project throughout the district.

Wireless upgrade and expansion projects were awarded to All Covered/Konica Minolta Company of Ramsay, New Jersey. This company was awarded the \$109,520.00 contract for installing new wireless access points, and another \$375,310.00 for wireless switches across the district.

A contract was awarded for the O'Brien Elementary School roof project to Greenwood Industries of Worcester, Mass. With a low qualified bid of \$1,535,000, the company came in lower than local roofing com-

See **CONTRACT AWARDS**, pg. 10

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Congressman defends SS

“At a time when Congress has been looking at wealth disparity, it has to look no further than its own inaction,” said Congressman John Larson.

“More than 50 years have passed since the United States Congress has enhanced Social Security. 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, and for more than 40% of the 70 million Americans on Social Security, it is the only retirement benefit that they have.

“Democrats have a plan. We’re going to make sure that there’s an across-the-board increase. We’re going to make sure that no one can retire into poverty as more than 5 million of our fellow Americans have, mostly women, who get below-

poverty-level checks from their government. Our other colleagues are passing tax cuts for the wealthy. We want to make sure that those who continue to work out of necessity don’t have their Social Security taxed again. That is Democratic leadership.”

The Republican Study Committee’s Fiscal Year 2025 budget, endorsed by 80% of House Republicans, including Speaker Mike Johnson, proposes raising the retirement age and \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Social Security, advancing the interests of the wealthy and well connected while jeopardizing health coverage for millions and slashing benefits working families and seniors have earned.

ROTARY SUPPORTS CORONATION



EAST HARTFORD ROTARY CLUB has signed on as a sponsor of the Folklore USA Latina event at the East Hartford Cultural Center April 27. Above, presenting a check for \$300 is George Schoen, left, event organizer for the Coronation Night Shakira Acevedo, and Rob Rosa, East Hartford Rotary President-Elect for 2024.

South Church retreat planned

South Congregational Church, located at 1301 Forbes Street, invites you to join us on Sunday, April 21, at 11:00 a.m. for a presentation by Aila Brennan, Program Director of the Silver Lake Conference and Retreat Center. Established in 1957, Silver Lake is a year round ministry of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. Located in Sharon, CT, close to the NY border, the Center offers weekend retreats for a variety of groups from Sept. - May, and weekly overnight summer camps from June - August for young people. Camping opportunities are open to all; no church affiliation is required, and scholarships are available for all summer campers. Come to South Church and find out what Silver Lake camping opportunity might be of interest to you or your child. This event is free and open to the public.

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LOST DOG? ITEM FOR SALE? - A \$12 ad in the *Gazette* makes more sense than spending for markers, staplers, etc to place ugly signs on telephone poles.

Arts tag sale

Art Tag Sale, Friday, April 26, 1-5pm, Saturday, April 27, 9am-4pm, Sunday, April 28, 10 am-2pm. Find everything you need for your next art project at Arts Center East's Art Tag Sale! You'll find painting supplies, canvases, frames, photography equipment, fabric, yarn, jewelry making supplies, and more, at low prices! Proceeds support future programming at the Arts Center. Spring Sale Saturday, May 11, beginning at 8 am. Arts Center East is joining the Vernon Garden Club at their Annual Plant Sale.



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Dr. Maduko first president of CT State U

O. John Maduko, M.D. has been inaugurated as the first president of Connecticut State Community College (CT State), a historic moment that ushers in CT State as the Northeast's largest community college and the sixth-largest nationwide.

With the merger of legacy community colleges into CT State Community College on July 1, 2023, the inauguration celebrates the appointment of Maduko and commemorates the collective journey of the 12 main campuses of CT State coming together as one college.

The ceremony included a procession of Connecticut higher education leadership led by grand marshal Marilyn Turner, professor at CT State Asnuntuck, colors presentation by the CT State Community College Police Department honor guard, and National Anthem



and musical interlude by CT State Naugatuck Valley Choir and professor of music Gilad Harel.

Held at CT State Housatonic, the inauguration was attended by local officials, higher education leadership from Connecticut's colleges and universities, faculty and staff, and student

leaders. Special guest speakers were Elsa M. Núñez, Ed.D., president of Eastern Connecticut State University, and Mordecai Brownlee, Ed.D. president of the Community College of Aurora, noted national and international speaker, and columnist for Diverse: Issues in Higher Education and EdSurge, who brought his thoughts on higher education leadership while highlighting his long friendship with Maduko.

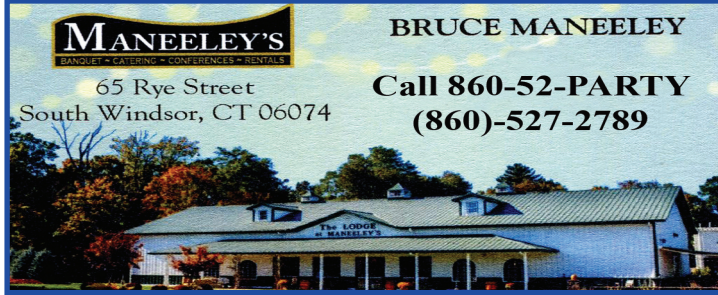
In his inaugural address, Maduko expressed gratitude for the opportunity to lead CT State and outlined his vision for the college's future. He also thanked his many friends and supporters including his wife, Amanda, his parents, siblings and colleagues.



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We are pleased to announce auditions for our 60th Anniversary Summer Production of Footloose! Auditions will be held on Saturday, June 1st between 10am and 5pm at East Hartford Community Cultural Center, with callbacks by invita-

tion on June 2nd. Children & adults ages 8+ welcome- no experience necessary! Go to www.EHSYF.org for more info and to sign up for your 90 minute slot! Reach out to ehsyf.inc@gmail.com with any questions or concerns!

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Thursday, April 18, 2024

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plans for the future might incorporate solar charging farms

To the Editor:

Bringing in the Jeeps!

One thing that East Hartford is known for is being the Crossroads of New England.

The Gazette reminded me of that message, which was on a sign that used to be next to the old Charter Oak Bridge years ago.

I also noticed the zigurat pyramid structure on the Gazette website, making an inference that East Hartford needs to draw visitors. This also fits in with the mayor's goals to relieve the residential tax burden as soon as he can.

That attractions will provide tax revenue seems reasonable. People will spend money here and help businesses.

While there are other attractions that can be mentioned,

one small piece of the puzzle (and it is a puzzle, right?) might be to leverage our "Crossroads" image and turn a problem into an opportunity for improvement, good for East Hartford and for everybody passing by.

For a few years I have been wondering why our investor class has done so little regarding EV charging stations. To me it takes a risk to obtain a reward. The risk is the time lag between the construction and the use.

Now the whole area being demolished on Silver Lane used to be farmland back before it was a shooing plaza. The Futtner's farmed there as did the Phillips family and several others. This land is known as among the best loam farm soils in the Connecticut River Valley.

Possibly the farms grew cucumbers and tobacco, the cukes going to feed the many barrels produced by the Silver Lane Pickle factory which was approximately where the Mobile Gas station and Bare Bones Boxing is today.

In addition, today we have the traffic and electric lines of nearby Interstate 84. Not the most pleasant environment. But they are trying to work around it with noise barriers.

However, with all the land in that area, why not come up with a plan to return the area to "farming"? Not the traditional farms, but solar farming? A large setup for recharging vehicles could be associated with the land right off I-84. Use the solar farm to charge the vehicles when the sun is out, and

supplement with utility power as needed.

I envision access from I-84 and a sign on I-91 for the Greater Hartford solar charging farm, or whatever.

I am not sure about access to the site. Maybe the existing exit is adequate? But I suppose a dedicated on/off ramp might be evaluated.

Or even the DOT area off Roberts Street Extension near the old Industrial Equipment Supply yard might be considered.

The last question I pose is the public/private roles in something like this. The only thing close that I have seen is public-owned parking in Waterbury. They had a garage. However it seemed dilapidated.

Can a plan be developed by

which the Town of East Hartford will get revenue from it?

If East Hartford kick-starts it, wouldn't we be able to claim an ongoing portion of the revenue?

So many cars and trucks are travelling by East Hartford now. Soon there will be automated trucks pulling in and out of the giant new warehouses East Hartford now has built at Rentschler Field. Our future as a transportation hub, the Crossroads for vehicles, is assured for decades to come. The town ought to explore ways to capitalize on what we have as well as envision the community we want to be.

"Build it and they will come."

Joseph R. Lavariere
East Hartford

Policy needed to meet future

To the editor:

We have seen many news reports about the increased frequency of extreme weather events. Hurricane winds, floods and unhealthy temperature result in human suffering and many billions of dollars in damages. We are seeing just the beginning, and the consequences of climate change will be far worse if we do not transition to renewable energy sources in the very near future. Energy from the sun is already substantially less expensive than fossil fuel energy (natural gas and coal).

To realize these lower energy costs and to slow climate change investments are required to install solar cells,

windmills and vehicle charging stations. Fortunately, the IRA climate law provides substantial funding to accelerate these investments.

Our state Public Utility Commission must implement policies to encourage our utilities to stop investing in fossil fuel projects and to invest in the transition to renewable energy. For example, the electric utilities should take advantage of new technologies to increase the transmission capacity of existing power lines to meet the requirements of increased demand for electricity and the unique requirements of renewable sources.

David Englert
West Hartford

Congressman Larson: Don't be fooled by GOP

Larson Opening Statement Tuesday at Social Security Subcommittee Hearing on the WEP and the GPO

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As a former public-school teacher in Connecticut, I understand the frustration that so many have with the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, otherwise known as the WEP/GPO.

I have also heard from many teachers in my district that have been impacted, some of whom are here today.

Across Connecticut, 70,000 employees work in non-covered employment.

The WEP/GPO unfairly penalizes public servants who give so much to their communities.

I am committed to addressing this issue, and we need to repeal WEP and GPO, but we need to pay for it, and my bill, Social Security 2100 does exactly that.

This is also a priority of Rep-

resentative Neal, the Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has long been an author of legislation to create a new Public Servant Formula to treat those with Social Security and non-Social Security earnings fairly.

The fact this issue is so important underscores how vital Social Security is to the lives of so many Americans.

We are holding a hearing today that affects less than 4% of American retirees, yet we have ignored preserving the program that impacts 100% of retirees, Social Security.

People aren't getting rich off of Social Security - they aren't using their benefit checks to buy stock options.

Social Security is the nation's #1 anti-poverty program for the elderly.

People use their Social Security checks to make ends meet - to pay rent, to buy groceries, to pay bills.

It is a farce that Congress has failed to enhance Social Security benefits in more than 50 years.

But, instead of protecting benefits or enhancing them, Republicans are pushing to cut Social Security benefits.

Republicans today are going to focus on how expensive fixing WEP/GPO would be.

Don't let them fool you - they are not in favor of improving Social Security benefits.

In fact, just a few weeks ago, the Republican Study Committee, the largest caucus in the House Republican conference, proposed \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Social Security.

And to get it done, they've been pushing a double-secret probation, so-called "fiscal commission."

Commissions are designed to push through unpopular proposals like benefit cuts without accountability for the people that voted for them.

'LETTERS TO THE EDITOR'

The Gazette welcomes signed letters on subjects of interest to our readers. Remember to also provide a daytime phone number. Mail to: **The Gazette, 1406 Main St., EH, CT 06108** or e-mail to editor@ehgazette.com

East Hartford has always been a community of 'Rosies' - strong women

by Robert Kanehl

Did you know that East Hartford can boast of a Congressional Gold Medal winner - actually several? In mid-April the White House held a ceremony to present the top civilian governmental medal to the nation's "Rosie the Riveter" - the women of World War II. They were honored for their immense contributions to the war effort. Like many towns across the nation, East Hartford had thousands of "Rosies."

The term refers to the estimated 16-to-19 million women who filled various factory and industry positions vacated by servicemen or on the war effort's production line expansion. These women not only freed up men for armed service but also kept production of material flowing at places such as East Hartford's Pratt & Whitney/Chance Vought factory complex. They supplemented all other industries in the area, such as Colt's and Pioneer Parachute. Companies eagerly hired and trained these mothers and daughters, and they were just as dedicated to working hard to

bring loved ones home as soon as possible.

A famous story of one such "Rosie" is that of Estella Hillman of Manchester. In a mathematically-improbable twist, involving millions of chutes sent by Pioneer Parachute to the frontlines, one that she packed safely carried her son Robert to the ground during the airborne assault on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Historian Ruth Shapleigh-Brown's 'Women's Month' paper, written in March, relates her personal experience with one notable local East Hartford "Rosie": Former town historian Doris Suessman. This lady not only worked in a factory, but performed household repairs as needed. Brown related that when her husband was in the hospital, and she faced home repairs, Suessman presented her with support, and a photo of the war government's pamphlet: "Dare to Repair - A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Fixing (Almost) Anything in the Home".

Brown added that Doris was the daughter of Mary (Suckau) Christensen Hart of town, who had also filled a man's job dur-

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back on our East Hartford

ing the first World War.

The main focus of Brown's March paper was not just the women who took up factory jobs during the war, but remarkable women in general from town history. She noted that several local ladies were deeply involved in the National Suffrage Movement of the late

1800s to 1910s resulting in women earning the right to vote under the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920.

Brown writes of local educators Sarah Lahey and Margaret O'Connell who were the first women to vote in town. There was also Louise Finn and Josephine Bryant, who in that same pivotal year of 1920 became the first women elected to East Hartford town offices, both as members of the School Committee. And Brown further highlights the fact that, of the 420 new voters registered for the 1920 election, 350 were women.

Finally Brown plays homage

to Ann Olmsted who was the first regent of the Mary Pitkin Wolcott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Olmsted name should be as familiar as the name Pitkin is here, and it is appropriate for the East Hartford DAR - Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter - was founded in 1898. Ann Olmsted held the position for 21 years.

It's nice knowing who opened the door. But as the local Rosies of America demonstrated, it takes much more than just a village - it takes a whole team, sacrificing, because the good of the many outweighs that of the few.

Donate to Backpack program

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
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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.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday cinema at Cultural Center

'The Lost King' a story of the search for a missing monarch



The East Hartford Commission on Culture & Fine Arts presents the fourth and final film in their sixteenth series of foreign films on Saturday, April 20 at 7 p.m. in the East Hartford Community Cultural Center, 50 Chapman Place.

Admission is free.

The East Hartford Summer Youth Festival will be selling concessions, including popcorn.

This month's film is "The Lost King". Philippa becomes obsessed with the mystery of King Richard III's lost remains.

She conducts her own research, avoiding the trials of her own life. Based on the true story of Philippa Langley's search for the king's remains, which eventually leads to their recognition by the Royal Family. Rated PG-13 the film runs 108 minutes.



Penny High grad Paul Bisaccia returns to his hometown April 28.

Piano virtuoso Paul Bisaccia in concert at First Church April 28

The East Hartford Commission on Culture and Fine Arts presents homegrown pianist Paul Bisaccia in a free concert on Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 837 Main St.

The concert, entitled "Chopin (and Gershwin Too!)" will include the Fantasie-Improvisation (I'm Always Chasing Rainbows), waltzes, including the Minute Waltz, preludes including the Raindrop Prelude, the famous Nocturne in E-flat, Ballade in G minor, and of course the "Heroic" Polonaise ("Till the End of Time.")

Paul will bring his projector so everyone can see his hands close-up as he performs.

This promises to be an unforgettable afternoon of Chopin, performed in the grand manner!

Arthur Rubinstein wrote "Even in this abstract atomic age where emotion is unfashionable, Chopin endures. His music is the universal language of human communication. When I play Chopin, I know I speak directly to the hearts of people."

As an added bonus, Paul will play a set of Gershwin favorites to conclude his performance.

Miss Folklore

USA Latina



Coronation Night

Please Join Us

As we crown those who will be traveling to the Dominican Republic, on March 2025, to represent USA for the FIRST time.

We have a night full of surprises, special guests, and special performances.

April 27, 2024

Doors open: 3:00pm
Coronation: 4:00pm

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Society

EH Woman's Club presents scholarships, hears winning EH Middle School essays



The East Hartford Woman's Club/GFWC held its annual Scholarship Night on Tuesday, April 16, at St Christopher Church Hall. Scholarships in the amount of \$1500 each were awarded to five East Hartford residents who are graduating from high school in the class of 2024. Pictured above, from left

to right, is General Federation of Women's Clubs/CT President Kathy DeBurra, EHWC Co-President Linda Chamberlain, Anjolie Truong East Catholic HS (Boston University '28), Mya Bynoe Pathways Academy of Technology and Design (UConn '28), Jilf Frimpong, Pathways (Quinnipiac Univer-

sity'28), Gabriella Italia East Catholic HS (Salve Regina University '28), Scholarship Chair Deborah McNamara, Cynthia Messikian EHWC Co-President. Missing from the picture was



Arianna Anderson of Pathways, (Princeton '28).

For the month of March, the East Hartford Woman's Club sponsored an essay contest to commemorate Women's History Month for Sunset Ridge Middle School students, who were tasked with writing about a woman, or women, who had influenced them. Pictured above, top right, are Jeanne Kehoe, Chair of the Essay Contest,

Brooke Cattanaach 8th grade first place, Janet Villaneuva 7th grade first place, and Co-Presidents of EHWC Linda Chamberlain and Cynthia Messikian.

Missing from the picture were 6th grade winners Serena Leeman and Brianna Fletcher.

The club presented \$50 Amazon Gift Cards to the winners in addition to giving \$25 each to 6 honorable mention awardees.

HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE GARDEN CLUB

Hear the latest buzz about pollinators

The East Hartford Garden Club will welcome beekeeper Joe Fydenkevez of Busy Bee Apiaries, to its meeting April 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills St.

Joe is a local beekeeper from Crescent Drive, East Hartford, who bottles and sells delicious honey and other products made by happy, local bees. He will give a Power-Point presentation about the beekeeping process, from soup to nuts.

I'm sure you will agree that gardening and bee keeping go hand and hand. Joe will discuss the life cycle of bees, and the queen bee. He just finished an 18-month queen rearing program through Penn State so he will bring components of the hive. Attendees will be tasting different types of honey he produces.

Busy Bee Apiaries also will have wax products and jars of local honey available for purchase.

The meeting is open to all. Historic Hillstown Grange Hall is also a fascinating place, founded in the agrarian Hillstown neighborhood where East Hartford, Manchester and Glastonbury meet.

Busy Bee Apiaries presentation starts at 6:30 p.m. with a brief Garden Club meeting to follow and to others.

Join us October 23 at the Hillstown Grange when a representative from Monrovia will be our guest speaker showcasing what's new in plants. Meetings start at 6 p.m.

For more information about the East Hartford Garden Club visit their Facebook page.



JOIN US FOR AN ALL AGES AND ABILITIES CYCLING EVENT

Friday, April 26, 2024
1:00-3:30 p.m.

Great Path, Manchester, CT

Outside in the quad space
(Next to the Villages or in-between the LRC and SSC buildings)

The CT State Manchester Disability Specialist and Therapeutic Recreation Programs in collaboration with UR Community Cares: Cycling Without Age Manchester is hosting an inclusive cycling resource event. This event will host cycling resources available to the immediate Manchester community along with resources in the broader Connecticut community. If you, a friend, family member, neighbor, client, or anyone interested in cycling and adaptive cycling resources may be interested in attending this event please use the QR code below to register. Looking forward to seeing you there!

All Ages and Abilities Cycling Event Registration Scan the QR code



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EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

Huskies celebrate, and say goodbye

It's been a tough week, opening with a deadline for paying your taxes.

But for Connecticut basketball fans the week opened with worse news. Donovan Clingan, one of the mainstays of the UCONN men's record breaking run to back to back national championships, announced he'll enter the 2024 NBA draft. ESPN puts the 7-2 Husky sophomore center in the top three in its draft analysis. ESPN NBA maven Adrian Wojnarowski, a former UCONN basketball beat writer and Connecticut Sportswriter of the Year with the Waterbury Republican, puts Clingan in the conversation for the #1 overall pick.

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



I hope your tax hit wasn't too big. Though it wasn't totally unexpected, your basketball hit certainly was a big one.

How do you feel about leftovers? I have a few leftovers from the NCAA basketball tournaments.

If you thought you were seeing a lot of familiar faces in the commercials, it was a product of the Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) legislation passed by the NCAA, allowing athletes to sign endorsement contracts. One minute you were watching athletes playing basketball. A minute later they were pitching products from insurance to sneakers into your living room.

For my money UCONN guard Nika Muhl was the player of the game in the best game of the women's tournament, the Huskies two point loss to Iowa in the national semifinals. She played 40 minutes with the primary assignment of guarding Caitlin Clark, disrupting her rhythm for much of the game. Neither Player of the Year, Clark or Purdue men's center Zach Edey, won a national championship ring.

Do you remember this from my column from the week of March 25th?: "By the way, Danny Hurley's former team, Wagner, with a play-in win over Howard, was the first team to advance in the tournament, perhaps an omen that his current team will be the last one standing." Coincidentally, Wagner, where my daughter was the valedictorian in 2009, is on Howard Avenue in the New York borough of Staten Island. Their team designation is "Seahawks". There's no such bird.

A final thought on the Masters, won by Scottie Scheffler for the second time in three years. One of the big stories early in tournament week was a charge by defending Masters Champ John Rahm, now the highest paid player on the LIV Tour, that LIV make some adjustments to its tournament format. The general atmosphere, with players in shorts joining team competitions, has the look and feel of a weekend at Royal Wood Country Club in Naples, Florida than intense competition of the PGA Tour.

Players paid \$200-700 million just to be there are at a disadvantage against players who earn their pay on a weekly basis, making cuts, top tens and, occasionally, winning. When your total tour winnings will never match your bank account you don't have the hunger required to win in the week to week competitive environment of the PGA. No LIV player finished in the top five, Bryson DeChambeau was the only one to finish in the top ten.

That's what Rham was talking about.

UConn National Champs, again!



CONNECTICUT BASKETBALL FANS filled Downtown Hartford Saturday to celebrate the UConn Huskies Men's Team winning their sixth NCAA Basketball National Championship. Throngs of happy fans, political leaders, including Congressman John Larson, below, and dogs enjoyed the celebration. Go Huskies!

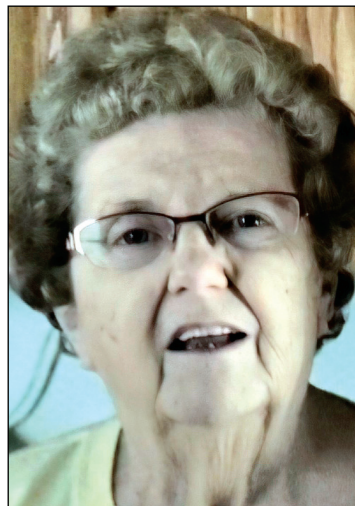


OBITUARIES

Nancy (Leighton) Dionne, 89

Nancy (Leighton) Dionne, 89, of East Hartford, loving wife of 62 years of the late Joseph J. Dionne, peacefully passed away on Friday, April 12, 2024 with her caring family by her side. Born in Cherryfield, Maine on April 25, 1934, a daughter of the late Roger Leighton and Caroline Strout, she had been a resident of East Hartford for over 60 years. Prior to her retirement she was employed for several years by the town of East Hartford Board of Education as a Teacher's Aide. A devout Catholic, she was a faithful communicant of the former Blessed Sacrament Church in East Hartford. Nancy was talented doing needle-point, crochet, and stitch-point. She enjoyed solving jigsaw puzzles, and was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox, and UConn Men and Women basketball teams. She particularly loved college basketball "March Madness" and always looked forward to competing in "bracketology" with her brackets for both men and women tournaments. Most of all, Nancy was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who cherished her time with family, especially supporting her grandson's baseball and school activities.

Nancy is survived by her two sons, Jeffrey Dionne of East Hartford, Russell Dionne and his wife Cathy of Newington; a dear friend who was like a son, Dennis Michaud of East



Nancy Dionne

Hartford; a brother, Philip Leighton of Zephyrhills, Florida; a sister, Lois Ann Warren of Clinton, Maine; two grandsons, Matthew Dionne and Samuel Dionne both of Newington; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Along with her beloved husband and parents, Nancy was predeceased by a son, Raymond Dionne and a daughter-in-law, Jeanne (Cyprus) Dionne. A graveside service celebrating Nancy's life will be TODAY, Thursday, April 18, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery, (Sec.G-Ext.) Burnside. Gifts in Nancy's name may be made to the Northeast Regional Office of the Lupus Foundation of America, 65 High Ridge Road, Box 395, Stamford, CT 06905.

Cristine (Kolek) Kessler, 55

Christine (Kolek) Kessler, 55, of East Hartford, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, April 5, 2024 at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born in Hartford on October 27, 1968, a daughter of the late Joseph and Blanch (Nartowicz) Kolek, she had resided in East Hartford for the past several years. Christine was employed as a Home Health Aide for many years in the Greater Hartford area. She will be remembered as a strong-willed individual who enjoyed spending time with her fiancé Mark, and her family and friends.

Christine is survived by two daughters, Kaitlyn Kessler of Hartford, Jami Kessler of South Windsor; a caring sister, Mary A. Stone and her husband Christopher of Vernon; her

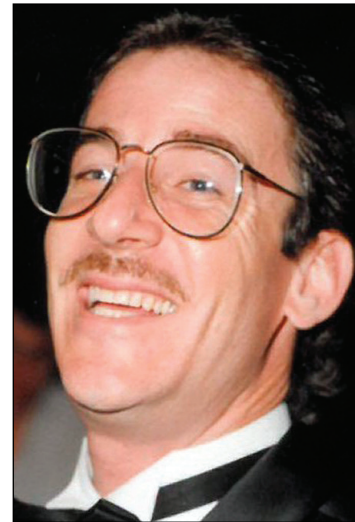
brother, Joseph Kolek of East Hartford; her fiancé, Mark Cyr of East Hartford with whom she made her home; a niece, Sara Stone of Vernon; several aunts, cousins, and dear friends. A memorial service celebrating Christine's life will be Saturday, April 20, at noon at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St. Private burial will be held at the convenience of the family. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home chapel on Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Christine's name may be made to the St. Francis Hospital Foundation, 95 Woodland Street, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06105. On-line, please visit www.desopoe.com

Mark Raymond D'Attilio, 65

Mark Raymond D'Attilio, 65, of Plainville, loving husband of 15 years of Bozena "Gosia" (Pilitowska) D'Attilio, peacefully passed away with his caring family by his side on Friday, April 12, 2024 after a long, courageous and heroic battle with cancer. Born in Hartford on July 9, 1958, a son of Sandra (Moir) D'Attilio and the late Raymond F. D'Attilio, Sr., he had been a resident of the Greater Hartford area for most of his life.

Mark attended George J. Penney High School in East Hartford until joining the United States Marine Corps in his junior year. While in the U.S. Marine Corps during Peace Time, he served over in Okinawa, Japan after the Vietnam War, where he became a Military Police Officer. After being honorably discharged, he started his work career as a MP at the Groton Sub Base. He later went to work for over twenty years at Konica Minolta as a Service Technician where he received several accolades and awards. After leaving Konica, Mark worked for Script Pro as a Technician in the pharmaceutical industry.

Mark enjoyed traveling with his wife to several different island destinations and beaches, with Hawaii being their



Mark D'Attilio

favorite. Known as the "Candy Man" by his nieces and nephews, Mark loved the holidays and doing special things and having special candy for the holiday they were celebrating. He was a true animal lover, especially of dogs, and was an avid loyal fan of the Boston Red Sox, New York Giants, and UConn men and women basketball teams. Most of all, Mark was a gentleman who cherished his time spent with his entire family.

Along with his beloved wife, Gosia, Mark is survived by his son, Michael T. D'Attilio with the U.S. Air Force in Biloxi, MS;

a step-son, Grzegorz Pilitowski of Poland; his mother, Sandra D'Attilio of East Hartford; his sister, Theresa "Trixie" Hyatt of East Hartford; four brothers, Raymond F. D'Attilio, II and his wife Sallie of Manchester, Paul F. D'Attilio and his wife Melanie of Rocky Hill, Kenneth J. D'Attilio and his wife Susan of East Hartford, Anthony "Lou" D'Attilio and his wife Karen of East Hartford; his pet dog, Pusia who now sits in Mark's favorite chair; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Funeral service will be Tuesday (April 23rd) at 11 am at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. Military honors will follow immediately after the funeral service outside on the funeral home property.

Private burial will be held at the convenience of the family. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home chapel on Monday (April 22nd) from 4-7 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Mark's name may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoe.com

Robert 'Red' Davidson, Sr.; Army veteran

Mr. Robert E. (Red) Davidson, Sr., age 86, a resident of 163 Ellington Rd., East Hartford, died on Friday April 5th, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Brattleboro, VT, on April 2nd, 1938, he was the son of the late Lyman and Marjorie (Hamilton) Davidson. Bob received his education in Brattleboro, and was a 1957 graduate of BUHS. Bob joined the US Army in 1958 until 1964. In his leisure time he enjoyed woodworking, vegetable garden, flower beds. Amongst his love of the outdoors, he enjoyed hunting, fishing and softball.

Following his marriage to Catherine R. White on April 11, 1973 in Bellows Falls, the couple relocated to East Hartford, CT where they made their home. Bob worked for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for 21 1/2 years, retiring August 31st, 1994. Bob was predeceased by



Robert Davidson, Sr.

his loving wife Kay, his daughter Bonnie Stansberry and his three sisters Kathy Williams, Marian Akley and Velma Merrifield and brother Lyman Davidson. Robert leaves two

children: Robert Jr. and wife Lisa (Elliott) and Kelly Davidson, who he loved dearly. He also leaves his brother David Sr. and his wife Juanita, three grandchildren Sara-Ann, Kristy, Shayne, and five great grandchildren Ian, Christopher, Jacob, Antonio and Sasha Rae. He also leaves brother-in-law and sister-in-law Howard and Mary Crown of VT as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins and many beloved friends.

Calling Hours will be held on April 27, 2024 from 1PM to 3PM. A Funeral Home service will be held immediately after calling hours at 3PM. Burial will be held at a later date in Vermont.

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.

12 Quilts of Valor awarded

From Page One

name.

The QOV Foundation is a National Organization that makes quilts for Veterans. Each quilt is custom-tailored and made specifically for each veteran.

"The quilts are not gifts but are awards to Veterans for their service," noted Bates who was also choked up by the ceremony. Mayor Connor Martin also spoke and thanked the vet-

erans for their service, and recalled presenting a quilt to the late Vinny Parys, one of the Memorial Day Parade organizers. The mayor encouraged them to attend and march in next month's Memorial Day Parade at Goodwin University.

Outside, a 1951 M38 Wyllis Jeep owned by Wethersfield resident bill Desrosiers was parked outside. Veterans posed for pictures after the ceremony.

Board of Ed awards contracts

From Page One

panies and was below the budgeted 2,000,000. This project will begin work this summer.

The final contract agreed to, was a \$257,000 award to Greenway Property Services for drainage repairs and reconstruction of the East Hartford High School Softball field. This company is out of Stamford. Their bid was well within the budgeted \$300,000.

The Board also reviewed final plans for asbestos abatement at Anna E. Norris Elementary; East Hartford Middle School; and the Early Child Learning Center at Hockanum. The first two projects will be flooring replacement projects, and the last will be removal of old insulation around heating pipes in a basement tunnel. Under the state-funded grants, the process requires several local reviews before the district can go to bid. According to Acting Director of Facilities James Rovezzi, the district will be reimbursed about 75 percent on the flooring projects, and 100

percent on the tunnel project.

In other business the board heard from Tricia Orozco of the School Based Health Center operated by InterCommunity. The School-based Health Centers provide primary care and behavioral health services to district parents and their families. Orozco noted that organizations performed over 16,000 services this year for the area families. The Board requested clarification on communication with parents, as well as parental consent. When questioned about a minor receiving STD or STI treatment Orozco noted that InterCommunity follows the industry standard on sexual-related treatment, that minors have a right to treatment even without parental consent. She added that they encourage students to always seek that permission, but a sexually active minor still will receive treatment if they ask. Board member Matt Lauf concluded the questioning noting that he just could not wrap his head around that policy.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
PAULINE G. VALERIO
(24-00176)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 15, 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:

Robert G. Valerio, 552 Goodwin Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
PETER MICHAEL TUCCITTO
(24-00154)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 15, 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:

Mary Anne Charron, Esquire; Charter Oak Law Group, LLC, 34 Jerome Avenue #120, Bloomfield, CT 06002

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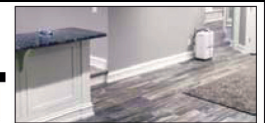
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
GLORIA P. BENSON
(24-00114)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 8, 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:

Keith Benson
c/o Keith Alan Yagaloff,
Esquire; Keith Yagaloff PC,
1343 Sullivan Avenue, P.O.
Box 1158, South Windsor, CT
06074

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
DIANE A. MAESTRONE
(24-00020)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 15, 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:

Angeline Fleig, 6 Tannery Hill
Lane, Hebron, CT 06248

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
CHARLOTTE H. BRADBURY,
AKA CHARLOTTE BRADBURY
(24-00149)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 8, 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:

Francis A. Leone, Esquire;
Leone Throwe Teller & Nagle,
33 Connecticut Blvd, P.O. Box
280225, East Hartford, CT
06128

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
NANCY J. QUERIDO
(24-00181)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 16, 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:

Judith Corado, 64 Timothy
Road, East Hartford, CT 06108

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
ANN MARIE PLAKSA
(24-00080)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 15, 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:

Angelo Alleano
c/o Donna M. Britschgi,
Esquire; David A. Zipfel &
Associates, LLC, 84
Connecticut Blvd., East
Hartford, CT 06108

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

APRIL 20: VOLUNTEER ON EARTH DAY - Join the clean-up party Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., starting at 39 Lodge Drive, Manchester. We'll pick up litter at the Cheney rail trail and Center Springs Park. The event is a collaboration of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust, Manchester Sustainability Commission, Youth Commission, the Conservation Commission and the Manchester High School Environmental Club. Supplies provided, including gloves, trash bags, etc. Come when you can, you are not required to stay the whole time. Dress for the weather, as the event will be held rain or shine. Bring what you'll need, such as a water bottle, sunscreen, sweatshirt. Pizza will be provided at the end of the event to volunteers. Info about the Land Trust: www.manchesterlandtrust.org

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 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 Zepelin. 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 Presidents' 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

and supper - The Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church is hosting a Monte Carlo Whist following supper on Saturday. Supper starts at 4 with Whist starting at 6 p.m. in the Lower Church Hall, 63 Popiefuszko Court, Hartford. The Whist will be conducted in both English and Polish. An optional light supper (potato pancakes, hamburgers, hot dogs, turkey salad sandwiches, turkey noodle soup, and dill pickle soup) will be available for purchase beginning at 4 p.m. Admission for the Whist is \$5. Tickets will be sold at the door. Beginners welcome. Come for the supper, even if you don't play cards! Handicap accessible. Bring your friends. Proceeds will benefit the Guild's Scholarship Fund. Information: 860-659-0356.

MAY 4: PANCAKES! Hillstown Grange will be holding a Spring Pancake Breakfast Saturday morning from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Take a break from spring cleaning and getting the garden ready and come relax and enjoy pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice for just \$6. Special "kid-cakes" available with chocolate chips. Featured pancake is blueberry. Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills St. - in Hillstown, the neighborhood where East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester meet.

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-genera-

tion 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. Sponsors wanted, 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.

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APRIL 25: Hillstown Grange #87 **BLUE GRASS NIGHT WITH YANKEE BLUE GRASS JAMMERS.** Enjoy some great, family-friendly tunes starting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday evening at the Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills St. Open open all, free of charge. Refreshments. Hillstown Grange has served the Hillstown area of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester for over 135 years and is the oldest agricultural group in America and this event is part of Grange Month. FMI call Frank at 860-690-2845 or e-mail: hillstown-grange@aol.com. FMI on Hillstown Grange, visit www.HillstownGrange.org. More information on the Granges across Connecticut can be found at www.CTStateGrange.org

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!

APRIL 27: MONTE CARLO WHIST - Fun, games