

The Gazette

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Thursday, May 2, 2024

Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

1406 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108

860-289-6468

editor@ehgazette.com

website: ehgazette.com

Track at EHHS dedicated to longtime Coach Baron

By Bill Doak

The track at East Hartford High School was dedicated to Track and Cross Country Coach William "Bill" Baron Wednesday in recognition for his dedication to the sport he's loved since a teenager.

Coach Baron, 81, thought he was getting called in to work at the track meet between the Hornets and the South Windsor

EHHS junior premiers music

East Hartford High School Junior Andre Maize was selected to be a part of the first ever Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) Composition and Songwriting Gallery. The gallery took place during the 77th annual CMEA In-Service Conference and All State Music Festival on April 4-6, 2024 at the CT Convention Center in Hartford.

Andre's song "An Arabian Tale" had its premiere performance April 25 EHPS All Town Band Festival (EHMS at 7pm) and will also be played at the EHHS band concert tonight,

See **COMPOSER**, page 10

Bobcats, which was about to get underway.

Instead he was met with balloons, a book, an aerial photo plaque and greetings from close to 100 of his former athletic charges, coaches, teachers and friends and family on a picture-perfect spring day outside. The kind of day no one would have minded taking extra sprints across the grass.

"Walking down the hill that I've walked down so many times before, and seeing all the people I could not believe it," said Baron, keeping his sunglasses on. "All of this was possible because of the athletes I had. And this is just a small group." Baron has been coach-

ing at EHHS, then at East Catholic after he retired, or running state championship meets or the famed Wickham Park Cross Country meets since they started. Beginning in 1967, he coached generations of runners, hurdlers, javelin throwers, leapers and jumpers, and some of them were eager to return to thank their coach for the influence he inspired in their lives.

Phil Smith, EHHS Class of 73, said he places Baron among the four people who had the greatest impact on his life.

"He was a good motivator. He told us to run through the pain, and push to get over the

See **COACH BILL BARON**, pg. 10



COACH BILL BARON speaks as Superintendent of Schools Thomas Anderson looks on Wednesday at EHHS. Below, just a few of the hundreds of athletes from the 1960s to the 2000s gather around their coach



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WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

AROUND TOWN

International soccer here June 15, 16

There will be a friendly soccer match between the national teams of Colombia and Bolivia on Saturday, June 15 at 5 p.m. at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field.

In addition, an international friendly between the national teams of Ecuador and Honduras will take place the next day on Sunday, June 16, at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are being sold on Ticketmaster.



REBUILDING 'WELCOME TO EAST HARTFORD' WALL - AGAIN - Gannon Enterprises, LLC owner John Gannon, right, and masons Mick and Jose rebuild the brick wall demolished by a truck accident in February. It is the third time Gannon's company has rebuilt the wall after an accident.

Sole-source \$13M contract for P&W

Raytheon Technologies Corp. was awarded a \$13,751,996 firm-fixed-price, and cost-reimbursable contract for contractor engineering and technical services in support of the F100-PW-100/220/220E/229 engines for F-15 and F-16 aircraft. This contract provides for on-site proficiency training and advice to elevate the technical skill and abilities of personnel responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Raytheon Technologies Corp. equipment and systems to the level of self-sufficiency. The locations of per-

formance include Air National Guard support in Tucson, Arizona; Toledo, Ohio; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Foreign Military Sales support in Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, and Thailand, and is expected to be completed by March 15, 2026. This contract involves foreign military sales to Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, and Thailand. This contract was a sole source acquisition. \$1,129,911 are being obligated at time of award.

Community Cleanup May 18

The town invites residents, businesses, and community members to join Mayor Martin's team for a Community Cleanup Day Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Volunteers should gather at Alumni Park, 1021 Main St. to check in and be assigned cleanup tasks for the day.

Examples of cleanup tasks include but are not limited to park cleanup, mulching flowerbeds, weeding, and planting. At the end of the cleanup day, lunch will be provided for

all volunteers at Alumni Park.

Of the annual cleanup, Mayor Martin said, "This annual event is a great opportunity to connect with residents while investing in our community. It's always a great time to dig in the dirt, clean up, and beautify our town because there's a real sense of accomplishment at the end of the day. This is also a great opportunity to students needing community service hours, so we really encourage everyone to come out."

All volunteers who sign up will be issued additional details closer to the event. Registration closes Friday, May 10th. Be sure to fill out the participation waiver in addition to the primary registration form. There is no rain date for this event.

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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.

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LEGAL NOTICE

EAST HARTFORD REPUBLICAN TOWN CAUCUS

Pursuant to Article 2, Section 2, of the Rules and Bylaws of the East Hartford Republican Town Committee there will be a meeting of the committee for the purpose of endorsing candidates for the Registrar of Voters, Justice of Peace and the 10th Assembly District on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6:15 p.m. at Raymond Library, 840 Main St., East Hartford, CT. Any interested person is welcome to attend. If questions, contact Anita Morrison, Chair, anita.morrison@comcast.net

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EH company's virtual reality EMT training is launched

Vernon became the first community in Connecticut to use a cutting edge virtual reality training system for EMTs, police officers, firefighters and other medical first responders.

The training system, called VRNA EMS, allows users to immerse themselves in virtual reality to prepare for real-life scenarios, including heart attacks, burns, child birth, lacerations, broken bones, overdoses and more. In addition to providing training opportunities for a wide variety of scenarios, VRNA EMS assesses a user's response and performance, and tests their knowledge. The content aligns with best practices and response protocols.

VRNA EMS was created by VRSim of Roberts Street here in East Hartford. Vernon's town and Vernon Public Schools have adopted it, and will use it to train first responders while Rockville High School will use it to teach students in the allied health and fire technology programs.

"Once again, Vernon leads the way," said Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne. "Training and

refresher training are important in any public safety organization and we are always in search of creative and innovative solutions to meet today's ever changing public safety challenges."

Vernon is also partnering with VRSim to pursue grants for the research and development of a virtual reality mass casualty training system.

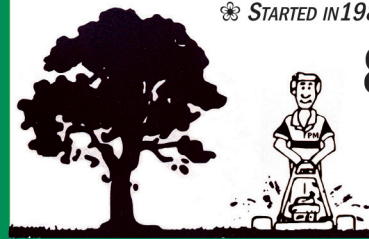
VRSim President and Chief Executive Officer Matthew Wallace said VRNA EMS could also help address the national shortage of EMTs.

"It is our goal to make the critical training needed to attract a strong EMS workforce," Wallace said. "VRNA EMS helps to train workers better, quicker and more efficiently. We are hopeful this will help to begin to address the shortage of EMS workers and significantly enhance public safety, both in Vernon and elsewhere." Virtual reality teaching systems are in place in Vernon schools, noted school Superintendent Dr. Joseph P. Macary. "Virtual technology systems are the next evolution of teaching."

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The Gazette

Thursday, May 2, 2024

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VIEWPOINTS

Larson highlights need to act on Social Security with Secretary Yellen

Tuesday, before a session of the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. John B. Larson reiterated a promise made by President Joe Biden in his State of the Union speech to raise the contribution cap for Social Security to those earning \$400,000 per year or more.

Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen was questioned about her commitment to the President's Social Security agenda.

"I commend President Biden for not only saying that we want to protect Social Security, but we want to expand its benefits, and we can do so by having all Americans pay their fair share," said Larson. "He couldn't have been clearer in his State of the Union message that this is what it's about. Congress hasn't done anything to enhance Social Security in more than 50 years and talk about numbers – with 10,000 baby boomers a day be-

coming eligible for Social Security, it's long overdue that Congress take action."

"Could you discuss the importance of Social Security and why the president has adhered to making sure that we're not taxing people below \$400,000?" Larson asked Secretary Yellen.

"Every year, Social Security lifts tens of millions of seniors out of poverty. It is the federal government's most important anti-poverty program, and it's a

guarantee that generations of Americans have counted on, namely, after working hard throughout one's life, that you'll be able to retire with security and with dignity," responded Secretary Yellen. "And for those reasons, President Biden feels very strongly that we need to preserve the benefits and even extend the benefits of Social Security and honor the commitments that we have made to the nation's seniors. He's commit-

ted to working with Congress to protect Social Security for this generation and future generations."

Larson introduced the Social Security 2100 Act with nearly 200 House Democrats to extend the program's solvency and enhance benefits for the first time in 50 years by heeding President Biden's call to 'scrap the cap' on people earning over \$400,000 to ensure they pay into Social Security.

According to the state, there are fourteen historic mills in town

By Robert Kanehl

Did you know that Preservation Connecticut lists 14 historically significant mills located within town? According to the website Connecticut Mills, overseen by Preservation Connecticut and the State Historic Preservation office, there are a number of historically significant individual mills or mill complexes in town.

The site is dedicated to preserving the history of mill complexes and the surrounding factory communities found throughout the state. Its notes that, "woven into the fabric of many Connecticut villages and towns are mill buildings and historic industrial sites. They are located along rivers once used for power and railroad tracks on which both supplies and finished products were hauled. They are found in rural areas in proximity to raw materials and in urban centers where existing infrastructure and labor markets facilitated production. And often within walking distance of these factories are the grand homes of company owners and the plainer housing for the workers and managers whose labor drove production. These communities, with mills as their backbone, connect us to our industrial heritage, to the stories of our past, and to new opportunities for Connecticut's future."

"Making Places: Historic Mills of Connecticut is a statewide survey of historic industrial resources and company built communities in Connecticut. Making Places project has identified over 1,470 sites across 126 Connecticut towns, rang-

ing from grain mills to sprawling nearly intact complexes of successful companies."

The site breaks the type of significance under six different headings: National Historic Landmark; National Register; State Historical Register; Candidate for State Register; Local Historic District/Property, and Preservation Easement.

East Hartford has no mills listed

DID YOU KNOW?

under either national category; for the local historic district/property category or the preservation easement category.

A general search of the site for mills in town,

however brings up the 14 hits noted below:

Main Street's Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co./Chance Vought Corporation and the Coca Cola Bottling Company sites.



Finished propellers at the Hamilton Propeller Plant in East Hartford, 1941

John Collier, Jr. Farm Security Administration, Office of War Information Photograph Collection, Library of Congress

Prospect Street's Bogner Packing Company and the unnamed mill located at 225 Prospect.

Forbes Street's J.H. Walker & Company.

Church Street's Taylor-Atkins Paper Company, as well as the complex called Burnside on Church Street, an area south of Burnside Avenue, including all or sections of Church Street, Goodwin Place, Forbes Street, and Goodwin Lane.

Tolland Turnpike's Burnside Ice.

Oakland Avenue's First National Stores.

Westbrook Street's Noble & Westbrook Manufacturing.

School Street's Public Steel Corporation.

Park Avenue's Hartford Clamp Company.

Long Hill Street's East Hartford Business Park - (Historic) Fuller Brush Company.

Burnside Avenue's Case Brothers Incorporation.

Of these 14 mills, two are listed as being on the State Historical Register: Burnside Ice and Taylor-Atkins Paper Company. Four additional mills are on the Candidate for State Register Listing: J.H. Walker & Company; Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co./Chance Vought Corporation; First National Stores; and the Noble & Westbrook Manufacturing sites.

This is interesting information considering the town is looking toward developing a historic district that appears to include the Forbes and Church Street locations.



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EAST HARTFORD – 3RD ANNUAL Healthy Community Connections

Thursday, May 9th

Rain or Shine (if raining, event is in the gym)

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM at

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Busy May at South Congregational

South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., invites you to join us for the following events in May.

Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Community Car Seat Safety Check. In partnership with the East Hartford Police Department, we are hosting a free car seat safety check in the

parking lot behind the church. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 59% of child safety seats are installed incorrectly. Stop by for a check, have a cup of coffee, and participate in family friendly games and activities. This is a free program; all are welcome to attend.

Sunday, May 12, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Mother's Day and Caregivers Coffee Hour Celebration. Calling all mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, cousins, neighbors and friends. Join us as we provide refreshments and lots of love to the caregivers who make the world more beautiful. Free.

Auditions for EHSYF *Footloose!*

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!

Talcott Brass May 19 at Wickham

The East Hartford Commission on Culture and Fine Arts presents Talcott Brass in a free concert on Sunday, May 19 at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Wickham Library, 656 Burnside Avenue. The concert, titled "Brass Quintet through the

Ages" will include music from Bach and Holst to Bernstein. Quintet members are Matthew Guevara (trumpet), Maggy Mangold (trumpet), Danielle Kendall (tuba), Adam Myers (trombone) and Shondra Teixeira (French horn).

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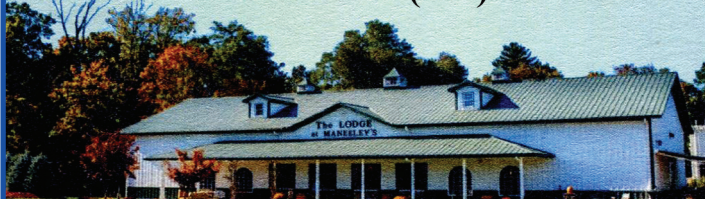


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EHHS CLASS OF 1984 40TH REUNION!

We hope to see fellow 84ers on June 22nd at The One Wood Pub in East Hartford. We will start the shenanigans after 4:30 p.m. at 130 Long Hill St. Appetizers, soda, and desserts will be offered free of charge. Cash bar, and ordering from the menu will also be available. Let's Go Hornets! (The blue and white kind). Website: www.EHHS84.com. RSVP: EHHS84Hornets@gmail.com

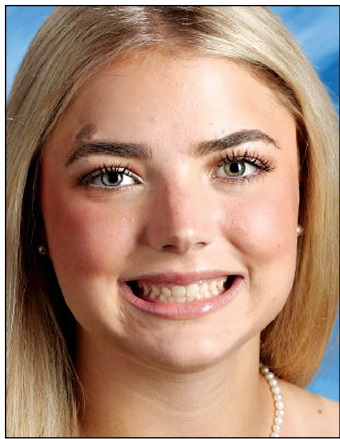
The Class of 1974 of Penney High School will soon be celebrating their 50th Class Reunion! On October 5, 2024 alumni will gather at Georgina's Restaurant in Bolton from 6 to 11 p.m. For more information, please contact Dawn (Kelly) Erikson at dkellyerikson@yahoo.com or Deb (Russell) Henderson at dhenderson128@comcast.net. 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.

ACADEMIC 'TOP 20' IN THE EHHS CLASS OF 2024



Benjamin Boland



Christiana Zembrowski



Swathi Ganesh



Giorgana Zembrowski



Ilena Hoang



Chimuanya Chukwuocha



Leona Brew



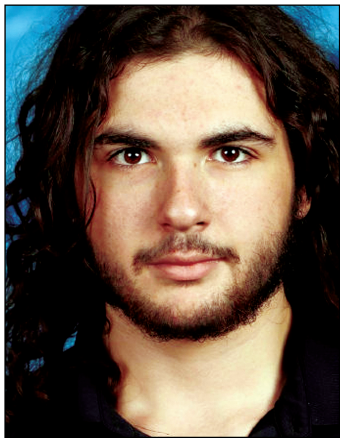
Re'ann Fletcher



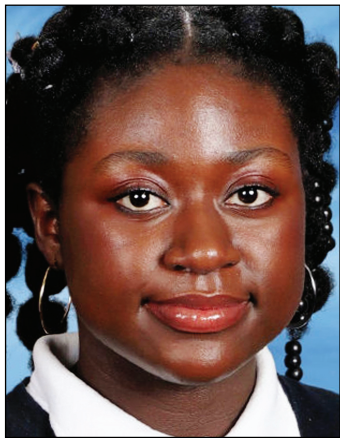
Keira Stewart



Aries Djangmah-Yeboah



Bauer Cordeiro Larkin



Mikelia Darko



Trinity Cordero



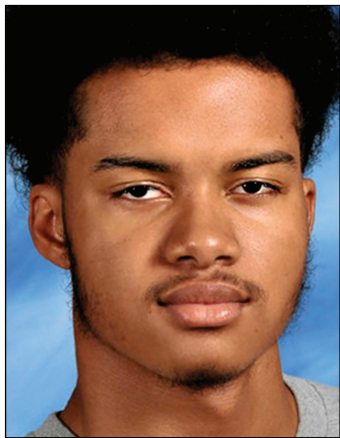
Amilyah Mohammed



Zeeya Tai



Quinn Duval



Kylon Rose



Anjelique Guzman



Monet Cooper



Raahi Patel

EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

Wolf Pack builds solid fan base

I was saddened by the recent news of the passing of Carl Erskine, affectionately known to teammates and legions of Brooklyn Dodgers fans as "Oisk". The last of the great Brooklyn Dodgers teams of the late 40's and early 50's better known as "The Boys of Summer", 'Oisk' pitched in five World Series, including the 1955 seven game win over the Yankees. In 1953 he won 20 games and set a World Series single game record with 14 strikeouts.

"The Boys of Summer" were my team. My Dad was a National League guy, a Boston Braves fan. They were in

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



Milwaukee by the time I was old enough to take to a game. In 1954 I became a Brooklyn Dodger fan, visiting Ebbetts Field, with all its wonderful sights and sounds, for the first time. Three years later my heart was broken. I lost another team forty years later, in 1997, when a team I'd covered for a quarter of a century, the New England/Hartford Whalers moved to North Carolina. You never lose the bond with "your team".

Hearts still bleed over the loss of the Whalers but there are signs the team that replaced them, the Rangers AHL farm team - the Wolf Pack - has finally found its generation. When the Whalers left Hartford fans weren't in a receptive mood for a replacement team. For years the Pack struggled to attract crowds while bouncing through various hard to follow radio contracts, their broadcasts frequently limited to computer streaming. It was hard for the "Not the Whalers" to find a foothold in an angry market.

The early seasons were hallmarked by weeknight crowds that failed to touch 2,000 with not much improvement on weekends. The Pack didn't help itself over the last decade, going through an eight year playoff drought that finally ended last season. This marks the second straight year they're back in the postseason and, while Pack fans are angry about being denied a first round home game, all played in Charlotte to cut travel expenses, they're standing by their team.

In a recent edition of the Hartford Courant Dom Amore produced some interesting statistics. Last season the Wolf Pack averaged over 4,500 fans per game, a season record. The average increased to more than 5,500 this season with some single game numbers topping 8,000. Last year the Wolf Pack Booster Club numbered 28, this year it's 228. I think there's a definite correlation.

The Whalers left 27 years ago. Fans under 30 have no memory of them. While old timers still hold resentment toward Peter Karmanos over the loss of their team, for today's local hockey fans, the 20 and 30 something future insurance executives and corporate lawyers who want to wind down after work with a hockey game and a beer, this is their team and their numbers are likely to increase every season in evidence of that.

We had the Whalers and what a time it was.

Today's Hartford hockey fans have the Wolf Pack and, like Whalers fans before them, they'll be heartbroken if they ever leave.

Welcome to Bill Baron Track at EHHS



East Hartford High School held a track meet against South Windsor right after a ceremony dedicating the track to longtime coach Bill Baron. The sport has changed over the years, and runners no longer compete on a cinder track, but on a state-of-the-art running surface. Multiple events also feature co-ed relays, adding excitement.

P&R gears up for a busy, fun summer

Summer is fast approaching and East Hartford Parks and Recreation will be offering summer camp programs for the 2024 summer season.

East Hartford Parks and Recreation Summer Camps will open Monday, June 24 and will run 7 consecutive weeks, ending on Friday, August 9th. Camps are open to East Hartford residents only and serve children and teens entering grades 1 - 9 and participants with special needs ages 6 -21. Enrichment programming continues to be a stimulating part of the programming thanks to our collaboration with East Hartford Public Library and East Hartford Youth Services.

Camps will be held at the same park locations. However, the inclement weather locations are not on site this summer due to school construction. Inclement weather days will be determined the day prior and camps will be held at the offsite designated location. Parents and caregivers will be notified directly.

Little Rec'ers Camp for children entering grades 1-2 will be located at Goodwin Park/ Goldstar Pool, *Silver Lane during

inclement weather days.

Fun Days Camp for children entering grades 3 - 4 will be located at Gorman Park / Lord Pool, *Sunset Ridge School during inclement weather days.

Explorers Camp for children entering grades 5 - 6 will be located at McAuliffe Park / Drennan Pool, *Langford School during inclement weather days.

Teen Camp for teens entering grades 7 - 9 will be located at Hockanum Park/ Terry Pool, * Community Cultural Center during inclement weather days.

Camp Sunburst for participants with special needs ages 6 - 21 will be located at McAuliffe Park, Drennan Pool, * Wickham Library during inclement weather days.

Campers will participate in a variety of activities; arts & crafts, sports, special events and more. Campers will also visit the pools, where they will have free swim and receive swim instruction from our American Red Cross Certified Lifeguards.

All campers will be registered for the East Hartford Public Library summer reading program through Readsquared

and will receive prizes at camp to recognize and celebrate the time they spend reading! Campers will also participate in weekly enrichment activities sponsored by the Library, including STEM, Makerspace, puppetry, performing arts, drumming and more. For some enrichment activities campers will be used to the Library.

Breakfast and lunch is provided for all campers through the Summer Meals Program!

In partnership with East Hartford Youth Services camp will be supported by Social Workers.

For more information about camp, join us at a **Virtual Camp Open House on Monday, May 13th at 6:30pm, hosted via Zoom by the East Hartford Public Library. To register, click here for the library's on-line events calendar, or call the library at 860-290-4330.**

Registration for camps opens Thursday, April 25th. Register online at www.ehparcs.org or at the parks and recreation office at the CCC, 50 Chapman Place.

Camp brochures will be distributed electronically to students and also at www.easthartfordct.gov/parks-recreation.

OBITUARIES

John Sullivan, 39

John Sullivan, 39, of East Hartford passed away April 9, 2024 at his home due to severe, chronic ailments.

No matter how much suffering he endured, he always had hope.

John lived in East Hartford all his life. Born in Hartford Hospital December 6, 1984 he was the son of James Sullivan and Laura Gorski Sullivan.

John worked with Chip Magic, as a limosine driver and as a security guard and for FedEx early on.

John loved his Irish music and the history of Ireland. He enjoyed setback tournaments, and liked the beaches.

John was a loving, kind, generous and had unconditional love and was forgiving. He also loved helping the elderly.

John leaves a daughter, Catriona, and many friends, cousins, aunts and uncles. He was predeceased by a sister, Tammy Sullivan.



John Sullivan

John will be greatly missed by all.

Funeral service will be private, with a Mass open to family and friends at St. Christopher's Church, 538 Brewer St. at 11 a.m. on May 18, 2024.

Philisse (Fornier) Gifford

Philisse (Fournier) Gifford, longtime resident of East Hartford; Vero Beach, Florida and most recently Bozeman, Montana, passed away April 18, 2024 after a long illness. She was 91.

The daughter of Emile and Josephine (Savoie) Fournier, she was one of their 15 children, grew up in East Hartford and graduated from East Hartford High School.

Earlier in life, she worked as a keypunch operator for Aetna Insurance Company, distributed Shaklee products, catered many parties and weddings, and was an administrative substitute in the East Hartford school system. But her main focus in life was raising her five children.

She was a fabulous cook and enjoyed entertaining family and friends in her home. Watching her dance with her husband or her brothers was a wonderful thing.

Her strong Catholic faith guided her path throughout her life. She will be dearly missed.

Her beloved husband of 55 years, James Gifford, preceded her in death, as did most of her siblings.

She is survived by her five children: Donna Patrick of Livingston, MT (Michael);

Janice Stratton of Carmel, IN (Edward); Karen Brett of Manchester, CT (Michael); Kevin A. Gifford of Somers; and Margaret Spada of New Britain. She leaves 13 grandchildren: Emily Patrick, Erin Patrick, Ian Patrick, Meghan Stratton, Kristen Brett, Michael Brett, Jessica Nadwairski, Austen Brett, Ashley Gifford, Sherry Petras, Gifford Spada, Cameran Spada and Quinn Spada.

She has seven great-grandchildren: Bailey and Mia Babel; Thomas, Julian and Jesse Nadwairski; Savannah and Charlotte Brett. She also is survived by her brothers, Emile Fournier and Richard Fournier, her sister Lorraine Giansanti, her sister-in-law Joan Seymour and many beloved nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Spring Creek Inn Memory Care Community in Bozeman for their care and love of Philisse. They are truly some of the best.

Funeral services were held on Monday, April 29, 2024 at Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home with a Mass of Christian Burial at Saint Rose Church and burial following at Silver Lane Cemetery, Veterans Field.

Online, visit www.newkirkandwhitney.com

Calhoun 'Cal' Sowell, Sr.; builder, mason

Calhoun "Cal" Wm. Sowell, Sr., 82 - a resident of of East Hartford for over 60 years, by way of South Carolina - died April 26, 2024.

He was predeceased by his wife, and number one woman in his life of over 50 years, Mary (Mackey) Sowell; his brothers, Lawrence, Fred, Roach, Will and JW Sowell; sisters Mary (Sowell) Ponds, Marjorie (Sowell) Miller, Lola (Sowell) Morgan, Lolabelle and Ruth Sowell; and his parents, father William (Bill) & adopted mother Lona (Newman) Sowell. He was the last of his line of siblings.

His children and grandchildren carry on his lineage. Daughters Merry C. Garrett of Tolland, Melanie E. DeJesus; sons Calhoun W. Sowell, Jr., Andre P., and Frederick Sowell of East Hartford; grandchildren Daisy, Garrett, Israel, and Solomon DeJesus; Calhoun 3rd and Tashia Sowell; Frederick Sowell Jr.; Tatianna and Adrianna Sowell.

Cal was a member of the Masons and a proud union member of Local 1, CT Fund

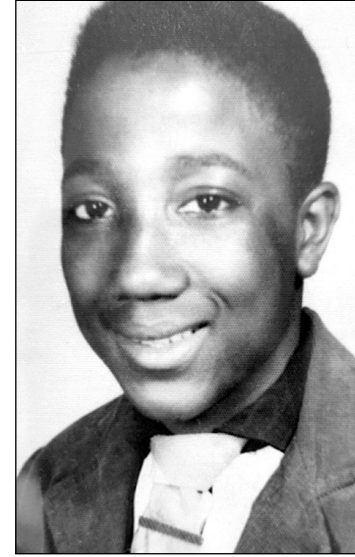


Calhoun Sowell, Sr.

International Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers for over 60 years. He specialized in complex masonry and structural work. In Connecticut, if you've entered large commercial or specialized structures, used any of the major highways or key bridges you probably enjoyed the conveniences of his work.

After retirement he owned a landscaping company.

Cal enjoyed fishing, garden-



ing, hunting, DIY projects; his wife Mary's supremely-prepared meals, playing pool and BBQing. He and his wife had fun times, traveling and at Foxwood Casino High Rollers balls. He did life his way, and left many, many stories to be told.

A graveside service will take place at 11 a.m. May 2, 2024 at Silver Lane Cemetery, 1280 Silver Lane, East Hartford.

If you've been putting off prearranging because of the expense, we have good news..

Prearrangement doesn't have to cost anything.

What many people don't know is that you need not prepay when you prearrange. We're happy to record your wishes and hold them on file at no charge. Call our funeral home for details.



D'Esopo-East Hartford

Memorial Chapel

30 Carter Street

860-568-9420

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EHHS composer

From Page One

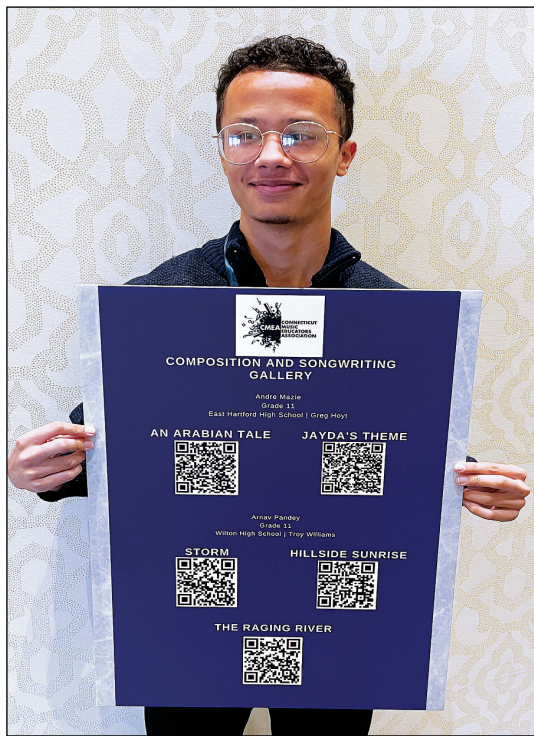
May 2nd, at EHHS at 7 p.m.

Andre plays trumpet in the East Hartford High School Wind Ensemble, Concert Band and Jazz Band. To be considered for the Composition and Songwriting Gallery, he submitted two original scores and recordings of those pieces. The two compositions he submitted were "An Arabian Tale" written for Concert Band, which will be premiered at the East Hartford All-Town Band Festival, and an orchestral piece titled "Jayda's Theme."

He was one of 53 student composers from districts across the state to be selected. Their pieces were shared on scannable QR code posters at the conference. They also attended a reception with their fellow student composers and special guest composer Josh A. Idio who shared his composition expertise.

"Having my pieces featured in the composer's gallery served as a reminder that the music I write is truly worthy of being heard by others. As a composer, that assurance means so much considering the level of self-critique that goes into every work, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity not only to have two of my pieces featured but also to receive advice directly from a professional composer," said Andre.

You can hear Andre's compositions by clicking the following links: An Arabian Tale and Jayda's



Theme.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xtf-jyg_m70KLSzwbTTXIZ_lcVhOKjxeS

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kkmd eJsUjFfuJWoYFM1XWN_RV94o4NSt



EHHS high-jumper Dat Tran (1988) with Coach Bill Baron's wife, Marie.

Track dedicated to Coach Baron

From Page One

next hill. We would be hurting. But we would feel better when we saw the other runners finishing after us, and they were hurting."

Smith was named all-state, and was named the team's MVP at the end of the season.

Jake Matthews was MVP of the 1971 squad. "I ran the 100, 200, 4x100, Matthews related. Nearby were teammates Rich Brown ('90), Carl Dean ('91) and Chris Fruster ('87).

Trinity College coach George Suitor graduated from EHHS in 1966 and Central CT in 1990, teaching at Manchester High for 20 years then part-time at Trinity for 12 and assistant professor for the last 18 years. As a Hornet, Suitor competed in the 400 and 800, and Coach Baron was already at trackside since his days as a high school and college runner at Manhattan College. Their connection is as lifelong friends, connected by the sport. Coach Dick Brimley was also on hand to greet Baron and all the former track team members.

Superintendent of Schools Thomas Anderson was humbled by the opportunity to honor his former high school coach, and mentor when Anderson returned to teach at EHHS for one year and serve as assistant track coach.

"I have the opportunity to honor someone who was so instrumental in our lives," said Anderson, who recalled walking into the gym as a wide-eyed 13-year-old having been cut by the basketball team because he couldn't dribble very well. I

spent the next 560 days around the school or the track with Coach," he recalled. "There was some yelling, but mostly stern talks."

Dat Tran ('88), who set the high jump mark at 6'8" at EHHS, went on to obtain three degrees - in accounting, an MBA and a law degree - and traveled from Houston where he has lived for the past 26 years for the ceremony honoring Baron.

"He was one of those people who continue to inspire me in life," said Tran.

Allison Hanscom Caruso ('95) credits Coach Baron for making her a lifelong runner. This weekend she will run the Maine Coast Marathon, her 22nd. "I really thank Mr. Baron and Mrs. Baron both for making me a lifelong runner. They taught me to put in the work, and always pointed me in the right direction."

Baron taught and coached at East Hartford High School from 1967-2001, then went on to coach at East Catholic High School for another 22 years. His coaching highlights include 6 state championships, 17 state records, 3 New England records, 1 Eastern States record, 2 athletes ranked #1 in the nation and 118 cross country and track all-state athletes. He was named a Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) Coach of the Year three times (twice for cross country, once for track) and a National Coach of the Year in Cross Country in 1988. He was inducted into the CHSCA Hall of Fame in 2001.

Springtime Bouquet for Mom



The East Hartford Woman's Club/GFWC/CT (EHWC/GFWC) in conjunction with the East Hartford Fire Department (EHFD) is sponsoring a SPRINGTIME BOUQUET in memory or honor of our mothers and other important women in our lives. As Mother's Day approaches, we remember these women who have impacted our lives. For the cost of \$5.00 per name, you may "purchase" a flower and know that your donation will assist the East Hartford Fire Department with the purchase of smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are kept on all fire apparatus and available to any town resident by contacting the Fire Marshall's Office at 860.291.7405. This bouquet will be published in the East Hartford Gazette.



PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE EAST HARTFORD WOMAN'S CLUB/GFWC/CT (EHWC/GFWC/CT)

Donations will be accepted through May 31, 2024

Please print first and last names

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

SPONSOR'S NAME _____ PHONE # _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please complete the above form and mail it along with your check to:

Jeanne Kehoe, 271 Timber Trail, East Hartford, CT 06118-3583

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

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 4: PLANT SALE - The Hill and Dale Garden Club will be sponsoring a Garden/Plant sale on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to noon on the Hubbard Green in Glastonbury (Behind the Historical Society of Glastonbury at 1944 Main St.). All plants are perennials from the gardens of club members. With the current focus on the Pollinator Pathway Initiative, the sale will feature plants that are food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife. FMI 860-328-0861 or Hillanddalect.org.

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 15: NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES Chapter 154 of Greater Hartford meets Wednesday, May 15, at the Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Avenue, Wethersfield, at 1:30 p.m. Christine Buck from the CT Attorney General's office will give a discussion on senior scams. All welcome.

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. 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.

JUNE 2: SUPPORT OUR TROOPS Summer collection and packing event, Sunday from noon until 2 p.m. at Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills St. Sponsored by SOS Connecticut, the summer collection seeks non-aerosol donations of: (Special Request From 272d Regional Support Group) Freeze pops/ SPF 50+ lotion and lip balm/ Aloe Cooling Lotion/ Rechargeable mini fans/ Reusable water bottles/ Water squirters/ Anti-chafing cream/ Moleskin/ Frisbees/ Foot powder/ Bug spray/ Board/card games/ Popcorn/ Gatorade/ mio hydration packets/ Pringles/ small décor items/ Ziplock bags/ Small mag-

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nets/ and snack items, such as beef jerky, nutrition bars, iced tea and lemonade mixes, microwave popcorn, small jars of peanut butter, etc. We plan to make up a couple of special boxes for female Soldiers, so we need feminine items that are not aerosols. Items will be accepted the day of the event before 1 p.m. or by special arrangement with Frank Forrest, who is organizing the event.

We are also looking for cards and children's drawings to go with the theme of "Flowers in the Garden." Volunteers needed starting at noon to sort merchandise and pack boxes. It costs about \$800 to ship the packages, and the group also welcomes donations to help defray postage costs. Checks should be made out to SOS Connecticut and mailed to: SOS Connecticut, c/o Frank Forrest, 165 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118.

This is a great event to support our Troops stationed away from home for the Holidays and organizations that are interested in helping, please contact us. For more information, to donate merchandise on a day other than June 2 or to volunteer, call Frank Forrest at 860-690-2845, or e-mail sosconnecticut@aol.com.

PERRONE'S PALS TRIPS - "Nunsense" at Newport Playhouse Aug. 26; "Daniel" at Lancaster Sept. 4-6; Margaritaville at Cape Cod Sept. 23-25, Atlantic City Oct. 15-17. Contact Joan Perrone 860-568-6229 or Craftyjoanperr@gmail.com for info.

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

THE EAST HARTFORD SENIOR CENTER serves breakfast Saturdays promptly at 9 a.m. Come alone or bring a guest. Every week is different breakfast menu, posted online. Breakfast comes with coffee or tea. One adult guest per member. Space limited, show up early.

St. George's Episcopal Church in Bolton invites **CRAFTERS TO RENT A BOOTH** at the church's 48th Annual Craft and Harvest Fair Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on church lawn at 1150 Boston Turnpike, Route 44, Bolton. Sign-up by Sept. 1. E-mail bkalina333@gmail.com or 860-643-9203.

MY SISTERS' PLACE: Help My Sisters' Place provide affordable housing and services for families in need by sending a donation to: Community Housing Advocates, 221 Main St., 4th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106. FMI call 860-808-2048.

INTERVAL HOUSE provides a variety of services for victims of domestic violence, advocacy, legal rights. 860-527-0550.

PROJECT LINUS delivers blankets to local hospitals. We are always looking for people to donate their hand-made quilts or afghans. These blankets need not be fancy just colorful and washable, any size from receiving to twin. To arrange to donate call 860-649-5513.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP at Riverside Health & Rehab Center meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 745 Main St. Facilitated by Scott Ginter. RSVP: 860-289-2791.

FOSTER FAMILIES needed for children in DCF care in every town in CT. Join a no obligation two-hour Zoom session to learn more. For more info or to register for a meeting, contact Annie C Courtney Foundation at 475-235-2184. Annie C works with the Dept. of Children and Families to find foster parents for over 3,000 children in foster care. FMI on adoption see www.anniec.org.

FREE TEST KITS: The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) under the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) has opened another round of free COVID tests to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Each household can order 4 FREE test kits at COVID.gov. Only a name and address are required to order the free test kits.