

The Gazette

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Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

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Synergy High: '50 years of family'

By Robert Kanehl

At the mid-century mark, Synergy Alternative High School took time to look back on its accomplishments and future.

The East Hartford based school held a celebration this past Thursday marking the anniversary of the school. In attendance were around 70 past and present students, administrators and staff members. Besides reflections, the event featured a small dinner and campus tours.

The feel of the event was not melancholy remembrance or even academic, it was family. Most of the people speaking at the gathering noted that the school has created its own unique community or family.

Both key-note speakers Principal Ed Figueroa and Superintendent Thomas Anderson stressed this sense of community or family accomplishment. Thomas noted that school truly nurtured its three objectives: "Seizing the opportunity; being resilient and seeking the future."

Past students generally referred to Synergy as their home away from home. This feeling was expected among the cadre of students and staff. The alternative high school has enjoyed steady support from East Hartford school administration over the years, but it's survival was not without fights at budget time, rallying students and alumni to the cause.

In its 50 years, the environment of the facility had been geared to providing a supportive family of learners.

From yearly encampments to cross country trips, the facility worked hard to provide opportunities and motivations for students who might not succeed elsewhere. This method worked for over 2,000 students who have graduated from the school. This sense of community was key to helping fend off the school's proposed closure in 2010 when students and faculty filled Town Hall to advocate for their school's place in town - and in their lives.

Among the attendees at the 50th anniversary was retired teacher and former state sena-

See **SYNERGY 50TH**, pg. 10

WWE CHAMP ON MAIN



WWE CHAMPION DAMIAN PRIEST gives his signature pose with Lucas Esperto, 7, of Wallingford on Main Street Tuesday at the Cricket phone Store.

CT IB Academy ranked #1 in CT

Connecticut IB Academy (CIBA) is the best high school in the state according to *U.S. News and World Report*. The publication released its annual high school rankings, which include nearly 25,000 high schools in the nation, and 200 in the state.

CIBA ranked 117th nationally with an overall score of 99.34/100. In addition, CIBA was ranked 31st nationally for magnet high schools. In the rankings, *U.S. News and World Report* considers six factors: college readiness, state assessment proficiency, assessment

See **CIBA #1**, page 10



AROUND 70 PAST AND PRESENT FACULTY AND STUDENTS gathered Thursday in the Synergy Alternative High School's gym at 40 Butternut

Drive to reunite and celebrate the school's important role for the last five decades in East Hartford, and in their lives.

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WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

EH Housing Authority to receive \$1.8M

The East Hartford Housing Authority will receive \$1,785,564 to help renovate and modernize housing units in town. The funding was announced this week by the state's congressional delegation.

A total of \$42.4 million in new federal funding was allotted to the state through the Public Housing Repair fund, with the money earmarked for building, renovating and modernizing public housing. Bridgeport, Hartford, Waterbury, Norwalk, New Britain and New Haven will receive the most funding with East Hartford the 7th largest amount.

"I am incredibly proud to work with a Congressional Delegation that is so committed to delivering federal funding and tax credits to build, develop, and modernize homes in our state to help relieve the shortage of affordable, quality housing," said East Hartford Rep. John B. Larson. "With today's announcement, we are investing directly in communities across the state and First District - from Hartford and Bristol to Winsted and Portland - to build new housing, make much-needed repairs, and improve energy efficiency in public

housing units. I will continue to work with the delegation, as well as our state and local partners, to improve the availability, affordability, and safety of housing for all residents."

"This \$42.3 million in federal funding will bring Connecticut's public housing into the 21st century and make a dramatic difference in residents' quality of life. Access to safe, affordable, and livable housing is a human right and I will continue to fight for more federal resources to modernize and upgrade public housing across Connecticut," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal.

"It's no secret that Connecticut is facing a serious shortage of affordable housing. This \$42 million is going to help housing authorities upgrade and renovate, and also build hundreds more," said Sen. Chris Murphy.

"Investing in public housing is critical, especially now when so many workers and families in Connecticut are looking for an affordable home in the face of high housing costs. Today's announcement will revitalize existing public housing and build new homes across the state," said Rep. Joe Courtney.

"People are struggling with the rising cost of housing," said

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. "The funding announced today will help revitalize our existing stock of affordable housing in need of serious repair and allow for the building of new units. As Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am proud to have helped secure this funding for Connecticut."

"This funding will not only help broaden access to stable housing, but it will also provide for the installation of energy- and water-efficiency upgrades to existing homes, making our community more resilient and cutting costs for residents," said Rep. Jim Himes.

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The Gazette

Thursday, May 9, 2024

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VIEWPOINTS

Teachers inspire not just their students, but our community

Dear Teachers,

As we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible work you do every day. Your dedication, passion and unwavering commitment to educating and nurturing our children do not go unnoticed.

You are:

Not just teachers but mentors.

Role models.

Inspirations to your students and our entire community.

Your tireless efforts to empower young minds and shape

the future are commendable, and we are incredibly fortunate to have you guiding our children's educational journey.

Thank you for your creativity, patience, and endless encouragement. Thank you for making a difference in our children's lives in East Hartford Public Schools and being the heart of our #EHPRIDE school community.

With heartfelt appreciation and admiration,

Tyron Harris
East Hartford
Public Schools
Board of Education Chair

Attention high school seniors: Do you know story of an East Hartford Gold Star veteran?

The East Hartford Veterans Commission invites all high school seniors who reside in East Hartford to participate in the 2024 "Gold Star Essay Contest".

The purpose of the contest is learn about town residents who sacrificed their lives in service to our town, state, and country.

The winner will be awarded a one-year scholarship of \$1,000. The contest will be judged and is sponsored by the East Hartford Veterans Commission.

Rules of the contest can be found at: <https://www.easthartfordct.gov/veterans-commission/pages/east-hartford-veterans-commission-gold-star-honor-roll-essay-scholarship>

Essays must be submitted by the end of June, and mailed to: **Veterans Commission, Town of East Hartford, 740 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06108.**



MEMORIAL DAY IN EAST HARTFORD
MONDAY AT 10 AM
GOODWIN UNIVERSITY
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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

Celebrating teachers, celebrating schools

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In East Hartford Public Schools this week represents Staff Appreciation Week, which is also National Teacher Appreciation Week across the country. We take this time every year to celebrate our staff members at each school, their hard work, and the important roles they play in our district. Each member of our team of 1,300+ talented and committed individuals makes a difference in the lives of our students. If there is a staff member who has positively impacted your child this year, we encourage you to reach out to them to express your thanks.

During this time of year, we also have the opportunity to recognize teachers in our district who go above and beyond through the Teacher of the Year program. Congratulations to the following list of teachers who were selected as Teachers of the Year for their individual schools. From this outstanding group, we will choose our EHPS Teacher of the Year later this month.

Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) - Rebecca Januszewski

Goodwin ES - Angie Hewins
Langford ES - Amy Cancellieri
Mayberry ES - Timothy Watt
Norris ES - Amy Pearsall
O'Brien ES - Alexa Mach
O'Connell ES - James Galluzzo

WHAT'S WELL FROM WELLS HALL



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent of Schools



Tyron Harris
Chair, EH Board of Education

Pitkin ES - Elizabeth Nave
Silver Lane ES - Ashley Viera
Sunset Ridge MS - Brittany Bouchard
East Hartford MS - Daniel Keith

CT IB Academy - Mackenzie Mace
East Hartford HS - Melissa Dumas
Synergy HS - Allyson Vess
Woodland School - Gayle Pollick

We have a lot to celebrate at East Hartford Public Schools. Connecticut IB Academy was recently ranked the #1 high school in Connecticut and #117 high school in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*, which ranked nearly 200 public high schools in the state and 25,000 in the country.

Synergy School is celebrating its 50th year of providing high-quality educational options to East Hartford students.

And of course, we are getting ready to honor the graduating class of 2024. We hope you will join us in these celebrations and show your pride in our schools.

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

With East Hartford Pride!

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

East Hartford farmers fought a war - against the blackbirds

by Robert Kanehl

Did you know that colonial East Hartford residents staged a war with blackbirds? That's correct - there was a local funded war on the pesky blackbirds which were attacking the crops in East Hartford.

This war was not focused on the crow, but a different blackbird commonly found in the area.

The crow, not to be forgotten, did generate government sponsored bounty. From 1692 to as late as 1809, the town was offering money for killing adult birds. In 1808 that reward was 4 cents for a full grown bird. A year later that prize money was up to 6 cents.

But the blackbird most hated by the early settlers in the town was the Grackle. This smaller blackbird, travels in large packs, and attacks crops. They love flat, agricultural fields and caused more damage to the planted seeds, seedlings and plants than crows.

Early towns in Connecticut, including Hartford, and later East Hartford not only offered bounties for the bodies of grackles, they actually imposed a fee or tax on farmers who did not make a significant effort to eliminate the pest from their fields.

The 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act eliminated local killing of these birds. Under the act Canada and the United States agreed to protect migratory birds traveling through the counties. Over the years, Mexico, Japan, and Russia have joined the treaty.

The act "prohibits the taking (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Four subspecies of the grackle (Boat-tailed, Common, Greater Antillean and Great-tailed) are protected under the act, for they migrate from Canada to most of the eastern United States.

The crow as well as other

blackbird visitors, are also protected under this act's umbrella.

Other common animals which had bounties on their heads in early East Hartford were the fox, deer and the wolf. There were wolves in Connecticut. Legend states the last wolf was killed by Revolutionary hero Israel Putnam in the mid-1700s. But reality is often different than legend, and to this day there have been reported sightings of wolves in the state.

Colonial Hartford - and later East Hartford - town governments paid for hunters to kill wolves and deer as far back as 1640. In that year, Hartford

hired a hunter, and paid him a set fee each week to pay his room and board. But "if he kills a wolf he is to pay for his board." It must be assumed he was paid a bounty higher than his weekly pay. The contract also notes that "If he kill a deer," he was paid, "2 d (dollars) a pound for it."

Foxes continued to be hunted for bounties as late as 1819. The town of East Hartford voted that year to pay 50 cents "for every fox killed within Town limits."

When Pratt & Whitney operated the airfield at Rentschler Field, and deer populations made a comeback, hunters were quietly enlisted to help eradicate them. The deer could have been seen as a threat to aircraft. No shots were fired; they did the hunting only by bow. Inside Cabela's, well stocked with bows and firearms, sited close to where the company airfield used to be, visitors can try their hand at the hunt, using a bow and arrow, or use a laser light to plunk a varmint off a log.

Seeing the deer and its fawn this past summer at Martin Park, and a pair of Canadian geese escorting three fuzzy goslings around a retaining pond between Cabela's and the new 1.25-million-square-foot Lowe's warehouse which sits on the old runway makes us reflect on our ever-changing town, opinions and laws.

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back on our East Hartford

Burnside Hope wall-raising ceremony



Last Thursday was a landmark day for Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut as the organization celebrated the Burnside Hope Development on Burnside Avenue with a Wall Raising Ceremony. This marked a major milestone in the construction of 10 Net Zero Energy homes, each designed to offer "hope and opportunity" to families. Over 200 applied to become homeowners when the project launched two years ago. The final 10 selected all have young families and will participate in sweat equity as part of the build. Habitat volunteers were joined by East Hartford Mayor Connor Martin, HFHNC's CEO Karraine Moody, and other distinguished guests including representatives from Bank of America and local businesses in raising the prefabricated section of wall together. The wall-raising also kicked off Habitat's annual Women Build Initiative.

Help place flags on EH veteran's graves

The East Hartford Veterans Commission would like to extend an open invitation to join us in a memorable experience to honor our Veterans by placing an American flag at the Veteran's headstones for Veterans Day.

Flag placing ceremony
Sat. November 4th 2023 @ 8:00 A.M.
Hillside Cemetery, Hillside Street.

We welcome all volunteers who want to honor our Veterans. Volunteers are encouraged to bring a long screwdriver to help make a hole in the hard earth for the flag shaft.

Your participation is highly appreciated!

For additional information contact: John Cook, Veterans Commission at 860-212-9966.

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
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned chicken/tuna
- Canned or individual fruit/applesauce

Monetary or gift card donations are always welcome!



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

Thank you for helping us help our local community.

The Tierinni Family

J J & C Contractors LLC
We truly appreciate your support!

East Hartford
Backpack Program

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Shoreline Ringers Saturday at EHCCC

Watch the esteemed handbell choir The Shoreline Ringers as they perform their latest handbell concert, "Feel the Love" on Saturday, May 11th at 7:00pm. The performance will take place at East Hartford Community Cultural Center, at 50 Chapman Place.

The program consists of classical arrangements, pop favorites, and original handbell compositions that can be enjoyed by the whole family.

The Shoreline Ringers, directed by Andy Wallace, ring on five and a half octaves of Malmark handbells and seven octaves of Malmark handchimes. The group rehearses in Uncasville, CT and has ringers from all over eastern and central Connecticut. The group has performed at Carnegie Hall as part of "Christmastime in the City" concert, with Scott Haney



and the "Joy for the Kids Concert" sponsored by WFSB Channel 3 in Hartford, joined the United States Coast Guard Band as part of their popular Christmas concert, and been featured guest performers at both area and national handbell events, as well as the Boston Handbell Festival in 2008, 2014 and 2019.

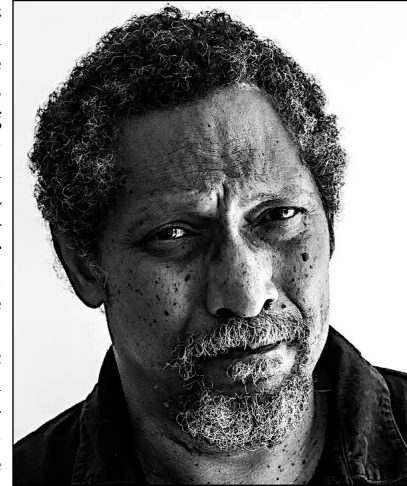
This program is presented with the support of the CT Department of Economic and Community Development.

Shoreline Ringers, inc. is a community handbell ensemble formed as a Connecticut non-profit corporation in September 2006. Our goals are to support the continued development of the art of handbell ringing.

Author Percival Everett at Mark Twain lecture

The Mark Twain House & Museum (MTH&M) is thrilled to announce that their free upcoming Trouble Begins lecture series event featuring Pulitzer Prize finalist Percival Everett on his latest novel James has been moved to a larger location due to unprecedented demand. After the initial announcement, the discussion featuring the acclaimed author with journalist and cultural critic Michael Harriot sold out in less than two days! To accommodate the overwhelming interest from the community, the event will take place on the same day - Wednesday, June 5 at 7 p.m. - but now at Immanuel Congregational Church located at 10 Woodland St., Hartford.

When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond. While many narrative set pieces of Adventures of



Huckleberry Finn remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light.

Percival Everett is a Distinguished Professor of English at USC. His most recent books include Dr. No (finalist for the NBCC Award for Fiction and winner of the PEN/ Jean Stein Book Award), The Trees (finalist for the Booker Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction), Telephone (finalist for the Pulitzer Prize), So Much Blue, Erasure, and I Am Not Sidney Poitier.



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Society

Check your car seat Saturday

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 place. There will also be craft materials available for you to make cards for those special people in your life. The event is free and is sponsored by the South Church Service Sunday initiative which seeks to engage, support and nourish the East Hartford community. RSVP to Lisa at cefe@southucc.org if you would like to attend.

EAST HARTFORD WOMAN'S CLUB INSTALLS OFFICERS



THE EAST HARTFORD WOMAN'S CLUB held their Installation Banquet on Tuesday, May 7, at the Nutmeg in East Windsor. Above, front row, from left is Treasurer Sandra Gingras, Corresponding Secretary Lauren Keegan, Vice-President Maegan Kiger, Co-Presidents Linda Chamberlain and Cynthia Messikian, Recording Secretary Candy Tatro, Director Two Years Beverly Leone. Back row left to right: Assistant Treasurer Joan Olenick, Installing Officer General Federation of Women's Clubs/CT President Kathy DeBurra, Director Two Years Eileen Driscoll, Historian Elaine Santos.

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
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EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

Playoff hockey: nothing's better

The wait is finally over. Playoff hockey returns to Hartford.

I mentioned last week a lot of Wolf Pack fans were unhappy about the AHL playoff schedule that, to limit travel expenses, denied the Pack a home game in their first round series with the Charlotte Checkers. The entire best of three set went to Charlotte's Bojangles Arena, the Checkers being the higher seed. The Wolf Pack took matters into their own hands, bringing playoff action home by winning the series 2-1. After losing game one the Pack pulled out an over-

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



time win in game two and put the series away with a 3-1 win in game three.

The Wolf Pack opened round two in Providence, where the Bruins were coming off a ten day layoff thanks to a first round bye. The Pack took advantage of the rust with a 4-3 game one win behind a goal and two assists from Tyler Pitlik. The Bruins, with some game action behind them, dominated game two 6-0. Finally, on to Hartford this week. Game three was played Wednesday night, game four will be played on Friday.

There's nothing like playoff hockey and right now no one's playing at a higher level than the Wolf Pack's parent club, the New York Rangers, who opened the NHL post season on a 5-0 run. Their first round, game two win over the Caps and the opener in their second round series with the Carolina Hurricanes may have been the best playoff games so far. In both of those games it became evident the best play by play team working the post season is Sean McDonough and Ray Ferraro.

Full disclosure: Both are old friends, but I believe my relationships with them gives my assessment a measure of validity, if not objectivity.

Having teamed with Sean as a play-by-play pairing for NESN I know there are few in the profession who arrive more prepared for a game. No one in the nation is better than Sean at following and calling game action.

Ray Ferraro's value to the broadcasts isn't just his knowledge of the game, which is considerable, as was evidenced by his immediate pickup on the "delay of game" in the final minute of the Rangers-Canes opener, it's the infusion of himself into the presentation. What you get is pure Ray Ferraro, everything about him that makes him such a likeable personality.

Ray and I became good friends during his days with the Whalers. A lifelong Red Sox fan, he envied me my annual treks to the Sox spring training camp. Annually I returned with a gift for Ray, an autographed baseball. His favorites were Dwight Evans, Jim Rice and Wade Boggs.

I mention in my own defense that I didn't take advantage of my media access to get the signatures. I was personal friends with many of the players and acquired their autographs during after dinner card games or weekend cookouts.

It's the most exciting time of the year in hockey and there's nothing better than feeling you're part of it. Finally, in Hartford, we are.

Hornet Softball breaks through against Bobcats

East Hartford topped South Windsor, 7-2, Monday in an away game - their third win in a row.

The Bobcats have dominated the Hornets in their last 9 matchups - until this week.

Izzy Brito tossed a complete game victory allowing two runs and five hits while striking out three Bobcats. Brito helped her own cause at the plate, going 4-for-4 with a run scored.

Brito has been nothing but reliable: She hasn't pitched less than five innings in five consec-

utive pitching appearances.

East Hartford's Julea Casaol was 2-for-4 with a triple, a run, and an RBI.

South Windsor pitcher Gabrielle Ryan matched Brito's earned runs, but the five unearned runs came on ten hits and ten Ks.

The victory got East Hartford back to 6-6 on the season. South Windsor also is even on the year at 7-7.

East Hartford was scheduled to take on Windsor at McAuliffe Park Wednesday.

Athletic launch Girls Academy

Hartford Athletic have announced the launch of their Girls Academy, marking a significant stride in the Club's unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and diversity within the beautiful game. Beginning Fall 2024, the Hartford Athletic Girls Academy will field teams from age groups U8 through U14, all competing in the New England Club Soccer League.

"Launching our Girls Academy is a significant step forward in our mission to cultivate talent and provide opportunities for young athletes," said Hartford Athletic CEO Nick Sakiewicz. "Connecticut is rich with talented young soccer players, and we look forward to welcoming them into our academy. We are excited to offer a first-class platform where girls can develop their skills, pursue their passion for soccer, and reach their full potential."

Hartford Athletic Girls Academy players will enjoy a wealth of resources curated by the Club, ensuring a holistic player development journey. Players will have the unique opportunity to receive expert instruction from the Club's first team coaches and players, immersing themselves in a culture of excellence from those who have played at the country's top levels of the sport. Girls Academy players will also get to train and play games at the world-class Day Hill Dome in Windsor, Connecticut, as well as Trinity Health Stadium where the first team plays their home matches in the USL Championship.

Tryouts for Hartford Athletic Girls Academy teams are being held on May 7th, 9th, 14th, and 16th. Please visit hartfordathletic.com/girls-academy to register, and please contact academy@hartfordathletic.com with any questions.

P&R camps open June 24; sign up now

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.

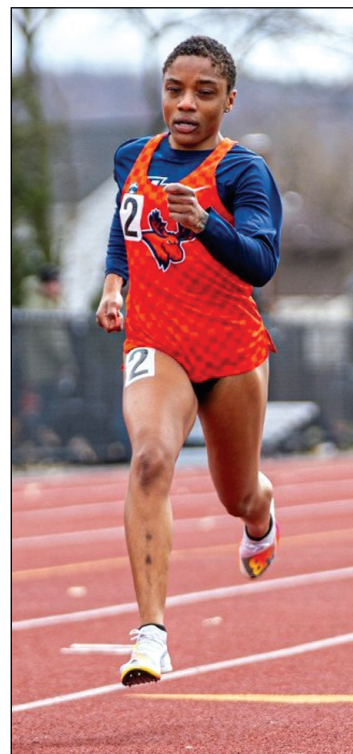
Little Rec's Camp for children entering grades 1-2 will be located at Goodwin Park/ Goldstar Pool, *Silver Lane during inclement weather days.

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.

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

JANAIYA CRUZ-BERMEDEZ EXCELS AT MEET



The Utica University women's track and field team completed in the Empire 8 Championships at St. John Fisher the first weekend of May. At the conclusion of day one, Utica was third with 46 points. In the sprints, Utica's Mackenzie Mix ran a season-best time in the 400m of 57.60 to take the win. Also in the 400m was Janaiya Cruz-Bermudez of East Hartford in fourth with a time of 1:00.49. Majoring in Health Sciences, the senior from East Hartford is a Empire 8 champion as part of the indoor 4x400m relay team. She is also on the school record-holding 4x200m and indoor 4x400m relay teams.

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

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

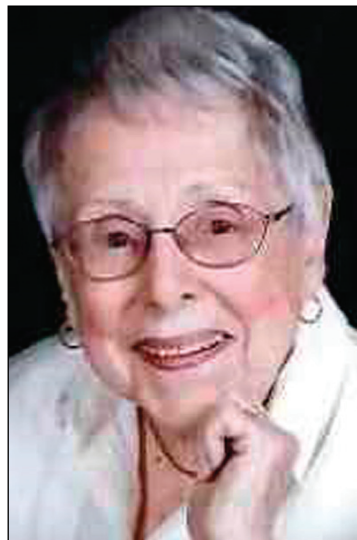
For more information about camp, join in the **Virtual Camp Open House Monday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m. hosted via Zoom by the East Hartford Public Library, 860-290-4330.**

OBITUARIES

Estelle Lussier, 'Madame Molecule' at PHS

Estelle Raymond Lussier, whose logical mind, quick wit and organizational finesse left many in awe, died peacefully at her home in Eastham, MA on April 24. Estelle accomplished much in her 100 years. Born in Taftville, CT on February 4, 1924 to George and Frances Raymond, she was co-valedictorian and named "Class Scholar" of Norwich Free Academy's 1941 class. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at Connecticut College from which she graduated with a degree in chemistry in 1945. Estelle married Henry Lucien Lussier in 1950.

While their three children were young, Estelle, who was a fine pianist, was asked by the pastor of St. Christopher's Catholic Church in East Hartford to take organ lessons and become the church organist, a position she held for



Estelle Lussier

many years. After her children were all in school, she taught chemistry at Penney High School in East Hartford, CT, where she was known as

Aline (LaFlamme) Lavigne

Aline (LaFlamme) Lavigne, 81, of East Hartford passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 3, 2024 surrounded by her family.

Daughter of the late Leon and Florence (LaRochelle) LaFlamme she was born in New Britain in 1942. Aline took great pride in her garden, she enjoyed being outdoors in her garden, attending the garden club, and camping with friends and family.

She loved knitting and baking for all her friends and family.

Aline was also always ready to help, she was an avid volunteer for the East Hartford Senior Center or anywhere that needed help. Aline also was a Eucharistic Minister for many years.

Aline was a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend. She leaves behind her daughters Gail Brown, Denise and her husband Kurt Griffith, and Christine and her husband Harold Brazalavich, her step children Francine and her husband Bill Teague and Norman and his wife Kim Lavigne. She also leaves her grandchildren Melissa Brown, Joshua Brown, Brenden Griffith, Kyle Deschene, and Zachary Deschene, her step grandchildren Brendan Stack and Eric Brown. Aline also leaves her



Aline Lavigne

cherished companion Frank Garrarido and so many friends she cherished as family. Aline is predeceased by her parents, her beloved husband Lucien Lavigne, and her brother Guy Joseph LaFlamme.

Services were held at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, Newington with a Mass of Christian Burial at The Church of the Holy Spirit, Newington. Aline was to be laid to rest with her mother, Florence, in St. Marys Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

To share a condolence with the family please visit www.duksa.net.

"Madame Molecule." She also obtained a M.Ed. from the University of Hartford. She brought her love of numbers and precision to years of volunteering with the AARP Tax Aide program in East Hartford and Eastham.

Estelle and Henry traveled and bought a summer home in Eastham, MA in the 1980s. After Henry died in 1998, Estelle moved to Eastham permanently in 2000. Estelle gardened, sang in the church choir, enjoyed the company of fellow retired teachers on her street, and reveled in the visits of her children to the Cape Cod house.

Estelle is survived by her daughter, Frances Marie Lussier (Patricia Smith) of Silver Spring, Maryland, and her son, Robert George Lussier (Timothy O'Leary) of Middlefield, CT, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son, Henry Lucien Lussier, Jr.

Services took place April 30 in Orleans, MA with burial in Taftville, CT.

Kenneth 'Ken' Johnson, 81

Kenneth "Ken" N. Johnson, 81, of East Hartford, husband for over 54 years to Louellen (Garry) Johnson, passed away on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at Hartford Hospital. Born in Hartford on September 8, 1942, a son of the late Norman L. and Helen (Roche) Johnson, he had been a resident of East Hartford for the past 44 years. Ken was an accomplished Chef who throughout his career was employed by several restaurants in the Greater Hartford area. Ken was a communicant of St. Christopher Church in East Hartford and often gave back to his community by catering for charitable organizations.

Along with his wife, Ken is survived by his son, Garrett M. Johnson of East Hartford; and his granddaughter, Margaret "Maggie" Johnson of Glastonbury. He also leaves two brothers, Stanley Johnson and his wife Valerie of Georgia, Robert Johnson and his wife Lynette of Ellington; three sisters, Alice Oliver of Maryland, Deborah Vallier of East Hartford, Susan Johnson of



Kenneth Johnson

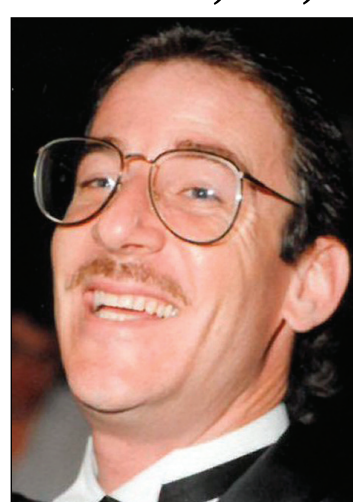
Ellington; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Funeral services took place May 7 from the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel with Mass of Christian Burial at St. Christopher Church and burial at Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. Gifts in Ken's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Please visit www.desopoeh.com

Mark D'Attilio, 65; Marine

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, he was a son of Sandra (Moir) D'Attilio and the late Raymond F. D'Attilio, Sr.

Mark attended George J. Penney High School until joining the United States Marine Corps his junior year. While in the U.S. Marine Corps he served in Okinawa, Japan as a Military Police Officer. After being honorably discharged, he started work as a MP at the Groton submarine base. He later worked for over 20 years at Konica Minolta as a service technician, receiving several awards. After leaving Konica, Mark worked for Script Pro as a pharmacy technician. Mark enjoyed traveling with his wife to several different islands, Hawaii being their favorite. 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



Mark D'Attilio

men and women basketball teams. Most of all, Mark was a gentleman who cherished 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 services were April 23 at D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel with military honors. Private burial was at the convenience of the family. Gifts may be made in Mark's name to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111.

For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com

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Carol A. Keena

Kristopher J. Keena

Kevin G. Keena

CIBA #1

From Page One

performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth and grad rate.

"We are incredibly proud of this accolade that speaks to the results of our rigorous, fast-paced IB curriculum," said CIBA Principal Michelle Marion. "Our students are challenged at CIBA to become independent thinkers and problem solvers who graduate ready to excel in college and beyond. Our success is attributed to our students and families who embrace that challenge and our faculty and staff who support them throughout their four years at CIBA."



REUNITING: Above, Math teacher Brice Newman and graduate Monica Shea reconnect at the 50th anniversary celebration of Synergy Alternative High School. Both were at the school during the 1970s. At left, former State Senator Gary LeBeau (left) and Superintendent Thomas Anderson share a story about Synergy. LeBeau was the school's founder, and Anderson noted that the current Synergy building on Butternut Drive was his elementary school when he was in third grade.

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION: ESSEX COUNTY

LUIS ADRIAN
CHINCHILLA
CESPEDES,
PLAINTIFF
V.
MELISSA RIVERA,
DEFENDANT

DOCKET NO.:
FM-07-1556-24

CIVIL ACTION
SUMMONS

The State of New Jersey, to the Above Named
Defendant(s):

MELISSA RIVERA

The plaintiff, named above, has filed a lawsuit against you in the Superior Court of New Jersey. The complaint attached to this summons states the basis for this lawsuit. If you dispute this complaint, you or your attorney must file a written answer or motion and proof of service with the deputy clerk of the Superior Court in the county listed above within 35 days from the date you received this summons, not counting the date you received it. (The address of each deputy clerk of the Superior Court is provided.) If the complaint is one in foreclosure, then you must file your written answer or motion and proof of service with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, CN-971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. An \$135.00 (Chancery Division/\$105.00) filing fee payable to the Clerk of the Superior Court and a completed Case Information Statement (available from the deputy clerk of the Superior Court) must accompany your answer or motion when it is filed. You must also send a copy of your answer or motion to plaintiff's attorney whose name and address appear above, or to plaintiff, if no attorney is named above. A telephone call will not protect your rights; you must file and serve a written answer or motion (with fee and completed Case Information Statement) if you want the court to hear your defense.

If you do not file and serve a written answer or motion within 35 days, the court may enter a judgment against you for the relief plaintiff demands, plus interest and costs of suit. If judgment is entered against you, the Sheriff may seize your money, wages or property to pay all or part of the judgment.

If you cannot afford an attorney, you may call the Legal Services offices in your county where you live. A list of these offices is provided. If you do not have an attorney and are not eligible for free legal assistance, you may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling one of the Lawyer Referral Services. A list of these numbers is also provided.

Dated: April 18, 2024 /s/ Michele M. Smith
Clerk of the Superior Court

Name of Defendant
to be served: MELISSA RIVERA
Address of Service: 39 Spring Rd.,
Hartford, CT 06160

Synergy marks 50 years of making a difference

From Page One

tor Gary LeBeau, the school's founder.

He explained that the idea behind the school was to provide an environment designed to help move students out of the traditional school system, where they would have been lost.

LeBeau was quick to stress that he might have been the early head of the school, but the heart and soul of Synergy were teachers Donna Salerno and Bruce Newman, both also in attendance.

Congressman John Larson also chimed in his congratulations, by video. He recalled teaching with the founders of the school in the 1970s, and has supported their efforts over the years.

Synergy originally was housed in portable units at East Hartford High School. It was then moved to Woodland School. It settled in its current location at 40 Butternut Drive - a short distance from East Hartford High School in the former

Stevens elementary school - in the late 1980s.

Over the years it has established internships and other career oriented opportunities for students in a variety of fields. Principal Figueroa noted that the new state of the art technology lab being constructed, is just another example of the school's efforts to help "the students who might have been overlooked elsewhere."

On the Synergy school website - <https://synergy.easthartford.org/> - students and staff posts reflect on the meaning of the school in their lives.

"Douglas "Doug" Armstrong is a name that reverberates throughout the halls of Synergy. Veteran staff members recount the impact he's had on Synergy as a student, alumnus, and continued advocate. Doug joined Team Synergy as a "last ditch" effort after having dropped out of the comprehensive high school. Despite being known as an intelligent student, Doug did not thrive at the larger setting.

Talcott Brass at Wickham Library

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), Maggey Mangold (trumpet), Danielle Kendall (tuba), Adam Myers (trombone) and Shondra Teixeira (French horn).

"Doug credits the genuine teaching style of staff where they address students in a familial sense showing care and compassion. Throughout his time at Synergy, Doug gained a new perspective, not solely based on his experience but of the staff and students around him. He came to the realization that they were all there for a common goal and therefore no longer had to judge "books by their covers".

"He recounted a conversation he had with then Principal, Dr. Betti Colli who posed the question "I know who they say you are, but who do you say you are?" That question resonated as he was challenged to take control of how persist, carving out his own identity.

After graduating from Synergy in 1995, Doug enlisted in the Marine Corps where he served as a Platoon Sergeant for six years eventually re-enlisting in the US Army where he attended flight school and serving as a pilot and an instructor for 16 years. Now, he works as an Airline Pilot for United Airlines.

"Synergy is a life gold mine. If you go into Synergy and take the things you are being taught from everyone there make sure to inhale it, chew on it, and you'll find success."

"Best place ever!" is how Sean Riley described his two-and-a-half-year experience as a Synergy student.

Sean joined Team Synergy in the middle of his sophomore year after recognizing that he required a more personalized learning environment where he could build personal connections with staff and students. Sean quickly found such an environment at Synergy where students spent much of their time getting comfortable and building the confidence to engage in his learning. As a student who did not enjoy school and struggled with authority figures, Sean found himself spending much of his time in the English classroom, focused on earning the points needed to regain lost credit.

Sean credited the calm, relaxed atmosphere where students were free to make positive decisions every day leading them one step closer to their goal of graduating. Each day, students were posed with the question "What is your goal and what are you going to do about it?" He noted the approach of staff where they respected students as individuals and allowed him to find his own route where his independence flourished and he was able to earn his diploma in 2004.

As a parting message, Sean shared the following: "Show the world what you can do. Everyone deserves a second chance, as do you. Take advantage of the opportunity and it will propel you into a successful life."

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

MAY 11: "FEEL THE LOVE" CONCERT with Shoreline Bell Ringers at 7 p.m. in the East Hartford Community Cultural Center. Enjoy this talented handbell choir perform their latest concert.

MAY 11: RACE IN THE PARK - Run, walk and help save lives through the CT Breast Health Initiative. Stanley Quarter Park, New Britain, Mother's Day weekend. Sign up at www.ctbhi.org. Every dollar raised stays 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 16: GLASTONBURY GRANGE Social Evening (public invited) at 7 p.m. at the Masonic Hall 895 Main St., South Glastonbury. We will be playing various table games that will be provided by the membership. Refreshments. See you there.

MAY 18: DOWNTOWN CLEANUP DAY - 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 will gather at Alumni Park, 1021 Main St. to check in and be assigned cleanup tasks for the day.

MAY 19: 11TH ANNUAL STRONG FARM CHICKEN RUN Sunday. Help keep the Strong family 7th generation farm going as an agricultural learning center. Upgrades are needed to their big old yellow barn, installation of a restroom. 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 magnets/ and snack items, such as beef jerky, nutrition bars, iced tea and lemonade mixes, microwave popcorn, small jars of peanut butter,

JUNE 9: SOUTH WINDSOR GARDEN TOUR & PLANT SALE Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit 8 beautiful gardens, including on historic Old Main Street. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 on the day of tour. Our plant sale has many native varieties. More information at <https://www.swgardenclub.org/2024-garden-tour>.

JUNE 15: HARE KRISHNA CHARIOT FESTIVAL, Riverfront Park, Glastonbury Saturday from 11:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. The public is cordially invited to attend. Rain or shine. The festival begins at 11:45 a.m. with Ratha Yatra, a colorful chariot parade accompanied by lively singing and dancing. The parade route begins at the Hare Krishna Temple, 40 Naubuc Avenue, in downtown Glastonbury, and then proceeds along Naubuc Avenue to Riverfront Park at 300 Welles St. All are encouraged to participate in this festive parade. Free parking is available both at the temple and at the park.



Following the parade, festivities in the park begin with a free vegetarian meal of delicious Indian cuisine and drinks. Be entertained by stage performances of traditional Indian music, dance, and drama, and participate with us in lively kirtan or devotional chanting. There's fun activities, games, and face painting for the children, and stylish henna body art for all ages. Indian goods will be available for purchase from vendors, with books, music, clothing, jewelry, drinks and vegetarian snacks. This is the 16th annual Hare Krishna Chariot Festival presented by ISKCON of Connecticut, the 5th in Glastonbury. This event provides a wonderful opportunity to sample the rich cultural heritage of India.

PERRONE'S PALS TRIPS - "Nonsense" 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 at 860-568-6229 or e-mail her at 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.

The Garden Club of East Hartford

Est. 1956

Annual Spring Plant Sale!

Saturday, May 18, 2024

9:am - 1:pm

(rain or shine)

Sunset Ridge School

Bake Sale, Tag Sale & Drawings!!



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.