

The Gazette

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Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

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860-289-6468

editor@ehgazette.com

website: ehgazette.com

VOTE JOSIE

Fifth grader in National Future Chef competition; vote online

by Carmen Maldonado

East Hartford has the chance to help local star Josie Tedesco bring home a national title by casting a vote in the 2025 Future Chefs Challenge on May 1st.

Tedesco, a fifth grade student at Thomas O'Connell Elementary School here in East Hartford, was selected as one of five national finalists in this prestigious cooking competition sponsored by Sodexo and SodexoMagic. Now she needs everyone's vote to win it all.

Her winning dish, the "Yummy Yogurt Bowl," earned top marks at both the district and regional levels, rising above more than 200 elementary school entries from across the country. As Tedesco competes for the national title the final decision will be in the hands of the public here in her hometown. As part of the final round, each of the 5 finalist-including Tedesco-will submit a video of themselves preparing their signature dish.

These videos will be available for public viewing and vot-



TOP CHEF - Fifth grader Josie Tedesco with her 'Yummy Yogurt Bowls'.

ing from May 1 through May 9 at <https://futurechefschallenge.com/>.

This is a chance for the East Hartford community and beyond to come together in support of Josie and help her bring this national recognition home.

Alongside Tedesco are four other talented students: Thomas DeAngelo from Academy School District 20 in Colorado Springs, CO; Dezyah Dewitt from Lexington School

District #2 in West Columbia, SC; Jonanthan DiFlavis from Cinnaminson School District in Cinnaminson, NJ; and Cole Stark from Roseburg School District in Roseburg, OR.

The Future Chefs Challenge highlights young students' creativity and passion for healthy cooking, giving them the opportunity to shine on a national stage.

Tedesco's achievement is al-

See **FIFTH GRADE CHEF**, pg 10

Decline in liquor sales blamed on weight loss

by Bill Doak

More than 744,000 nip bottles were sold at liquor stores in East Hartford over the past six months, yielding \$37,000 to the town for environmental cleanups. At least that is the way the Nickel-Per-Nip program is supposed to work.

But the numbers of liquor bottle sales and booze purchased in restaurants has declined, the state beverage industry says, as consumer habits have changed.

The reasons are increased choices among discretionary spending dollars which now may go toward legal cannabis,

and widespread use of weight loss medications, such as Monjaro, which suppresses appetite and may have an effect on other addictive behaviors.

East Hartford, which was ranked among the top sellers of the little nip bottles, now lags behind neighboring Manchester. The City of Village Charm recorded nearly double the nip sales as East Hartford with 1,313,806 nip bottle sales in 6 months netting \$65,690.30 for its public works department to use for environmental cleanups.

At least that is where the funding is supposed to go

SEE 'NIPS' EARN TOWN \$, page



DOZENS OF "NIPS", collected on just one block of Main Street.



Stay informed during water and sewer emergencies. Sign up by visiting the MDC website, www.themdc.org.

MDC ALERTS

NOTIFICATION SIGN UP

POWERED BY



AROUND TOWN

Jail for car loan scammer

Ronnie Bonner, a 64-year-old former auto salesman, will start his two-year federal prison sentence in May for running a fraudulent loan scheme that cost eight credit unions and one bank nearly \$400,000, according to the CT U.S. Attorney's office.

U.S. District Court Judge Stefan R. Underhill in Bridgeport also ordered Bonner of Bloomfield to three years of supervised release following his prison term and to pay \$395,124 in restitution. He pleaded guilty to one felony count of financial institution fraud in April 2023 after he admitted to securing more than \$646,000 in auto loans using falsified documents, fake dealerships and non-existent vehicles in 2014 and 2015.

To obtain the 19 loans, Bonner claimed he was purchasing high-end vehicles from Florida-based dealerships, including Motorcars of Miami and Lauderdale Luxury Automotive. But investigators later discovered these were shell companies with no legitimate auto sales activity. In some cases, he recycled real vehicle identification numbers (VINs) from actual cars already registered to other individuals, then used the bogus paperwork to secure financing.

In addition to using his own name, he enlisted acquaintances to submit fraudulent applications on his behalf.

According to court documents, Bonner used his own name for eight loan applications, while eight acquaintances submitted 11 loan applications. He also used his own shell company, Universal Auto Mall LLC, as a fictitious seller in several of the fraudulent transactions, according to court documents.

After the loan funds were disbursed, Bonner would make a few payments before defaulting. He submitted 19 fraudulent loan applications, 11 at the \$2.5 billion American Eagle Financial Federal Credit Union for loans that amounted to \$167,266, and at the \$697 million Nutmeg State Financial Credit Union in Rocky Hill for two loans totaling nearly \$39,000. He also submitted fraudulent loan applications at the \$133 million United Business and Industry Federal Credit Union in Plainville (\$75,000), the \$19.5 billion Alliant Federal Credit Union in Chicago (75,000), the \$147 million Hartford Federal Credit Union in Hartford (\$50,000), the \$42.9 million Enfield Community Federal Credit Union in Enfield (\$50,000), the \$31 billion Pentagon Federal Credit Union in McLean, Va. (\$75,000), the \$169 million Seasons Federal Credit Union in Middletown (\$40,000) and First Niagara Bank (\$50,000), which was acquired by another bank in 2016.

'DONATE LIFE' FLAG RAISING APRIL 10



First Hazwaste collection is Saturday

Each year, the Metropolitan District (MDC) provides its customers with an environmentally-friendly initiative, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HazWaste) program. The 2025 HazWaste Program is scheduled to begin on Saturday, April 26 in Newington.

The MDC collects hazardous waste and disposes of it through safe, environmentally responsible practices which in turn protects the health of our communities and the environment.

The MDC will hold ten collection dates in 2025 and resi-

dents of any participating towns can partake in any collection date.

Participating towns for 2025 include: Bloomfield, East Granby, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor and Windsor Locks. See schedule for dates, times and locations.

FMI visit <https://themdc.org/what-we-do/environment-health-safety/household-hazardous-waste-collection>

Or call the MDC HazWaste hotline at (860) 278-3809.

AT THE DONATE LIFE CEREMONY at Town Hall April 10 - a very windy, and cold day, speakers urged everyone eligible to register as an organ donor. Above, life-givers and those who have a new lease on life, from left: Lindsay Vigue, Donate Life CT, Art Parker - organ recipient, Chris Kiley - organ recipient, Rich Cognata - recipient, Jennilee Tedesco - organ donor to Rich, and Mayor Connor Martin.

CLASSIFIEDS

ESTATE TAG SALE - SATURDAY, APRIL 26
9-3 p.m., 132 Grande Road, East Hartford. Household items, walker, wheelchairs, furniture, & etc. Rain or shine.

HELP WANTED - LANDSCAPE workers to assist with professional yard work crew. Mowing, weed-wacking, brush trimming, etc. Must have driver's license, be reliable. Start immediately.
Call Bill at 860-798-3184

GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS
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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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DESDE LA ESQUINA

by Carmen Maldonado

El Privilegio de la Espera

Los otros días escuchaba una conversación en la que alguien trataba de explicar las tarifas del presidente y lo que, supuestamente, él está haciendo para "mejorar la economía". No les voy a mentir: en conversaciones como esas, casi siempre me quedo callada. Me gusta escuchar lo que la gente piensa.

Pero lo curioso fue que nadie respondió. Solo la dejaron hablar. Ella tampoco dijo mucho: que el presidente estaba implementando tarifas para "traer a Estados Unidos a lo que era antes" y que simplemente iba a tomar tiempo para que eso se notara. Estés de acuerdo con ella o no, no viene al caso.

El tema aquí es el privilegio de la espera.

Vivimos en un tiempo en el que hay personas que están dispuestas a pagar un precio alto por un país al cual ellos llaman mejor. El problema es que ese precio no lo pagan todos.

El problema es que el precio lo pagan las personas que ahora se sienten amenazadas y sean nacidas aquí o no ahora se sienten en riesgo o amenazadas y tienen que andar con su pasaporte.

El precio lo pagan las familias separadas por políticas migratorias inhumanas. Lo pagan los niños que crecen con miedo a que, un día sus padres no regresen a casa.

Es fácil defender algo que no te afecta. Es cómodo ignorar el sufrimiento ajeno cuando no te afecta directamente. Y es bien tentador creer en la promesa de un país "más seguro" que cada día va negando más toda otra cultura. Vamos a hablar claro, inmigrantes somos todos y somos los que levantamos a este país. No somos el problema, somos la solución.

Es tiempo de llevar a flor de piel nuestras culturas. Es tiempo de dejar de apoyar a estas corporaciones sin alma y dar nuestro dinero a negocios pequeños que están dándolo todo. Es tiempo de ayudarnos, cuidarnos y luchar por lo que de verdad vale la pena.

Dejemos de ignorar lo que está pasando solo porque no te está afectando. Pregúntate: ¿qué puedo hacer yo? ¿Cómo puedo aportar, aunque sea un granito de arena?

Porque el silencio también tiene un precio. Y alguien más lo está pagando.

Próximo: Escenas de Romeo y Julieta en Inglés y español. Este evento va a ser el 28 de abril. Puertas abren a las 6:00pm y comienza a las 7:00pm. Este evento es gratuito y serán solo las escenas más icónicas actuadas por estudiantes y recién graduados en español e inglés. Así que no te lo pierdas.

El 15 de Mayo ven y celebra del Farmers Market en Hillstown Grange #87, 617 Hills St. Desde las 4:00pm hasta las 7:00 pm.

Artesanos, jardineros entre otros vendedores locales estarán ofreciendo diferentes artículos frescos para la venta. Van a estar entregando paquetes de semillas gratis mientras duren, y si quieres traer semillas o plantas adicionales para compartir lo puedes hacer. Van a ver expertos en jardinería listos para ayudarte con tus preguntas, así que si planeas comenzar tu huerto este año ven y disfruta de este Farmers Market. Este evento es gratis.

¿Eres vendedor o quieres participar? Llama a Frank al 860-690-2845 o escribe a hillstowngrange@aol.com para mas información.

Conecta Conmigo: cmaldonado8816@gmail.com

Lions want cans

The East Hartford Lions Club will hold a townwide can and Bottle Drive Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at D'addarios Auto Service, 117 Burnside Avenue. Only plastic bottles and aluminum cans redeemable in Connecticut will be collected. No glass bottles, please. This collection supports East Hartford Lions projects providing scholarships, eye screenings for children, food baskets delivered to families in need, the Lions QUEST drug prevention program and many other civic programs.

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

Mail this form with a check payable to:

East Hartford Lions Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 380765

East Hartford, CT 06138-0765



Questions? contact Lion David at 860-944-5498 or Lion Roberta - 860-212-3229

All Funds raised go back to the East Hartford Community.

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William A. Doak, editor ♦♦ editor@ehgazette.com
♦♦ John Karas, jkaras@ehgazette.com ♦♦ Corinne Horan-Action!
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SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

Adults: Advocate to make sure IEP has your child on proper course

By Audrey Oppong

For numerous disabled children, being able to read at a second-grade level in eleventh grade is ordinary. Countless students with special needs are neglected, so much so that other children can see it. They see the confusion or the children neglecting their work because they cannot understand it. In fact, while I was in my collegiate-level class that happened to take place at summer school, some cognitively impaired students at the summer school couldn't read or write in 11th grade. If students are able to see the maltreatment of these children, then the adults in the situation can, too.

Contrary to popular belief, parents can fix this problem for their children.

Adults need to be informed about their children. Special needs children are falling behind because their IEPs are failing them. Schools averting their money and focus to other investments instead of special needs children is hurting their potential. More money and attention needs to be given to these students to set them up for success.

It's apparent that in schools, students with learning disabili-

ties get lower test scores, and grades, and have a higher chance of dropping out. This finding was from Zara Abrams at the American Psychological Association.

Some of these students have IEPs but still get lower test scores and grades. This means that the IEP has not been specially designed for the child. Maybe a portion of their IEP is not being fulfilled.

Even with all this information, people still avoid the negatives of IEPs. Kara Lofton, who works with juveniles who have disabilities, commented on the benefits of the plan. She stated, "To create a caring learning community where teachers and parents are partners and the strengths and competencies of students are celebrated."

This is inaccurate. Arguably, it is accurate for some cases when parents know how to advocate for their children or when schools invest more money and time into IEPs. Other than that the students are given lower expectations. Most times, schools just want to push impaired students out of the way and move on. Students with IEPs are not celebrated; they are moved forward to grades that they are not ready for.

There are more half truths about IEPs. Shrub Oak International School mentioned it "creates opportunity for the student and those involved including their families, teachers, administrators and personnel." While I agree because that is the vision for IEPs, that is not always done. I believe that IEPs take away opportunities from students.

Lots of times children with ailments are not in classrooms with their peers. Making them ostracized and removes some socialization opportunities for them.

Many parents don't fully understand the process of getting and revising an IEP and their child's plan as a whole. While doing some past evaluations on IEPs, my collegiate workmates and I discovered that over fifty percent of parents don't know what an IEP is. This could mean that parents who have children with the plan may not understand what accommodations are done and if they work for their son or daughter. There's not a lot of emphasis placed on IEPs by the general public. That's why so few people know about them.

Right now you may be wondering, what you can do to close this disparity. Well, choos-

ing to educate yourself on IEPs is a good start! Many times the best way to learn more about something is to research. There are many professionals with PhDs who speak about IEPs which may be found on YouTube.

Dr. Mary Barbera is a YouTuber who talks about IEPs. But make sure you not only use YouTube, but other sites like governmental websites and research sites. Be more hands-on since you probably know a student or a child with an IEP. Advocate on their behalf.

If you are a parent or guardian, there are also many people within the school system you can talk to about your child's IEP. You can talk to the school psychologist or support staff to ask how your child is doing.

A bigger step would be to adjust an IEP. The first step would be to talk to the child's teacher to make sure that the IEP is being followed correctly. The second step is to look at your child's current improvement. Third, if you are unhappy with what you observe, tell the IEP coordinator. Fourth, tell the IEP coordinator in the school about any lack of progress. After this you can request a change in the IEP.

You could also submit an official request to ask for a re-evaluation or a change with the plan. It is crucial to be quite precise when saying what you would like changed, and why.

That's why if you want to help your child succeed, make sure their education is a correct fit for them. With the discrimination that disabled students go through, it is important to educate yourself and advocate for your child.

Audrey Oppong of East Hartford is an 11th grader at CREC Academy of Science and Innovation. She took a dual course on "Culturally Responsive Teaching" at CREC Greater Hartford Arts Academy where her professors talked about how they had students in their summer school who could only read at a second-grade level as a junior in high school, and reflected on what she saw that cognitively impaired students had this problem also.

"I realized that they didn't get as high grades as other students. I also currently have a 504. This led me to be interested in this topic since mine wasn't taken seriously."

Happy to publish your views, Audrey. - The editor.

State legislative leaders mourn the passing of Pope Francis

Monday Rep. John B. Larson released the following statement on the passing of Pope Francis, who led the Catholic Church from 2013-2025.

"Today, people around the world are mourning the loss of a true faith leader and servant to the Church," said East Hartford's Larson.

"Pope Francis broke barriers, becoming the first Pope from Latin America. He worked to make changes within the Catholic Church and shaped its

stances on LGBTQ+ equality, the environment, human rights and dignity for immigrants, and peace in Ukraine, Gaza, and across the globe.

"A child of immigrants, he offered a new perspective and a sense of humility to the Vatican that brought him closer to not only Catholics around the world, but to all global citizens.

"When the Pope visited President Obama in 2015, it was an honor to bring Father James Nock and Sister Margaret

'Peggy' Evans from Mayberry Village to the White House to meet Pope Francis. I am praying for peace and strength for Catholics and the Church during this time of transition and mourning. Pope Francis' legacy as a dedicated man of faith who fought for the most vulnerable among us will endure for generations."

Stated U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal on Monday:

"Pope Francis inspired the world - people of all faiths -

with his incomparable courage, conviction and compassion. In an increasingly troubled time, bedeviled by conflict and despair, he led by example - powerfully preaching peace and demonstrating deep caring and hope.

"True to his spiritual strength, he was an unshakable, tireless voice and champion for the world's downtrodden and marginalized," stated the veteran Democrat.

LETTER POLICY

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

Last East Hartford Podunk chief may have gotten away with murder

Did you know that Toby may have gotten away with murder?

Toby (or Tobias) was the last Native American Podunk chief living in the East Hartford area. He was charged with pitchforking his wife and her friend to death. But a letter to the Gazette editor in January 1888, asks - did he get away with murder?

According to the letter - he did.

"In *The History of East Hartford* (Joseph Goodwin's

1879 history of the town) mention is made of a remnant of a tribe of Indians living in Burnside, late in the eighteenth century. The name of their chief was Tobias, or Toby. It is stated that in a fit of jealousy he killed his wife and another Indian in Izias Bidwell's barn where they had lain down in a drunken sleep. His instrument of death was a pitch fork.

"In the files in the town clerk's office there has lately been found a curious memoran-

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back at East Hartford by Rob Kanehl

dum of charges brought against the town for the care and burial of these Indians. But there is no hint that the murderer was caught or punished. He probably took to the woods. It appears that the affair took place near the house of Jonathan Bidwell. Who lived on the site now Burnside Avenue."

The letter and Goodwin's account adds that the town paid Deodat Woodbridge and Doctor George Griswold to care for the wounded Native Americans, and eventually to bury the pair.

There is no mention of Toby's fate.

The Lee Paquette history of town from 1976 does not mention Toby at all.

Manchester histories of 1923 and 1973 also fail to note what happened to the "last of the Podunks."

William Buckley's 1973 account retells Goodwin's 1879 tale, adding additional details on who were paid to clean up the aftermath.

Besides paying Griswold and Woodbridge in 1793, the town received three additional claims, one each by Jonathan Bidwell for care of the woman, blankets and rum needed as well as reimbursement of the pitchfork; Elisha Bidwell for digging the grave and fetching the doctor; and Giles Eason for the coffin.

Buckley expresses more concern with "a strong odor of gouging the government" than what happened to Toby. His account points out that the blan-

kets and cleaning cost more than the coffin.

While the Mathis Spiess' 1923 account addresses the sale of illegal rum to the Native Americans. His account mirrors Goodwin, but adds "Toby had begged his neighbors not to sell rum to his people. There was a law that prohibited the sale of intoxicating liquors but despite the law, rum was sold." This rum was the cause of the two murdered natives sleeping in the barn.

Spiess, a recognized Native American expert, claims the murdered natives were buried in the West Cemetery and adds that the native band moved after the murder to the woodland on Brush Hill Ridge, then to Minnechaug Mountain before disappearing from history.

So, we know the cause and the cost of Toby's deed, but nowhere is the fate of Toby mentioned.

Governor is Trinity speaker

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont will be the Commencement speaker at Trinity College on Sunday, May 18. Lamont will address graduates in the Class of 2025 during Trinity's 199th Commencement ceremony, which begins at 11:00 a.m. on the Main Quad.

Among those receiving honorary degrees are Shabana Basij-Rasikh, School of Leadership Afghanistan co-founder and president, and renowned cancer researcher Joseph M. Connors '69.

This Commencement marks President Joanne Berger-Sweeney's last at Trinity after leading the College for 11 years.

"It is an honor that Governor Lamont will deliver Trinity College's 2025 Commencement address," said Berger-Sweeney. "The governor is a distinguished leader whose exemplary service to the State of Connecticut and support of education has made a difference. I know his wisdom and words will inspire our graduates and the next generation of leaders."

Lamont was sworn into office as the 89th governor of Connecticut on January 9, 2019. He began his second term on January 4, 2023. He earned a B.A. in sociology from Harvard College in 1976 and an M.B.A. from the Yale School of Management in 1980. Lamont became involved in public service shortly after college, founding a weekly newspaper in a town hit by the loss of its largest employer. Later, as a member of both the Greenwich Board of Selectmen and the Board of Estimate and Taxation, Lamont worked in a bipartisan effort to safeguard a multimillion-dollar budget and deliver results for constituents. Lamont also served as chair of the state's In-



Ned Lamont
Connecticut Governor

vestment Advisory Council, overseeing a multibillion-dollar state pension fund. He previously served as an adjunct professor of political science and philosophy at Central Connecticut State University, where he helped to found a popular business start-up competition.

Shabana Basij-Rasikh is recognized for her work with the School of Leadership Afghanistan, or SOLA, which she co-founded and leads as president. SOLA is the world's first and only Afghan-led boarding school for Afghan girls.

Joseph M. Connors Trinity Class of 1969, is recognized for dedicating his professional life to healing. He has focused his clinical and research efforts in the area of lymphoid cancers and on the application of genomic analysis to understanding and optimizing treatment for these diseases. He is clinical professor emeritus in the Department of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology at the University of British Columbia.

FREE SEMINAR: Women and Money

Tuesday, April 29, 2025
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

In-Person or Virtual
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Light refreshments will be served.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

‘The Producers’ coming to NB

CT Theatre Company will present "The Producers" running May 2nd through May 11th at the Repertory Theatre in New Britain.

With a truly hysterical book co-written by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan (Annie) and music and lyrics by Mr. Brooks, "The Producers" skewers Broadway traditions and takes no prisoners as it proudly proclaims itself an "equal opportunity offender!"

A down-on-his-luck Broadway producer and his mild-

mannered accountant come up with a scheme to produce the most notorious flop in history, thereby bilking their backers (all "little old ladies") out of millions of dollars. Only one thing goes awry: the show is a smash hit! The antics of Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom as they maneuver their way fecklessly through finding a show (the gloriously offensive "Springtime for Hitler"), hiring a director, raising the money and finally going to prison for their misdeeds is a lesson in broad comic

construction. At the core of the insanely funny adventure is a poignant emotional journey of two very different men who become friends.

Director Johanna Milani says "This is an incredibly ambitious show. Not only because of its sheer size, but also because it is so well known. When you tackle a show that is as iconic and memorable as The Producers, you have to tow the delicate line between honoring the original while also making it your own. I am very fortunate that I have a cast that has risen to that challenge. I am so incredibly proud of everyone involved. I cannot wait for audiences to experience this production and to be blown away by what we have created."

The cast consists of gifted performers from all over Connecticut and Massachusetts including: Brooke Hendon and Yari Santiago (New Britain); Edward Antigua and Chuck Stango (Waterbury); Ralene Goff, Liam Welsh and Shawn Murray (Middletown); Luke



From left; Chuck Stango as "Max Bialystock", Sara Courtemanche as "Ulla" and Cole Urso as "Leo Bloom"

Cashman (Guilford); Piper Stepule (East Haven); Halli Gibson (Storrs); David Cespedes and Stephanie Carroll (Vernon); Sara Courtemanche (East Longmeadow); Cole Urso and Charles Forte (Wallingford); Marisa "Jazz" Gallucci (Southington); Heather Burlant and Rachel Morrow (Shelton); Ben Clouse (Branford); Kaylyn Terry (North Haven/Hartford); Adam Pisarski (South Glaston-

bury); Tullio Milani (North Haven); Becky Stanford (Ivoryton); Kim Saltzman (Naugatuck).

The musical runs from May 2nd - May 11th with Friday and Saturday performances at 7pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance on the website at <https://www.connecticuttheatrecompany.org/> or in person the day of the show.

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Children who turn 5 between September 2 and September 30, 2025 must apply for a waiver by March 30, 2025.

Children will be given an assessment to determine kindergarten readiness.

¡ABIERTA AHORA!

Su hijo(a) debe cumplir 5 años el 1 de septiembre de 2025 o antes para comenzar el Kindergarten.

Los niños que cumplan 5 años entre el 2 y el 30 de septiembre de 2025, deben solicitar una exoneración antes del 30 de marzo de 2025. Los niños recibirán una evaluación para determinar si están preparados para el Kindergarten.

Society

Hints from the Garden Club First meeting of the season Monday

The Garden Club resumes meetings this month, April 28th with Jeffrey Eleveld also known as 'Jeff the Plant Guy'. Jeff will be discussing raised bed gardening. He has also invented the Go 2 Garden, a raised bed garden planter that is comfortable to garden at when either sitting or standing and is fully Wheel chair assessable. Get ready for spring, not a fall!!

Presentation is at 6:30 with a brief meeting following. ALL are welcome. Free.

The East Hartford Garden Club meets the 4th Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Hillstopwn Grange Hall, 617 Hills St. If you would like to join us, reach out on the East Hartford Garden Club's Facebook page. Happy gardening!!

EH's Felicia Woron gets a match

Among the 19 female fourth-year UConn medical students in the Class of 2025 who recently met their career match in surgery, selecting surgery fields at residency training programs both at UConn and across the country was Felicia Woron of East Hartford who matched to the OB/GYN program at Maimonides Medical Center in New York.

"We have a really amazing group of women - possibly the largest group ever - who matched to a robust set of competitive surgical residency programs," said Dr. Marilyn Katz, assistant dean for Medical Student Affairs at UConn School of Medicine.

"Although I was always interested in obstetrics and gynecology, I was actually fairly intimidated by the prospect of entering a surgical field until I had the opportunity to be in the OR during rotations. I quickly realized how gratifying and rewarding it could be to



Dr. Felicia Woron

work as part of a surgical team and make an immediate impact on patients' lives. I am so excited to become a surgeon and proud of all of the other women from UConn entering surgical fields!" Woron, during medical awards night, was given the Lawrence G. Raisz Award for Excellence in Musculoskeletal Research.

STILL FRIENDLY

East Hartford High School Class of 2015 will be celebrating our 10-Year High School Reunion on Friday, November 28, 2025, at Elicit Brewery in Manchester.

We are also looking for sponsors to enhance the reunion experience while also providing valuable exposure for local businesses and organizations. We would love to partner with members of the community who have supported us throughout the years. We can provide a sponsorship packet with more details on how you or local businesses can contribute.

If questions or to help promote this event, e-mail ehhs2015alumni@gmail.com.

AM EAGLE SUPPORTS CO-OP



APRIL 9 AMERICAN EAGLE FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION presented a check to Goodwin University's Ann B. Clark Co-op at a CT River Valley Chamber Business After Hours event at American Eagle's campus branch. The Co-op provides the Goodwin community with access to food, clothing, toiletries, and necessities. Above, from left, is Howard Brady, American Eagle president and CEO; Ann Clark, Goodwin provost emerita and Co-op founder; and Mark Scheinberg, Goodwin president.

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 presented on June 5, 2025 at 5:00 pm via Zoom. The Zoom Link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87248245832?pwd=7ioYiaUBHvUznn3jtnsF9WS0PQ2Rw.1>

Meeting ID: 872 4824 5832. Passcode 459637.

The names will be published in a June issue of the Gazette.



Please make checks payable to: **THE EAST HARTFORD WOMAN'S CLUB/GFWC/CT (EHWC/GFWC/CT)**

Donations will be accepted through May 31, 2025

Please print first and last names.

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EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

The stuff that makes good, great

Watching Rory McIlroy enter golf's Valhalla at the Masters as just the sixth player to win a career grand slam, winning each major championship at least once, brought a number of images to mind. It was hard to watch McIlroy end an 11-year quest for the one title that eluded him without recalling great Masters moments: Phil Mickelson's six iron off the pine straw to the 13th green, Bubba Watson's fade to the first playoff hole, Arnie hitching his belt, serving notice to the field and, of course, Tiger's slow motion, stop-action roll into the hole on 16.

But it's more than memories; it's the

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



men who make them. Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods, bringing golf to the public conscience with 33 majors between them, Ben Hogan, who came back from a near-fatal accident to complete his slam and South African Gary Player, golf's first true international ambassador. All were great golfers, but greatness demands more than ability. Something inside drives and guides them, which brings us to the man who set the standard, the first to complete the feat.

Gene Sarazen won the 1922 PGA Championship, the 1930 Masters, the 1932 U.S. Open and the 1933 Open Championship. Several years ago Bobby Grant, the greatest golfer in Connecticut history, the only man to win the New England amateur in three different decades, treated me to a privileged insight into what solidified Sarazen's greatness.

For many years my great friend Bob Steele and I met for lunch two or three times a week at the Casa Loma restaurant in Hartford where we were joined by several local sports celebrities, Grant among them. Bobby was one of the truly fine gentlemen and sportsmen in Connecticut history. He and I became great friends. He frequently regaled me with stories from his past, which included playing rounds with legends of the game, Bobby Jones, Sam Snead, Hogan and Sarazen among them.

Bobby once hosted Sarazen at his home course, the Wethersfield Country Club, where he was instrumental in the founding of The Insurance City Open. Sarazen quickly mastered the local 18 and was well on his way to a course record when he and Grant approached their second shots on the final hole. Sarazen crafted a beautiful shot to the 18th green with a draw and elevation that kept his ball from straying from where it landed, about two feet from the cup. As he prepared to tap in and complete his round Grant mentioned to him "If you sink this putt you'll set a new course record."

Sarazen asked Bobby if the record holder was a club member; Bobby answering to the affirmative. "Is he a good guy?" Sarazen asked. Bobby again answering in the affirmative. Sarazen then pushed his putt to the right of the hole. The PGA Tour slogan is "These Guys are Good!" The talent that makes them so good is on display every weekend during the PGA season. But there's something that sets some of them apart from the rest, something inside we never see. But we know it's there.

Sizzler lineup at Stafford Sunday

The NAPA Spring Sizzler® takes the green flag on Sunday April 27th, less than two weeks away. The entry list for now stands at 37 cars strong for "The Greatest Race in the History of Spring", and it is a top-notch field of cars that includes 8 former Stafford track champions and 3 former NAPA Spring Sizzler® race winners. Track champions that have submitted an entry for the 53rd Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler® include Tyler Barry, Cory DiMatteo, Matt Galko, Teddy Hodgdon, Stephen Kopcik, Woody Pitkat, Marcello Rufrano, and Ronnie Williams. The 3 former winners that will be looking to take home another Sizzler® trophy include Matt Hirschman, Pitkat, and Ron Silk. Below we take a quick look at each driver who has entered the NAPA Spring Sizzler® and their highlights from racing at Stafford and in the NAPA Spring Sizzler®.

Michael Christopher, Jr. - #00 Jimmy Paige Plumbing & Heating Troyer - 17 career SK Modified feature wins; 2 open Modified wins, won the Casella Waste 80 last season driving the #00 car; 2 Legend Cars feature



wins; 2 top-10 finishes in 3 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts

Nick Halkowicz - #08 Halkowicz Plumbing & Drain Cleaning LFR - Finished 24th in 2024 NAPA Spring Sizzler®

Stephen Kopcik - #1 Newtown Pools LFR - 17 career feature wins at Stafford (14 SK Modified®, 3 SK Light); 2015 SK Light track champion; 2 top-10 finishes in 3 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts

Jeff Malave - #3 Soundwood Builders Troyer - 7 career SK Modified® feature wins, finished 24th in only NAPA Spring Sizzler® start in 2004

Matt Galko - #3 AAA Con-

sulting, LLC. Troyer - 10 career feature wins (8 SK Light, 2 SK Modified®); 2-time SK Light track champion ('10, '11); 1 top-10 in 4 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts

Jacob Perry - #4 Matlach Racing LFR - finished 12th in only NAPA Spring Sizzler® start last season

Chris Pasteryak - #5 Dawley's Custom & Collision Troyer - 3 career feature wins (2 MRS, 1 Legend Cars); 1 top-5, 2 top-10 finishes in 8 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts

John-Michael Shenette - #8 Eighty Two Services LFR - Attempting to make NAPA Spring Sizzler® debut

Kids qualify for golf discount card

Golf with Us offers youth, ages 6-18, a free one-year membership to Youth on Course, courtesy of Bank of America. Enrollment in the program is open until May 24 and includes access to thousands of courses in 97 markets for \$5 or less per round. The courses are in the Youth on Course network.

"When kids get involved in sports, they learn first-hand about achieving their goals and develop lifelong skills that help them thrive," said David Tyrie, President, Marketing, Digital & Specialized Consumer Client Solutions, Bank of America. "By working with Youth on Course to help make golf more accessible, we're helping grow the sport while also making a positive impact in our communities."

Through Golf with Us, BofA will also bring unique instructional opportunities to youth in select markets throughout the spring, summer and fall by hosting a series of free clinics fea-



Kids who enroll by May 24 can play golf at the EH Golf Course for just \$3 thanks to Bank of America.

turing professional golfers, athletes and celebrities with a passion for golf.

Program membership also includes a registered handicap index in the United States Golf Association's Golf Handicap In-

formation Network (GHIN) system, continued development as well as learning opportunities. Interested families can enroll in Youth on Course and learn more about the Golf with Us offer at BofA.com/GolfwithUs.

East Hartford Golf Course availability: Any time during the week, After 1PM on Weekends

Youth on Course Rate: 9 Holes - \$3; 18 Holes - \$5

130 Long Hill St. Call 860-616-6649 if questions.

Goodwin North Golf Course, Hartford - No limitations but please always call ahead to confirm availability.

Youth on Course Rate: 9 Holes - \$3. 1130 Maple Ave. Call 860-543-8518 if questions.

Goodwin South Golf Course availability: Weekends/Holidays after 2:30 p.m./Weekdays after 5:00 in April, May, September, October/Weekdays after 5:30 in June, July, August Fridays after 3:00 p.m./Please call ahead to verify course availability.

OBITUARIES

Thomas P. Azzara Sr.; entrepreneur

Thomas P. Azzara Sr., age 83, long-time resident of Manchester, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, April 17, 2025 with his loving family by his side. Born in East Hartford on February 7, 1942, he was the son of the late Thomas Carmello and Anne (Remenik) Azzara.

Tom grew up in Mayberry Village, East Hartford and was a 1960 graduate

of East Hartford High School. He spent over 62 years with the love of his life, Rose (Pagano) Azzara, working tirelessly to raise three beautiful children and build his life from the ground up. He embodied the essence of a true entrepreneur, working as an appraiser for the City of New Britain before starting various local businesses. Tom's Trees was his first pride and joy, selling Christmas trees for over 10 years on Silver Lane in East Hartford and later, Manchester. He co-owned and operated the popular jean store, Two-Legs, with locations in Manchester, Wethersfield, Willimantic, and Norwich, before co-owning and operating the furniture store, Contemporary Expressions, in Norwich. In the '80s, Tom opened the doors to Pizazz, a seasonal beach store located on Cape Cod, which he operated until his retirement. He spent many summers on the Cape, morphing it into a loving gathering place for both his family and his friends.

Tom did everything in a big way, always going above and beyond. He loved cooking multicultural recipes and listening to music, especially Pink Floyd and the Eagles. Tom also cher-



Thomas Azzara, Sr.

ished trips to Aruba and the Caribbean with his family; hitting the blackjack tables while soaking in all the beauty and adventure life had to offer. He had a green thumb unlike any other and enjoyed spending countless hours outdoors creating flower beds filled with his favorite *impatiens*. Additionally, Tom had an immense talent for woodworking.

With a shop in his basement, he honed his craft and let his creativity shine.

In retirement, Tom loved spending time with his family around the pool, betting on sports and reading novels. He also enjoyed tending to his large garden, selling vegetables and banana bread at his stand on Burnham St. W.

Tom was charming, good-humored, and above all, kind. He valued integrity, honesty, and doing right by others - principles he exemplified in his own life and instilled in the lives of many. He had a calming presence and always offered the best advice. He lived his life with no regrets, up until the very end.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife, Rose Azzara, of Manchester; his children, Lisa Alexander Batista and her husband Tony, of Willington and Dennisport, MA; Tom Azzara Jr. and his wife, Tammie, of Glastonbury; and Amy Azzara

of New Smyrna, FL. He is also survived by his many grandchildren: Alyssa, Selina, Grace, Nic, Abby, Spencer, Ollie, and Jack. He also leaves behind a sister, Camille Proctor and her husband Jules, nephews William (Billy) Francis and his wife Marsha, Scott Francis, Mark Zaremskas and his wife Amber, and a niece, Julie-Anne Corda and her husband David; as well as many great-nephews and great-nieces whom he cherished. He is predeceased by his parents, Thomas Carmello and Anne (Remenik) Azzara, his sisters, Frances Francis Ball and Dolores Azzara, and his dogs, Allie and Moses.

A memorial service to honor Tom's life will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford, CT, 06118. A prayer service will be held at noon for friends and family to share a few words about Tom.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Tom's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to Shriners Hospital for Children, 2900 N. Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607, both organizations close to Tom's heart. Finally, the Azzara Family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Tom's caretaker, Tina Palifka, whom he called his "Angel," for taking such wonderful care of him. For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com.

Marion (Scully) Hyland, 93

September 29, 1931 - April 1, 2025

Marion (Scully) Hyland, age 93, died April 1. A resident of East Hartford she lived in the same house for 75 years.

Born September 29, 1931, in Hartford, Marion grew up on Barber Street in the Wilson neighborhood of Windsor. Marion and Jimmy Hyland were married February 14, 1948 at Christ Lutheran Church, Broad Street, Hartford. She always had a rose garden in her backyard with many flowers. Her husband, Jimmy, was a mailman in town for 33 years and Marion

enjoyed cooking for him. Every Sunday was a pot roast dinner. She loved visiting Elizabeth Park in West Hartford, going to the rose garden all summer long. She especially enjoyed spending Christmas with her two daughters, Eileen and Kathy, and her four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

A special thank-you to Brian for helping her for many years, and for all the patience you had as her caregiver.

My mother had a cat once, named Silver and the neighbor's father across the street ran it over with his Cadillac.

Lawrence 'Larry' Roy, 82

Lawrence "Larry" J. Roy, 82, peacefully passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on Friday, April 11, 2025. Born on February 16, 1943, in Canada, he was the son of the late Rosaire and Doris (Beauchesne) Roy. Larry then moved to East Hartford and had been a lifelong resident and attended East Hartford Public Schools.

He stayed in town and married the love of his life, Rosemarie (Farnham) Roy and had been married for 58 years.

Prior to retirement, he worked for Cellu Tissue and for Gould Warehouse here in town.

In his free time, Larry enjoyed being outdoors, fishing, hunting, and walking. He was an avid fan of the Atlanta Braves and the Green Bay Packers. Larry also enjoyed bowling and going to the casinos. Most importantly he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and dear friend.



Lawrence Roy

Along with his wife, Larry is survived by his two children: Christopher J. Roy and his significant other Kirsten Hickerson of Southington, and Lynnette Wetmore and her husband Matthew along with their son Joshua of East Hartford; a brother, Gerald Roy and his wife Charlene of Broad

Brook; sisters Jackie Lavoie of Farmington and Denise Besaw of Georgia and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Larry was predeceased by three brothers: Jean, Robert, and Dennis Roy and his sister, Marielle Chevalier and his brother-in-law, Robert Besaw.

A wake was held at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel April 23 with a burial private. Gifts may be made in Larry's name to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741. On-line, please visit www.desopoeh.com

Mary 'Tootie' Morelli, 93

Mary "Tootie" (Totedo) Morelli, 93, of East Hartford, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at Hartford Hospital with her beloved family by her side. Born in Coketon, WV on August 26, 1931, a daughter of the late James and Mary Totedo, she had been a resident of the Greater Hartford area for most of her life. Prior to her retirement, she was employed for many years by Tony's Mobil in South Windsor. A devout Catholic and woman of strong faith, she attended weekly Mass and enjoyed bingo, Chinese food and pizza. She was also a loyal fan of the NY Yankees and UConn Women's basketball.

Most of all she was a proud, devoted mother and grandmother who looked forward to spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Mary is survived by her son, Michael J. Morelli and his wife



Mary Morelli

Christine of Glastonbury; her daughter, Tracie M. Knapsack and her husband Glenn of Wethersfield; a sister, Rose Landry of San Diego, CA; two adored granddaughters, Kayla Morelli and her husband Anthony Raccuia of Florence, NJ, Julie Haeseler and her husband Jake of Schuylkill Haven, PA; several nieces, nephews, cousins, former customers, and dear friends. Besides her parents, "Tootie" was predeceased by her husband, Robert Morelli; two brothers, Louis Totedo and Sam Totedo; three sisters, Lee Camara, Filomena Spino, and Deborah "Babe" Domingues.

Honoring Mary's wishes, burial and funeral services were private. Gifts in Mary's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. On-line, please visit www.desopoeh.com

St. Jude Nobena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever, amen. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail.

(Publication must be promised.)
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
RENA A. ALLARD
 (25-00088)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 15, 2025**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Carolyn Lenoci, Esquire;
 Willinger, Willinger & Bucci,
 P.C., 1000 Bridgeport Ave.
 Suite 501, Shelton, CT 06484

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
CAROLYN TROJANOWSKI
 (25-00132)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 21, 2025**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Lori Salina, 63 Tolland Farms
 Road, Tolland, CT 06084

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
CLARIBEL DIAZ
 (25-00125)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 11, 2025**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Angel L. Diaz
 c/o Steven Lawrence Katz,
 Esquire; Rome Clifford Katz &
 Koerner LLP, 214 Main St,
 Hartford, CT 06106

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

APRIL 24: EAST HARTFORD SCHOOLS ALL-TOWN STRINGS CONCERT, 7 p.m., auditorium of EHHS.

APRIL 26: CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE Saturday, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. by the EH Lions Club at D'addarios Auto Service, 117 Burnside Avenue. Plastic bottles and aluminum cans only - no glass. Supports the many East Hartford Lions civic projects. FMI e-mail lion-seasthartford@gmail.com, or call 860-515-1551.

APRIL 27: IWO JIMA SURVIVOR SSgt Joseph Caminiti and Neal Supranovich recently returned from a trip back to the island of Iwo Jima as part of the Reunion of Honor. Mr. Caminiti is a 100-year-old WWII Marine who served in this iconic battle while part of the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion during 1945. During the trip, they took part in the joint American and Japanese annual ceremony commemorating the battle and remembering those nearly 28,000 men from both sides who lost their lives on that tiny island. Caminiti also walked the beaches where he operated an AM-TRAK. They will show photos and discuss their trip of a lifetime. The presentation takes place in the newly opened Connecticut World War II Museum, Research & Education Center located at 102 Pitkin St. This new museum is the only World War II museum in Connecticut. Join us on Sunday, April 27 from 1 until 3 p.m. as we welcome Caminiti and Supranovich back from Iwo Jima. Presented by the World War II Legacy Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit, all volunteer organization. Please email sosiwojima@yahoo.com or call Gary Roy at 860-810-8736 to reserve your spot. Refreshments. Donations gratefully accepted to support the mission of the museum. See us on Facebook or go to WW2LegacyFoundation.org

APRIL 28: EAST HARTFORD GARDEN CLUB

meets at the Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills St at 6:30 p.m. with Jeffrey Eleveld, AKA 'Jeff the Plant Guy' who will discuss raised bed gardening. A brief meeting follows. All are welcome.

MAY 1: SHAD DERBY DOCUMENTARY world premiere Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at The Birdcage, 25 Center St., Windsor. "Windsor's Homecoming: The Shad Derby Story" is a production of WIN-TV and Windsor Historical Society and gives a behind-the-scenes look at the events that comprise the Shad Derby. \$15 advance tickets are available on the Windsor Historical Society's website, windsorhistoricalsociety.org/ShadDerbyFilm. Tickets at the door, \$20. Space is limited so pre-registration encouraged. Concessions, beer and wine, available.

MAY 3: PANCAKES! Surprise mom with an early Mother's Day breakfast at Hillstown Grange Saturday, 8:30 to 11 a.m., at 617 Hills St. Special pancake of the month: Lemon with blueberry topping. Chocolate chip 'kid-cakes'. Pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice just \$6, children under 14, \$3. Visit the Grange hall library and gaming area. Books available for a donation to the historic Grange Hall building fund. FMI call Frank at

860-690-2845 or e-mail hillstowngrange@aol.com.

MAY 4: EUCLID STRING QUARTET, 2 p.m. at Evergreen Crossings Retirement Community, 900 Hemlock Avenue, South Windsor. Free. Reception follows with the performers.

MAY 14: WICKHAM DAY QUILTERS OF EAST HARTFORD from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Wickham Library meeting room at 656 Burnside Avenue in East Hartford. Like to sew? Interested in quilting? Not a fan of driving at night? Attend a meeting to see if you would like to join us. Any skill level welcome. We meet the second Wednesday of the month. Wickham Day Quilters is a chapter of the Greater Hartford Quilt Guild. The May program is instruction in making your own portable design board. Any questions? Email us at Wickhamdayquilters@gmail.com

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MAY 15: FARMER'S MARKET POP UP at Hillstown Grange #87, 617 Hills St., Thursday from 4-7 p.m. Local gardeners, artisans and vendors will offer their garden plants, local honey, soap and crafts for sale. Free seed packages while they last and bring any extra seeds or plants to share. Expert gardeners will try to help with your garden questions. Come browse or to visit. Free Admission. Parking on the street. Rain or shine. Are you a vendor or want to participate? Give Frank a call 860-690-2845 or e-mail hillstowngrange@aol.com.

SOCIAL DANCE TUESDAYS AT FIRST CHURCH: Gentlemen, It's Time to Become James Bond! Imagine walking into a room with confidence, charm and style - just like James Bond. What's his secret? Presence. Poise. And the ability to sweep a lady off her feet. Tuesday Nights, First Congregational Church, 837 Main, Lessons 7 and 8, dance 9 p.m.

MAY 22: CONNECTIKIDS "BOTANICAL BALL" Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pond House in Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. Dinner, dancing and fun. Tickets \$100 at givebutter.com/CTKBall or contact

Kaleitha Brown at 860-522-8710 x12. FMI visit www.ct-kids.org

KNOW A WORLD WAR II VETERAN? State officials are seeking help from residents throughout the state in finding living World War II veterans, so that they can be recognized for their service on the 80th anniversary of the end of the war. Complete the form online. Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz will host a ceremony to recognize all living World War II veterans who served from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946. Ceremony takes place May 19 at 11 a.m. at the State Armory, 360 Broad St., Hartford.

JUNE 7: AN EVENING OF WORSHIP, STORIES & SONGS WITH DAVE PETTIGREW at Burnside United Methodist Church, 16 Church St., 7 p.m. Free. An offering will be taken. A graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, with majors in music business and arranging, Dave uses music as a vehicle to speak on behalf of the poorest of the poor, each of his shows gives his audience the ability to sponsor a child and save a life. Join the "There Is Hope" movement. FMI go to dave@davepettigrew.net

JUNE 14: THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE TOUR

- Grab your hat and join Perennial Planters Garden Club of Manchester for their biennial garden tour. See six diverse, beautifully designed and landscaped private sanctuaries, pocket-sized gems to large, manicured plantings. Visit an inspiring vegetable garden and pass through a moon gate to a meditation garden, see a fairy garden and beach glass stream as well as perennials and shrubs. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of, Saturday June 14, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. rain or shine. https://www.manchestergardenclubs.org/perennial_planters.htm

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HORSESHOE CLUB has moved to 50 Oakland St. (off Park Avenue). Interested in playing horseshoes indoors? E-mail debbiescully@comcast.net; or call 860-778-1057.

VETERANS COFFEE HOUR at the Senior Center, 15 Milbrook Dr., 10 a.m. third Tuesday of the month. For East Hartford residents only.

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

FOSTER FAMILIES needed for children in DCF care in every town in CT. FMI 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. FMI see www.anniec.org

INTERVAL HOUSE helps victims of domestic violence, advocacy, legal rights. 860-527-0550.
