The Gazette

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Devoted to Local Interests | 1406 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108 | 860-289-6468 | editor@ehgazette.com | ehgazette.com

Board considers replacing schools

By Robert Kanehl

At its monthly meeting Monday, November 16 Superintendent of Schools Thomas Anderson said the town and the school district are working together on a plan to replace older school buildings in town.

It is too early to focus on any one school, he explained, but on average East Hartford's older school buildings now range from 65-to 70-years old.

Anderson told the school board that any plan would have the following requirements: Insight into neighborhood needs, location of possible future developments; current District sites with possible adjoining available land; and the use of a swing school to house students while their home school was being renovated or reconstructed. The plan is in its very early stages, he said.

Also Monday the East Hartford Board of Education recognized the 2026 Superintendent Awardees. This honor goes to students who are focused on leadership, academic achievement and commitment to community according to Superintendent Anderson.

See **SCHOOL BOARD,** p 10

BIRDS OF A FEATHER DONATE TOGETHER



GOODWIN UNIVERSITY students, faculty and staff collected turkeys and donations last Tuesday for Foodshare outside the school's on-campus Ann B. Clark Food Pantry.



SUPPORTING WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA Disabled American Veterans Chapter #12 met with O'Connell School fifth grade students Sunday at Goodwin to hear about plans to place a wreath on every veteran grave at Silver Lane Cemetery. Above, teacher Lia O'Connell accepts a donation from DAV Commander Don Butler.

Union Survey: Police morale a problem

Bill Doak

According to an East Hartford Police Union survey conducted anonymously in June - four months before its working agreement with the town was finally settled in arbitration in October - there is rampant discontent among the ranks which is not all about the 2.75 percent raises. Vacancies, favoritism, "command staff visibility, communication and support," were identified in the survey completed by 77 out of 110 officers.

"The results speak for themselves, highlighting significant concerns regarding low morale throughout the East Hartford Police Department, particularly as it relates to departmental leadership," noted the author of an unsigned letter with a copy of the survey mailed to the *Gazette*.

"Of even greater concern is the fact that, despite these concerns being brought forward through this survey, there has been little to no meaningful progress or corrective action taken to address the issues identified by department per-

See **POOR MORALE,** p 10

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AROUND TOWN

Minimum wage up to $17.48

Connecticut's minimum wage will adjust to $17.48 per hour beginning January 1, 2027 - an increase from the 2026 rate of $16.94 per hour.

The change is required under a state law Governor Lamont enacted in 2019 requiring the minimum wage to receive annual adjustments at the start of every calendar year based on economic indicators from the prior fiscal year. This law ensures that as the economy grows, the minimum wage grows with it.

"Nobody working a full-time job should live in poverty," Governor Lamont said. "For too long, while the nation's economy grew, the income of the lowest earning workers has stayed flat, making already existing pay disparities even worse and preventing hard-working families from obtaining financial security. That is why I enacted a law requiring the minimum wage to be adjusted every year based on the health of the economy. This is a fair, modest increase, and the money earned by workers will go right back into our own economy, supporting local businesses and our communities."

"Connecticut's minimum wage must be a dynamic and flexible standard that responds to changing economic conditions," Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz said. "We are proud to have one of the highest minimum wages in the country and this increase reflects Connecticut's strong economy while ensuring that workers' wages will continue to grow alongside it."

As required under the law, the annual adjustment is based on the U.S. Department of Labor's calculation of the employment cost index for the twelve-month period ending on June 30 of the preceding year. The commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Labor must review this percentage change and announce any necessary adjustments by October 15 of each year. Those adjustments must take effect on January 1 of the following year.

State Labor Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo reported the employment cost index increased by 3.2% accounting for a $0.54 increase to state's minimum wage that will become effective on January 1.

QUICK WORK REPAVING



NEW LANE MARKINGS are painted at Maple Street Tuesday near the entrance and exit ramps to Route 2. A section of Maple was quickly repaved as the season for asphalt repairs winds to a close.

Riverside residents have a Wish List

The East Hartford Commission on Aging is once again hosting their annual Christmas Tree Wish List program to support residents of Riverside Health. Donations are accepted through November 22. You can find additional details on the Town website here www.easthartfordct.gov/commission-on-aging/news/5th-annual-christmas-wish-list-program.

33rd year of Holiday Fest December 4th thru 7th

Wishing you the Magic of the Holiday Season with our Magical Gingerbread House!

The East Hartford Holiday Fest 2026 will be our 33rd year of celebrating the Holidays thru out our town.

Holiday Fest has been sponsored by the East Hartford Beautification Commission and supported by many town and civic organizations, churches and community clubs.

It is a four-day event held on the first full weekend in December to start off the Holiday season with tree lightings, dinners, children programs, concerts, church fairs and many other Holiday events.

There will be a total of 24 events this year. The Traditional Tree lighting will be the **Kick Off on the Town Green on Friday night, December 4th at 6 p.m.** this year. Please don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item to all the events. All food items will be donated this year to the East Hartford Food Pantry to help our neighbors in need. Share your Holiday spirit. Brochures will be distributed thru out town after November 16th. The brochure can also be found on the East Hartford Town website at www.easthartfordct.gov

SAVE THE DATE AND COME join us as we celebrate 33 years of the East Hartford Holiday Fest and Feel the Magic of the Holiday Season!

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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.

TIFFANY'S TEENY TOTS
HOME DAYCARE AGES 0-5
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860-519-1098

GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS

DESDE LA ESQUINA

by Carmen Maldonado

Celebrando la Puertorriqueñidad

Si hay algo que recuerdo de mis años escolares en Puerto Rico es que, cuando llegaba el mes de noviembre, entre los preparativos para las fiestas de Navidad (porque bien sabemos que en Puerto Rico las Navidades comienzan en septiembre), también nos preparábamos para celebrar la Semana de la Puertorriqueñidad.

Por ahí empezaban a aparecer las pavas, las vestimentas de jíbaros, las presentaciones de bailes típicos y, por supuesto, no podía faltar la oportunidad de disfrutar de nuestra comida. Porque si algo sabemos hacer los boricuas es acompañar cualquier celebración con un buen plato de comida. Todo esto formaba parte de las actividades que se organizaban en las escuelas para celebrar nuestra cultura y conocer un poquito más sobre nuestras raíces.

Ahora bien, aunque ya celebrábamos la Semana de la Puertorriqueñidad, el 19 de noviembre todavía se conocía oficialmente como el Día del Descubrimiento de Puerto Rico. Sin embargo, desde el 2022, mediante la aprobación de la Ley Núm. 117, esta fecha se conoce oficialmente como el Día de la Puertorriqueñidad. Y aunque a simple vista pueda parecer un sencillo cambio de nombre, vale la pena conocer las razones detrás de esta decisión y, sobre todo, entender qué es lo que se busca celebrar con ella. Uno de los planteamientos detrás de esta ley es reconocer que nuestra historia no comenzó con la llegada de Cristóbal Colón a Puerto Rico el 19 de noviembre de 1493. Para aquel entonces, nuestro archipiélago ya estaba habitado por comunidades indígenas que tenían sus propias costumbres, creencias y maneras de vivir.

Con este cambio se busca dirigir la atención hacia nuestra identidad como pueblo, reconociendo nuestra historia, nuestras raíces y las distintas aportaciones que, con el pasar de los siglos, han dado forma a lo que hoy conocemos como la puertorriqueñidad. Pienso que si le preguntas a diez boricuas, que significa la puertorriqueñidad fácilmente recibiríamos diez respuestas distintas. Algunos hablarían de nuestra música, otros de la comida, otros de nuestras tradiciones y, seguramente, no faltaría quien mencionara nuestra tan particular manera de expresarnos.

Y es que nuestra puertorriqueñidad va mucho más allá de vestirnos de jíbaros, bailar bomba y plena o disfrutar de un buen plato de arroz con gandules. Está presente en nuestra manera de comunicarnos, en nuestros refranes, en nuestro sentido del humor, en nuestra hospitalidad y en esa peculiar habilidad que tenemos de sacarle un chiste hasta a las situaciones más complicadas. Y la realidad es que no necesariamente tenemos que estar en Puerto Rico para celebrar quiénes somos.

De hecho, muchas veces celebramos nuestra puertorriqueñidad a diario sin siquiera darnos cuenta. Lo hacemos cuando preparamos alguna de esas recetas con las que crecimos, cuando compartimos nuestra música con personas de otras culturas o cuando les enseñamos a las nuevas generaciones esas palabras y expresiones que, por más que intentemos traducirlas, sencillamente no tienen el mismo sentido en otro idioma.

Y ni hablar de esa emoción que nos da cuando, estando fuera de la isla, escuchamos un acento familiar en el lugar menos esperado y, sin pensarlo dos veces, terminamos preguntándole a un completo desconocido: "¿Y de qué pueblo tú eres?" Lo curioso es que, en cuestión de minutos, ya estamos hablando como si nos conociéramos de toda la vida. Este 19 de noviembre tenemos la oportunidad de celebrar todas esas pequeñas cosas que forman parte de nuestra identidad, pero también de conocer un poquito más sobre nuestra historia.

Porque no hay una sola manera de vivir nuestra puertorriqueñidad, así como tampoco hay una sola manera de sentirnos boricuas. Cada uno de nosotros, a su manera y desde su rinconcito del mundo, contribuye a mantener viva nuestra cultura. Y es que, aunque estemos a unas cuantas millas de distancia de nuestra islita, siempre encontramos la manera de llevar un pedacito de Puerto Rico con nosotros.

Additive manufacturing a reality at RTX

Inside an enclosed machine at Pratt & Whitney's additive manufacturing lab in East Hartford, a laser sweeps over a bed of metallic powder. It flickers in fast, precise bursts, tracing a digitally drawn pattern that fuses tiny grains into a layer of metal as thin as a strand of hair.

When the pass is complete, the machine applies a new layer of powder, and the sequence repeats, eventually forming a metal part ready to take its place in an aircraft engine.

This process is called laser powder bed fusion, and it unlocks extraordinary speed. Parts that might take more than a year to make with traditional manufacturing methods can now be made in less than a week. The approach scales, too. Digital build files, once validated, can be shared across suppliers to make multiple units at once – a significant advantage when delivering affordable mass.

Additive manufacturing also opens up options. For example, design teams can consider new materials and architectures with intricate features printed directly into their components.

"You're enabling your designers to think more aspirationally," said Lawrence Binek, a Pratt & Whitney technical fellow for additive manufacturing. "What's really cool is, you start seeing design engineers thinking radically different, embracing what additive manufacturing is capable of."

Across the Valox family, engineers are combining traditionally manufactured parts with additively printed components for the hot and cold section, using the new parts' novel shapes and integrated features to unlock performance gains and new configurations.

The change is showing up in other Pratt & Whitney designs as well. The business recently completed demonstration testing of a TJ150 engine that, by volume, consisted of nearly 60% additively manufactured parts. That engine, about the size of a standard computer keyboard, is meant to fly missions that may last only 15 minutes or less. Current versions power Raytheon's MALD® decoy and other smaller systems, but the new additively printed configuration could open up new applications.



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SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

Happy New Year? Don't open your utility bill

Attorney General William Tong today urged the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to reject multi-year rate hikes sought by Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation and Southern Connecticut Gas Company totaling $256 million over two years mere months after PURA finalized rate cuts for both companies.

CNG has requested an $86 million rate hike in year one, which, if approved would raise rates by 19 percent. SCG has requested a $127 million rate hike in year one, which, if approved, would raise rates by 25 percent. Both companies have sought millions in additional rate increases for year two, bringing the total requests to $104 million a year and $152 million a year respectively.

"Avangrid needs to take no for an answer. For three years now, they have been demanding exorbitant multimillion-dollar rate hikes. Again and again, they have failed to prove their case. What has changed in just two months that warrants $256 million more from Connecticut families? Nothing. We cannot afford to bankroll unsupported, unsubstantiated money grabs. PURA should do with this demand what they have done with all the others—deny it," said Attorney General Tong.

CL&P/Eversource Standard Service Rates		
1/1/2026	7/1/2026	**1/1/2027**
12.64 ¢ per kWh	**11.58 ¢ per kWh**	**14.93 ¢ per kWh**

The companies, owned by Avangrid, had collectively sought over $60 million in rate hikes in 2023.

However, after reviewing the companies' cases, PURA in 2024 authorized rate decreases for both companies, dropping revenue by $24 million for CNG, or approximately 5.4 percent, lowering bills by approximately $7-8 per month. For SCG, PURA decreased revenue by $11 million, or approximately 2.5 percent for SCG, lowering bills by approximately $3.50-4.00 per month as well. CNG had sought a $19.7 million increase. SCG had sought a $43 million increase.

Both companies continued to fight for higher rates and returned to PURA on remand. In a draft decision in July, PURA further decreased rates for both companies, by an additional $1.8 million for CNG and an additional $595,000 for SCG. PURA's final decision issued in September affirmed the draft rate cut for CNG.

For SCG, PURA increased the company's revenue by $400,000, still significantly lowering revenue for the company.



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Holiday of Hope Giving Tree at InterCommunity Health

To the Editor:

At InterCommunity Health Care, our dedicated staff makes every effort to create a warm, caring, and supportive environment for our residential clients; but we know the holidays can still feel like a lonely time for those spending the season away from their families and loved ones, while navigating some of the most difficult health challenges of their lives.

That's why we've launched the "Holiday of Hope Giving Tree."

It's an easy way to make a big impact this giving season. Through this initiative, we're collecting monetary and physical donations (a mix of everyday essentials and fun!) to create gift bags for our residential clients to open for the holidays.

More than just gifts, we want these bags to serve as a reminder that our clients are not alone; they are seen, valued, appreciated, and thought-of during the season.

Our goal is to be able to assemble 100 gift bags to ensure every client in our residential recovery programs receives a gift this year.

And if we surpass that goal? Even better! Our recovery programs serve new individuals year-round, so any additional contributions will help us build a reserve to ensure we can continue spreading holiday cheer to clients for seasons to come.??

Please help us make the holidays a bit brighter for our residential clients! Visit **https://icgivingtree.givesmart.com/** to donate and for more information about monetary and physical donations.

We hope you'll join us in bringing a little extra joy, comfort, and holiday cheer to those working so diligently on their recovery journeys.

Let's come together to make sure our clients know they are remembered, valued, and supported during a time when that reminder can mean so much.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and please don't hesitate to contact us at development@intercommunityct.org if you have questions or if you would like to discuss further!

With gratitude,
InterCommunity Health Care Development Team
East Hartford

Email letters to ***editor@ehgazette.com***

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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

One of East Hartford's most famous persons may have been a myth

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back on our East Hartford

By Robert Kanehl

Did you know that one of East Hartford's most famous residents may be a myth? There is a tale of a young Podunk princess in 1620 or 1630, marrying a Dutch cabin boy, cementing trade and friendship between the two cultures.

The legend continues - the Puritan did not approve of the marriage and when Peter Hager and Wunnee ventured to Boston for permission, Hager became an outlaw by chopping wood on Sunday. While freeing him from the stocks, Wunnee was attacked by a man whom Hager killed. The fugitives hid out in Bolton Notch's 'Squaw Cave.' Hunted down, Hager was shot, and buried in an East Hartford Native American burial ground.

This story is presented in Mathias Spiess' 1934 book 'The Story of Wunnee-Neetunah.' Spiess was a noted Native American expert.

The problem is – before Spiess there is no record of Peter Hager, Wunnee or the events in the story.

Facts: The Native American tribe in the East Hartford area was the Podunk. They welcomed the Dutch traders in the 1620s housed on Dutch Point's 'House of Hope.' The tribal leader was Tantonimoh. When the Dutch supported the Pequot claim to the Hartford area, the Podunk looked for another protector and Tantonimoh ventured to both the Puritan and Pilgrim settlements in Massachusetts encouraging them to come settle here.

The Puritans eventually establishing Wethersfield, Hartford and Windsor.

'Squaw Cave' a hiking destination, does exist.

The Windsor vital records note a 1674 burial for One Hager, a 70-year-old Native woman. Conjecture: The Puritans saw Dutch traders as a threat outlawing their trading. Could Hager represent any Dutch trader?

The leading colonial histories by Roger Williams and John Winthrop do not mention Hager, let alone Wunnee. Nor are these two characters presented in John W. De Forest's 1850 History of the Indians in Connecticut considered the best of the Native American histories. These three sources are noted in Speiss' other works.

The story does appear in the 1938 WPA project 'From Connecticut – A guide to its Roads, Lore, and People.'

"About thirty feet up the side if the rocky eminence is Squaw Cave, a narrow aperture that tunnels about twelve feet into the stone. Here Wunnee-neetmah, an Indian squaw, hid with her fugitive Dutch husband, outlawed for chopping wood on the Sabbath, who was finally discovered and shot while with her in the cave. The area occupied by this mountainous rock in now a state park."

Though given this credence, the events do not appear in either East Hartford histories, especially Joseph Goodwin's 1879 volume with its extensive chapter on the Podunk. Nor is the Squaw Cave events in Spiess' own 1923 history of Manchester.

Even in Albert Van Dusen's 1961 'Connecticut,' the pair is absent. Legends and myth are normally based on some hint of truth. Might there be with the East Hartford princess Wunnee?

They have found Troy's many layers of civilization, some showing a fiery destruction. We know that Noah Webster created a mythology for our new nation, like Washington and the silver dollar.

What was Spiess writing – a Troy or a thrown silver dollar?

TO THE EDITOR

Here is your opportunity to serve

To the Editor and all Registered Democrats of East Hartford:

East Hartford continues to benefit from residents who are willing to step forward and serve their community.

Following the recent election, we have an opportunity to welcome another voice into local government and encourage residents to become more involved in shaping the future of our town.

On behalf of the East Hartford Democratic Town Committee, I want to congratulate State Representative Jason Rojas, State Representative Patrick Biggins, and State Senator Saud Anwar on their successful re-elections. I also want to congratulate Angie Parkinson, who will join our state legislative delegation effective January 6, 2027, and recognize former State Representative Henry Genga for his 20 years of service to the Connecticut General Assembly and the residents of East Hartford.

Angie's transition to the State Capitol will create a vacancy on the East Hartford Town Council, effective January 1, 2027. This opening presents an opportunity for a registered Democrat in our community to step forward and participate directly in the decisions that shape East Hartford.

The Town Council plays an important role in local government, addressing issues that affect our neighborhoods, schools, public safety, town services, economic development, and municipal budget.

Serving on the Council is an opportunity to listen to residents, contribute new ideas, and help guide the direction of our community.

The East Hartford Democratic Town Committee is inviting interested registered Democrats to submit an application for consideration. Completed applications must be submitted by Monday, December 14, 2026, to chairehdtc@gmail.com.

Applications are available on the Town of East Hartford's website: https://shorturl.at/D2kRd.

Following the application period, the Committee plans to conduct interviews on Thursday, December 17, 2026, as part of the selection process.

You do not need years of political experience to make a meaningful contribution. We encourage residents from all backgrounds and walks of life to consider this opportunity. A willingness to listen, learn, collaborate, and represent the interests of East Hartford residents is an important part of public service.

We also recognize that not everyone is ready to seek elected or appointed office, but there are many ways to get involved. All registered Democrats are welcome to attend East Hartford Democratic Town Committee meetings, learn about our work, and participate in conversations about the future of our community. Our next meeting will be held TODAY (November 19) at 6:30 p.m. at Wickham Library.

East Hartford is a community built on the contributions of people who care enough to get involved. We encourage anyone interested in serving to take this opportunity, submit an application, and become part of the conversation.

Our community is strongest when more residents have an opportunity to serve and a seat at the table.

Lisa Gold
Chair
East Hartford Democratic
Town Committee
Awet Tsegai
Town Councilor
Vice Chair
East Hartford Democratic
Town Committee

Help us support veterans

To the editor and our East Hartford community:

Each year on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to REMEMBER, HONOR and TEACH is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

The Student Leadership Team at O'Connell Elementary School has proudly participated in the Wreaths Across America initiative for the past 10 years. Each year, fifth grade students at O'Connell have raised over $5,000 to purchase the wreaths to honor over 590+ veterans laid to rest at Silver Lane Cemetery in East Hartford.

The entire O'Connell School community is deeply committed to continuing their support and participation of Wreaths Across America 2025 scheduled for Saturday December 19, 2026

The students and faculty are kindly asking the East Hartford community to help us continue our participation in Wreaths Across America, 2026. Our goal is to raise $6,000 in order purchase wreaths for all the veterans currently laid to rest at Silver Lane Cemetery.

We are reaching out to ask for your support of Wreaths Across America, 2026.

Please consider donating, any amount, to support this important VETERANS project.

You can send your donations to: O'Connell School PTO, 301 May Road, East Hartford, CT 06118.

We are truly thankful to be a part of an amazing community!

Respectfully,
Greg Fox
Principal
Dr. Thomas O'Connell
Elementary School



ARTS & EVENTS

Eggnog & Gingerbread pancakes at Grange

DEC 6: Eggnog and Gingerbread Pancakes - As part of East Hartford Holidayfest Hillstown Grange #87 is hosting a Pancake breakfast Sunday morning from 8:30 until 11 a.m., 617 Hills St. Come enjoy a stack of pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea and juice for $6, $3 kids under 14. Chose from the Holiday favorites, eggnog or gingerbread, or just plain or chocolate chip. Also, in memory of Frank Forrest, the Grange is collecting cookies and other items to pack up for soldiers overseas through the SOS CT packing event Sunday afternoon that same day at the Grange Hall starting at 1 p.m. Donations sought are on the "Holidays and New Year" themes such as any types of cookies, holiday cards and pictures. Packaged snacks, dental or hygiene products always welcome. FMI call Michelle at 860-558-4688 or e-mail kma.dedominicis@gmail.com. FMI on Hillstown Grange, go to http://www.HillstownGrange.org%20/www.HillstownGrange.org . FMI on state Granges go to www.CTStateGrange.org

THE EAST HARTFORD LIONS CLUB'S ANNUAL

HOLIDAY POINSETTIA SALE






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Pickup* on: DECEMBER 3RD & 4TH

PICKUP LOCATION: Hillstown Grange Hall,
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COLORS: Red ____ Qty White ___ Qty Pink ___ Qty Jingle Bell (Variegated Pink/White) ___ Qty

MIXED POINSETTIA CENTERPIECE in an 11" round bowl.
Contains a popular combination of seasonal holiday plants. Cost: **$27** ___ Qty

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EAST HARTFORD HOLIDAY FEST 2026



Wishing You the Magic of the Holiday Season

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 THRU MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

FOUR DAYS OF SPECIAL EVENTS
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Society

Students, veterans connect

By Jenilee Tedesco

On November 12, students from Sunset Ridge Middle School participated in Goodwin University's annual Veterans Day program, continuing a tradition that has brought students and local veterans together for several years.

The SRMS Student Ambassadors, led by Linda Chamberlain, arrived with handmade cards and candy to share. Throughout the event, students had the opportunity to speak with veterans, hear stories, ask questions, and thank them for their service. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for generations to connect, with conversations revealing personal connections among students, veterans, educators, and community members.

The Student Ambassadors have been welcomed to this annual event by Mr. Craig Jordan, Veterans Coordinator at Goodwin University and retired Principal of East Hartford High School. His continued connection to the East Hartford community helps make this long standing tradition especially meaningful.

In a town of more than 51,000 residents, moments like these highlight the strong sense of community that continues to make East Hartford feel like a small town. The event was a wonderful reminder of the importance of honoring those who have served while helping younger generations understand the sacrifices made on their behalf.





STUDENTS SERVE VETERANS COFFEE



Above, left, Sunset Ridge Middle School student ambassadors with Craig Jordan in the Veteran's Oasis room at Goodwin University. Below leeft, students Arianna, Evie, Levi, and Josie speaking with VFW Post 2083. Above, sixth graders dropped by to visit veterans at the monthly coffee hour at the Senior Center with the coffee.

Tree of Lights 2026

THE EAST HARTFORD WOMAN'S CLUB/GFWC celebrates each Holiday Fest season with the Town of East Hartford by sharing our feelings for those we cherish, and supporting the work of our local churches and synagogues.

FOR THE COST OF $5.00 PER NAME, you may honor or memorialize your loved one(s) and know that your donation will help with the needs and well-being of others, because all the proceeds collected from the Tree of Lights go to the East Hartford Outreach Partners for the Human Needs Fund.

WE WILL OBSERVE THIS YEAR'S LIGHTING OF THE TREE OF LIGHTS at the tree which will be lit in front of Town Hall, 740 Main Street, MONDAY DECEMBER 7TH AT 5:30 P.M. Come join us as we celebrate with music & light, honoring loved one(s), deceased or living.

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EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

Starting season in mid-season form

Remember the good old days when the college basketball season opened the night after Thanksgiving with one game, the "Tip-Off Classic" in Springfield?

It was fitting that new seasons opened in the birthplace of basketball and the Tip-Off committee excelled in putting together matchups that annually included some of the best teams in the nation. The game itself was the definitive dividing line between seasons with many college football teams not destined for post season play finishing their seasons on Tip-Off Friday or the next day, the day their basketball teams played their season openers.



SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray

When the NCAA moved the practice start date back to November 1st, from the traditional October 15th start, coaches nationwide erupted with indignant claims that three weeks was not enough time to prepare a team, particularly in the high pressure conferences. The NCAA caved and moved the start of practice back to mid-October. Coaches immediately began scheduling games the first week in November, so much for three weeks not being enough, and "Tip-Off Classic" Friday became nothing more than a fond memory, one of the first slides down the slippery slope of college sports is now where the NCAA no longer drives its own bus.

More than ever money's the driving force and everyone cashes in, including players who were once representatives of their institutions and are now their employees. With bigger cuts being handed out in more directions the demands require more product more often. "Midnight Madness" in mid-October was no substitute for big ticket regular season games before the candles burned out in the Halloween Jack-O-Lanterns.

As it is with the advent of the holidays, anticipation is now anti-climax. A week from carving the Turkey the UConn basketball teams are a combined 7-2. Both losses belong to the women, who slipped from number two in the national rankings to number seven in this week's poll as the result of losses to now #2 Michigan and #3 Louisville. Don't make the mistake of thinking the Huskies are no longer a formidable opponent. All of their first four games were against Top 20 opponents. I'm still saving a #1 seed for them come tournament time. The #2 men had an easier ride than the women out of the gate, facing just one nationally ranked team in the first four games, claiming an 8-point win over #18 Michigan. Familiar faces will pace the UConn men through the winter. Silas DeMary Jr. and Braylon Mullins are already putting up solid numbers and Solo Ball, recovering from off season wrist surgery was cleared this week for full contact practice and should be back in the game by next week while 6-11 center Na'Jai Hines appears ready to expound on his freshman year at Seton Hall.

Sarah Strong, Blanca Quinonez, K.K. Arnold, Ashlyn Shade look to be in midseason form for the women. They can expect substantial help from freshmen Jovana Popovic and Olivia Vukosa. Midseason isn't that far away. It's about the same time as the "Tip-Off Classic".

Huskies walk over Dukes

Connecticut fans had no excuse. Planes to Rentschler Field were not grounded Friday, preventing them from filling the seats for the noon kickoff Saturday against James Madison University. UConn students did not have to take a 7-hour, 44-minute bus ride from their campus to get to East Hartford like The Dukes did, traveling 443 miles to play the Huskies in a brisk November day.

But nobody felt bad for the Dukes who clearly got off the team buses grumpy and sore for their final nonconference game of the season. As the game progressed, 4-5 UConn's confidence level skyrocketed along with swagger that came with each score against an 8-2 FBS opponent. UConn overcame their underdog role, struttting back to Storrs with a 46-22 victory Saturday.

For the alleged 25,340 who were said to be present for the contest: Well, you should have used your free ticket. The pushing and shoving started midway through the first quarter, then chippiness set in. The Dukes head coach Billy Napier might have stopped it, but chose to let his team play. Big mistake. The consequences were not favorable for his squad.

"I think you got to win with class, lose with class," Coach Napier was said to have said. "We got a lot of smart guys in that room. That was not the standard. And we did not play winning football, you know, and that starts with me."

The Dukes and Huskies exchanged scoring drives to open the game, with UConn settling for a field goal on its first possession. JMU responded by marching down the field, getting multiple players involved offensively. With quarterback JC Evans making his second consecutive start, the Dukes converted a fourth-and-short to extend their opening drive.

Evans dove forward on fourth-and-1 to move the ball inside UConn's 20-yard line before capping the possession with a 1-yard touchdown run.

The Dukes settled for a 6-3 lead after a failed two-point conversion. JMU initially lined up for an extra point but attempted to catch UConn off guard with a fake. However, punter Patrick Rea bobbled the snap and couldn't get the ball into the end zone.

"Obviously dropped the snap there, but we felt like we had an opportunity to create a little bit of a lopsided score in the very beginning there," Napier said. "Sometimes you're aggressive like that and you make those calls, they work, they don't work, you know. So we're aggressive by nature on special teams and we do it every day based off of what we saw on the tape there." It was the first of two costly special teams mistakes for JMU early in the contest. On the ensuing kickoff, the Dukes' coverage unit failed to contain UConn's Ky Wilson, who returned the kick 100 yards for a touchdown.

Napier pointed to the return afterward as one of the game's pivotal momentum swings. Late in the second quarter, Evans connected with wide receiver Braeden Wisloski for a go-ahead touchdown with just over two minutes remaining in the half.

But the Dukes' 13-10 advantage didn't last long. UConn quickly marched down the field, with quarterback Kalieb Osbourne finding wide receiver Shamar Porter for a 67-yard touchdown to put the Huskies back in front.

"Huge swing of events with the Mayday two-minute, 10 points right before half," Napier said. "You know, we've got to cap the defense and then we've got to take care of the ball at midfield there." Things went from shaky to worse for the Dukes after halftime. Evans and the JMU offense failed to score on their opening possession of the third quarter and struggled to sustain drives throughout the period.

UConn found the end zone on their final possession of the third period to begin pulling away.

One more win and UConn bowl-eligible

UConn will close out their East Hartford football season Saturday entertaining another Virginia Sun Belt team, this time the first game against the Old Dominion Monarchs at 3:32 p.m. A lot is at stake for UConn. A win will make the Huskies "bowl eligible" with 6 victories.

The Old Dominion Monarchs are 3-7 overall and 2-5 in the Sun Belt. ODU is coming off a 21-8 road win at Coastal Carolina and are one of the lowest scoring teams in the NCAA (16.8 ppg) but have a top-ranked defense, fourth in the SBC and 43rd in the nation in total defense (339.0 ypg).

ODU is tough against the run, allowing 131.4 yards per game, ranking 47th. They are also averaging 2.5 sacks per game (37th) and forced 19 turnovers this year, ninth best in the nation.

ODU has nine rushing touchdowns this season, all by two players: quarterback Quinn Hennicle and running back Maurki James. Hennicle has rushed for five scores with 352 yards on 90 attempts, while James has also punched the ball in four times and owns 118 yards on 42 attempts.

Haughton Jr. and receiver TJ Johnson have hauled in all seven of ODU's receiving touchdowns this season. Haughton enters this week's matchup with four, and Johnson has caught three. The duo also lead the Monarchs with 436 yards and 311 yards, respectively.

ODU Defensive back Brandon Crutchfield has four interceptions on the season, leading the Sun Belt and eighth in the country. Defensive end Javen Gibson has 11 tackles for loss including 5.0 sacks to lead the team.

UConn senior offensive lineman Mason Howard began his career at ODU, redshirting in 2022. He did not make an appearance in 2023 before transferring to Wofford, where he played two seasons with the Terriers. He played in 10 games and made two solo tackles in 2024, and also had 10 appearances last season. He's made two appearances for the Huskies this season.

OBITUARIES

David Anthony Bednarz, Sr., 73


David Bednarz, Sr.

David Anthony Bednarz Sr., 73, of East Hartford passed away peacefully Sunday, November 15, 2026 at a local care center. Born on January 17, 1953, in Hartford, he was the beloved son of the late Andrew and Ruth (Rickis) Bednarz. David was a longtime resident of East Hartford, where he made his home for more than 30 years.

David was a proud graduate of A.I. Prince Technical High School in Hartford, Class of 1971. Throughout his working career, he dedicated many years to the printing industry. He served as Production Manager at Budget Printers in Hartford for more than 15 years, following several years at Connecticut Printers.

A man of strong Catholic faith, David regularly attended Mass at churches throughout the Hartford and East Hartford communities. He found joy in the simple things in life, remained a loyal New York Giants fan, and, above all, cherished his family.

One of David's greatest joys and proudest accomplishments was being a grandfather. He was incredibly proud of his twin grandsons, David A. Bednarz III and Anthony D. Bednarz. He loved attending their football games and sporting events, cheering them on and supporting them every step of the way. His grandsons brought him tremendous happiness, and he treasured every opportunity to be part of their lives. David leaves behind his only son, David Anthony Bednarz Jr., of Middletown; his beloved twin grandsons, David A. Bednarz III and Anthony D. Bednarz, both of Middletown; his sister, Sharon Sorgio, of Vernon; his niece, Amanda Sorgio, and her children, Frankie, Josh, and Alyssa Gionfreddo; and his former wife, Debra Shuba, of Melbourne, Florida.

In addition to his parents, David was predeceased by his beloved brother, Dennis Bednarz, of Hartford, whom he loved dearly. David will be remembered as a father, a proud grandfather, a faithful Catholic, and a man whose greatest happiness came from watching his family grow and succeed. Though he will be deeply missed, the memories he created and the love he shared will live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

Visitation will be Monday, Nov. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. at D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Tuesday, November 24 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1755 Stanley St., New Britain. Family and friends are asked to go directly to the church Tuesday morning. Burial will follow at Mount St. Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield. Memorial gifts may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit www.desopoeh.com.

Manuel Francisco Meneses


Manuel Meneses

Manuel Francisco Meneses was born on September 17, 1936, in Guadalupe, Peru to Sixto Meneses and Elena Castañeda, the oldest son of nine children. As a young man, he worked on his grandfather's farm and his family's pharmacy in Trujillo, Peru. His adventurous spirit took him from the Pacific coast of Peru to conquer the Andes Mountains on a Vespa motorbike.

In 1962 Manuel immigrated to the United States, first working in Wisconsin before he settled in Hartford. He was a machinist for Colt Firearms. Manuel raised his family in East Hartford where he lived for 45 years before moving to Florida in 2024.

He is survived by five children: Manuel F. Meneses Jr., Elena Meneses, Veronica Carpenter, Roberto Meneses, and Rafael Meneses; 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Manuel enjoyed sharing life with everyone. A storyteller among storytellers, he was well-traveled. He was an active member of Faith Lutheran Church on Silver Lane until its closing.

In 1988, Manuel met his life partner, Theresa Zocco. Together, they shared nearly 36 years of life and a love of travel before Theresa's passing in 2024. Their travels took them to four continents before settling in Largo, Florida for retirement life.

Manuel carried a lifelong passion for travel, flea markets, shoes, dancing, and classic cars of every kind. He shared his appreciation with his children and grandchildren.

Calling hours will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23 at Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford. Funeral Service will be Tuesday, Nov. 24 at The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark, 75 Griswold St., Glastonbury. Friends and family are asked to meet directly at the church.

The timing of the Funeral Service at St. Mark's is still to be determined and will be updated soon. Burial will take place in the Pautipaug Cemetery, North Franklin at the family's convenience.

Visit www.NewkirkandWhitney.com

Jose Otero, 61


Jose Otero

Jose Otero, 61, of East Hartford, beloved husband of Ana Otero passed away peacefully on November 10th, 2026. Jose was born on April 23, 1965, in Bayamon, Puerto Rico to Miguel Angel Otero-Perez and Laura Ester Martinez.

Jose earned a bachelor's degree in science from Springfield College and worked as a Behavior Specialist for Hartford Public Schools since 2008. Jose was truly passionate about his job, cared for all the students he worked with and was determined to make a difference. In his spare time, Jose enjoyed fishing, playing soccer and watching his Steelers and Yankees. Jose was also a devoted member of the Manchester Church of Christ.

In addition to his wife, Ana Otero, Jose will be missed by his sons Gabriel Otero, Luis Saldaña, Nathan Saldaña, daughters Yomayra Saldaña, Nallely Saldaña, Jennifer Guzman and 20 grandkids. He also leaves his siblings, Iris Wegner Otero, Jenny Otero, Miguel Otero, Maria Costillo, Edward Otero, Angel Otero and Carlos Torres.

Sadly, he was predeceased by his brothers Francisco Otero and Raphael Otero.

The family will receive friends and colleagues Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 to 9:30 a.m. at Manchester Church of Christ, 595 Tolland Turnpike, Manchester followed by a Funeral Mass from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Burial will follow at Mt. Saint Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield.

D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel has been entrusted with funeral arrangements.

Ludger 'Skip' Guillemette, 91

Ludger E. "Skip" Guillemette, 91, passed into spirit on October 24, 2026 surrounded by his wife and children. Born in Swansea, Massachusetts he graduated early from West Warwick High School, class of 1953. Skip joined the RI Air National Guard and later transferred to the CT Air National Guard as a crew chief for the Flying Yankees as part of the 102nd Fighter Interceptor Wing at Bradley Field. In 1956, Skip met the love of his life, Lorraine "Laurie" Frenette. They were married June 13, 1959 and had two children, Mike and Donna, and later beloved grandsons Lucas, as well as Nate and Zach. Skip became the owner of East Hartford Nursery Corp. in 1963. He was a Rotarian and scoutmaster of BSA Troop 57.

Mass was held at Czestochowa Catholic Church, Coventry, RI on Nov. 12. Gifts can be made to www.arnoldsrescuecenter.org

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Old school replacements?

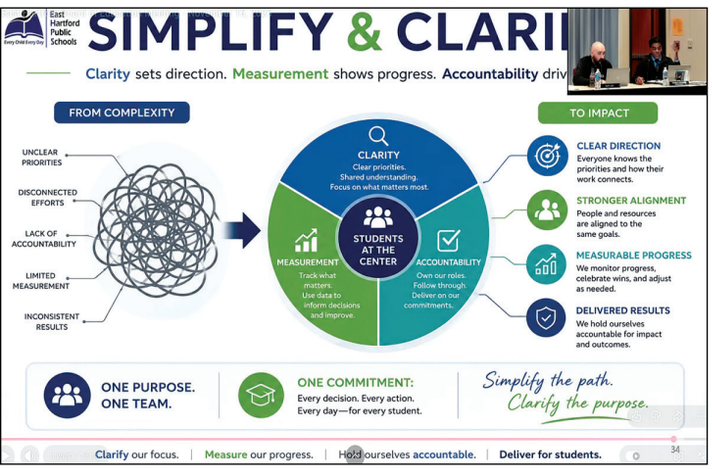
From Page One

Eight students were honored: CIBA senior Abigail Nayes; East Harford High School juniors Aatif Golaub and Amelia McDaniel; East Hartford Middle School eight graders Gabriel Asare and Delia McFiallos; Sunset Ridge School eight grader Ethan Santanna; Synergy Alternative High School Senior Kaelyz Dunn and Woodland School Sophomore Chloe-Nicole Jackson.

As their families and Board members listened, the student's school principal gave an account of the activities and achievements of each student that earned them recognition.

In other business, the Board took note of East Hartford's two "Schools of Distinction" based on last year's statewide testing. CIBA was recognized again this year for High Performance with an accountability index score of 94.7. Silver Lane Elementary School was recognized for exceptional growth in ELA with a 25-percentage-point gain on the CMT test.

Finally, the Board noted it is budget preparation time again as it will begin workshops this week for the 2027-28 budget. Anderson noted priorities will continue to follow along the line of the past three years, with focus on not presenting just a budget request but on being able to explain what is needed and why it is needed.



This chart was shown at Monday's meeting.



POLICE UNION SURVEY: Department woes

From Page One

sonnel. The lack of change since the survey was conducted raises additional concerns about whether the voices and concerns of the department's members are being heard and taken seriously.

"The survey represents the perspectives and experiences of department personnel and should serve as an opportunity for department leadership and town officials to acknowledge the seriousness of these concerns. These findings should not simply be documented and set aside. They warrant meaningful attention, transparency, accountability, and concrete steps toward improving morale and restoring confidence within the department.

According to an article published by The Gazette in October 2025, the East Hartford Police Department was experiencing a shortage of approximately 12 sworn personnel. Since the publication of that article, numerous officers have reportedly left the department to pursue opportunities with other law enforcement agencies. While competitive salaries may be one factor, officers are also seeking environments where they feel valued, appreciated, supported, and confident in their department's leadership.

Adding to these concerns, approximately 15-20 officers are expected to reach 25 years of service and become eligible for retirement in 2027. This presents an additional challenge for a department that is already struggling with staffing shortages and morale issues.

"I ask you to consider the following: Could the continued decline in morale, combined with an ongoing shortage of sworn personnel and the anticipated retirement of experienced officers, negatively impact public safety in the Town of East Hartford in the near future?

The police contract went to arbitration, and when approved as recommended the Town Council pointed out the considerable cost to taxpayers of $4 milllion over four years.

But unaddressed by resolution of the contract were union members concerns - understaffing chief among those.

"What actions have Town Hall and department leadership taken to address these issues? What plans are currently in place to recruit and retain qualified officers? Are there meaningful efforts being made to understand why officers are choosing to leave and what needs to change to encourage them to stay?

"More importantly, are the residents of East Hartford aware of the results of this department-wide survey and the concerns being expressed by the very officers responsible for protecting their community?

"At what point must we begin questioning whether the current leadership is capable of addressing these ongoing challenges? Is it time for town officials to seriously consider a change in police leadership, including the appointment of a new Chief of Police, to provide the department with the direction and accountability necessary to move forward?

"A department cannot continue to lose experienced officers, struggle to attract new recruits, and allow morale to deteriorate without considering the long-term consequences.

"There is also a legitimate concern that officers who might otherwise consider remaining with the department through retirement incentive opportunities, including the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), may instead choose to leave earlier for opportunities elsewhere.

"Ultimately, this is bigger than employee dissatisfaction or disagreements with department leadership. It is about the long-term stability of the East Hartford Police Department, the retention of experienced personnel, the ability to recruit the next generation of officers, and, most importantly, the level of public safety that East Hartford residents deserve. The concerns raised in this survey should not be ignored or dismissed. They deserve answers, transparency, and, most importantly, action.

"The question is no longer simply whether there is a morale problem within the East Hartford Police Department. The question is what is being done to correct it before the consequences become even more difficult to reverse."

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CLEMENT WASHINGTON ALLEN (26-00264)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **November 12, 2026,** 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.

Tobi Dolan, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Ronald Stanton
c/o Patrick James Rosenberger, Esquire; Shimkus, Murphy and Rosenberger, P.C., 382 New Britain Ave., Hartford, CT 06106

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MATTHEW MICHAEL BENOIT (26-00418)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **November 12, 2026,** 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.

Tobi Dolan, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Jillian Barrieau, 92 Spruce Street, 2nd Floor, Manchester, CT 06040

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CAROL BLAIS, AKA CAROL A. BLAIS, AKA CAROL ANN BLAIS (26-00420)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **October 28, 2026,** ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciaries at the addresses below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Tobi Dolan, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciaries are:

Steven Blais, 1913 Buckeridge Court, Gurnee, IL 60031
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Linda Blais, P.O. Box 72, Yantic, CT 06389

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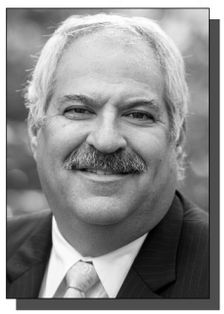
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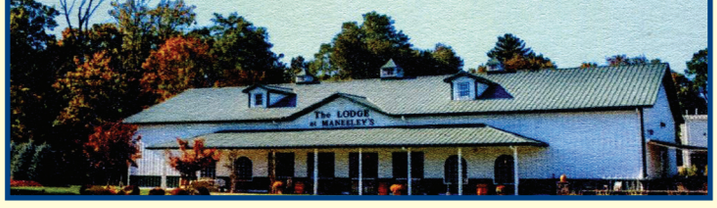
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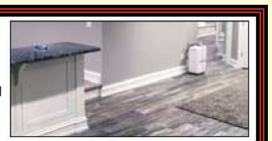
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WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

TOY DRIVE: Please join D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel and the Connecticut Funeral Directors' Association in making a child's Christmas bright. We will be collecting gift cards and toys for the Connecticut National Guard's Operation E.L.F. The Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Toy Closet program and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Drop off Gift Cards and Toys to D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford. Donations will be colllected until December 2!

***

THE EAST HARTFORD COMMISSION ON AGING is once again hosting their annual ***Christmas Tree Wish List*** program to support residents of Riverside Health. Donate now through Nov. 22. You can find additional details on the Town website: www.easthartfordct.gov/commission-on-aging/news/5th-annual-christmas-wish-list-program.

***

EVENTS AT THE WORLD WAR II LEGACY FOUNDATION MUSEUM, 102 Pitkin St., Saturday, Nov. 19: Screening of the film, "Bob Dole: A Walk Through History" presented by Italian producer and filmmaker, Luciano La Valle. Will be shown at the museum, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Nov. 21: Join us for Gary's 64th Birthday Party and Museum Fundraiser. Help raise funds and you can watch Gary do Challenges to entertain you. Museum open 1 - 5 p.m.Nov. 22: Museum open 2 - 6 pm. Gary's Birthday Fundraiser continues throughout November. Visit and explore the displays. Admission $5. FMI call Gary, 860-810-8736.

***

NOV. 21 - HOLIDAY FAIR at First Congregational Church, 837 Main St., 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit for gift ideas, handmade wreaths, Christmas decor, special cookie booth, sweet candy booth, and homebaked goods. Why not sit a spell and have lunch while you visit? Sample your choice of chili, soup and more. Lots of wonderful crafts, thoughtful gift baskets for a perfect present, evergreen boxes plus the jewelery booth. Explore Grandma's Attic for a one of a kind treasure, and duck into the Children's Corner for a memorable gift. See you there!

***

NOV 25: BULKELEY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI are invited to visit Bulkeley students in their classrooms Wednesday, 11/25! Share your story, share advice at Bulkeley High School, 300 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford from 8 to 11 a.m.

***

NOV 27: HELP "STUFF A CRUISER" for the East Hartford Police Holiday Toy Drive, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. outside the TJ Maxx store located at 5 Main St. To benefit the EHPD's Youth Taskforce, all are invited to donate an unwrapped, new toy or item of clothing to local police officers who will be stationed outside the store on the day after Thanksgiving. Donated gifts will then be hand-delivered by a special caravan of cruisers to local families with children in need this holiday season. Make life a little brighter this December for East Hartford families. You can help. Giving from the heart puts the holiday spirit into action.

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NOV. 27-28: CHRISTKINDLMARKT (Christmas Market)at the Hartford Saengerbund German American club, 719 No. Mountain Road, Newington, open 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. Come shopping for imported German goods and enjoy German food and beer as well as the hot mulled holiday wine, Glühwein. Plenty of homemade cakes and other desserts as well. St. Nikolaus and his alter-ego, Krampus, will make an appearance, and enjoy singing and dancing performances also. Each day kicks off with an opening ceremony led by the Christkind, or Christmas Angel. Admission $3. FMI call 860-953-8967, visit hartfordsaengerbund.org, or check out their Facebook page. Hartford Saengerbund was established in 1858 as a singing society and social club. It is the oldest German American club in New England. Its motto is "Treu dem deutschen Lied" or "True to the German Song."

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DEC. 1: MINI-COURSE: THE CHANGING BROADWAY. Tuesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 12:30-2 p.m. at the University of Hartford's President's Lifelong Learning program. Broadway is a-changin.' A slew of wild new shows and radically reimagined classics are revitalizing Broadway this season. From Cats: The Jellicle Ball and Oh, Mary! to Titanique, Schmigadoon!, and The Rocky Horror Show, these high-energy productions are drawing lively audiences looking for a party. Join longtime Variety theater critic Frank Rizzo for a two-session deep dive into Broadway's boldest new hits—including local connection highlights like the Hartt School faculty member who won a Tony for Schmigadoon!. Discover what's driving this theatrical revolution and get an insider look at upcoming tours headed to Hartford. Sponsored by President's College Lifelong Learning at the University of Hartford. Hartford.edu/pc. Questions? Email pcollege@hartford.edu or call 860.768.4495.

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DEC 3: WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM WOMEN'S CONFERENCE Thursday, December 3 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at Little Theatre of Manchester at Cheney Hall, 177 Hartford Road, Manchester. Hosted by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Sharonda Carlos, Commissioner of the CT Dept. of Correction, will deliver the keynote address. "Giving back" is the theme of the event. Guests are encouraged to bring women's personal-care and toiletry items to support women preparing for a new chapter in their lives. Tickets, $75, and the event features restaurant tastings, wine and specialty beverages, networking, vendors. To register - https://business.manchesterchamber.com/ap/Events/Register/xRFRgbkSMCYC7

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DEC. 4 - 7: EAST HARTFORD HOLIDAY FEST sponsored by the East Hartford Beautification Commission, four days of events begins with a Friday tree lighting on eh Town Green. Concerts, church fairs and other Holiday events. Look for the guide around town beginning Nov. 16 as well as in the Gazette. Bring a non-perishable food item to each event for the East Hartford Food Pantry

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DEC 6: EGGNOG AND GINGERBREAD PANCAKES - As part of East Hartford Holidayfest Hillstown Grange #87 is hosting a **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Sunday morning from 8:30 until 11 a.m., 617 Hills St. Come enjoy a stack of pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea and juice for $6, $3 kids under 14. Chose from the Holiday favorites, eggnog or gingerbread, or just plain or chocolate chip. Also, in memory of Frank Forrest, the Grange is collecting cookies and other items to pack up for soldiers overseas through the SOS CT packing event Sunday afternoon that same day at the Grange Hall starting at 1 p.m. Donations sought are "Holidays and New Year" themes - any types of cookies, holiday cards and pictures. Packaged snacks, dental or hygiene products welcome. Don't forget to go upstairsat the Grange hall which is filled with books for sale. Relax in the library and read, do puzzles, play games, or just visit with friends. Hillstown is the neighborhood where East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester meet. Since 1888 the Grange has been here, one of the oldest agricultural and service groups in the town as well as the United States. FMI call Michelle at 860-558-4688 or e-mail kma.dedominicis@gmail.com. FMI go to http://www.HillstownGrange.org%20/www.HillstownGrange.org. FMI on state Granges go to www.CTStateGrange.org

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DEC 6: SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS will be packing gift boxes at the Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills St. for our troops deployed overseas. The theme is Christmas/Winter. Donations of homemade or store-bought cookies, holiday drawings, and Christmas cards needed. The late, legendary Frank Forrest called the December SOS packing event like a "cookie exchange, except cookies go to our soldiers stationed around the world away from home for the holidays." Donations may be dropped off at the Grange Hall between 1 and 2:30 p.m. the day of the event. Volunteers always needed to sort and pack the day of. Monetary donations vital asa well to pay for postage. Please contact Michelle for more info or to make a donation: 860-558-4688 or e-mail kma.dedominicis@gmail.com; also Jen Marinko, 860-558-5897.