

Orange Town News



Orange's Exclusive Newspaper
Mailed Free To Every Home In Orange
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VOL. 5 - ISSUE 16 CIRCULATION 8645 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010



Racebrook students living with diabetes hope one day there will be a cure. Pictured from left: Katie Barretta, Michelle Riley, Executive Director, Juvenile Diabetes New Haven Chapter; Ryan Miller; School Nursing Supervisor Amy Wargo; and Roy Lobo.

Race Brook Students Address Juvenile Diabetes

By Laura Fantarella - Orange Town News Correspondent

Students at Race Brook School learned what it's like to live with a serious disease when three of their classmates who have diabetes gave a presentation in recognition of Diabetes Awareness Month in November.

Students who attended the presentation listened with rapt attention as fourth graders Ryan Miller and Roy Lobo and third grader Katie Barretta talked about how the disease impacts their daily lives. The students also watched a short video about diabetes and saw a demonstration about the equipment the three children use to administer medicine to manage the disease. All three children were diagnosed as toddlers with Juvenile Diabetes, Type 1 when their parents noticed they had excessive thirst and were easily fatigued. In type 1 diabetes, generally diagnosed in children and young adults, the body does not produce insulin, the hormone that is needed to

("Cure" continued on page 5)

HONOR ROLL

Amity Middle School - Orange Campus
First Marking Period Honor Roll
in this Issue (page 9)



From Your Friends at
the Orange Town News

THE OUTSIDE LIVING BOX

When Santa's not busy at work in the North Pole, rumor has it he lives in a comfortable ranch on Halliwell Drive. But every Christmas season, for the past 28 years, Dave Raffauf gets into his Santa suit and visits area children with special needs. His main "gig" and the one closest to his heart, is playing the Head Elf at the annual Christmas party hosted by Operation Mainstream, a volunteer organization that supports local Special Olympians.



Laura Fantarella

At 6'2" and 200 plus pounds, with a booming voice, twinkling eyes and a big heart, Raffauf certainly appears to be the real deal. Add a custom-made Santa suit, a fluffy white wig and beard and a pair of wire-rimmed glasses and even the most cynical cynic may do a double take.

No one is too old to sit on Santa's lap as he listens to their Christmas dreams and wishes. For Raffauf, this is what Christmas is all about. "This really grounds me," said Raffauf,



Dave Raffauf

who is a senior account manager at Stephen Gould in Orange. "I love to see the joy and excitement in the eyes of the children and adults who come to see Santa. Even full-grown adults believe. It makes the spirit of Christmas come alive for me."

It all began on a snowy December morning in 1982 when Raffauf was the manager of the Stratford Inn. "We had scheduled a brunch with Santa but couldn't find a Santa so I got the job," Raffauf recalled. With a rented Santa suit, Raffauf filled in for the brunch and later stopped by to visit his neighbor and her 10-year-old special needs child. "She was just so excited to see Santa. It was incredible! Her mother told me she was still talking about Santa's visit in April,"

("LOtB" continued on page 6)

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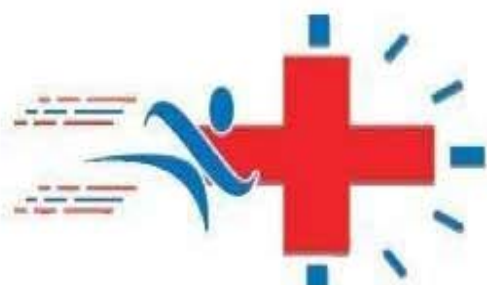
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Third Runner Over 90 to Take Part in Historic Road Race

By Richard Weizel - Orange Town News Correspondent

ORANGE - Now, there are three runners over the age of 90 who will make road racing history by participating in the 13th Chilly-Chili Run on New Year's Day in Orange, an annual 5K road race to benefit the Amity Teen Center. George "Doc" Whitney, the former long-time Orange veterinarian who now resides in New Hampshire, and life-long runner Bill Tribou of Granby were already set to make Orange the first ever in the United States in which two runners 90 and over would compete in the same 5K road race. But now, 91-year old Bill Benson of Valley Stream, New York, has also signed up to take part. Tribou turns 90 on December 18, Whitney turns 92 the very next day, on December 19, while Benson celebrated his 91st birthday on June 19.

The three runners will wear their ages, literally, in numerals - 90, 91, and 92, on their running shirts. "It is awesome and mind boggling," said Race Director Joe Riccio. "We were already excited when we had two 90-year-olds and found out this would be the first time that ever happened. "Now that we have three it makes me think, who knows if this will ever happen again. The way things are going, though, we may have to establish a new age category - the 90 and over group," he joked. But that may not be such a joke. Riccio said there is another man and woman, both over 90, who may also take part in the Orange race, an annual event at the High Plains Community Center on Orange Center Road that draws between 300-400 participants, and raises between \$6,000 and \$7,000 for the tri-town teen center in Woodbridge. "I can't think of anything more inspiring to encourage people at any age, but particularly seniors, to get out there and start running," Riccio said.

Benson, an award-winning runner in college who took up running again just before retiring 28 years ago from Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in New York, is a member of the Greater Long Island Running Club. He

("Runner" continued on page 12)



OSA co-president Tom Pisano greets players at the annual awards ceremony at High Plains Community Center in late November.

In Orange, Soccer is "More Than Just A Game"

By Anne Buley - Orange Town News Correspondent

Time stands still every Sunday during soccer season for Tom Pisano, co-president of the Orange Soccer Association (OSA). For him, soccer is more than just a game. "When I see hundreds of kids playing as a team, kicking around a ball, it's overwhelming to me," he says. "Parents and grandparents line the fields each week to watch and the kids are so proud. The program is so much more than soccer."

That's the reason he has been doing this for so long. He began volunteering

("Soccer" continued on page 12)

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Orange Town News

Below are the next two Orange Town News Issue dates and deadlines for your convenience. Thank you for all of your submissions to the paper.

<u>Upcoming Issue Deadline</u>	<u>Upcoming Issue Dates</u>
December 17th.....	(New Years Issue) December 27th
January 14th	January 21st

Note: Copy due by 4:00p.m. Thank you.



OCCNS 4 Year-olds Celebrate Thanksgiving

The 4 year old class at the Orange Congregational Church Nursery School celebrated a fantastic Thanksgiving dressed up in their hand made Native American wardrobes. OCCNS registration will begin in January for the 2011-2012 school year.



"Winter Evening" at the Goddard School

On the evening of Friday, December 3rd, the Goddard School began the month with a school-wide celebration. The "Winter Evening" was a big success with cookies and cocoa for everyone, special readings of the book "The Polar Express". The event included activities, a photo booth with special guest, "Frosty the Snowman", and the mechanical animals from Safari Rides! Families and children enjoyed an evening together mingling with other families, snacking on treats and cocoa, and participating in activities selected to celebrate the season. A big "thank-you" goes out to Cathie Reddy and the PTO for their help in making this event a success! For information about winter, summer or fall enrollment at the Goddard School, phone our office at 203-795-5575.

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ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Race Brook School Student Council recently held a Halloween Costume Drive to benefit Neighborworks New Horizons of New Haven. Families and students collected gently used Halloween costumes during the month of October and donated them to this organization.

Orange Honor Roll at Sacred Heart Academy

Sacred Heart Academy Principal Sr. Maureen Flynn, ASCJ has announced the Honor Roll for the first marking period of the 2010 – 11 academic school year. The following students from Orange have been named to the Honor Roll:

Named to the Honor Roll: Jennifer Bishop, Emma Dragan, Demery Ormrod, Willa Rusowicz-Orazem, Katherine Winkle.

Academic honors are awarded at the end of each quarter to students attaining an average of 3.5 or better. Those students achieving a grade point average of 3.8 or greater are awarded high honors.

Sacred Heart Academy, an independent Catholic college preparatory school founded in 1946 by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, successfully prepares young women in grades 9 – 12 for learning, service and achievement in a global society. The Academy currently has an enrollment of over 500 students hailing from New Haven, Fairfield, Middlesex, Hartford and New London counties.

Orange Kindergarten Registration

If your child is turning five on or before January 1, 2012, it is time to register for kindergarten!! Please contact Mary L. Tracy School by January 7th to receive a kindergarten registration packet by telephoning 203-891-8028 or Emailing kregistration@orange-ed.org. If you are leaving a telephone message, or sending an email, please give your child's name, date of birth, address, and telephone number.



Students Named to Luralton Hall Honor Roll

Several Orange students earned a spot on Luralton Hall's first quarter honor roll.

Earning high honors were Sophomores: Catherine Amato, Gina Annunziata, Taylor Black, Casey DelBasso.

Earning honors were Freshmen: Morgan Ferguson, Alexa Gherlone; Junior: Autumn Katz; Seniors: Lauren Lichac, Rebecca Morgan, Hayley Spragg, Nicole Sweeney.

Founded in 1905, the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall, is the oldest college preparatory high school for girls in Connecticut. More than 400 students from throughout New Haven and Fairfield counties attend.



(“Cure” continued from page 1)

convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life. Only 5-10% of people with diabetes have this form of the disease. The more common Type 2 diabetes affects millions of Americans. In type 2 diabetes, either the body does not produce enough insulin or the cells ignore the insulin. There are 23.6 million people in the United States, or 7.8% of the population, who have diabetes. Lobo, Miller and Barretta are three of four children in the Orange Elementary School district with diabetes.

Lobo, Miller and Barretta told the audience that Type 1 diabetes “just happens,” it is not the result of eating too many sweets and fats. They explained how important it is to check their blood sugars by pricking their arms or fingers up to 15 times a day. All three wear pumps on their bodies to administer insulin when needed. “We have diabetes 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Diabetes never goes on vacation,” Lobo said. “That’s why you always see us going to the nurses’ office – we have to check our blood sugars.” If the blood sugars are too low, or too high, the child is at risk for dangerous complications that can include seizures, fainting and even going into a coma. Barretta said she was so young when she was first diagnosed that she didn’t really understand much about the disease. “I used to hide from my parents when they needed to give me an insulin shot,” she said. She is proud that she now administers her own medication and knows how important it is for her to have a healthy lifestyle. “Diabetes is not fun. I know I have to eat right and exercise. I am told I am doing a wonderful job managing my diabetes,” she said.

The students were impressed that Lobo is able to play football and Miller plays hockey and they asked how can they play sports while wearing a pump. The boys explained they are able to take the pump off for a little while as long as they check their numbers before and after. “I have to be careful, because my blood sugar can drop very quickly. It’s not easy, but if I take care of myself I can do anything I want. My friends think I’m pretty brave,” Miller said. The students had many more questions for the three. “Do you have to stay up all night checking your blood sugar?” one student asked. (Sometimes, yes, sometimes, no.) “Is it uncomfortable to sleep with a pump,” (No, you get used to it.) “Have you ever run out of insulin?” (Yes -- on a field trip but mom was there!) Lobo and Miller said the worst part of the disease is having to miss so much class time going to the nurses’ office all day and how they feel if their blood sugars are too low or too high. They all thanked their teachers, School Nursing Supervisor Amy Wargo and parents for helping them manage their disease.

The program concluded with some words of advice for their classmates on how to be supportive. “The best thing a friend can do is to treat us like anyone else,” Miller said. “And if we look tired or out of it, please let an adult know – our blood sugar might be too high or too low to be safe.”

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FROM OUR READERS

Orange Registrars Deserve Praise

While this was a historic election for its outcome on the national and state levels, it will be remembered for one additional reason: electoral mistakes. Two examples of electoral mistakes occurred in Bridgeport and West Haven.

In Bridgeport, the city ordered 21,000 ballots for 69,000 voters. I'm not a math whiz, but that's short 48,000 or so ballots. How does that happen? The Registrars of Voters put themselves in a bad position, especially on Election Day being the biggest day of their term and this year having a visit from President Obama three days earlier. I always thought that communities should bank on having 100% vote and then some extra for 'spoiled ballots' so they should have ordered 70,000 ballots to prepare. Not 21,000.

In West Haven, two of their voting districts ran out of ballots. To make matters worse, the wrong ballots were given to 40 voters. The ballots, which were supposed to be for the 117th State House Race between Democrat Paul Davis and Republican Peggy Rogers, were given ballots for the 115th District where Rep. Stephen Dargan was running unopposed.

In Orange, our Registrars and their team did a phenomenal job. Aside from a few mechanical hiccups, the team was prepared for anything and everything to happen. In past elections, Orange has come close to running out of ballots, but before they could run out more were brought in.

Bridgeport and West Haven should take a page from the Orange Registrars of Voters Carmella Apuzzo and Mary DeVito's playbook for Elections.

Bob Brown

A Open Letter to Our Town's Leaders

I watched the most recent Orange Board of Selectmen's meeting on OGAT and for a moment thought it was a video re-enactment of the old radio comedy show, "The Bickersons", wherein family members relentlessly fuss and fume with each other about things that don't matter.

After accepting years of tax abatements (to which they were entitled), Hubbell, Inc. is bolting to Shelton and wishes to sell its beautiful property to a developer who will savage a significant portion of the remaining pristine land in town. And that is their right. However, residents need an effective, united team in our effort to purchase the property for the permanent enjoyment of all. We don't need letters to the First Selectman expressing astonishment that he had no warning of Hubbell's move, or both sides and the town's attorney posturing back and forth in front of the OGAT camera, or letting Hubbell know what our negotiating parameters are. Ever since Cromwell, the British have been practicing and perfecting a practical form of democratic governance. Simply, the gang in power gets to do what they think is right, and the other gang gets to form a "shadow government", to badger and pester the party or coalition in power with alternative ways and means to solve the country's problems.

I submit that Orange is relatively simple to govern: crime appears limited to Post Road shoplifting, traffic stops and throwing DUIs into the slammer; there needs to be a balance between the quality of Amity education and educators' compensation demands; budgets need to be instituted and managed; and all the other significant decisions aimed at maintaining the high quality of life we fortunately enjoy.

In Orange, the minority party has always functioned as a mini-shadow government, proposing different solutions, disagreeing with others' viewpoints, and regularly poking the First Selectperson. The competition makes sense and is healthy. But not now. We need no Bickersons involved with this critical project. Get together. Stay focused. Save this beautiful tract for our town.

Peter Firla

First Selectman Offers Holiday Goodwill

I would like to wish all of the residents of Orange and their families a very happy holiday season whether it be Happy Hanukkah or Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year too. As economic times have not gotten any better and for some much worse, it is important to take the time to reflect on what each and every one of us does have to be thankful for. Take the time to think of those less fortunate and do a little extra something for them. Take the time to think of the men and women overseas doing their part in defense of freedom, separated from their loved ones for the holidays. With this, I wish you all goodwill and joy for the happiest of holidays and for peace, health and prosperity for 2011.

First Selectman James M. Zeoli

("LOtB" continued from page 1)

he said. "I made a difference in her life, but her reaction changed my whole life." Raffauf decided then and there that his Santa impersonation would become an annual event and his venue would be a visit to children and adults with special needs. His neighbor told him about Operation Mainstream and he made the program's annual Christmas party his annual holiday destination. That was more than 20 years ago.

The party draws as many as 80 guests each year with ages ranging from about eight to 50. And no one is too big to sit on Santa's lap. Raffauf has plenty of memories of the lives he's touched and the people who've touched him over the past decades. One little girl in particular stands out as she sat on Santa's lap and sobbed as she told him he would not be able to bring her what she wanted that Christmas. "I said, 'Well tell me what it is and I'll see what I can do,'" Raffauf recalls telling her. "She said 'I need a new liver or I'm going to die.' I was totally blindsided. I told her I couldn't bring her a new liver but I could pray with her. So she sat with me and we prayed together." That winter a liver became available and she had the operation to save her life. Raffauf donned his Christmas duds and visited her at home in the spring. "She was so excited and surprised to see me! I told her Santa made a special trip from the North Pole to see her because she was special." He recalled another child who asked him why Santa had forgotten him the previous year and skipped his house without leaving any gifts. "I made sure that child had everything he asked for that year. It's a good thing Santa has bushy eyebrows because they hide a lot of tears. I get very emotional," Raffauf said, his eyes misting at the memory.

On the lighter side, he's had his lap soaked by kids so excited they've peed their pants in excitement at the prospect of seeing Santa. And then there was the day Raffauf was in his everyday clothes in the check-out line at Stop & Shop. "I noticed the teenage boy bagging my groceries kept staring at me while I was talking to the cashier," Raffauf said. "As he handed me my groceries he said under his breath, 'Don't worry Santa, your secret is safe with me.'" For a few years he thrilled party-goers when he made his entrance in a candy red convertible with the top down to accommodate his sack of gifts. "It was a little tough when it was snowing," he said.

John Aitkenhead, Special Olympics coach and president of Operation Mainstream, said when Raffauf walks through the door at the Christmas party, everyone's faces light up. "He just looks like Santa. The kids love him," Birkenhead said. "If I ran into him without his Santa suit on, I wouldn't even know who he was. I just know him as 'Santa.' He really cares about the kids. He just seems to enjoy it and wants nothing in return."

As the holiday quickly approaches, Raffauf is gearing up for a particularly busy season. "Christmas Eve is really busy, I start at about 4 p.m. and run around all night visiting the children of family, friends and clients," he said. And making believers of many.

Orange Town News

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CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



Dennis Marsh and Marianne Miller

Orange Lions Continue Community Food Collection

The Orange Lions Club has extended the Holiday Community Food Collection through the end of the year. Please bring your non-perishable food items to People's United Bank on Orange Center Rd. in Orange. Branch Manager Ron Capozziello graciously agreed to keep the donation collection basket at the bank. Orange Lions President Marianne Miller brings the collected items to Dennis Marsh, Elderly Outreach Coordinator, for distribution at High Plains.



Orange Rotary Experiences "Korean Spirit"

On Friday, November 19, 2010, the two young ladies pictured visited the Rotary Club of Orange as part of The Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project, which provides a basic introduction to Korea's long and rich history, the spirit of its people, and its cultural values, both through the project website, and also through the publication and distribution of free research materials to individuals and major institutions. Their visit and presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by members of the club.

Orange Woman Joins Call for National Service

Orange resident Sara Servin responded to the call to service by joining a local AmeriCorps Program. In September 2010 Sara joined the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC)-AmeriCorps Division Program, an AmeriCorps program at the Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program. Sara stated, "I think it is very important in life to give back to those in need and this is an amazing way to do that while also building my own character." Sara received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut. She would like to attend Graduate School for a Master's in Social Work and return to South America where she has previously studied and served.

Sara is serving as a YHSC Coordinator at Northwestern CT AHEC, engaging at-risk high school students from Crosby High School in the YHSC program.

For more information on how to become an AmeriCorps member with the YHSC-AmeriCorps Division, please contact Celia Tvrdik at (203)758-1110 or by email at ctvrdik@nwctahec.org. For more information on how to bring the YHSC-AmeriCorps Division program to your local community, please contact Patricia Harrity at (203)758-1110 or by email at pharrity@nwctahec.org.

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- www.nextgenmemorials.com/treeseedlings
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ORANGE HOUSE OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Holy Infant Church Presents Christmas Concert

A Christmas Concert will be presented by the Holy Infant Church Choir and the Good News Contemporary Ensemble on Sunday, December 19th at 3:00p.m.

The program will feature a variety of seasonal favorites for choir, and carols for all to sing. Featured soloists will be Barbie and Gary Harger. An instrumental ensemble under the direction of Jean-Pierre Dumont, organist/director will accompany. Dianne Raikis will also direct the Good News C.E. A reception hosted by the Women's Guild will follow the program. Free will donations will be gladly accepted. Come join us from out of the cold, and celebrate the season through music.



Congregational Church Youth Group Join with Habitat

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County announced today that they will break ground on their second fully sponsored Youth United Habitat home at 554 Jane Street in Bridgeport, CT.

Youth United, a Habitat for Humanity program initiative to engage local youth in raising awareness and support for affordable housing, began fundraising for the Jane Street home in 2008. Funds were generated by Bridgeport students ages 5 -15, along with the Youth Group Members age 12-18 from the Orange Congregation Church and will be co-sponsoring with the Collegiate Habitat Chapter of Sacred Heart University.



The Youth United group has worked to raise \$33,000 to date. In addition, State Farm Insurance, the national underwriter of Habitat's Youth United Program, has committed a generous matching grant fund of \$10,000 towards the construction of the future home.

To kick off the partnership, representatives from Youth United, including the Youth Group from the Orange Congregational Church and Sacred Heart University Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Chapter will join HFHCFC staff and volunteers at the build site at 554 Jane Street to celebrate with a Ground Breaking Ceremony on December 11, 2010. The Ceremony will mark the beginning of construction and commemorate this new journey for the Partner Family.

"Members of the OCC Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group, along with the hundreds of other students participating in the local Youth United initiative, have worked tremendously hard to see their dream turn into a reality," said Keith Cook, Co-President of HFHCFC. "We are thrilled to be a part of these young people's leadership effort in helping their peer's family find their own healthy, affordable home. We are very excited to help them celebrate the success of their accomplishments."

Community members are invited to attend the Ground Breaking Ceremony on Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. at 554 Jane Street, Bridgeport, CT. For directions or further information please call the HFHCFC office at 203-333-2642 or visit our website at www.habitatctfc.org.

Congregation Or Shalom Upcoming Events

Opening Doors: Congregation Or Shalom, is once again offering its "Opening Doors" program for children in Kindergarten through Grade 2 in the Fall. Young families may enroll their children in the Sunday School program without the requirement of membership in the synagogue. Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, synagogue spiritual leader, noted that bringing young families within the orbit of the community will stimulate them to open the "doors" to various groups and committees within the synagogue. "Ultimately, we hope they will become part of the Or Shalom Family," Rabbi Wainhaus said.



Kinder Kreations: Sunday, January 30, 9:15 AM: Free pre-school event where we provide three and four-year-olds with the sights, sounds and sensations of Judaism. They also spend time with Rabbi Wainhaus as he plays his guitar.

Zumba: Tuesdays & Thursdays: Join Zumba with coach Robin Allen each week for a one hour class. Call Robin for more information at 203-314-8176.

Coconuts: performs January 29, 7:30 PM: More than just a comedy show, more than just a band. Hilarious parodies, sing-alongs and good ol' Rock & Roll. Join us for this "Fun" raiser. \$18 per person. Call the office for reservations at 203-799-2341.

Naming Babies: Does your Jewish child need a Hebrew name? If so, we will provide him/her with one. There is no charge and this is open to Congregation Or Shalom members and non-members. Call the Or Shalom office at 799-2341.

Services:

Sunday mornings: 9:00 am

Monday mornings: 7:30 am

Thursday mornings: 7:30 am

Friday evenings: 7:00 pm (the first Friday of each month is our Family Service where Rabbi Wainhaus reads the children a story in lieu of a sermon. Following the Service, there will be a dairy Oneg Shabbat-refreshments.)

Saturday mornings: 9:30 am



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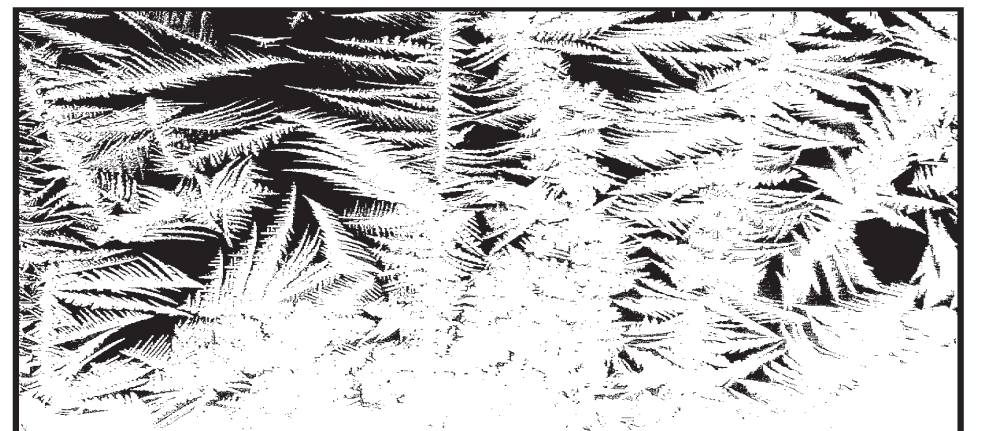
Congregation Sinai is Warm and Welcoming

SCHA Hosts Deli on Derby Nights

Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy is pleased to announce the school's winter schedule for Deli on Derby Nights. Join us for the best Glatt Kosher Delicatessen food in the area. Enjoy delicious hot soups, pastrami and corned beef sandwiches along with chopped liver, schnitzels, potted beef, knishes, Israeli salads and much more.

Everyone is welcome to eat, relax, schmooze with friends and enjoy the ambience at the deli located in the lower level of the school at 261 Derby Avenue. Call 203-795-5261 for a take-out menu or more information. All proceeds to benefit SCHA.

Deli on Derby will be open 4:30-8:00 on the following Thursday nights - December 23, 2010, January 13, 2011, January 27, 2011, February 10, 2011, February 24, 2011, and March 10, 2011.



**WINTER
BEGINS
DECEMBER 21**



AMITY MIDDLE SCHOOL – ORANGE CAMPUS

First Marking Period Honor Roll

First Honors 7th Grade

Aliaksei Adamik
Myles Allen
Omar Anwar-Krumeich
Matthew Arovas
Kofi Asiedu
Andrianna Ayala
Nicholas Bencivengo
Natalie Booth
Thomas Boutros
Michael Cannata
Timothy Cannata
Patrick Cleary
Michael DeVito
Christina DiStefano
Molly Dragan
Catherine Dunleavy
Max Einbinder
Katherine Esposito
Lucas Farrell
Madison Flanagan
Lauren Flaumenhaft
Laurindo Fonseca
Haley Forcier
Clara Gamsu
Christina Genovese
Michael Gregory
Jamie Hashem
Melanie Hauser
Karalyn Kachmar
Matthew Kachmar
Haseeb Khan
Georgia Kral
Ellen Li
Helen Liu
Jamie Longobardi
Youssef Maklad
William McDonald
Matthew McKenna
Sean McKenna
Yongwook Nam
Sarah O'Brien
Kimberly Parniawski
David Pereira
Joshua Petro
Elizabeth Poland
Rosie Richetelli
Brian Ronai
Kassandra Roth
Sydney Rothman
Helen Ruckes
Dario Salati
Benjamin Santaus
Matthew Schmitt
Brittany Smith
William Steinbrick
Melissa Taggart
Clarissa Tripp
Andrew Tudino
Cameron Viesel
Christopher Winkel
Sydney Young
Martha Zhang
Grace Zheng

First Honors 8th Grade

Matthew Attolino
Caitlyn Black
Avery Blanck
Katelyn Browe
Alex Bunnell
Matthew Canna
Thomas Canna
Anthony Capuano
Sara Carson
Taylor Choe
Madison Csejka
Megan Elizabeth Foley
Sydney Formica
Ashlyn Gallo
Allison Germano
Jacob Gibbons-Morales
Arvene Golbazi
Priya Gopani
Morgan Guadagnoli
Scott Gusciora
Amanda Hudson
Frank Kachmar
Sricharan Kadimi
Rebecca Kaplan
Owais Khan
Sarah Kilian
Haley Kober
Daniel Kruger
Ru Zhou Liang
Gigi Lin
Ariel Loewenthal
Rachel Marcus
Caroline McDonald
Alec Melotto
Zoe Marie Moscato
Emily Nicefaro
Frances O'Neill
Karli Peraza
Haley Pierson
Jenna Pisano
Matthew Post
Natasha Proctor
Cassandre Pyne
Joseph Racaniello
Seanna Robinson
Matthew Ronai
Anthony Sacco
Matthew Sacco
Nicole Schatz
Jasmin Serrano
Zachary Shelnitz
Mattie Sokoloski
Mary Spodnick
Mackenzie Stratton
Claire Sweeney
Jessica Szkotnicki
Jamie Thimineur
Kaitlin Thomas
Lauren Thomson
Renoj Varghese
John Vitti
Maia Wohlert

Second Honors 7th Grade

Jeanne Marie Bidon
Brianna Caruso
Alexa Charney
Ryan Chizmadia
Eugene Cho
Lydia Cooper
Leanne D'Acunto
Christian DeMusis
Sara DeRose
Matthew DiGiovanni
Jordan D'Onofrio
Garrett Doyle
Isabella Ferraro
Ryan Frobel
Molly Fusarelli
Nicholas Gallucci
Samantha Gaynor
Alessandra Gusmano
Timothy Johnston
Christina Judd
Peter Keefe
Cassidy Kirby
Katie Koshes
Brandon Liebnick
Harika Lingareddy
Andrew Lipsitz
Samantha Lopez
Ali Maklad
Alexa Marulli
Jacob Mayerson
Katherine Meehan
Kevin Nusdeo
Jenna Ortoleva
Kendra Osinski
Michael Pretlove
Michael Rempfer
Sarah Rippel
Christopher Robichaud
Victoria Rugari
Sarah Santini
Arsen Sapsa
Stephanie Satonick
Bret Schneider
Meagan Schultz
Leonardo Scotti
Blake Smith
Hannah Smith
Jake Smith
Michael Stewart
Julia Wilde
Nathan Wu
Varun Yetukuri

Second Honors 8th Grade

Michael Appel
Benjamin Bacal
Alyssa Benedetto
Spencer Churchill
Julia Comeau
Tyler Coury
Kyle Dandelske
Amanda D'Astous
Nicole DeBarba
Caroline DelVecchio
Gabielle DiGello
Alayna Dixson
Christopher Doolan
Caitlin Earley
Anastasia Esposito
Olivia Falcigno
Sophia Figueroa
Megan Elaine Foley
Olivia Hine
Caroline Hurlburt
Yichao Jin
Minjoo Kim
Mollee Lasto
David Linet
Harsha Lingareddy
Kyle Luisi
Mariana Marchitto
Rachael Mastrangelo
Cristian Mortali
Jared Pepper
Kelly Runda
Holly Scheck
Joshua Sloat
Emily Smith
Jacob Smith
Sarah Sokolowski
Rebecca Spargo
Megan Steigleder
Aidan Stuart
Jarod Tashea
Vimratha Teepireddy
Caroline Torro
Alyssa Weisberger
Janaya Young



**Congratulations To All
The Honor Roll Students!**

Citizenship Award – 7th Grade

Matthew Arovas	Max Einbinder	Brandon Liebnick
Andrianna Ayala	Madison Flanagan	Brian Ronai
Nicholas Bencivengo	Lauren Flaumenhaft	Sydney Rothman
Jeanne Marie Bidon	Haley Forcier	Matthew Schmitt
Natalie Booth	Jamie Hashem	Leonardo Scotti
Molly Dragan	Karalyn Kachmar	Brittany Smith
Catherine Dunleavy	Matthew Kachmar	

Citizenship Award – 8th Grade

Reja Ahmad	Haley Kober	Joseph Racaniello
Caitlyn Black	Mollee Lasto	Addison Robbins
Katelyn Browe	Ru Zhou Liang	Matthew Ronai
Sara Carson	Gigi Lin	Holly Scheck
Cynthia Celone	Ariel Loewenthal	Jasmin Serrano
Taylor Choe	Mariana Marchitto	Emily Smith
Madison Csejka	Rachel Marcus	Mattie Sokoloski
Amanda D'Astous	Caroline McDonald	Rebecca Spargo
Jillian DeMaio	Alec Melotto	Mary Spodnick
Anastasia Esposito	Zoe Marie Moscato	Megan Steigleder
Sydney Formica	Emily Nicefaro	Mackenzie Stratton
Hilde Gehr	Frances O'Neill	Claire Sweeney
Morgan Guadagnoli	Jared Pepper	Kaitlin Thomas
Olivia Hine	Lauren Perrone	Lauren Thomson
Amanda Hudson	Haley Pierson	Maia Wohlert
Sricharan Kadimi	Jenna Pisano	
Sarah Kilian	Cassandre Pyne	



TOWN DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

From the Youth Services Coordinator *By John Ulatowsski*



From the Desk of the Municipal Agent *By Dennis Marsh*




Left: Photos of some of the High School volunteers who assist at many events. Right: The Intergenerational Tutoring Program benefits our youth in their studies.

Youth Services Volunteers Helping Others

Volunteers who assist Youth Services offer a special assistance to youth and community. The High School volunteers, who work toward school credits, assist in a variety of areas including the 7th & 8th grade dances, Community Services food pantry, administrative help, and special events such as the Pumpkin Palooza and Lion's Club Thanksgiving dinner. The Intergenerational Tutors, retired senior citizens who assist with the educational program weekly at Case Library, bring a one-to-one closeness in aiding students to better understand their school assignments. Parents also assist as chaperones at the dances.

OVNA Healthline



The next Orange VNA Blood Pressure Clinic will be held at its office located at 605A Orange Center Road (the former Library) on Thursday, December 16th from 1:00 pm. to 2:00 pm. This will be the final clinic for 2010. No appointment is necessary.

If you are having problems with your blood pressure or your doctor would like more frequent monitoring; this is a chance each month to get your blood pressure checked. Also, this is an excellent opportunity to get more information and teaching from the VNA nurses on various health issues.

Home Care Registry vs. Home Care Agency

Recently, a private duty home care worker slowly robbed a North Haven elderly couple out of \$100,000. Unfortunately, this puts an unfair black eye on the home care industry. You see not all home care services are alike. This was a case involving a private duty caregiver. There was no one there to supervise her other than the client. Depending on which service you choose, you may be assuming more risk than necessary. Some people choose private duty caregivers that are not affiliated with an agency. Some people hire caregivers through a home care registry, a home care agency, or companion services. Whichever route you choose, there are some things to be aware of.

Home care registries tend to be cheaper because they do not actually employ the caregiver. The caregiver is employed by the client (you), and the client pays the caregiver directly. The client is responsible for paying all federal and state taxes, Social Security, workman's compensation insurance, and presenting the caregiver with a 1099 tax form at year's end. Registries do not supervise the caregiver they refer; they may or may not even perform criminal record background checks, employment references, or bond the caregivers.

With home care agencies, the caregiver is an employee of the agency. The agency supervises the caregiver, performs criminal record checks, verifies references, bonds the caregiver, pays all federal and state taxes, Social Security, workman's compensation insurance, and supplies the caregiver with a W-2 at years end.

The difference between a registry and a home care agency is the relation of the caregiver to the business that sent them. It is this relationship that may have some adverse effects on you the client. For example, with a caregiver from a registry, the caregiver is your employee. There is no insurance on the caregiver from the company. If the caregiver suffers an injury on your property, the company will not cover them. Some people believe their home owners insurance will cover the caregiver and that is not so. Since the caregiver is your employee, and homeowner's insurance does not cover employees, you may be financially at risk should the caregiver sue.

People hire home care services because they cannot do certain activities for themselves that they may have once been able to do. During this time of health challenges, it may not be the time to assume more responsibilities. Families and seniors need to be careful when shopping around for a caregiver. If you do not know the industry, then all you would have to go by is price. Registries advertise low cost, but you would not know that they are a registry only. Families and seniors need to ask if the agency is a registry or if the caregiver is an employee of the agency. In this way, you will be better informed when making a decision. Also, I spoke with Diane Fekete of CT In-Home Assistance and she gave me a list of questions to ask when choosing a caregiver. For this list or any other questions, please feel free to call me, Dennis Marsh - Elderly Outreach Worker/Municipal Agent at (203) 891-4787 or Diane Fekete at CT In-Home Assistance at (203) 452-9629.

The OVNA wishes the residents of Orange a safe, happy & healthy holiday season!



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From the Fire Marshal's Office



Tips for a Safe Holiday Season!

The winter holidays are a time for celebration and that means cooking, decorating and entertaining. The Orange Fire Marshal's Office would like to offer some safety guidelines to ensure that the holidays will be happy for you and your family.

All decorations displayed throughout the house should be fire resistant or non-combustible and located a safe distance from any heat source. If smoking is permitted in the home, provide a safe place for smokers to discard their cigarettes. Place all used ashtrays in the sink and wet down the contents to prevent an accidental fire. As always, keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children. And most importantly, check to make sure your smoke detectors are working properly.

One of the most common causes of accidental home fires during the holiday season is unattended candles. Many times, candles are knocked over by children or pets, causing injuries and fires. Before lighting any candle, secure it in a properly fitting holder with a wide base to catch the hot, dripping wax and to prevent the candle from tipping over. Keep the wick trimmed to one-quarter inch and extinguish taper and pillar candles when the wick is within two inches of the holder. Votives should be put out before the last half-inch of wax begins to melt. Keep candles at least one foot from combustibles. More than one-half of candle fires were started when something flammable was too close to the candle. After a candle is lit, it must be supervised until properly extinguished. NEVER leave candles burning when leaving a room or going to sleep. During a power outage, avoid carrying a lit candle. Use flashlights.

Before displaying any electrical decoration, be sure it is tested and approved by a facility such as Underwriter's Laboratory (U.L) or Factory Mutual (F.M). Use only lights designed and approved for the outdoors when creating an exterior display. Check all light cords and plugs for worn-out or exposed wiring. Replace any damaged light strings or decorations. Do not overload electrical circuits. An estimated 28,300 electrical, residential fires occur annually with December and January as the months when most occur. Most fires result from old wiring or faulty outlets. Use multi-outlet surge protector power strips when running multiple applications of decorative lights.

Due to the cost of home heating fuel, the use of fireplaces and wood-burning stoves for alternative heating sources is at an all time high. Have the fireplace or wood stove flue inspected and cleaned at least once a year. Creosote build-up is the number one cause of chimney fires. Check for cracks in the mortar or deterioration of the piping before lighting a fire. Don't forget to open the flue. Make sure that the safety screen or doors are in place to prevent sparks from igniting flammable furnishings or interior finishes. Never use lighter fluid or any other flammable liquid to start a fire. Use kindling and paper which is weighed down to prevent it from flying out of the chimney or fireplace. Once the fire is out, put the cool ashes into a metal container with a lid, outside and away from the home. The container should be placed on a non-combustible surface. To prevent the build-up of carbon monoxide, keep a window slightly open to allow fresh air to enter the home. Electric heaters should be at least three feet from any combustible materials. The use of kerosene heaters is not recommended.

Christmas tree safety begins with the selection of a fresh tree that holds its needles. Trim the trunk at least 1-inch above the original cut before placing the tree in a sturdy stand. For the first watering, fill the stand with hot water to open up the sap channels so the tree can consume water efficiently. Use cool water thereafter. Keep the tree as long as it remains fresh and moist. Discard when it begins to lose needles and starts to dry. Make sure artificial trees are labeled as fire retardant. Keep a fire extinguisher handy, and near an exit. DO NOT attempt to extinguish a fully involved tree fire. Leave the house and call 9-1-1.

Please follow these simple tips for a safe, happy holiday season. For any questions or more information about home fire safety, call the Orange Fire Marshal's Office at 203-891-4711, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm or visit the website at www.orangefiremarshal.com.



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(“Runner” continued from page 3)

agreed that having three participants over 90 taking part in the race would help motivate other seniors. “When I turned 80 I was the only member of the (Greater Long Island) running club,” Benson said. “Now, we have about a dozen, and whenever I run in our local park I meet up with other seniors who say they are inspired seeing me still out there.” Benson said “it’s terrific we can have three runners over 90 taking part in the race and making some history. I’m really honored to be joining two such well-known runners.” But Benson has won plenty of running awards himself, earning 21 national championships for his age group over the years running in mile-long races. Benson, who took up running while a student at Ohio University in 1941, said he stopped running until he was about 60. “I was getting older and realized I was in terrible shape, and first took up jogging. Little by little I got into running, which greatly improved my health,” said Benson who, over the past two decades, has won numerous mile-long races.

Whitney, the long-time Orange veterinarian had a similar experience to Benson’s. But he was over 20 years older. When he turned 80 in 1998 he tried jogging a short distance to his Oakwood Road mail-box. Feeling winded, exhausted and like he would fall to the ground, Whitney’s sudden burst of energy didn’t work out so well. Running those 100 yards did change his life. “I felt so terrible I literally thought I was dying,” Whitney said recently in a phone interview from his Brattleboro, New Hampshire home, where he moved two years ago after spending nearly 80 years in Orange. “That day was when I decided the only way to live longer was to start running. I figured it would either kill me or help me live longer. “Well, I’m still here and still running, so I guess I got my answer,” said Whitney, who was already well-known for his veterinarian practice in Orange even before he started running and becoming something of a local celebrity - wearing T-shirts during races donning funny phrases and racing puns that make people laugh.

Over the years Tribou has also earned numerous road race and running honors, including being ranked 11th in the world at age 21 in 1942 for running the mile in 4 minutes, 14 seconds - which was just 10 seconds from the world record at that time. That same year he was also named to the All-American team by United States Track and Field while running for UConn’s Cross Country Team. More than 60 years later, at ages 85 and 86 he was named the Outstanding Athlete Runner for the 85-89 age group by U.S. Track and Field.

“It’s just so wonderful and inspiring that these men are still in such good shape and still running, it’s really an inspiration to everyone,” said Teen Center President Jane Opper. “We feel honored that our race here in Orange is the one in which this historic road running event is taking place.”

The race will take place at 10:30 a.m. January 1, at the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, and will include an assortment of hot chili dishes made by residents and area restaurants and eateries.

The Amity Teen Center was formed in 1987 and is located in its newly remodeled building at 10 Selden Street in Woodbridge. It provides safe, drug and alcohol-free activities six days a week for the seventh to 12th-grade students from Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany. For more information, call Jane Opper at (203) 795-9351 or Linda Cohen at (203) 387-0205, or Joe Riccio at (203) 481-7453. You can also e-mail questions to chillychilirun@hotmail.com.

www.OrangeTownNews.com

Michael J. Paolini, CPA

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(“Soccer” continued from page 3)

with OSA 24 years ago when his son, now a grown man, was only 5-years-old. Today, he is still at the helm, often seen at the Mary L. Tracy fields or Fred Wolfe Park with his loyal companion Lily, his golden retriever. In many ways, he has seen the program, which today welcomes over 350 children in its spring and fall seasons, change over the years. It’s very important to him, however, that some things stay very much the same.

The league is divided into two categories: Sunday soccer and the travel program which combines kids from OSA and the Woodbridge Soccer Association (WSA) and is run by Pisano’s co-president, Bill Hoffman.

According to Pisano, Sunday soccer, which begins at age 5 and is played primarily at Mary L. Tracy School, is a family day for fun and development, a philosophy he works hard to maintain. “I make it very clear to the coaches, who are all volunteers, that kids must all get even playing time and that they are there to learn the game and be part of a team.”

In fact, he believes in the importance of skills training so much that all kids enrolled in the program are eligible to participate in free soccer clinics on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during the season. Sterling Smith, a former member of the Southern Connecticut State University men’s soccer team, is paid by OSA to run the clinics. He often brings along soccer players from SCSU’s soccer teams to help. “Some people think the league needs to become more competitive and we need to raise the fees,” Pisano says, “but I will not hear of it. That is where the travel teams have a role.”

The travel team division, run by Pisano’s co-president Bill Hoffman, is under the OSA umbrella, but is intended to be more competitive. The travel teams play Fred Wolfe Park, named in 1997 for the late President of the Orange Chamber of Commerce. The travel league begins at age 9 with some kids playing until they are 18-years-old. The league does have try-outs, but an effort is made to field as many teams as possible to keep cuts to a minimum. Paid coaches at this level, according to Pisano, are worth the investment. “It’s a big expense for us, but it eliminates the problem of parent bias.”

Pisano commends the “list of great people who volunteer with the league,” referring to the small board that runs the league and the parent coaches, who lead the kids in their easy-to-point-out orange shirts. The problem, he says, is that there are simply not enough volunteers. “We are in dire need of volunteers to do this right,” he says. “I see so much more that can be done. I simply don’t understand why people don’t want to help more to make the experience better. We owe that to the kids.” “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” is the mentality he believes is keeping people from stepping up. “We’re the quietest program in town. To others it all seems to be running so smoothly, but it could be so much more.”

Help is needed beyond coaching on the field, he explains, citing a perfect example of how volunteering can make or break if a child has a good experience. After each season, the coaches are asked to rate each player from 1, being poor, to 10, being exceptional. The idea is so that the teams the following season are fair and even so that all kids have a positive experience. “In theory, it’s a good system, but without volunteers, it’s difficult to execute.” Some of the areas where help is needed most is getting and executing team sponsors, team selections, registration, and fundraising (of which the league does minimal). Ultimately, Pisano’s dream is to expand the town-owned property at Fred Wolfe Park which was purchased from the Amity School System in 1995.

His field of dreams would include a lighted soccer field, more soccer fields, additional access roads, and snack stands. “The land is there. We have not even tapped the potential for this program.” It’s a dream, albeit, that he believes will remain just that without more volunteers.

The fall season concluded in late November and the spring season will begin in early May. Much help is needed before and during the season. To volunteer or for more information about the Orange Soccer Association, contact Tom Pisano at 203-877-2058 or contact OSA at www.OSA-CT.com, dariosalati@optonline.net or at P.O. Box 605, Orange, CT.

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HAPPENINGS AT THE ORANGE SENIOR CENTER

By Joanne Byrne

4th Annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest

Doors within High Plains Community Center have been decorated for the 4th annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest by various community groups including the Orange Lions Club, the Goddard School, Orange Town Newspapers, Girl Scout Troup 60403, Mom's Club of Orange, Orange Economic Development Corp. American Legion, and Peck Place School. Stop by the community center any week-day up to December 20 to vote for your favorite door. A panel of judges will cast their votes for the Best Door on December 21. The winner will be announced at the center's annual Holiday Cookie Party on December 22. A prize will be awarded to the winning organization.

Special Holiday Invitation from Amity Regional High School Music Department

The Amity High School Music Department invites seniors to a special holiday event on December 16 (snow date - Dec. 21) when they will perform their annual Winter Concert. Besides performances by all the Music Department ensembles, seniors are also invited to a dinner before the concert prepared by Chef Hans, the culinary teacher at Amity and his students. The dinner starts at 6 pm and the concert is at 7 pm. There is no cost for the dinner or the concert, but reservations must be made by Wednesday, Dec. 10 by calling the senior center at 203-891-4784. Transportation is on your own. Limited transportation is available from the Greater New Haven Transit District from the senior center for those who cannot drive for a cost of \$5. Call the senior center if you need transportation.

Holiday Cookie Party

The Race Brook Children's Choir under the direction of Marie Troiano will be at the senior center on Wednesday, December 22 at 1 pm to sing for the Annual Holiday Cookie Party. Everyone is asked to bring a dozen of their favorite home baked or bakery purchased cookies either the day before or the morning of the Cookie Party by 9 am. Volunteers will make up plates of cookies for each table and a delicious Holiday Punch. The winner of the

Holiday Door Decorating Contest will be announced at the Party. Reservations strongly desired! Call the senior center to let us know you are coming. If you can bake cookies or help to put cookie platters together the morning of the event, please call the senior center.

Gift Certificates to the Senior Center Make Great Holiday Gifts

Here's a great gift idea. If your family wonders what to get you for the holidays, why not suggest a gift certificate to the Orange Senior Center? Also, if you are looking for a gift for a senior friend, a gift certificate could be the answer. Gift certificates can be purchased in any amount. The certificates are made up in holiday colors and come with an envelope for gift giving. The certificates may be used any time during 2011 for day trips, classes, and events. Come to the office if you wish to purchase a certificate.

Trips for 2011

A list of all the planned trips for 2011 is available from the Community Services Office. There is a great variety of trips, something to please everyone. Fliers for each of the trips are available in the office and in the senior center trip rack. Registration dates for each of the trips are listed for all the trips. Register early to be sure you have a spot on the trips you would like to take next year.

Yakov Smirnoff at Foxwoods

Reservations are now being taken for this trip which will take place on Friday, April 8, 2011. Enjoy a morning of gaming, then have lunch and enjoy the show. The trip includes a casino bonus of \$10 Keno and \$15 Food Coupon along with admission to the Yakov Smirnoff show which begins at 2 pm. This famous Russian Comedian delivers explosive laughter in this hilarious show. This is Yakov's only New England performance, so don't miss it. Cost: \$74 pp, payable in full at registration, includes transportation, casino bonus, show, and driver's gratuity. Come into the office to sign up for this trip before it is sold-out.

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CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Case Memorial Library - 176 Tyler City Road - Orange, CT 06477 - 203-891-2170 Reach us on the web at www.casememoriallibrary.org

Children

Winter story hour schedule:

Sessions for age 2 will be held on Monday, December 13 and 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Session for age 3-5 (includes craft) will be held on Wednesday, December 15 and 22 at 4 p.m.

Mother Goose is on the Loose!

Held on Thursday, December 16 at 10:30 p.m.: Lapsit storytimes are for babies and toddlers up to 24 months and include nursery rhymes, music, and movement. Open to Orange residents only. Please pre-register. Space is limited.

Film: "The Polar Express"

Saturday, December 11, 1 p.m.: "Seeing is believing. You'll see wonders. All aboard!" Tom Hanks stars in this holiday classic. All ages are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

A Winter Solstice Family Concert with Roger Tincknell

Tuesday, December 21, 4:30 p.m.: Roger will perform a festive program of seasonal songs including songs of light from around the world. The program will also include participatory children's songs and songs, dances, and instruments from the Caribbean and other warm places with Roger performing on a variety of instruments. The audience is invited to participate in singing, dancing, and playing percussion. Sponsored by the Shirley Martin Prown Fund.

Holiday Teddy Bear Storytime

Wednesday, December 29, 6:30 p.m.: Come in pajamas and bring your bear and blankie! For children ages 2-5.

Teens

Book Chat Cafe

Tuesday, January 11, 2:15 p.m. Held in the Amity Middle School Media Center for teens who love to read and share their opinions over refreshments. Please see Mrs. Goss.

Adults

Got Questions?

We've got answers! Our reference librarians are now available via email at caseref@lioninc.org. If you have a question with a brief, factual answer, send us an email and you will receive a response within 2 business days.

'Tis the Season!

All are invited to the library to see the annual display of festive holiday decorations coordinated by the Friends of the Case Memorial Library. Visit throughout the month of December to view the beautiful displays that are generously arranged by the Friends and local community groups.



Looking for a Great Gift?

Our selection librarians have assembled gift guides for all of the best books, DVDs, and audiobooks of the season for children, teens, and adults. Stop by the library to pick up a guide or check them out on our website: www.casememoriallibrary.org.

Ever Chasing Alchemy Improv Troupe

Saturday, January 8, 2 p.m.: New Haven's Educational Center for the Arts traveling improv group entitled, Ever Chasing Alchemy, will perform at the Case Memorial Library. The actors will transform audience suggestions into skits, scenes, and games that will be sure to have the audience laughing with joy. Sponsored by ACES and Educational Center for the Arts.

Film Buffs: Everlasting Moments

Thursday, January 13, 7 p.m.: Sweden, early 1900s. In a time of social change and unrest, war and poverty, a young working class woman, Maria, wins a camera in a lottery. The decision to keep it alters her whole life. 121 minutes. Unrated.

Discover Your Roots: Genealogy Workshop Series

Wednesday, January 19, 7 p.m.: In the first class in our ongoing series, Greg Thompson of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists will teach attendees about the basics of genealogy. Classes will meet on the third Wednesday of each month.

Art in the Library

Watercolors and oils by "Artclectics," a group of six artists, will be on display through the month of December.

Social Security Information Session

Monday, January 31, 4:30 p.m.: Social Security Specialist Maria Grice will discuss the ins and outs of Social Security. Get the answers to all your questions. Sponsored by Boomers and Beyond: A Lifelong Learning Center.

Programs at the Case Memorial Library are free (except as noted for materials charges) and open to the public. Pre-registration is requested in person or by phone. Sign up to receive notification of library happenings via the e-newsletter form available in the library or online. The library's hours are as follows: Monday - Thursday, 10-8; Friday, 10-5 and Saturday, 10-4. The library will be closed on Friday, December 24 and Saturday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas holidays.

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Race Brook Students Honor Our Veterans

The students and staff of Race Brook School in Orange gathered to honor veterans during a very special assembly on Wednesday morning, November 10th. The veterans were very impressed with the warm welcoming and excellent attentive behavior of over 400 elementary students during the hour-long assembly. The majority of the attending veterans were relatives and friends of the school's families. The youngest to attend the assembly was 22 and a former graduate of Race Brook School. The oldest veteran was 91 and is having a book published, titled *My War, A Story Which Involves Horror and Humor*, by Tech Sgt. Bob Swrisky. The children sang well-rehearsed songs to pay tribute to the veterans, including the song "Proud of Our Veterans." A vivid and impressive PowerPoint presentation on the allied invasion of Normandy during World War II was narrated by a guest veteran. The children also wrote heartfelt poems of gratitude and handed them out to their guests during the assembly.

The veteran guests were further honored in the classrooms after the assembly where they had the opportunity to share their backgrounds in serving our country and answer questions for students. Many of the veterans shared treasured memorabilia of their service, including medals and scrapbook photos. The veteran guests had the opportunity to continue their conversations in a continental breakfast reception provided by the Student Council and held in the school's library. The guests were very touched by the school's efforts to acknowledge all of the veterans as patriots and heroes who showed courage and strength and made many sacrifices for the freedom of our country. The assembly and the activities afterwards were carefully planned and organized by the directors of the school's Student Council: JoAnne Escandon and Pam Galatioto.



Mary L. Tracy Students Enjoy a Thanksgiving Feast

Students from Mary L. Tracy School enjoyed a true Thanksgiving feast where they dined side by side with their classmates. Here, a few of the students are shown wearing their Native American outfits that were worn during the feast.

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Laurel Estates Calendar



Laurel Estates is located at 245 Indian River Rd, Orange. All events are free and are open to the public. Some require an RSVP. For more information on any of the events below, please contact Briana at 203-795-3117 or visit us online at www.Laurel-Estates.com.

- Wellness Clinic- Every Monday at 1:30pm-2pm- Stop by our Activities Room for a free blood pressure reading and/or weight measurement by one of our Registered Nurses.
- Generations Stitch Club- Every Tuesday from 11am-12pm- Calling all knitters, crocheters, embroiderers and seamstresses of all ages and experience levels, join us for a gathering of good company and fiber fun. Come to learn, come to teach, come to play!
- Bible Study- Every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm- Reverend Rhonda Taylor of the First and Wesley United Methodist Church joins us for a non-denominational discussion exploring 'The Good Book'.
- 10th Annual Festival of Trees- Tuesday, December 14th from 5-7pm
- Join us on December 14th to enjoy music, cocktails, and a display of holiday trees decorated by local businesses for viewing and silent auction. Please RSVP to 203-795-3117. Proceeds benefit the Orange Community Assistance Fund and Saving Orange Residents In Need. We promise a wonderful party!



Fewer Gifts This Year? Give Kids More Love

Parents hard hit by the struggling economy might wonder how to explain to their children why there aren't as many presents under the tree this year. Christy Buchanan, professor of psychology at Wake Forest University, reminds parents that "children, in their heart of hearts, don't want a lot of things from their parents as much as they want love from them and time with them. In the long run, it's love, shared time and quality interactions that they'll remember."

"The problem is we often express love through gifts," says Buchanan, who studies parent-child relationships and teaches courses on effective parent-child relations. "We worry they won't feel loved if we don't provide material things."

She offers a few suggestions for families who are cutting back this holiday season:

- Don't be overly apologetic for what children are not getting. Although it's OK to acknowledge a child's desires or even disappointment, parents should focus on the things for which the child and family can be grateful.- Try to be upbeat and positive. Children are more likely to be positive if the parents are. Focus on the gift of time. Think about what the family can do together that is fun and memorable, and treat it like a gift.- Instead of going shopping, design time around what your kids enjoy and make that special. Make plans to bake cookies and drink hot chocolate, play a favorite board game or shoot baskets at the park.- Try to minimize exposure to commercials and marketing. The more children see, the more they think they want and are more likely to be disappointed.- For younger children who expect Santa to bring lots of presents, small, inexpensive gifts like a ball or a game can be the basis for fun, family time on Christmas Day. Shift the focus to a fun activity and away from items that may be missing from under the tree.- For teenagers, things often become more important. But, teens also are old enough to understand when parents explain that money for expensive items just isn't in the family budget this year. For the items they most want, parents can work with them on a longer-term plan to save for those things.

- At all ages, parents should convey a confidence that things will be OK.
- Parents should not make promises they cannot keep. Be honest with children about what you can or cannot afford.- If a family is having to cut back, a parent can use the opportunity to emphasize that their relationships are the most important thing.

"It comes down to communication," Buchanan says. Parents can look for ways beyond presents to convey their love for their children.

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"Dining with Susan"
By Susan Noonan

Connecticut Food Bank (CFB)

The holidays are upon us and in the season of giving, I felt it only fitting to devote this profile as I have done for the past three years to one of my favorite organizations "Connecticut Food Bank" (CFB). They are a non-profit group whose mission is to alleviate hunger. CFB strives to do this by supplying food products and resources to eligible programs throughout their service area in CT, and by promoting public awareness about the problems of hunger.

"Thanksgiving for All" 2010 was a series of events and food drives hosted & sponsored by individuals, families, civic groups, schools, religious organizations, charitable foundations, business, media, etc. This year CFB collected more than 24,000 turkeys and 360 tons of "trimmings," providing 793,000 meals for people in need of food assistance during the holiday season.



Founded in 1982, CFB is the largest centralized source of donated emergency food in CT. The main warehouse is located in East Haven with branch warehouses in Waterbury & Fairfield, along with distribution sites in New London & Stamford. CFB provides food to 650 food-assistance programs such as soup kitchens, shelters, food pantries and low-income senior and children's programs in 6 of Connecticut's 8 counties. CFB has distributed over 200 million pounds of food over the years.

Many food drives are held throughout the year to benefit CFB. The majority of food donations come from the food industry. They donate products that are wholesome but might have some cosmetic flaw and so will not sell. In this way CFB reduces food waste and is able to feed the needy. CFB is a member of Feeding America, the nation's food bank network. Feeding America is the largest domestic hunger relief charity network, consisting of more than 200 food banks & food rescue organizations. CFB is funded privately, supported by a broad base of individuals, businesses, foundations & community organizations. 94% of financial contributions are directed toward program services.

If your organization would like to learn more about CFB, they offer tours of all 3 warehouses. What a great idea for a class trip (Attention all teachers)! CFB also offers a Speaker's Bureau where you can arrange for a CFB staff member to speak at your organization's meeting or event, free of charge, and has recently introduced Hunger 101, an interactive learning experience for groups to better understand what it means to be food insecure.

Everyone can help fight against hunger. Connecticut saw one of the largest increases in households grappling with hunger in 2009, according to a federal report recently released. Approximately 400,000 people in our state struggled to put food on their tables.

Everyone can help fight against hunger! Donate food, raise funds, volunteer, host friend or neighbors (don't forget our senior population on fixed incomes) who are down on their luck to a meal. Encourage political leaders to be more involved in fighting hunger in our country, support businesses that donate to hunger related efforts, be mindful of waste at home, and last but not least, teach your children to be compassionate to those less fortunate.

Connecticut Food Bank-Main Office
150 Bradley St. East Haven, CT 06512
Phone 203-469-5000 - Fax 203-469-4871
www.ctfoodbank.org

Keep up-to-date about CFB and issues of hunger by following them at www.ctfoodbank.org/blog, www.facebook.com/ctfoodbank or www.twitter.com/ctfoodbank.

Final notes: Please consider a donation to CFB. We can't justify people living with hunger. You don't need a reservation to donate food throughout the year. For every \$30 donated, they can provide enough food to feed a person for a full month.

Happy Holidays to all my loyal readers and I will be back in 2011 visiting new area restaurants along with many longtime favorites. Remember to support our local family owned businesses.

If you have a favorite restaurant e-mail susan@orangetownnews.com.

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Peck Place Troop Collects Food

The scouts of Peck Place Daisy Troop 60183 collected food for the needy. Kim Callahan from Community Services stopped by to pick it up.



Medal of Honor Recipient Speaks at Turkey Hill School

On Wednesday, November 17th, Sammy Davis, a medal of honor recipient spoke to children at Turkey Hill School. The 5th and 6th graders were able to hear his story, take photos, get autographs, and, most amazingly, pass around his medal of honor and hold it in their own hands. (The movie Forest Gump was based on this hero.) There are only 84 medal of honor recipients alive today and only 15 heroes tour the world and share their stories

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Wright's Pond at Sunset.

[Photo submitted by Orange resident Mark Blydenburg.]

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celebrity extra
by cindy elavsky



Laura Prepon

Q: I really miss "Parks and Recreation" -- it is by far my favorite comedy on TV, along with "The Office." When will it return? I can't take much more of "Outsourced."

-- Samuel F., via e-mail
A: You will be happy to hear, as I was, that "Parks and Rec" (as many of us lovingly refer to it) will be back on NBC on Thursday, Jan. 20 at 9:30/8:30c after "The Office," where it belongs. I also was getting a little nervous that the mediocre comedy, "Outsourced," was going to usurp Leslie Knope and company from their rightful spot on must-see Thursday night TV. I am not sure what this means for "Outsourced," but I don't really care. It is difficult for me to get behind a show that makes light of a real problem in America nowadays: high unemployment and jobs being shipped overseas. Aside from that, it just ain't funny!

Q: Last I heard, "V" was coming back to ABC in November, but November came and went, and no "V." Please don't tell me that it has been canceled. After the cancellation of "FlashForward" and "The Gates," I don't think I can take another early cancelation! -- Theresa R., Baltimore

A: Don't you worry, Theresa. "V" will make its highly anticipated season premiere on Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 9/8c. Season two will feature more character and lizard revelations, more details about the V's mythology, as well as even more action and more plot twists. As my favorite new show of the 2009 season, I can't wait to see what develops.

Q: I loved Laura Prepon on "October Road," and was sad when

it went off the air. Can you tell me what else I can see her in? -- Danni J. in Georgia

A: Laura, 30, has been busy since "October Road" was canceled in 2008. She guest-starred on "In Plain Sight," "Medium," "House M.D." and "How I Met Your Mother." In January, Laura plays Natalie Gray, the actress who portrays Nicki Heat in the movie adaptation of **Richard Castle's** best-selling mystery book "Nicki Heat" on ABC's "Castle."

Q: I have loved all of the "Glee" cameos as of late, especially Britney Spears and Gwyneth Paltrow. Now I hear that Anne Hathaway might be on the show? Is that true? -- Denny T., via e-mail

A: While there are no immediate plans for Anne Hathaway to guest-star on the popular Fox musical/comedy, if Anne gets her way, you just might see her walking down the halls of McKinley High. She recently revealed: "In my head, I've cast myself, and I know what song I'm going to sing! I would want to play Kurt's long-lost aunt's mother's sister, who is also gay and comes back to help him deal with his sexuality, and I would sing 'You Are Not Alone' from Steven Sondheim's epic show 'Into the Woods.'"

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com. For more news and extended interviews, visit www.celebrityextraonline.com and twitter.com/Celebrity_Extra.

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Wine Talk

With Ray Spaziani

Holiday Wines



Wines make the holiday season more festive. Wine is the bedrock of the holiday celebrations. Finding the right wines for dinner or a gift works better with planning. This is the perfect time to be creative. With guests coming over, serve them wines that stimulate the imagination and sends a message that the host cares and the wines complement Winter fair.

I cannot imagine a better Holiday wine then good Shiraz and or Sarah wines. Most of the Shiraz is produced in Australia and South Africa. Great Sarah comes from northern Rhone and northern California and southern Washington State. Sarah and Shiraz are basically the same grape grown in different locations and they are produced using different wine making styles. However, the grapes are a deep purple, with hardy tannins that make a big red, full-bodied wine. Both wines are generally oaked. The French tend to be a little more subtle while the South Africans and Australians make a very big, dynamic red. They are both spicy and can be complex. They go great with red meats and winter vegetables.

Another great Holiday Red is a unique red wine from South Africa called Pinotage. This is a cross between Pino Noir which is difficult to grow and Cinsault which is a very hardy grape. (Cinsault in South Africa is called Hermetage. Thus, the Pinotage name from the combination of the two grapes.) Professor A.I.Peroldt is credited with coming up with the combination. It did not become popular for some thirty years! It has now become the trademark grape of South Africa. My favorite is Need-erburg Pinotage. It has a big raspberry nose and a bit of woodiness in the after taste which I find rather interesting.

When thinking in terms of great Holiday white wines, I always think of the first Christmas Eve my wife Deb cooked for our family. My family maintains the tradition of no meat on Christmas Eve. We love the central Italian fish specialties like Angel Hair pasta with red crab sauce. Breaded fish with fedocini Alfredo and specialty breads with unique greens and on and on. I matched those unique foods with some Italian Proseco. This is a fruity sparkling wine which is still one of my favorites. It is a great way to start or end any meal. I then served Santa Margarita Pinot Grigio. This is a light and crisp wine that made Pinot Grigio popular in America. With that wonderful Angel Hair pasta with crab sauce I love Est! Est! Est! This is an upscale Orvieto produced in northern Italy that has become one of my favorites. It is a crisp wine with great fruit and dry after taste. Needless to say the meal was a great success. Deb did a fantastic job with the meal. The wines didn't hurt and have become a tradition in my home ever since on that and many other holiday nights.

I hope this holiday season you can have some close family and friends with some great food and some of these great wine varietals. You will be glad you did! Enjoy the holiday season.

Ray Spaziani is the Chapter Director of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He teaches wine appreciation classes at Gateway Community College and is a member of the International Tasting Panel of Amenti Del Vino and Wine Maker Magazine. He is an award winning home wine maker. Email Ray with your wine questions and wine events at Ray.Spaziani@gmail.com.



Jane Twombly and Tracy Edwards, co chairs stand with the winners, Jeffrey Busk and Chris Saley.

Wine Tasting Held in Milford

The Literacy Center of Milford held its Annual Wine and Food Tasting event on November 12 at Westwoods Ballroom. The "Night at the Moulin Rouge" offered International Wines and Spirits from On the Rocks Spirit Shop and Can Can girls from the New England Ballet Company. The winners of the Appetizer Showdown awarded the Bridge House for Best in Show and Beach House for People's Choice Award.

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Get Ready to Cruise News

By Leslie Marsh



River Cruises

River cruising is a great way to explore some of the world's most fascinating places. It offers a greater variety of destinations than one might encounter on an ocean cruise and gives you the opportunity for in-depth exposure to the culture and history of many regions of the world. River cruising provides travelers a more intimate vacation experience that takes them into small villages and ports of Europe, Egypt, China and Russia.

Destination is the key consideration with river cruises. Some of the world's greatest cities lie along the world's greatest rivers. Most of the cities on these rivers aren't accessible by large ships due to their distance from the ocean ports. In Europe, river cruises sail on rivers such as the Danube, Rhine and Seine and visit a wide variety of places including Paris, Budapest, Nuremberg and Amsterdam. River cruises allow participants to become immersed in Russian culture and history on cruises from St Petersburg to Moscow. In China, a river cruise from Shanghai to Beijing on the Yangtze River provides the opportunity to see amazing sights they may only have seen in books. On a Nile River cruise, passengers will learn about the pharaohs and the pyramids. River cruise vessels dock right in the heart of town, allowing passengers to step off their ship and immediately become immersed in the culture of the city.



The Danube River.

River ships are quite small in comparison to the mega-liners most people are used to. They average about 100 staterooms. The staterooms are spacious, with large picture windows (many floor to ceiling). These ships are actually designed to afford passengers the best views from anywhere on board. Guests enjoy all the amenities they come to expect from a fine hotel including gourmet food (local culinary specialties are standard), regional wines, satellite television and internet access. In addition, the river cruise lines include a guided shore excursion in most ports. All river cruise lines have the highest standards of service with high customer satisfaction rates.

River cruising is, quite simply, the best way to travel through many of the world's most fascinating places. Comfortable and convenient, it offers a greater variety of destinations than you would encounter any other way, providing a vacation experience like no other. Whether you are a seasoned cruiser or a first timer, a river cruise will be an incredible and fulfilling experience creating memories that will last a lifetime!

Leslie Marsh owns Cruise Planners of Orange. You can reach her at 203-799-2367 or email leslie@getreadytocruise.com.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Greg's Auto Body Hosts Toy Drive

Owner Greg Christofakis invites everyone to stop in and see Santa and his Elves on Saturday, December 11, 2010 from 10am to 2pm! Come celebrate the holiday with good music, great food and more! Every child will get to sit on Santa's lap (parents don't forget your camera!) and each child will receive a special holiday goody bag! This will be the fifth year Greg has hosted the toy drive and this year it will be better than ever! Help us donate by bringing in an unwrapped toy so the children of Boy's and Girl's Village and The Beth El Center of Milford can have a happy holiday! Toys can also be dropped off any time during work hours (Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm) from now until December 22nd. So come join us at Greg's Auto Body to celebrate this joyful holiday!

Holly Hill Childcare Collecting Bears For Children's Hospital

In the spirit of giving, Holly Hill Childcare and Learning Center of Orange will be collecting teddy bears to be given to children in Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital during this upcoming holiday season. Anyone interested in donating a brand new teddy bear (or any other stuffed animal - bears preferred) can drop them off at Holly Hill Childcare and Learning Center, 308 Peck Lane. The deadline for drop-off is Tuesday, December, 14th.

This project, known as "TEDDY BEARS WITH LOVE" collected over 10,500 bears last year. Help make a child's holiday a little brighter this year by dropping off a bear! For more information, call Debbie Fedorko at 203-799-6300.

Wood-n-Tap to Award Endowment to Local

Wood-n-Tap is proud to announce the opening of its sixth Connecticut restaurant in Orange, CT on December 13th; the Wood n' Tap as part of its Grand Opening tradition will donate an endowment of \$5,000 to one lucky school in the immediate vicinity of Orange, CT. The new restaurant will be hosting a contest among the local schools that surround Orange in order to find the beneficiary of its Opening Night Fundraiser; the winning school will receive a minimum of \$5,000 for their school.

All schools surrounding Orange have been pre-registered and information for the contest can be found online at www.WoodnTap.com/schools. The school with the most votes wins a minimum of \$5,000. Voting begins on November 16th and ends on December 6th. The winning school will be announced on December 8th. Friends, family, faculty and community members are encouraged to vote daily for their school.

The Opening Night Fundraiser takes place at the Wood-n-Tap on Saturday, December 11th with 100% of the proceeds going to the winning school. Friends, family, vendors and participants of the contest are cordially invited to attend. Tickets can be purchased online for a donation of \$25.00 at www.HartfordRestaurantGroup.com while supplies last.

The grand prize of at least \$5,000 will be awarded to the winning school at the official Opening Day of Wood-n-Tap on Monday, December 13th.

Tax Center Offers Free Picture with Santa & Food Drive

On Saturday, December 11th from Noon-3pm, Roni Deutch Tax Center of Orange, located at 501 Boston Post Road, will be offering free pictures with Santa with a donation of any canned good during the month of December. Each adult will receive a 25-percent discount off their 2010 tax preparation at Roni Deutch Tax Center and will be entered into a raffle to win a free federal tax return prepared by Roni Deutch Tax Center. Along with the free picture with Santa each child will receive a small token of appreciation. All food donated will go to the Connecticut Food Bank. If you have any questions please call 203-889-4979 or e-mail email.orange@rdtc.com.

The Orange Chamber of Commerce
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrate the Holiday Season with the Orange Chamber of Commerce

Thursday, December 16th
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Orange Fence & Supply Co. is the site for this year's Orange Chamber Holiday Party. The party will be "A Taste of the Chamber" with food provided by Chamber members Bear & Grill II, Outback Steak House, Peking Duck, Racebrook Market, and Reno's Pizzeria. There also will be liquid refreshments, music, and raffles. Tickets are \$20/person and are available from the Chamber Office 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, contact Mary at 203-795-3328 or by e-mail to mary@orangectchamber.com.

ARTS AND LEISURE

THEATER REVIEW

“Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown”

at the Belasco Theatre

by Zander Opper

It would be nice to report that “Woman on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown,” the just recently opened, much-maligned Broadway musical based on the hilarious 1988 Pedro Almodovar film, is a good deal better than the New York critics would lead you to believe. Unfortunately, except for a couple of pleasurable elements, the show is truthfully something of a mess, very pretty and colorful, but too scattershot and not terribly interesting. On paper, this show looked like a sure thing: a stellar cast led by Patti LuPone and Brian Stokes Mitchell; an award-winning director and design team; and written by composer David Yazbek, who did wonderful work on the musicals, “The Full Monty” and “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.” One of the things about Broadway musicals, however, is that sometimes things just don’t gel, no matter how talented the people involved. And while the musical is not hard to sit through, “Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown” must rank as a missed opportunity with only brief moments suggesting the effortless giddiness that the film version had in spades.



Zander Opper

Perhaps the biggest disappointment of the show surrounds the leading lady, Sherie Rene Scott. A distinctive and fabulous talent with one of the best voices on Broadway, “Women on the Verge” appeared to be the show that would at last give her that big, breakout role that she has long deserved. Alas, despite her best efforts, Scott just doesn’t connect with her character’s material and, instead of commanding the show, she often slips into the background without even one outstanding song to elicit the kind of applause that she has invariably won in the past. To make this unfortunate situation even more surprising is that composer David Yazbek has written for Scott’s sensational singing voice before (to triumphant effect), so the fault here may lie more with the material than with the actress’ performance itself. And, speaking of composer Yazbek, his work here, while catchy, is splintered and truly all over the place, making the score sound like too much and not enough at the same time. (To be fair, the songs may sound better on the CD, which is sure to be recorded considering the talent involved.)

Getting to those elements that shine in “Women on the Verge,” they can be summed up in the names Laura Benanti and Patti LuPone. Playing a model who may or may not be involved with a terrorist, Benanti is hilarious, looks terrific and is sensational in her breathless Act I number, “Model Behavior.” As for LuPone, she makes a great deal out of a supporting role, commanding the stage like the star she is and provides the closest thing to a showstopper in her one solo, called “Invisible,” in which she is truly a knockout. And it must be said that the show looks very pretty with the ladies in stunning costume designs, but this musical is a big comedown for director Bartlett Sher and his designers, who triumphed with both “The Light in the Piazza” and the Tony-winning “South Pacific” revival.

In “Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown,” the men are pretty much secondary to the story, despite the best efforts of Brian Stokes Mitchell (who, at least, sounds great with not much to work with) and Danny Burstein, as a cabdriver/narrator of sorts who, in the opening number, “Madrid,” makes the show seem like it is going to be a lot of fun. But, as noted, things go deeply awry, and no amount of performers and set pieces constantly moving busily across the stage can disguise the fact that this musical just doesn’t work. “Women on the Verge” is, at least, better than the last tenant I saw at the Belasco Theatre—the tortuous “Passing Strange”—and Patti LuPone is great, but, in the final analysis, you may be better off just renting the movie. Tickets can be ordered by calling Telecharge at (212) 239-6200 or by going to www.lct.org. For questions or comments, please contact me at zander5678@hotmail.com.

Orange Residents on Center Stage

Orange residents Bob Drobish and Tom George will all appear in Center Stage’s upcoming production of *Miracle on 34th Street*. Drobish will play R. H. Macy and George will play Judge Harper. *Miracle on 34th Street*, directed by Gary Scarpa, opened at Center Stage in Shelton. Now in its sixth season, Center Stage is a successful, non-profit theatre.

Miracle on 34th Street is the classic family favorite that puts the spirit of Christmas on trial. When the real Kris Kringle gets a job playing Santa at Macy’s department store, he sets out to teach one little girl that yes, there really is a Santa Claus, and ends up restoring a whole city’s belief in the magic of the Christmas season. The classic holiday film is brought to life on the stage with great warmth, charm, and humor. Scarpa described the play as “A heartwarming show for the entire family!”

The film featured Edmund Gwenn as Kris Kringle, Natalie Wood as Susan Walker, Maureen O’Hara as Doris Walker, and John Payne as Fred Gailey, the lawyer who defends Santa Claus. The Center Stage production will feature Jim Lones of Seymour, Peyton Iott of Seymour, Sarah Cameron Nizzardo of Monroe, Orange 5th grader, Emily Kilian, and Steve Scarpa of New Haven in the leading roles. *Miracle on 34th Street* plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. from December 3rd through December 18th with 2:00 p.m. matinees on December 12th, and 19th. Admission is \$ 25.00. Call 203-225-6079 for reservations. Visit www.centerstageshelton.com for further information about Center Stage.

Lucibello To Appear in “A Christmas Carol”

Richie Lucibello will be performing at Pace’s 725+ seat Schimmel Theater, known worldwide as the place where James Lipton tapes “Inside the Actors Studio.” Recent guests interviewed by Lipton and gracing the same New York City stage as where Richie will perform are actors Bradley Cooper and James Franco. Pace University’s Original Staged Adaptation of Dickens’ Timeless Classic “A Christmas Carol” is Filled with Music, Dance, Larger than Life Puppets and Holiday Spirit.

Pace University and the Department of Performing Arts take you on a fantastical journey with the timeless holiday classic *A Christmas Carol*, based on the novel by Charles Dickens. Enter the world of Ebenezer Scrooge as he is confronted by larger than life puppets who teach him the value of the holiday spirit and the importance of family and kindness to others. The most famous holiday story ever told is alive at Pace University, filled with choreography by Rhonda Miller, music by Scott O’Brien and many surprises. The production is as vibrant as it is haunting in this new adaptation by Grant Kretchik. Adults and children alike are sure to find something fresh in this inventive and festive holiday production, on top of being an affordable way to celebrate the holiday season in New York City.

Performances will be held December 8-12, 2010. The performance schedule is as follows: Wednesday-Saturday at 8pm; Saturday at 2:00PM; Sunday at 1:00PM and 7:00PM. Tickets are general admission and priced at Students/Seniors \$8 Adults \$12. To reserve your seat by email, go to theater@pace.edu. For directions to Pace’s NYC Campus, visit <http://www.pace.edu/pace/about-us/all-about-pace/directions-to-all-campus/new-york-city-campus>.

Best Selling Children’s Author to Appear

ARTIFAX, 17 River Street in Milford Center, will host the launch of West Haven award-winning illustrator, Linda Wingerter’s latest, charmingly illustrated book entitled “The Chiru of High Tibet”, written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) on Saturday, December 11th at 3 p.m. in the afternoon. This book has just been chosen as one of the best children’s books of 2010 by Kirkus Reviews.

The book introduces us to the “Tibetan Chiru” - an animal with a very precious secret. Linda will be signing this delightfully illustrated book (priced at \$17) age group 6-11, which would make a very wonderful holiday gift for young readers. Refreshments will be served. Info call Anne at 203-878-2131.

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Profile – New England Ballet Company

Bringing Children to the Arts and the Arts to the Children

By Laura Fantarella – Orange Town News Correspondent

If you enjoy the beauty and elegance of a professional ballet performance, you need look no further than your own backyard. For nearly two decades, the New England Ballet Company dancers have been wowing local audiences with their sophisticated and professional productions.

The ballet company is an offshoot of the New England Ballet School, which offers a host of dance classes for ages ranging from three-year-olds to adults. But for dancers who hope to one day become ballerinas and professional dancers, the Company may help make dreams come true. It is in the Company that young dance-hopefuls receive classical training from well known names in the dance world, rehearse and train for hours on end, and perform in elaborate ballet productions.

"I think the perception is that the New England Ballet is a little dance studio where children take dance lessons," said co-owner and Founder Kenneth Hopkins. "But we are so much bigger than that." For starters, Hopkins is a retired professional ballet dancer, having performed for over 30 years with Ballet Florida, National Ballet of Venezuela and New England Ballet Company. He has a network of friends and associates with credentials that include performing with American Ballet Theater, Houston & Boston Ballet, Ballet Grande Diva and even in the TV hit show, "So You Think You Can Dance," who bring their expertise to the studio. "I often call upon friends to teach master classes at the studio and who sometimes make guest appearances in our productions." The company's own choreographer, Victor Trevio and costume designer, Thom Peterson, are well known names in dance circles and help make the NEBC productions elaborate and professional. Co-owner and Co-Artistic Director Karen Goodman has an impressive resume as an actress, singer and dancer, performing in Broadway and off-Broadway plays and travelling the world as a dancer and choreographer aboard various major cruise lines. She was in the national tour company of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" with Stella Parton and in "Pippin" with Ben Vereen.

NEBC is perhaps best known locally for its annual rendition of the holiday classic, "The Nutcracker," which they perform at the Parsons Government Center in Milford. This year is the 19th anniversary of the performance. According to Hopkins, each year the audience is captivated by the show. "The response I always get is 'WOW'" he said. The Company starts rehearsing for the production in August and even holds auditions for children in the community to participate. Each year they present the full-length ballet to the entire Milford fourth grade free of charge. The Company can also bring the shortened version of the "Nutcracker" and "Peter and the Wolf" ballet on the road to local venues and schools. "They've even been invited to perform at out of state venues that include the Bronx Zoo and the NY Botanical Gardens," Hopkins said.

Unlike other local dance schools and companies, the NEBC has a strong commitment to hosting volunteers programs designed to introduce children to dance and the arts... Our mission statement is "Bringing Children to the Arts and Arts to the Children," Hopkins said Hopkins takes that mission very seriously. He and his dancers are actively involved in Action for Bridgeport Community Development Inc., (ABCD), a federally funded non-profit anti-poverty agency. As part of the program, the NEBC performs several short ballet performances and teaches dance classes for pre-school students. Hopkins believes he gets as much from the experience as the kids. "For many of the children it is the first time they are exposed to a live performance," Hopkins said. "You can see the awe in their faces. It is so quiet you can hear a pin drop. When it is over they are cheering, clapping and screaming. It is very, very rewarding." The company is also collaborating for the first time with the Milford Recreation Department's Adaptive Dance Program, integrating special needs children into The Nutcracker Suite for a special performance

to be held Friday, December 17th at the Parsons Government Center in Milford.

In a discipline that is notoriously strict, Hopkins mentors his dancers with love. For the man who always wanted children but never had any of his own, he has been a father figure to hundreds. In the past 23 years he has "raised" a generation of dancers that started as children and stayed with the company into adulthood. "One of my dancers was proposed to on stage!" he said. "I am realizing how quickly the years are going." He also speaks with pride of the ones who have gone on to dance with professional troupes, star in Hollywood film and perform on "So You Think You Can Dance" and who continue to keep in touch via facebook, e-mail, letter and phone. "One alum sent me a letter years after she left the company saying how 10 years later she is realizing just how great her experience in the company was," Hopkins said.

According to NEBC Board of Director members Marion Clare and Diana Zitnay, the NEBC is a "very special place." Both women have daughters who were once in the company. "This is not a 'cut-throat' company. It is a nice, healthy environment with a close-knit group of dancers," Zitnay said. "The dancers had performance opportunities they wouldn't get elsewhere." Zitnay's daughter is now a principal dancer with the Avodah Dance Ensemble and Clare's daughter is dancing at Roger Williams College.

Hopkins has a plethora of special events planned for the coming year to celebrate the company's 20th anniversary of the Nutcracker production in 2011. He is proud to unveil a special cookbook "Mother Ginger's Nutcracker Sweets" featuring current and past dancers' in full Nutcracker costuming displaying recipes and photos of their favorite dessert recipes. He is planning to have a series of master classes and a new summer intensive program featuring big-time ballet dancers. And he'd like to spread the word that the New England Ballet is the best-kept secret in Orange.

The New England Ballet Company's production of "The Nutcracker" will be held Saturday, noon & 4pm December 18th and 1 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Parsons Government Center, Milford. Tickets are \$20-\$45 and can be obtained by calling 203-799-7950 or visiting www.newenglandballet.org.



New England Ballet professional dancers Royse Maiocco and Chris DeNofrio will perform December 18th & 19th in the the Company's annual production of "The Nutcracker," at the Parson's Complex in Milford. [Photos courtesy of Kenneth Hopkins.]

How "The Nutcracker" Became a Christmas Tradition

Each holiday season, many families attend the only ballet they'll see all year: "The Nutcracker." But how did "The Nutcracker" become such a popular tradition? And where, exactly, did it come from?

The story itself is quite old, and the one we see onstage isn't even the original but a popular adaptation by the French author Alexandre Dumas, best known for writing "The Three Musketeers." Once the story made the leap from page to stage, though, history was in the making. Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky composed "The Nutcracker" as his final and least satisfying ballet, taking on the project with a marked lack of enthusiasm. So it is ironic that it would become one of the most beloved Christmas traditions of the 20th century.

The ballet premiered in Tchaikovsky's native Russia in 1892, but "The Nutcracker" didn't exactly make an instantaneous mark in the annals of American Christmas tradition. In fact, it wasn't until 1944 that an American ballet company decided to perform the entire ballet. That year, the San Francisco Ballet took on the task, performing the ballet as an annual tradition.

It was George Balanchine who really sent "The Nutcracker" on to popular fame. In 1954 he choreographed the ballet for a New York company, and not a year has passed since when the ballet hasn't been performed in New York City.

Balanchine was the first to have the roll of Clara danced by a child, necessitating a much simpler choreography. By the late 1960s, other ballet companies across North America had jumped on the bandwagon, enthusiastically performing "The Nutcracker" to a receptive annual audience. Today, many cities have a production of "The Nutcracker." It has even become a tradition on TV. Ovation, the art and contemporary culture channel, hosts an annual "Battle of the Nutcrackers" every December. For a week, the network runs various productions of the ballet -- both traditional and modern interpretations -- and asks viewers to vote online for their favorite. The ballet with the most votes is revealed on Christmas Eve and a marathon of all the ballets runs Christmas Day. Whether you go to the theater or enjoy the performance from the comfort of your own home, "The Nutcracker" is a Christmas tradition the whole family can enjoy.

From the Town of Orange Highway Department



Snowplows Vs. Mailbox

The Town of Orange Highway Department would like to remind homeowners of the town's mailbox policy.

The Highway Department does not replace mailboxes or posts. If the slush from the snowplows knocks off a mailbox or breaks a post, the homeowner is responsible. Only if the Highway Department initiates contact with the homeowner will the post be repaired or the box replaced. Slush and snow thrown from the plows is unavoidable. It is up to the homeowner to take preventative steps to protect their mailbox.

The Highway Department suggests you do not use plastic mailboxes or posts. The plastic cannot withstand frigid cold temperatures. When slush or snow impacts cold plastic the plastic will shatter. We suggest using a good 4 x 4 wooden post or 2" pipe with a metal box. This combination seems to be most durable.

Snow Plowing Policy

There are over 110 miles of streets in the Town of Orange. Snow removal can cost up to \$2,500.00 per hour. Therefore, it is important for the Department of Public Works to use its resources wisely with cooperation from the residents to minimize the cost.

Plow Routes: The streets are plowed and sanded in order of priority. Main (collector) roads are addressed first with special attention to steep hills and difficult intersections. Side streets are done next, then dead-end streets. Side streets will remain unplowed if the main roads require repeat plowing due to heavy volume of snowfall. This may not seem fair to the residents of side streets or dead-ends. However, the main roads must remain open.

Blocked Driveways: All snow plows angle the same way; to the driver's right. While plowing, the plow will push the snow in front of a residential driveway. The homeowner is responsible for access to his/her driveway. The only way to avoid additional snow removal is to wait until DPW work crews have completed their final clean up of your road.

Mailbox Damage: The town repairs or replaces only those mailboxes and/or posts that are actually struck by the plow blade. Usually, a paint mark or tire tracks provide evidence of a mailbox strike. The Town does not repair or replace mailboxes and/or posts that fall from the force of plowed snow. Mailboxes and supporting posts must be installed to withstand the rigors of snow removal; including the force of snow pushed from the street onto the roadside. It is recommended that homeowners do not purchase and utilize plastic mailboxes and/or posts as they are subject to damage. DPW recommends the use of a 4" x 4" wooden post or 2" metal pipe with a metal mailbox.

Private Plowing: The Town of Orange prohibits private plow contractors from pushing snow from private driveways or parking lots onto Town streets. This practice is dangerous and impedes the Town's snow removal efforts. If there is no other alternative to pushing the snow into the street, the plow driver must plow off the windrow left across the street by re-plowing until the road is safe. This may not necessarily mean bare pavement, but certainly it should be no worse than when the driver began work.

No Parking: The Town of Orange Snow Removal Ordinance takes effect on November 1 of each year and continues to April 1 of the following year. During this time, there shall be no parking on public roads during snowstorms. Should your vehicle be parked on the street causing an obstruction to snow removal vehicles, your vehicle may be ticketed or removed by the Town of Orange Police Department. The cost of removal and any other subsequent fees shall be borne upon the owner of the vehicle.

Snow Stakes: The Town of Orange Highway Department reminds Orange residents to install "snow stakes" now before the ground freezes. It is difficult to distinguish between the pavement edge and the edge of a lawn in heavy snowfall. Installing stakes along property edges as close to pavement as possible without interfering with traffic will help homeowners avoid unsightly lawn damage this winter, especially for properties with underground sprinklers or invisible fencing. Snow stakes should be 30-36" high and can be purchased at a local hardware store. If using wooden stakes, paint the top 3" of the stakes red to increase visibility against snow. Residents who feel they have a legitimate complaint should call the Town of Orange Department of Public Works at (203) 891-4775.

Orange CERT Offers Winter Safety Tips

The weather has changed. We can feel it getting colder every day. No doubt about it, winter is on its way and it does not come alone. It brings winter storms to our doors making us all want to hop back into bed, pull the covers up to our ears and wait them out. While we would like to do that, it's not a realistic option. The Orange Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) would like you and your family to follow these simple steps to help you through the winter storms safely.

Before the storm, assemble a disaster supply kit and keep it in a weather-proof container in an easy to reach location. Each kit should contain the basics such as: first aid supplies and essential medications, battery operated radio, flashlights and extra batteries, canned food with can opener, bottled water (1 gallon per person, per day for at least 3 days). For a full list of supplies for your kit, please visit, www.ready.gov.



Winterize your home. Insulate your pipes and allow faucets to drip a little to avoid freezing. Learn how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts. Have a sufficient supply of heating fuel and/or store a good supply of seasoned, dry wood for your fireplace and wood-stove. Be sure to have your furnace, wood-stove and chimney professionally cleaned and maintained each year. NEVER RUN OR USE A PORTABLE GENERATOR INSIDE YOUR HOME as it will cause a build-up of carbon monoxide which is an odorless, colorless and tasteless deadly gas. Generators must remain outside the home, away from windows, vents and doors.

Install and maintain working smoke detectors in your home. One in every sleeping area and on every level of your home including the basement. Also install at least one Carbon Monoxide detector on each level of your home.

Think of your neighbors during a storm also. Know ahead of time what you can do to help elderly or disabled friends and family. Winterize your car, making sure you have sufficient fuel and anti-freeze and your brakes and exhaust system are in good condition. If you must travel by car during or after a storm, stay informed of weather and road conditions and drive very slowly and carefully. It's also a very good idea to let someone know your destination, route and expected arrival time.

When a storm hits, staying indoors is best of course. This is where the idea of pulling your warm blanket up to your ears is inviting. If you must go outside, take care of yourself. Wear several layers of lightweight clothing, gloves/mittens and a hat to prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from the cold, dry air. Remember to walk carefully and be aware of snowy, icy sidewalks and pavement.

If you must shovel snow, be extremely careful, as it's a very strenuous activity. Take frequent breaks to avoid overexertion and drink fluids to prevent dehydration.

Winter storms are never welcome or enjoyable. Being prepared and following a few simple guidelines and practices will help all of us get through the storms safely and a little easier. Orange CERT is always ready to assist the community when help is needed, anytime, anywhere. For more information on winter storm safety, visit: www.fema.gov.

Snow Removal Ordinance in Effect

The Orange Highway Department would like to remind residents the no parking "Snow Removal Ordinance" is now in effect and will remain in effect until April 1, 2011.

The "Unlawful To Park" is listed under Section 2 of the "Snow Removal Ordinance" and reads as follows: "It shall be unlawful at any time during the period between November 1st and April 1st for anyone to park, or allow to be parked, any vehicle in any street or highway of the Town of Orange in such a way as to hamper and interfere with the work of removing or plowing of snow or the removing or sending of ice from or on such street or highway." The ordinance also authorizes the police to tag and remove, at the owner's expense, any vehicle parked, or allowed to be parked in the street.

The Orange Highway Department is seeking the cooperation of all motor vehicle owners in keeping their vehicles parked off of the roadway during winter storms and when storms are forecasted to begin during the night. Residents who have a particular problem with off-street parking should seek the advice of the Police Department and not disregard the provisions of the Snow Removal Ordinance.

HISTORY CORNER

With Ginny Reinhard

And Visions of Sugar Plums ...

Bah Humbug! The 1823 poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" was anonymously written but later acknowledged to be authored by Clement Moore with wonderful descriptions of family and cherished memories and thoughts of Christmas. Initially, it was written to calm the pervasive anger associated with Christmas which had its origin in the 17th century.

In New England, for the first two centuries of colonial settlement, most people did not celebrate Christmas. It was suppressed by the Puritans and later ignored by their descendants. Between 1659 and 1681, it was illegal to celebrate Christmas and to do so resulted in a fine of 5 shillings with it being a criminal offense. Some might say that today's marketing and "Black Friday" hype to be a criminal offense...but I digress.



The Puritans had what they thought to be a logical reason for not celebrating the day of Christ's birth as they argued that nowhere in the Bible is the exact date or season and in reading the account of the Nativity in the Gospel of Luke we learn of the birth and the angel and shepherds, but the weather was much too cold for the shepherds to be watching their flocks and living outdoors in late December.

The Puritans had another reason for suppressing Christmas and our "vision" of what was is not of sugar plums but of rowdy, public displays of excessive eating and drinking, mockery of authority and aggressive begging involving a threat of bodily harm! It may seem odd that Christmas was celebrated in this way but there was good reason. In northern agricultural societies, December marked the end of the growing season and the slaughtering of animals for food for the winter. It is not a coincidence that freshly fermented beer and wine was also available. To some of us, the "season" of Christmas, which used to begin the day after Thanksgiving, now starts before Halloween and is offensive but we are not the only culture that has embraced the "season" of Christmas rather than a single day.

Most cultures have long marked the season with rituals involving light and greenery to help them plow through the dark days of December and the return of the sun and light to some, life itself. For those of us that "feast" at this time, need to reflect on the years between 1500 and 1800 in Europe when meat was not plentiful until December when the meat would not spoil easily. The salting of the meat, to preserve it, was hardly a substitute for the fresh. Excess took on many forms. Reveling could easily become rowdiness and with the aid of alcohol, making merry edged toward making trouble. It had become the "season" of misrule and it was not uncommon to blacken their faces and disguise themselves as animals or cross-dressing for anonymity.

Christmas Carols, endeared by modern celebrants became a disgrace since it was generally done in the midst of the rioting. Charity did find its way into the mayhem but it had a twist where the poor demanded that their wealthier neighbors treat them as if THEY were the wealthy and powerful. The Lord of the Manor let the peasants in and feasted them and in return, the peasants offered their "goodwill." This "goodwill" often included the performance of songs, drinking songs with various names, one of which has followed through the centuries. Wassailing. Wassailers, roving bands of youthful males toasted the patron's well being while drinking the beer he had provided but the song possessed an aggressive edge, often an explicit threat of dire consequences. Still other groups demanded Pear wine with the consequences being veiled in song.

This kind of trick or treat ritual is largely nonexistent today but an article

appearing in Money magazine in 1991 entitled "Tip Defensively at Christmas" encouraged the readers to show people who worked for them or who provided an outside service that they appreciated their good service but in translation it says if you don't, you'll suffer the consequences perhaps for the next 354 days! A word to the wise....tip most generously those who can do you the most damage.

Eventually New England's "war" on Christmas began to subside and more and more churches revised their philosophy with some shops and businesses closing for the day while others closed their shutters but carried on business behind the unlocked door. Religion failed to transform Christmas from a season of misrule to quieter pleasure but when it did take place, it was not at the hands of Christianity but a one faith that began to sweep over the American society, the religion of domesticity that would be represented by none other than St. Nicholas.

It was this new feeling of hearth and home, sugar plums and being snug in your bed that Clement Moore penned his poem of the "little old driver, so lively and quick." It appears that St. Nicholas was the first mortal to be thought of as the bringer of gifts. In the late 4th century he was the Bishop of Myra in Turkey having proven his kindness with 3 bags of gold that he gave to a poor man who was about to sell his 3 daughters into slavery. Nicholas became the patron saint of merchants and to this day the symbol of a pawnshop, a financial establishment, is 3 balls painted gold. The Protestants wanting to discourage the devotion to Catholic saints suggested that the gifts came from the Christ child, in Germany, Christ Kindel, in France Pere Noel, Sinter Klaus in Holland, in England Father Christmas and Father Frost in Russia.

In 1842, a popular children's book featured illustrations of a stout, bearded gift giving character referred to as Kris Kringle and we often see Thomas Nast's drawings used in today's advertising. It was Nast that standardized the various images of St Nicholas into a chubby, smiling figure and later his red suit with white fur trim. Christmas a cherished holiday for some and a figure in history for others but I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Ginny Reinhard is president of the Orange Historical Society.



Thomas Nast's illustration of "Santa" as seen in "Harper's Weekly" in 1863.

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LOCAL SPORTS



Amity Alumni Committee Seeking Nominations

Amity Regional High School Athletic Alumni Hall of Fame committee is seeking nominees. To qualify one must have graduated from Amity, played a varsity sport and have been out of school at least ten years (includes 2000). Also eligible are Amity coaches and supporters of Amity Athletes.

To obtain an application you can contact the Amity High Athletic Office at (203) 397-4830 or by visiting the website www.amityregion5.org. All submittals should be sent to Amity Regional High School, 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525-1521, Attention Paul Mengold, AD.



Master Chris Sansonetti and Gunnar Poulimas.

Orange Rec Student Wins Karate Tournament Trophies

Gunnar Poulimas placed 3rd in forms and 4th in breaking at the Federation Challenge Tournament in Waterbury on November 14, 2010. Gunnar is a student from the Orange Recreation Superior Karate Program. Master Chris Sansonetti congratulates Gunnar on this much deserved achievement.



Schmitt Competes in Tae Kwon Do Championship

Matthew Schmitt has been taking Tae Kwon Do since he was six years old at World Champion. He recently competed in the 12th Annual Tae Kwon Do Championship and under the leadership of Master Jang won two gold medals in Form and Breaking Techniques as well as a first place finish in Jumping Side Kick and second place finish with his Demo Team. Tae Kwon Do has instilled confidence and the ability to be mentally tough in Matthew. Master Jang along with so many other Masters have been a tremendously powerful and positive influence on him over the years.

Orange Park and Recreation

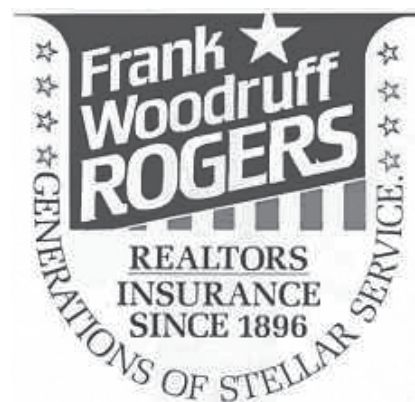
There will be a number of land-based preschool, youth and adult programs being held this winter. Registration for all land-based programs for residents will begin on Monday, December 6th and registration for non-residents will begin on Monday, December 13th.

The next session of swim lessons will run from Monday, January 3rd through Sunday, February 13th. Registration for residents currently enrolled begins Monday, December 6th and residents not enrolled, begins Wednesday, December 8th. Registration for non-residents currently enrolled begins Monday, December 13th and open registration begins Tuesday, December 14th.

Performing Arts Programs, Inc., a provider of performing arts instruction, has hit your area! We work in association with the Park and Recreation Department to sponsor new and exciting creative programs this season. Some of the programs we offer are acting classes, hip hop jazz dance classes and private lessons in acting, musical theater, singing and audition preparation. Our goal is to offer the community fun, highly-charged performing arts instruction for children 6-14 years old. We are now taking registrations for fall programs in your area. So what are you waiting for? Come express yourselves, build confidence, and make new friends! It makes a great holiday gift. You can register by calling 860.432.9890 or by visiting our website at www.performingartsprograms.biz to find a program near you! Receive a discount when you register directly with Performing Arts Programs over the phone or online by entering coupon code PAPCLASS at checkout! Sign-up now and "Unleash Your Child's Creativity!"

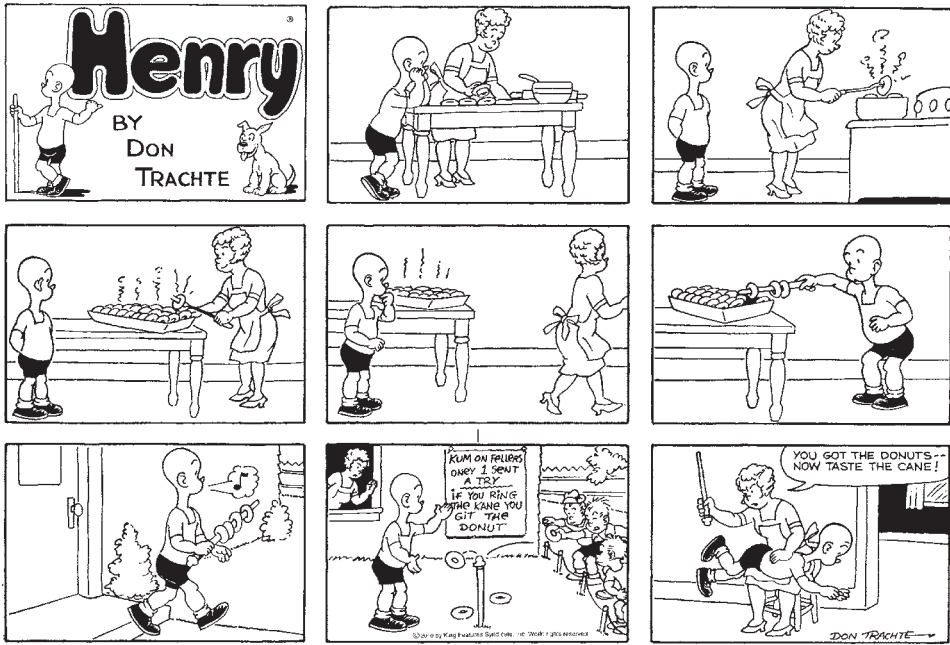
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COMICS / CROSSWORD / HOLLYWOOD



HOLLYWOOD

By Tony Rizzo



Jack Nicholson

Three-time Oscar winner Jack Nicholson was so disappointed by his last film, "The Bucket List," directed by Rob Reiner and co-starring Morgan Freeman, that he's been reading dozens of scripts looking for the right film to return to your multiplex. Well, the wait is over. A full three years later, Jack's good-luck charm, James L. Brooks, creator of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "Rhoda" and many others, created a role for him in "How Do You Know?," a romantic comedy with Paul Rudd, Reese Witherspoon and Owen Wilson. It was a supporting role in "Terms of Endearment" (1983), directed by Brooks, that won Jack a second Oscar (his first was best actor for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"). His third Oscar for "As Good As It Gets" (1997) also was directed by Brooks. "How Do You Know?" will be released Dec. 17.

spend more time with his family, and he's keeping his word. He'll star in "Imagine," about the son of a rocker who changes his life after finding a letter to him from Beatle John Lennon. "Imagine" was the title of a big hit John Lennon song. Carell is one of the few TV stars to successfully transfer from the small screen to the big screen.

Get ready for the next Michael Jackson invasion. Epic Records will release his first album of never-before-released recordings, "Michael," on Dec. 14, just in time for last-minute Christmas shopping. In addition, Cirque Du Soleil is mounting its tribute to the late singer with "Michael Jackson the Immortal World Tour." When Michael wasn't touring, he was recording songs, and he recorded enough unpublished songs to easily fill 20 CDs.

Ryan Kwantan, an Australian native who does a great American accent, is shooting the film "Zebras" in South Africa during his break from HBO's "True Blood." He plays a music producer who discovers talented young soccer players in the South African ghettos and forms a team of black and white players -- thus the title "Zebras"!

I don't know when Johnny Depp will find the time to film all the projects he's announced, but in addition to the proposed "Thin Man" update and a "Wizard of Oz" reboot with Tim Burton, he now says he will remake the classic ABC soap "Dark Shadows" (my guess playing vampire Barnabus Collins), again with his buddy Tim Burton. Does Depp ever intend to do an original script, or will he just remake everything in our film library?

"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Trader," the fifth book in the series and the third movie, is a film that almost didn't get made. Producers had a hard time raising money in these tough economic times, but they did, and it will be released Dec. 10. Ben Barnes returns as Prince Caspian, and the gang take a voyage searching for seven lost warriors, encountering dragons, dwarves and merfolk (mermen and mermaids) along the way.

Steve Carell says he's leaving "The Office" to make movies and

Send letters to Tony Rizzo's Hollywood, 8306 Wilshire Blvd., No. 362, Beverly Hills, CA 90211.

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



King Crossword

ACROSS

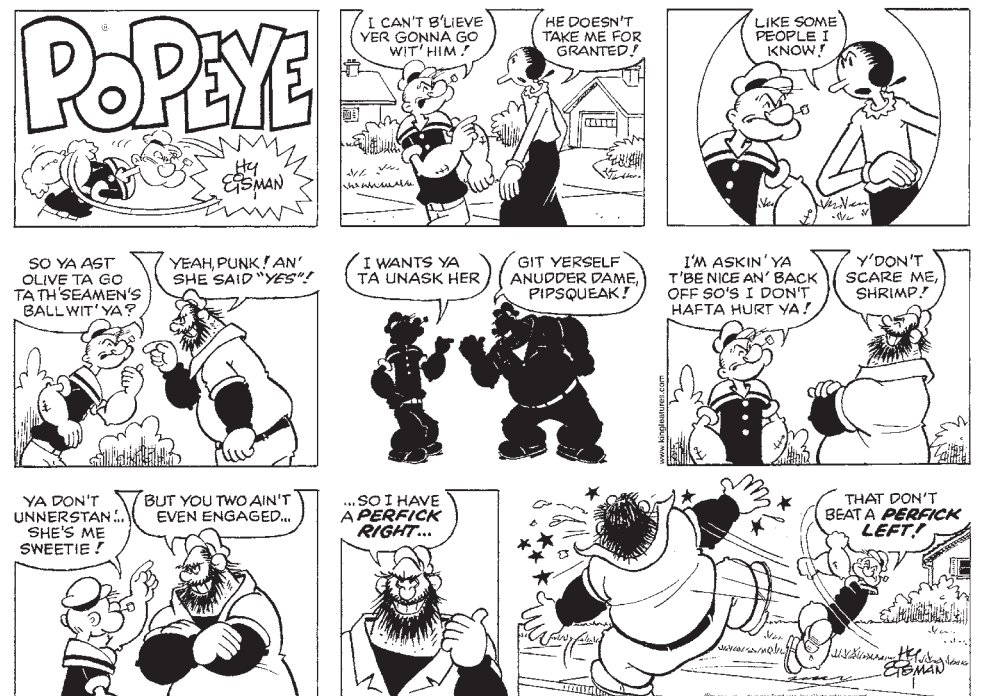
- 1 Urban sunning sites
- 6 Eisenhower
- 9 In olden days
- 12 Farther down the page
- 13 See 8-Down
- 14 High-arc shot
- 15 Postpone
- 16 Slogan
- 18 Entice
- 20 — out (supplements)
- 21 Hawaiian garland
- 23 Smack
- 24 Cubic meter
- 25 " — It

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55				56				57			

- 27 Romantic?"
- 27 Athletes
- 29 Buffet-table heater
- 31 Out of reach, maybe
- 35 Prevention measure
- 37 Leak slowly
- 38 Offspring
- 41 Exist
- 43 Gratuity
- 44 Ocean motion
- 45 Backbone-related
- 47 Recommended safety limit
- 49 Hotel accommod-
- 21 ation
- 52 Lemieux milieu
- 53 Rowing need
- 54 Of an armbone
- 55 Apiece
- 56 Boom times
- 57 Plant swelling
- 8 With 13
- 9 Christmas quaff
- 9 Similar
- 10 Lost cause
- 11 Not just pudgy
- 17 Releases
- 19 Mustard variety
- 21 Fleur-de- —
- 22 Superlative ending
- 24 Schuss
- 26 Bricklayer's tool
- 28 "SNL" alumna Oteri
- 30 Sister
- 32 Phone to the
- 33 president
- 33 Submachine gun type
- 34 Energy
- 36 Pickled buds used as a garnish
- 38 Disrobe
- 39 Fragment
- 40 Rattlesnake's cousin
- 42 Follow
- 45 Child's play
- 46 " — Lang Syne"
- 48 Chit
- 50 Scot's topper
- 51 Mound stat

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King Crossword Answers on Page 32




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Year End Check List

By Roberta L. Nestor

With the holidays upon us it is easy to lose focus of 2010 and all that has happened (or not) with the financial markets. While the year is not quite over, I think it's safe to say that 2010 was calm compared to the roller coaster rides of 2008 and 2009. Somehow financial planning seems to have somewhat faded into the background now that it isn't the highlight of every newscast. So, while it may have been a dull year, there are important end of year items you should be aware of before you close the 2010 calendar. It's not too late to:

- Convert your traditional IRA into a Roth. You can convert your traditional IRA funds into a Roth at anytime now or in the future, however, it is only in 2010 that the IRS will let you defer taxes for conversions. If you convert all or a portion of your traditional IRA into a Roth IRA you have the option of paying all of the taxes based on your 2010 return OR you can defer taxes until 2011 and 2012, paying only 50% of the tax due in each year. If you have a low income year you might consider checking with your advisor to see if a Roth conversion makes sense. These conversions do not involve any new investment decisions and can be done quickly.
- Realizing losses or gains before year end – as of this writing it is still unknown as to what tax rates will prevail for long term capital gains going forward. Currently, if you are in a 25% or above marginal tax bracket, long term capital gains (investments held for more than 12 months) are taxed at 15%. This would be considered historically low; “pre-Bush” long term gains were taxed as ordinary income. You should also consider if you have any carry-forward losses from previous tax years. Many individuals sold off investments at substantial losses and should see if it makes sense to realize some gains to offset those carry forward losses.
- If you are self-employed you should consider establishing a solo 401k plan. While there are several options for the self-employed (SEPs, Simples, Profit Sharing and IRAs) the more popular plans are called Single or Solo 401k plans. These plans tend to have higher maximum contribution levels, more flexibility and loan provisions. Single K plan can allow an overall maximum contribution of \$49,000, based on your net income and age. While you would have until April 15th of 2011 to fully fund a Single K, these plans still have to be established by 12/31. Not all investment companies offer them but most have low minimums and you can establish your Single K with as little as \$250.
- It's not too late to gift to family members, but don't think that it will save you money on your taxes, it won't. The IRS sets limitations on how much money you can gift each year without having to file a gift tax return. The purpose of the gift tax return is so the IRS can keep track of gifts you have made over your lifetime. Currently the lifetime gifting exclusion is \$1million. If your lifetime gifts exceed the \$1million, there would be additional tax liability at your death. This year the annual gift tax exclusion is \$13,000 per recipient. That means that mom can gift each child up to \$13,000 and dad could do the same.
- Reminder for those who are 70 ½ or older and have retirement accounts. Each year you are required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA or other retirement plan. This is a percentage that changes each year based on your life expectancy. A 71-year old is required to take out 3.77% of their 12/31/09 account value whereas an

80-year old has to take out 5.35%. This percentage changes each year as does your account value therefore it has to be re-calculated each year. In 2009 the IRS lifted this requirement because of the economy and the fact that many retirement accounts had suffered losses. If you did not take your distribution in 2009, you have to take your 2010 and it has to be done before 12/31. Failure to take less than required minimum will result in a stiff penalty of 50% on the amount that you should have taken.

Hopefully you won't have to add many of these to your holiday “to-do” list, but do take a moment to make sure your financial house is ready to close the door to 2010. Best wishes to you and your families for a safe and happy holiday season!

Roberta L. Nestor is a financial advisor practicing at 491 New Haven Avenue in Milford, CT offering retirement, long term care, investment and tax planning services. She also offers securities and advisory services as an Investment Adviser Representative of Commonwealth Financial Network – a member FINRA/SIPC and a Registered Investment Adviser. She can be reached at TSM Financial Services, 203-876-8066 or roberta@tsmfinancial.com.



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- 30 RACEBROOK TERRACE**
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- 42 DERBY AVENUE**
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Answers

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I	N	F	R	A	N	O	G	L	O	B	
D	E	F	E	R	T	A	G	L	I	N	E
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L	E	I	H	I	T	S	T	E	R	E	
I	S	N	T	J	O	C	K	S			
S	T	E	R	N	O	H	I	G	H	U	P
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T	I	D	E	S	P	I	N	A	L		
R	E	D	L	I	N	E	S	U	I	T	E
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

2	8	5	9	3	6	4	1	7
4	6	1	2	7	8	5	9	3
9	7	3	5	4	1	8	6	2
6	2	9	7	8	4	3	5	1
7	5	4	3	1	9	6	2	8
3	1	8	6	5	2	9	7	4
5	3	2	4	9	7	1	8	6
8	4	7	1	6	5	2	3	9
1	9	6	8	2	3	7	4	5

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Entertainment will consist of: None

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YONG GAO

ENTERTAINMENT



- 1. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows -- Part 1 (PG-13)**
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
- 2. Megamind (PG)**
Will Ferrell, Tina Fey
- 3. Unstoppable (PG-13)**
Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
- 4. Due Date (R)**
Robert Downey Jr., Zack Galifianakis
- 5. The Next Three Days (PG-13)**
Russell Crowe, Elizabeth Banks
- 6. Morning Glory (PG-13)**
Rachel McAdams, Harrison Ford
- 7. Skyline (PG-13)**
Eric Balfour, Scottie Thompson
- 8. Red (PG-13)**
Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman
- 9. For Colored Girls (R)**
Janet Jackson, Loretta Devine
- 10. Fair Game (PG-13)**
Naomi Watts, Sean Penn



- 1. Toy Story 3 (G)**
(Buena Vista)
- 2. The Pacific (M)**
(Warner)
- 3. How to Train Your Dragon (PG)**
(DreamWorks)
- 4. Sex and the City 2 (R)**
(Warner)
- 5. Cars Toon: Mater's Tall Tales (NR)**
(Buena Vista)
- 6. The Karate Kid (PG)**
(Sony)
- 7. Iron Man 2 (PG-13)**
(Paramount)
- 8. Predators (R)**
(20th Century Fox)
- 9. Tinker Bell and the Great Fairy Rescue (G)**
(Buena Vista)
- 10. The Girl Who Played With Fire (R)**
(Music Box Films)



- Top 10 Pop Singles**

 - 1. FarEast Movement feat. Cataracs & Dev**
"Like a G6"
 - 2. Rihanna**
"Only Girl (In the World)"
 - 3. Bruno Mars**
"Just the Way You Are"
 - 4. Pink**
"Raise Your Glass"
 - 5. Nelly**
"Just A Dream"
 - 6. Ke\$ha**
"We R Who We R"
 - 7. Rihanna feat. Drake**
"What's My Name?"
 - 8. Glee Cast**
"Teenage Dream"
 - 9. Katy Perry**
"Firework"
 - 10. Trey Songz feat. Nicki Minaj**
"Bottoms Up"

Top 10 Country Singles

 - 1. Zac Brown Band feat. Alan Jackson**
"As She's Walking Away"
 - 2. Brad Paisley**
"Anything Like Me"
 - 3. Sugarland**
"Stuck Like Glue"
 - 4. The Band Perry**
"If I Die Young"
 - 5. Rodney Atkins**
"Farmer's Daughter"
 - 6. Rascal Flatts**
"Why Wait"
 - 7. Darius Rucker**
"Come Back Song"
 - 8. Reba**
"Turn on the Radio"
 - 9. Jason Aldean**
"My Kinda Party"
 - 10. George Strait**
"The Breath You Take"
- Trey Songz*



Leonardo DiCaprio stars in "Inception"

EDITOR'S NOTE: New DVDs reviewed in this column will be available in stores the week of Dec. 13, 2010.

PICKS OF THE WEEK

"Inception" (PG-13) -- Director Christopher Nolan ("Memento," "The Dark Knight") has crafted one of the most original and talked about films of year -- if not the decade. Leonardo DiCaprio stars as Dom Cobb, an industrial spy who can enter the dreams of his clients' competitors and steal their ideas. A Japanese magnate named Saito (Ken Watanabe) hires Cobb to do something different: Instead of extracting ideas, he wants Cobb to implant an idea into the subconscious of a rival businessman (Cillian Murphy) -- a process called "inception."

With the aid of his partner (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), an architecture student (Ellen Page), a chemist (Dileep

Rao) and a forger (Tom Hardy), Cobb enters a series of dreams and dreams-within-dreams to pull off the caper. A series of spectacular special-effects sequences will simply take your breath away. "Inception" is one of those rare science-fiction films like "2001" -- one that is not only visually compelling, but smartly written and intellectually stimulating.

"Despicable Me" (PG) -- The best animated film of the year is, hands-down, "Toy Story 3," but coming in a very close second is "Despicable Me," a rollicking slapstick comedy starring the voices of Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand and Julie Andrews.

Gru (Carell) is the world's greatest supervillain -- until a young upstart named Vector (Segel) steals the Great Pyramid of Giza, dropping Gru to No. 2 on the list. To regain the top spot, Gru must steal Vector's shrink ray so that he can shrink the moon. To do that, he must enlist the help of three cookie-selling orphan girls and a squad of blobby, inept minions (who steal every scene they're in). Despite the hackneyed trope of the Importance of Family, "Despicable Me," is one of the funniest films of the year and a treat for kids and adults.

"The Other Guys" (Unrated) -- Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg star in this hilarious send-up of buddy-cop movies. Ferrell plays a clueless police accountant with a hot wife (Eva Mendes) whose beauty he is totally oblivious to. Wahlberg is a super-cop wannabe who is banished to desk duty after accidentally shooting a member of the New York Yankees. After the city's famous duo of super cops (Samuel L. Jackson & Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson) die in the line of duty, Ferrell and Wahlberg use the opportunity to take on a case involving a billionaire Wall Street crook (Steve Coogan). The gags in this film come at you so fast and furious, you'll be out of breath from laughing. "The Other Guys" is definitely worth a watch.

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Sudoku answers on page 32

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2				6	4		
	6	1		7			9
		3	5				2
	2		7				5
	5	4		1		6	
3				2			4
	3			9		1	8
		7			5		9
1			8			7	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Fleas Aren't Only Cause of Itching



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My Pom/Pekingese mix, "Debbie," really scratches and bites at her fur a lot, but when I inspect her, there are no fleas that I can see -- nor even the flea "dust" you described in a previous column. I bathe her regularly, but it doesn't seem to help. My husband thinks she scratches just to spite us. Do you have a solution? -- Dottie K., Irving, N.Y.

DEAR DOTTIE: Debbie's not scratching to "spite" you; she's scratching because she itches. The cause of her itch doesn't have to be fleas. She may have allergies or dry skin.

Scratching and biting at areas that are bothering her can make the problem worse, not better, especially in the case of dry skin (or even a skin disease that's developing, unseen).

The first thing I would recommend is to stop bathing her so frequently, at least for a while. When you do bathe her, use a bath soap specifically made for dogs, and ideally for dogs with sensitive skin. The soap should be unscented -- perfumes can cause all sorts of misery for a dog with dry skin.

You also should take Debbie to the veterinarian and have her checked out not just for fleas, but any possible allergic reaction, dry skin or skin disease.

Foods can be a culprit in skin problems caused by allergies. It's sometimes hard to pinpoint exactly which food is causing Debbie's problem, but your vet can provide information on how to narrow down the possibilities so you can adjust her diet accordingly.

Looking for more pet advice and information? Check out pawscorner.com online! Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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SOCIETY NEWS



Comcowich, Sweet to Wedt

Linda and William Comcowich of 621 Wheelers Farm Road, are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, William Christopher Comcowich to Diana Louise Sweet, daughter of Patrice and Donald Sweet of York, Maine. Diana is currently enrolled at George Mason University as a doctoral student in the Political Science department. William has recently been awarded a Connecticut Teaching Certificate for Social Studies and is now remotely completing a Masters degree in History through Southern Connecticut State University. The couple currently lives in Falls Church, Virginia and plans to get married in Connecticut within the next two years.

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"Chloe" Takes a Runway Walk



Avna Dello Russo, Editor At Large and Creative Consultant for Vogue Japan, walks "Chloe", companion of Delana Severs of Orange, down the fashion runway.

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) At this time you might want to resist that otherwise admirable Aries penchant for getting to the heart of a matter quickly. Keep in mind that a delicate situation calls for patience.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your aspects favor more diplomacy and fewer direct confrontations when dealing with a relationship problem. Avoiding hurt feelings can help in your search for the truth.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Positive aspects are strong this week. Although you might still have to deal with some problems caused by a recent period of turmoil, you are making progress, and that's what counts.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A family matter could benefit from your counsel. But don't come into it unless invited, and don't stay if you feel uneasy. Just remember to reassure one and all that you'll be there for them.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) As the truth about an ongoing situation emerges, you could find that you were right to defer judgment before you had all the facts. Now would be a good time to move on to other matters.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your plans to take control of a personal situation because you feel you are best qualified could create resentment. Best to hear what everyone else involved in the matter has to say about it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Uncovering some surprising background facts about that ongoing personal matter could make you reconsider the extent of your involvement. A neutral family member offers advice.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Religious or spiritual themes start to dominate your aspect this week. This can serve as a counterweight to the mounting effects of the season's growing commercialization.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Taking on that recent challenge impressed a lot of important decision-makers. Meanwhile, proceed with your holiday plans, and don't forget to include you-know-who in them.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Disagreeing with an opinion you can't accept could be dicey, and your motives might be questioned. Best to wait to mount a challenge until you have support for your position.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Getting involved in helping others in this increasingly hectic period not only makes the generous Aquarian feel good, but you could also gain a more substantive benefit from your actions.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The Piscean way of thinking clearly and objectively helps you resolve a complex situation without creating any ill will. Don't be surprised if your counsel is requested on another matter.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of persuading people to look at the positive possibilities that make up any choices they might face.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



MISTER BREGER By Dave Breger



* ... Now, this is the ad you want us to run: 'Lost, man's leather belt, brown, size 32 ...'



Gift Subscription

Bird magazines are filled with great ideas, events around the country and, well ... the pictures are pretty to look at too. A few to consider are:

- Birds and Blooms: www.birdsandblooms.com
- Bird Watcher's Digest: www.birdwatchersdigest.com
- Birder's World: www.birder-sworld.com

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LAFF-A-DAY



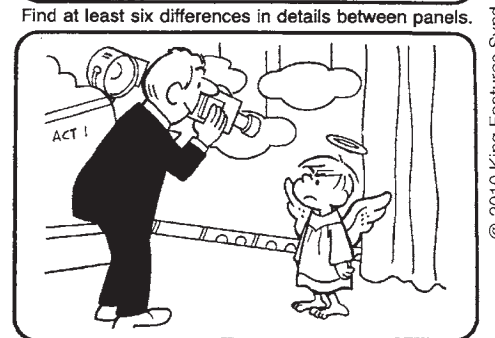
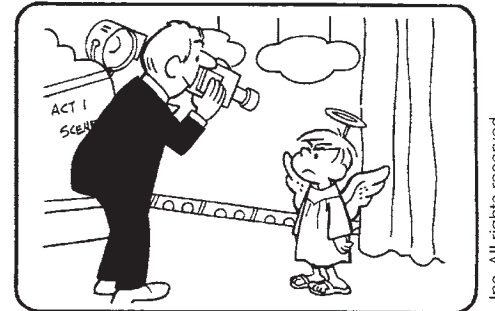
"This is a burglar! Who d'ya expect this time o' night?"

HUBERT - - By Dick Wingert



"Are you ready?"

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.
Differences: 1. Halo wire is missing. 2. Sign is different. 3. Boy is barefoot. 4. Robe has a border. 5. Cloud is missing. 6. Two stage lights are gone.

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10th Annual Festival of Trees

At Laurel Estates Assisted Living Community

Date: Tuesday, December 14th, 2010
Time: 5:00-7:00pm
Where: Laurel Estates Assisted Living Community
 245 Indian River Rd
 Orange, CT 06477
 (203) 795-3117

Join us on December 14th to enjoy music, cocktails, and a display of holiday trees decorated by local businesses for viewing and silent auction.

Proceeds benefit the Orange Community Assistance Fund ~and~ Saving Orange Residents In Need

We promise a wonderful party!

top ten

Most Popular CHRISTMAS TREES

1. Fraser fir
2. Douglas fir
3. Balsam fir
4. Colorado blue spruce
5. Scotch pine
6. Eastern red cedar
7. White spruce
8. Eastern white pine
9. White or Concolor fir
10. Virginia pine

Source: Steve Nix, about.com

top ten

Exercises for People in Pain

1. Walking
2. Swimming
3. Yoga
4. Tai chi
5. Pilates
6. Stretching
7. Mild strength training
8. Sex
9. Golfing
10. Aerobics

Source: www.health.com

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