

THE OUTSIDE LIVING BOX

'Tis the season when Ann Davis is in full "Mama Elf" mode as she prepares for her 19th season as "the lady that does that Santa thing."



Laura Fantarella

Davis and a fellow Department Auxiliary friend started the Volunteer Fire Department's Santa's Helper program nearly two decades ago and she is still the lady behind the

scenes making sure more than 160 gifts are delivered by Santas and elves driving the town's six fire trucks to homes around town.

The event which has become one of the department's most lucrative and popular fundraisers started on a whim when Davis heard about a similar program being run in a nearby town and she approached then-fire chief Fred Knight to get the ok. The first year she coerced three firefighters to deliver 100 gifts around town then manned the phones as the fire trucks set off to make their deliveries. "When the guys came back I didn't know whether to greet them or duck under the desk," she recalls. "I was afraid they hated it and would be grumbling. But they loved it!!" It was the start of what has become an event so popular that the volunteers look forward to it maybe even more than the families

receiving the bounty. "It is so rewarding and so much fun, the firefighters line up to volunteer," Davis said. Now when she mans the desk on delivery day she expects to field "about a million calls" of excited families wanting to know Santa's arrival time. "I'll be stressed out beyond belief and pulling my hair out but I wouldn't want it any other way!" she said. "At this point the program is a well-oiled machine, the firefighters do whatever they need to do to make the deliveries happen and we've never missed a house, lost a gift or disappointed anyone! And luckily, even though we've had some close calls, we've never had a fire call on delivery day!"

When the firefighters get back to the station at 9 p.m. after seven hours of delivering gifts, she loves to hear their stories of the day. "My favorite may be about the time the guys stopped at the home to deliver gifts to "Dixie and Scarlett" who turned out to be two Chihuahuas dressed in Christmas sweaters!" she said. She's assisted several other Connecticut fire departments in setting up

a Santa's Helper programs of their own, even working with representatives from a town in Texas who called her to help them establish the program.

But the town's fire department is not the only place Davis likes volunteering her time. A trained EMT and Fire Department Auxiliary member for decades, when the town organized its first CERT training program, it seemed a natural fit for Davis who was among the first graduates. Today she is the program's training director and proud of the relationship CERT has with the town's fire and police departments. "I don't like to toot my own horn but I do like to help," she said. Best of all, wherever Davis goes, you can bet she is bringing with her a plate of fresh baked cookies, hence her second nickname, "Cookie Mama." "I love to cook, I'm Italian! I was born with a spatula in my hand. I'm happy when everyone is eating and enjoying my food," she said. Before her current job as an administrative assistant in Subway's corporate offices in Milford, she worked for many years in her family's luncheonette



Ann Davis

business in New Haven. Her experience earned her the job of feeding the Santa's Helpers crew. She's already planning the menu, which will probably include her homemade sauce, a pasta dish and a newly-learned specialty— kugel. "All these Yankee firefighters and I've got them eating Jewish and Italian food!" she said with a laugh.

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"Number One" continued from Page 1

overall cost of a home doesn't really tell you a whole lot about what homeownership means and how far your dollar will go where you decide to buy a home," he says.

NerdWallet measured schools' academic performance with ratings from GreatSchools, an organization that compares a school's standardized test scores to the state average to obtain a rating. Both median home values in each town and ongoing monthly home costs, including mortgage payments, real estate taxes, insurance costs, utilities, fuel and other bills were also analyzed. Third, NerdWallet assessed each town's economy by looking at average household income and income growth over the last decade. "Orange scored very, very well," Anderson says. "Families in Orange make quite a bit, on average \$100,000, and compared to some of the other communities that are equally affluent, Orange is more affordable."

According to the report, "Schools in the area are excellent, having earned a nine out of 10 from GreatSchools. On the 2012 CMTs, students at Turkey Hill School outperformed the state average by over 10 percentage points in reading, math and writing. In 2012, Orange's economy built up quite a bit; while six businesses closed, 32 new businesses opened their doors."

Superintendent of Schools Lynn McMullin agrees that Orange is a great place to raise a young family. "Accolades are always nice for a community to hear and good news should always be appreciated when it comes our way."

Orange Police Chief Robert Gagne agrees too. "Yes, the report talks about schools and economic growth, but Orange is a great place to live for many more reasons," he says. "It is such a classic New England town with its beautiful and safe neighborhoods, its beautiful town center." He says Orange's success is a group effort, and every department in town should share in the pride. Gagne's job requires travel across the state and he says he notices the difference in the way the roads are maintained after storms when he comes back to Orange. "There really is such a strong sense of community—the community is constantly working for the betterment of the town. I see it every day, such volunteerism in people always working together to make Orange a better town," he says. "The kids are getting the best advantages they can have at these schools."

He commends the police department, too, saying his officers work hard every single day to protect and help Orange residents. "We have been involved in community policing long before the term was coined. We are ahead of the curve in a lot of areas," Gagne says.

First Selectman James Zeoli was naturally pleasantly surprised by this review, "It clearly shows that Orange has many strong reasons for a place for families to settle and grow. I have been saying this for years and the data provided certainly validates that fact. The people that already live in Orange recognize this and showed that in their appreciation of our hard working town officials and volunteers."

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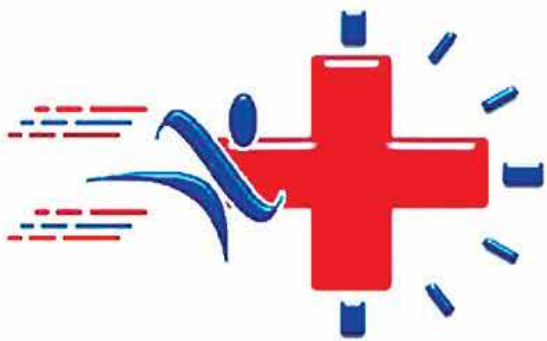
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STOP & SHOP TO CLOSE ORANGE SITE

By Laura Fantarella - Orange Town News Correspondent

If there's a silver lining to Stop & Shop Supermarket Company's announcement that it will close its Bull Hill Lane location in January, it may be that the 9.47 acre abandoned property across the street could possibly open up for new business.

According to First Selectman Jim Zeoli, Stop & Shop has leased the former Builder's Square property for more than two decades to prevent any of its competition from opening a store. "We will continue to have discussions with Stop & Shop to find out if they will release the stranglehold they've held on that property, keeping it locked up and abandoned," Zeoli said. "We want to work with them to open that area up for the possibility of another grocer going in there." The Builder's Square property includes an 84,420 square foot building in a state of disrepair.

Zeoli was not surprised to hear of Stop & Shop's decision to close its 68,129 square foot grocery store that sits on 6.4 acres and generates \$135,755 in taxes towards the town's Grand List. "We'd been hearing rumors and rumblings that it might close. Evidently this was a corporate decision that the town was not included in in any way, shape or form," he said. "Their departure is unfortunate; so many people over the years have counted on Stop and Shop as their base for grocery shopping."

Economic Development Director Paul Grimmer is disappointed the supermarket chain did not choose to relocate to another spot in Orange. "It's never a good day when a business leaves town and you have to always wonder why," Grimmer said. "But we've been very fortunate, people want to move to Orange, and it opens up a great deal of opportunity for other business to come in, and for new life in that area." Grimmer pointed out even though Stop & Shop's departure will leave a 60,000 square foot vacancy in town, overall vacancy rates are at an all-time low, with retail vacancy rates at 4.2%.

Stop & Shop's New York Metro Division President Don Sussman said in a press release, "After a thorough review of the operating performance of our stores, we made a business decision to close our Orange store location. We regret any inconvenience this will cause and encourage our customers to shop at our West Haven store located at 460 Elm Street which is 2 miles from our Orange store." According to Sussman, the 123 associates from the Orange store location will have the opportunity to be transferred to other Stop & Shop stores in New Haven County. Prescription records will be transferred to the nearby Stop & Shop at 460 Elm Street in West Haven. The Stop & Shop fuel station located on the property will remain open after the store closing.

"It's never a good day when a business leaves town and you have to always wonder why."

-Paul Grimmer, Economic Development Director

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RACE BROOK STUDENTS DISPLAY TALENT AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

By Melissa Nicefaro - Orange Town News Correspondant

Race Brook Elementary School Art Teacher Erin Garney has been teaching art for over a decade now and she feels very blessed to do what she loves.

She has always wanted to create art for children who are ill and help heal them with a smile. This fall she realized that her own students could help put smiles on other children's faces.

"My cousin is a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit doctor at the Connecticut Children's Hospital in Hartford," she explains. "I asked him if he knew of a contact person for the art displayed in the hospital."

He directed her to an office in Shelton that is associated with the Children's Hospital and in need of art work. Garney checked out the space and set up an action plan. Knowing she had many talented students at Race Brook, she asked if any would be interested in creating art with her. So many students volunteered—around 50—she had to pick names out of a hat. A total of 19 students stayed with her after school for a few weeks and together the group created some fabulous art.

"I told the students that I wanted them to all have the saying, 'Art is in our Heart' somewhere on the picture, but the rest was up to them." She talked with the students about what types of images would bring a smile to a child's face.

"I am very proud of my students and thank them for helping me achieve this goal," Garney says. She plans to do another project with students this spring.

“Christmas Lights” continued from Page 1

but at that time Chris and Maria Small weren't able to talk about the upcoming show. He is still unable to tell whether celebrity judges Sabrina Soto and Michael Moloney of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition selected their display to win the \$50,000 prize. “You'll have to watch on the 16th,” he said. “All I can say is that all the families who had this experience are winners!”

They were able to invite friends, family and neighbors to the October taping to fill the stands in front of the couple's home. About 200 people showed up in Santa hats and holiday garb patiently following the crew's instructions as they were asked to wave and cheer over and over again in take after take of the filming.

“Just the right amount of people showed up,” Chris Small said. “We had gone door to door and personally invited people and put out a few flyers and the word spread. We didn't post it on Facebook because we were afraid 500 people would come.”

The Smalls, who flicked the switches on their first spectacular Christmas display two years ago, never expected it would lead to an appearance on a prime time show. “We thought maybe Channel 12 or the New Haven Register would cover it,” he said. But when a friend told him about the ABC promotion to find families who had elaborate, over-the-top Christmas displays, Small knew they had to apply. They sent a video of last year's display and another video about their family, which has grown to include six-month old twins in addition to their two and half year old son, Cooper. Chris is a grounds' supervisor at the town's Park and Recreation Department. The Smalls were among four chosen from the East Coast and the eight others were from across the United States, including Virginia, Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, California and Illinois.

“The whole thing is still mind-blowing and I think reality won't set in until we see the show,” he said. Small said his favorite parts of his 15-minutes of fame were being treated in Hollywood style -- having assistants following him around catering to his every need and “priceless moments” playing in the backyard with his oldest son. While he loves the idea of inviting people over for a viewing party the night the segment airs, he's merely hoping that his young family can all stay awake to watch.

What happens this season after the Small's new found fame takes off remains to be seen. Though they turned on their holiday display at Thanksgiving, Chris is a little concerned that all the publicity will generate larger than ever crowds that may disrupt his sleepy neighborhood. “We've already had a lot of traffic, which has led to a high donation rate which is cool, but if this really blows up I may have to move my display next year to a more public location. I don't want to inconvenience my neighbors,” he said.

The Great Christmas Light Fight aired on Monday, December 9 with upcoming shows on December 16 (9:00-11:00 p.m., ET/PT) and December 23 (9:00-11:00 p.m., ET/PT) with back-to-back episodes on those two nights.

ORANGE TO FOLLOW STATE MANDATED SCHOOL CALENDAR

By Melissa Nicefaro – Orange Town News Correspondent

Beginning in 2015, all students in a 26-municipality region—including Orange—will go to school on the same schedule. A 19-member task force is charged with setting a new school calendar that will be followed by schools in every town and city in Connecticut. This task force is developing guidelines for the state's six Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) about how they should each develop one regional calendar. Orange is part of the ACES RESC, which includes towns as far north as Wolcott and Middletown and as far east as Durham and Branford. It is expected that the uniform calendar may produce savings for districts in the areas of transportation and professional development.



A 2011 feasibility study by the RESC Alliance notes that meaningful professional development requires a school district to offer a number of training opportunities to meet the needs of the various disciplines and certifications and by regionalizing professional development days, each town can save on some costs. The study said that specialized professional development opportunities can be provided regionally and collaboratively to all teachers, and some districts supported some collaboration.

Under the new recommendations, the school year will continue to have a minimum of 180 days with a uniform start date near Labor Day. In addition, the calendar would not have more than three vacations (one of which must be summer vacation) and no more than two (aside from December) can be longer than one week. “April vacation might be longer than a week -- if it followed Good Friday,” explains Orange Schools Superintendent Lynn McMullin. “Clearly this does not allow for a week vacation in December, February, and April.”

Adherence to the schedule will be recommended for the 2014-2015 school year and required in subsequent years. “We cannot confirm, yet, if our RESCs will be required to call the same snow days and snow delays or if the State is going to call the snow days and delays for the whole state,” she says.

“The intention of a regional calendar is that it will allow districts to combine resources, such as buses for special education students, trainers for professional

See “Calendar” continued on Page 7



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ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

By Lynn McMullin



Survey of Orange Parents Explores Kindergarten Extended Day

Orange's Kindergarten program at Mary L. Tracy, with a .84 day, is very strong. Based on the data at the close of the 2013 school year, 85% of the kindergarten class met the State's benchmark and went on to first grade as Level 4 readers or above. Among the same group, 91% were at or above the STAR Early Literacy grade-level expectation. The math data was even stronger. Among the 156 kindergarten students, 97% met the Math Expressions grade-level benchmark for the end of kindergarten. Additionally, when they moved on into 1st grade and took their beginning of the year math assessment, 58% met the end-of-the-year benchmark for first grade. The data does not support a need to extend our .84 kindergarten day to 1.0 to meet State requirements.

On the other hand, many of our parents – though, we do recognize not all parents – are interested in an extended day kindergarten in Orange. We, too, feel that we can meaningfully extend the day for families who would like to have this as an option. At the same time, we are also considering offering a 21st Century program at MLT which is specifically designed for 4 and 5 year olds

in terms of activities, socialization, and equipment. The goals of both changes would be to provide more opportunities for the children and families in this age group. Thus, we are actively pursuing a pilot program for 2014-2015.

To gather more information, we have put together a survey of questions. In the survey, parents will find there are three main options to consider: 1. extended day kindergarten from 1:30 - 2:50; 2. extended day kindergarten from 1:30 - 6:00; and 3. extended day pre-K for 4-year-olds from 3:00 - 6:00.

The survey is available on the oess.org webpage in the pop-up. In addition, a direct link to the survey was also e-blasted to parents throughout the district. We have requested that families of older children forward it directly to others they know. The survey is also available by typing in this web address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ExtKsurvey>.

We urge Orange parents of infants and toddlers to access the survey and respond. We will use the information to help us determine which times, locations, activities, and transportation options make the most sense for our upcoming pre-K 4-year-olds and kindergarteners.

SACRED HEART ACADEMY HONOR ROLL

Sacred Heart Academy Principal Sr. Maureen Flynn, ASCJ has announced the Honor Roll for the FIRST marking period of the 2013 – 14 academic year. The following students from Orange have been named to the Honor Roll:

HIGH HONORS - Emma Dragan and Demery Ormrod;

HONORS - Andrianna Ayala and Emily Drezek.

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 through 12 for learning, service, and achievement in a global society. The Academy has an enrollment of over 500 students hailing from New Haven, Fairfield, Middlesex, Hartford and New London counties.



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STUDENT NEWS

Alexandra Lagoutis Inducted Into Nursing Honor Society at Saint Anselm College

Manchester, NH -- Saint Anselm nursing student Alexandra Lagoutis of Orange was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society on October 27. Requirements for the 33 undergraduate inductees are a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and to be in the upper third percentile of their graduating class. The college's chapter offers several programs throughout the academic year including a research day, annual meeting, and inductions. In recent years members have collected gifts and money for soldiers overseas as well as collecting food for St. Raphael's Parish. There are scholarship and research grant opportunities.

Aubri Oliphant Studies Abroad Through Union College Program

Schenectady, NY -- Aubri Oliphant, of Orange, is spending Union College's winter break studying in Argentina, focusing on social movements, including human rights, workplace democracy and gender equality. Oliphant is majoring in Psychology.

"Calendar" continued from Page 6

development, specialists such as for speech or occupational therapy, etc.," she says. She is concerned, however, with the significant impact this new legislation will have on Orange's professional development. "We have worked hard to get away from 'drive-by' professional development model in favor of a model where the professional development is both embedded and particular to our needs," says McMullin. "We might have Nancy Boyles modeling close-reading lessons in the grade one, grade three, and grade five classrooms, then meeting with the grade-level teachers to discuss it, as well as discussing the next steps.

"If we are breaking out a new software program, we might hold professional development in the computer lab and let teachers learn as they go. This year we wrote our own Teacher Evaluation Plan, which teachers needed extensive professional development to implement," McMullin says. "Conforming to a regional PD calendar will set us back tremendously, and we may end up having to do both in order to meet our needs and still be in compliance."

McMullin calls it "another example of people who are not in education trying to tell educators what works – looks good in theory, but the reality falls far short. Consider the regional transportation idea for Special Ed as another example. Sure, it's expensive to transport two kids from Orange to New Haven. But, how long will the first child to be picked up be on the van/bus if the bus travels from Bethany to Orange to Milford to West Haven to New Haven, just so that it is full?"

Uniform Regional School Calendar Taskforce Members include representatives from the American Federation of Teachers and Connecticut's Association of School Administrators, Education Association, Association of Boards of Education, Association of Public Schools Superintendents, Parent Teacher Association along with representatives from First Student Transportation, the Connecticut Catholic Conference. Four state representatives also sit on the statewide committee. Carolyn McNally, director of program development at ACES is representing the region that includes Orange.

State Representative Paul Davis sits on the state legislature's education committee and says the adoption of a uniform calendar is in response to changing times. "We're having greater inter-district movement of kids. Kids in Orange may go to the Education Center for the Arts (ECA) in New Haven, Magnet schools or Platt Tech and each one of those schools could operate on a different calendar than ours. There may be days where they may not have school, but we do, and transportation becomes an issue."

"We're looking at working in regions or groups that have similar geographic locations and relatively similar weather situations," Davis explains. He admits the change may mean regional storm closings. "One of the things we're looking at, in our coastal area, is great diversity in weather—it could be snowing in our school district, and raining just south of us," he says, acknowledging that, "We've experienced that situation in Orange where it was not snowing here, and we weren't going to school because the weather was worse in Bethany." Davis says the calendar would likely be very close to what it is now. "There would be no great difference," Davis says. "What we're really doing is looking at providing the opportunity for bus companies to develop larger uniform contracts by all traveling on the same dates."

Davis says it is unknown how much could be saved, but he's hoping that by going to this uniform schedule, municipalities would realize some savings. "We're trying to develop greater regional or inter-district cooperation so that resources aren't stretched so thin."

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Administrative Assistant..... Katie Carbone

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or Email: edit@orangetownnews.com

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or Email: ads@orangetownnews.com

To submit a letter to the editor mail us
or Email your letter to: letters@orangetownnews.com

To submit a Bulletin Board event
Email us at: bulletinboard@orangetownnews.com

All articles, photographs and letters must include your name, address and daytime telephone number for confirmation. The Orange Town News reserves the right to reject any advertisement, article, photograph or letter. Letters to the editor must be unique to the Orange Town News.

Contact us:

- Rocky Salperto..... Rocky@orangetownnews.com
Marlene Silverstein..... Marlene@orangetownnews.com
Susan Noonan..... Susan@orangetownnews.com
Laura Fantarella..... Laura@orangetownnews.com
Melissa Nicefaro..... Melissa@orangetownnews.com
Bettina Theil..... Bettina@orangetownnews.com
Katie Carbone..... Katie@orangetownnews.com

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Pick-up Extra Copies of the Orange Town News!

Extra Copies of the Orange Town News are available FREE at our office, 653 Orange Center Road (Next to People's United Bank) and at the following locations:

- Ben's Shell Service Center.....115 Boston Post Road
Bruegger's Bagels/Jamba Juice.....263 Boston Post Road
Case Memorial Library.....176 Tyler City Road
China Pavilion Restaurant.....185 Boston Post Road
Chip's Family Restaurant.....321 Boston Post Road
Diamond Designs.....500 Boston Post Road
Dip Top.....263 Boston Post Road
Dunkin' Donuts.....297 & 377 Boston Post Road
Jake's Wayback Burgers.....185 Boston Post Road
Orange Community Center.....525 Orange Center Road
Orange Town Hall.....617 Orange Center Road
Puerto Vallarta Restaurant.....377 Boston Post Road
Reno's Pizzeria.....500 Boston Post Road
Shanghai Gourmet.....533 Boston Post Road
The UPS Store.....554 Boston Post Road
Urgent Care Center.....109 Boston Post Road
Wine & Liquor Outlet.....528 Boston Post Road

If you would like to have additional copies of the Orange Town News available at your organization or business, please call 203-298-4399.



Below are the next three Orange Town News issue dates and deadlines.
Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Table with 2 columns: Upcoming Issue Deadline, Upcoming Issue Dates. Rows include January 10th, January 31st (Valentine's Day Issue), and February 21st.

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

FROM OUR READERS

Holiday Designated Driver

From office parties to neighborhood gatherings, it's the most wonderful time of the year to spend time with co-workers, family and friends. With the season of celebrations well under way, it's also a time to remember that the best celebrations start and end responsibly.

Thanks to the help of designated drivers and increased law enforcement, the nation has made significant progress in preventing drunk driving. While that's great news, there's always more work to be done.

All of us at Dichello Distributors wish our friends and neighbors a safe and happy holiday. Together, we can help keep our roads safe.

Tony Lota
Alcohol Awareness Coordinator
Dichello Distributors, Inc.

To the Editor

I wish to thank the voters of Orange for re-electing me to the Board of Selectmen for the next two years. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of our town for the past twelve years; I look forward to continuing our effort to make Orange a community which people recognize as a place to live, work and raise their families.

Ralph G. Okenquist



OTN Letters Policy

Submit your letters for our "From Our Readers" section to:
Orange Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
or email: letters@orangetownnews.com.

Please limit letters to 500 words and include a daytime phone number in case we have any questions. Letters must be exclusive to the Orange Town News for publication. We reserve the right to reject any letter.

Support our advertisers! Tell them you saw their ad in the Orange Town News.

Happy Holidays To All!

Many thanks to my wonderful Real Estate Clients and Customers and Cooperating Agents and Brokers for making this a wonderful and successful year. Continued success and have a wonderful holiday and a prosperous new year! - From Ray and the Spaziani Family

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

As we conclude our **8th year as your hometown newspaper**, I would like to take this opportunity to wish a **Happy New Year** to all of our loyal readers. **2013 was a another great year** for Orange and while some businesses are still struggling from a sluggish economy, the **Orange Town News** has done its best to continue providing our advertisers with **affordable rates** and a means to promote their products and services in a **cost effective manner**. We strive to enhance our content as well as our readership within and outside of the Orange community. We continue to learn and grow with each publication and work tirelessly to put out the best product we can. **Orange residents certainly deserve no less.**



Brass Transit

In 2013, the **Orange Town News** was once again proud to produce this year's **Independence Day Concert and Fireworks Show** when the "**British Invasion Tribute Band**" rocked the fairgrounds with dozens of hits from the sixties followed by another spectacular fireworks show from our friends at "**Zambelli, the First Family of Fireworks**". In addition, we were equally proud to welcome into Orange from Toronto, Canada – "**Brass Transit**" – an **internationally renowned band** who thrilled town residents with hits from the group "Chicago". By popular demand, plans are underway to bring these **eight talented performers** back for a **July 4th, 2014 concert**.

On the down side, I was personally disappointed to see a town-wide mailing sent out by democratic first selectman candidate **Kenneth Lenz**, using a CT Magazine rating to run down the performance of our **Department of Police Services** stating

that "Orange's public image has been tarnished" by the department's performance numbers since 2004. I think **Orange Police Chief Gagne** articulately pointed out the flawed comparisons and any misconceptions this mailing portrayed in his monthly column in the November issue of the **Orange Town News**. It was disappointing (but to no one's surprise) that a candidate for high office (Mr. Lenz) along with **Selectman Mitchell Goldblatt** and party chairperson **Patricia "Trish" Pearson** (a former Police Commissioner) would demean the excellent work and reputation of our **Department of Police Services** just to score political points a few days before an election. Orange voters knew better.



As we reach another year's end, I would like to commend our staff of professional writers and contributors at the **Orange Town News** – **Laura Fantarella, Melissa Nicefaro, Bettina Thiel, Susan Noonan, Ginny Reinhard, Roberta Nestor, Ray Spaziani, and Leslie Marsh**, my editor **Marlene Silverstein** (who has been with us since day one) and our production department of **Mike Kriz and Katie Carbone** continue to produce a top notch publication that residents can be proud of.

In addition, the **loyalty of our advertisers** and their continued support through their patronage of the OTN has not gone unnoticed.

My heartfelt thanks go out to the hundreds of **townspeople who submit their letters, articles, photos, bulletin board events and more**. While our paper has grown to as many as 52 pages, do not worry; we will continue to make room to publish your local news and events, **no matter how big or small**.

I am proud to announce that 2014 will mark the beginning of our new venture, the launching of the "**Orange Town Magazine**". With our inaugural issue in March, 2014 the "**OTM**" will be a "**celebration of Orange's people, businesses and places**" in a full gloss publication for all to enjoy. Keep up to date on our website: www.OrangeTownMagazine.com and send your ideas for articles, columns and local photos to me at rocky@orangetownmagazine.com.

I would like to personally wish you all a Safe, Happy and Healthy 2014. Hop to see you around town.

Sincerely,

Rocky Salperto - Publisher



Orange Town Magazine

A celebration of Orange's people, businesses, and places

8 WAYS TO COOK A HOLIDAY TURKEY

Thought there was only one way to cook a turkey?

Since the oven often is needed for side dishes, the big bird may have to take an alternate route to the table, according to Dr. Pam Duitsman, nutrition and health education specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

"No matter what route you chose, always ensure whole turkeys reach 165 degrees F as measured in the innermost part of the thigh and wing and the thickest part of the breast," said Duitsman.

Here are some things to keep in mind with various turkey cooking methods:

Electric Roaster Oven: Use on the countertop as an "extra oven" for a whole turkey. The cooking time and oven temperature should be identical to a conventional oven. Preheat to at least 325 F, and place the turkey on a meat rack. Keep the lid on throughout cooking. Cooking bags may be used, as long as the bag does not touch the oven surface on any side.

Grilling: This popular method allows a completely thawed bird to cook over indirect heat in an outdoor gas or charcoal grill. Keep the grill covered, and place a pan of water beneath the grilling surface to catch drippings. Do not stuff the turkey -- the indirect heat might not allow the stuffing to get hot enough to kill bacteria.

Smoking: Smokers vary widely, and use either electricity, gas or charcoal for heat. Ensure the smoker reaches an internal temperature of 225 F to 300 F before introducing the completely thawed, unstuffed turkey. If using water-soaked wood, do not use softwood like pine, fir, cedar or spruce. These woods will give the food a turpentine flavor and coat the meat with black pitch.

Deep Fat Frying: A whole unstuffed turkey of 12 pounds or less can be success-

fully cooked in a short amount of time. Follow manufacturer directions, and ensure the oil covers the turkey by 1-2 inches. Select a safe location for your fryer, and heat oil to 350 F. Slowly and carefully lower the turkey in the hot oil. Monitor the temperature, and never leave unattended.

Pressure Cooker: Use turkey parts such as breasts, legs and thighs. Follow the manufacturer instructions for a quick-cooking (about 1/3 or less of conventional time) product.

Slow-Cooker: Use cut-up parts of the turkey like legs, thighs, breasts, wings or quarters. Begin heating on "High" for an hour or more before turning to "Low" (or, just continue cooking on "High"). A minimum heating temperature between 170 F and 200 F should be maintained. Do not remove the cover while cooking.

Microwaving: This can work successfully with either a whole unstuffed turkey, or using parts of the turkey in a covered dish. Limit the size of your bird to around 12-14 pounds, and allow 3 inches oven clearance on top and 2-3 inches of space around the bird. Because microwaves can heat unevenly, a cooking bag will aid heat distribution.

Conventional Oven: If you decide to go with your regular conventional oven, set your oven temperature no lower than 325 F. Place your turkey on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. For food safety, it's best to cook stuffing outside of the cavity -- in a casserole dish. Cook the turkey immediately and use a food thermometer to check that the center of the stuffing and the internal meat have both reached 165 F.

More questions? If you have more questions about cooking a turkey call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-674-6854, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET on Thanksgiving Day.





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AMITY TEEN CENTER “CHILLY CHILI RUN”

The People’s United Bank 2014 “Chilly Chili Run,” to benefit the Amity Teen Center, will take place on New Year’s Day at the High Plains Community Center in Orange. The 5K Road Race and Fitness Walk will be followed by a hot chili brunch. This will be the 17th year for the Race and it has become a highlight on the Connecticut and New England Racing Calendars.

The Registration fees before December 16 are \$20.00 for Runners, \$15.00 for Runners 12 and under, and \$15.00 for the 5K Fitness Walk. After December 16, and on the day of the Race, the fees are \$25.00 for Runners, \$18.00 for Runners 12 and under, and \$18.00 for the Fitness Walk. You can register online before midnight on Thursday, December 26 at www.hitekracing.com. Applications are also available at the Orange Park and Recreation Office.

We will have an “Early Packet Pickup and Late Registration” on Tuesday, December 31 at the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road in Orange from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Registration on the Day of the Race will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the Community Center gymnasium. The Race will start at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, please call Race Director, Joe Riccio at (203) 481-7453 or Race Coordinator, Jane Opper at (203) 795-9351.



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TIS’ THE SEASON!

The holiday season is a wonderful time of year, especially for families. In an effort to make this holiday special for all families, Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Centers (PTSMC), located at 240 Indian River Road, Suite A8 in Orange, will be hosting a local food and coat drive to help assist families in need.

As an organization, PTSMC will be sponsoring its 5th Annual Holiday food drive. All donations will be given to local food banks in the communities we serve, and will assist families in need! PTSMC of Orange will be donating its food collection to Orange Community Services Food Bank. All non-perishable food items are welcome, but some items they are always in need of are peanut butter, tuna and, of course, holiday food!

The coat drive will benefit our neighboring community, the Beth-El Center in Milford. PTSMC would greatly appreciate community support for both these charitable efforts! Both drives will run until December 20th! Please contact the office at (203) 298-9828 if you have questions on how to get involved; or stop by anytime Monday-Friday to drop off coats or non-perishable food items. Together we can help improve the quality of people’s lives this holiday season!

Joe Blake Retirement Dinner

Please join the celebration of Joe Blake’s retirement from the Board of Selectmen and his many years of service and dedication to the Town of Orange

Friday, January 31, 2014
Grassy Hill Country Club
6:30 PM



Dinner Choices include New England Baked Scrod, Eggplant Parmesan and Stuffed Chicken Breast
Cash Bar
\$60 per person

Reservations can be made by calling Karen Goldberg in the First Selectman’s Office at 203-891-4738.

There will be no reservations taken at the door on the night of the event.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL



Tips for a Safe Holiday Season

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

Home fire safety is always a major concern. Decorations should be fire resistant or non-combustible and located a safe distance from heat sources, such as cooking and wood stoves, fireplaces, space heaters or televisions. If smoking is permitted in your home, provide a place for smokers to discard their cigarettes. Place all used ashtrays in the sink and wet down the contents to prevent an accidental fire. Keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children. And, check all smoke detectors to be sure they are working properly.

One of the most common causes of accidental home fires during the holiday season is unattended candles, as December is the peak time of year for candle fires. Candles are often 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. Trim the wick to one-quarter inch. 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 on tables, beside window treatments or decorations. More than one-half of candle fires began when something flammable was too close to the candle. After the 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 testing 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 with new items. Do not overload electrical circuits. 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 well 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. The tree may be kept inside as long as it remains fresh and moist. When it begins to lose needles and starts to dry, discard the tree. Make sure artificial trees are labeled as fire retardant. Keep a fire extinguisher handy, near an exit. DO NOT attempt to extinguish a fully involved tree fire. Leave the house and call 9-1-1. Follow these tips for a safe, happy holiday season.

The Orange Fire Marshal's Office has a Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector Program that provides and/or installs 10 year lithium battery alarms and carbon monoxide detectors free of charge to Orange residents. If you have any questions regarding fire safety or wish to have smoke and/or CO detectors provided and/or installed in your home, please contact our office at (203) 891-4711, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM or visit the website at www.orangefiremarshal.com.



NEW LAW TO PREVENT PRICE-GOUGING DURING MAJOR STORMS

State Representative Paul Davis (D-Milford/Orange/West Haven) is informing residents that a new law is in effect to afford protection against dishonest businesses who may take advantage of them during major storms. Rep. Davis pointed out that a bill he co-sponsored, SB 320, "An Act Prohibiting Price Gouging during Severe Weather Events" was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Malloy on June 21, 2013, and became effective immediately.

The new law improves existing state consumer protection laws to help against price gouging following extreme weather storms. "There is no question that residents in our region and statewide have experienced major storms in recent years and some were later victimized by some businesses who price-gouged for various goods and services," Rep. Davis said. "The new law protects consumers from any business who tries to take advantage of residents who find themselves in vulnerable situations during severe storms."

Under the new law, no seller can sell or offer to sell for an unconscionably excessive price, goods and services vital and necessary for consumer health, safety, or welfare and used, bought, or rendered primarily for personal, family, or household purposes. Goods and services include lodging, snow removal, flood abatement, and post-storm cleanup or repair services.

Rep. Davis noted that most businesses and service providers in the area are operated by honest people and the new law will not affect them. Anyone who thinks they may have been victims of price gouging can contact the state Department of Consumer Protection, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1630, Main Telephone: (860) 713-6100, Consumer Info/Complaints: (860) 713-6300, Toll-Free: (800) 842-2649, TDD: (860) 713-7240, Fax: (860) 713-7239.

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CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Programs at the Case Memorial Library are free (except as noted for materials charges) and open to the public. Pre-registration is required for Library programs. Library hours are as follows: Monday and Thursday 10-8; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10-5; Saturday 10-4. The Library will close at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24 and reopen on Thursday, December 26 in observance of Christmas. The Library will close at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31 and reopen on Thursday, January 2 in observance of New Year's Eve and Day.

Weekly Storytimes

Come to our weekly storytimes to have fun, meet new friends, and set your child on the path to lifelong learning!

Mother Goose is on the Loose! Lapsit Storytime

Sessions for babies and toddlers up to 24 months. Our lapsit storytimes feature nursery rhymes, music, and movement. Tuesday, December 17, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Two Year-Old Storytime

Our 2-year-old storytimes feature storytelling, music, and movement. Thursday, December 12, 19, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Three to Five Year-Old Storytime

Our 3 to 5 year-old storytimes feature storytelling, rhymes, and finger plays. Monday, December 9, 4-5 p.m.

Events for Children

Holiday Teddy Bear Storytime

Monday, December 16, 6:30 p.m. - Join us for a special holiday storytime. For children ages 2-5. Bring a snack; we'll provide juice.

Holiday Film: Home Alone

Monday, December 30, 1 p.m. - An 8-year-old boy who is accidentally left behind while his family flies to France for Christmas must defend his home against idiotic burglars. 103 minutes. PG.

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 1 - Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day by stopping in to the Library and checking out all the wonderful things we have to offer. There will be giveaways and crafts as well as a special program.

One Heart/One World

Saturday, February 1, 11 a.m. - A multicultural and international drum and dance program presented by Playtivity for children of all ages. Learn about cultural diversity in a fun way as we sing, dance, and play African, Latin, and Native American songs and rhythms. Each child will get to play their own special instrument! Registration begins two weeks before the program date.

Events for Teens & Tweens

Crafternoon!: Etched Glass Candleholders

Thursday, December 12, 4-5 p.m. - Make an etched glass candle holder for yourself or give it as a gift to someone special. Wrap your candleholder at our gift wrapping station and leave with a finished present. All supplies will be provided. Space is limited. Registration is required. For teens and tweens in grades 6 through 12 only.

Book Chat Café

Tuesday, December 17, January 7, February 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.

Events for Adults

The Bookcase: Evening Book Discussion Group

Thursday, December 12, 7:30 p.m. - Join The Bookcase leader Toby Zabinski for a discussion of *The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty. Copies available at the Circulation Desk.

Thursday, February 6, 7:30 p.m. - Join The Bookcase leader Toby Zabinski for a discussion of *11/22/63* by Stephen King. Copies will be available at the Circulation Desk in January.

Downton Abbey Afternoon Tea

Saturday, January 4, 1 p.m. - Ring in the New Year and get ready for season 4 of *Downton Abbey* (premiering on January 5) with an afternoon tea at the Library. We'll enjoy tea and refreshments that Mrs. Patmore would be proud of, have some fun with *Downton Abbey* trivia and games, and watch the season 3 finale. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own teacup and saucer and dress in *Downton*-inspired fare - whether upstairs or down. Space is limited. Registration is highly recommended.

176 Tyler City Road, Orange, CT 06477

203-891-2170

www.casememoriallibrary.org



Case Memorial Library

Drop-In Tech Help

Tuesday, January 7, 18; February 11, 18, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Monday, January 13, February 3, 5-6 p.m.

Thursday, January 23, February 27, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Drop in for hands-on assistance with downloading e-books and audiobooks, using your device, Microsoft Office applications, using the Internet, basic computing, and more. Help is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. No registration. To download e-books, please bring your Case Memorial Card and have your passwords ready (Amazon ID and password for Kindle; Apple ID and password for iPad and iPhone). Open to Orange residents only.

Oscar Ballot Contest

Saturday, January 18-Saturday, March 1 - Fill out a ballot with your predictions for the 2014 Academy Award winners and receive a popcorn! The two participants who correctly predict the most Oscar winners will receive an Oscar DVD of their choice.

January 18: Ballots available at the Library

March 1: Last day to submit a ballot

March 2: 2014 Academy Awards

Books & Breakfast: Morning Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, January 21, 10 a.m. - Join Books & Breakfast leader Carol Davidson for a discussion of *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Refreshments will be served.

Cookbook Club

Monday, January 27, 7 p.m. - Come to the cookbook club for great food and great discussion about the featured cookbook: *The Food52 Cookbook: 140 Winning Recipes from Exceptional Home Cooks* by Amanda Hesser & Merrill Stubbs. Come ready to share your dish and your experiences with the group. Copies are available for checkout at the Circulation Desk.

Oscar Film

Monday, February 24, 7 p.m. - Wednesday, February 26, 1 p.m. with subtitles - Film to be announced on Thursday, January 16. Registration is highly recommended and begins on February 3.

Film Buffs: Twenty Feet from Stardom

Thursday, February 27, 7 p.m. - The untold true story of the backup singers behind some of the greatest musical legends of the 21st century. Triumphant and heartbreaking in equal measure, the film is both a tribute to the unsung voices who brought shape and style to popular music and a reflection on the conflicts, sacrifices and rewards of a career spent harmonizing with others. PG-13. 91 minutes.

Art in the Library

December 2-28: Oils and sculptures by Thu Tran and Sandy Spahr.

January 3-31: Scanner photography by Ellen Hoverkamp. Reception: Thursday, January 9, 5-7 p.m.

February 3-28: Oils and photography by Nancy Lee Vadnais and Don Garbera. Reception: Thursday, February 6, 5-7 p.m.

MORE OFFERINGS FROM CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Movies on DVD

American Horror Story, Season 1 • Band of Outsiders • Breaking Bad, Season 4
 Bullet to the Head • Castle, Season 1 • House of Cards • Iron Man 3
 Man of Steel • Star Trek: Into Darkness • This Is the End

Audiobooks

Aslan, Reza – Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth (Biography)
 Beaton, M. C. – Something Borrowed, Someone Dead
 Fielding, Helen – Bridget Jones: Mad about the Boy
 Gilbert, Elizabeth – The Signature of All Things
 Grisham, John – Sycamore Row
 Lahiri, Jhumpa – The Lowlands
 Patterson, James – Gone
 Macomber, Debbie – Starting Now
 Preston, Douglas, and Lincoln Child – White Fire
 Wozniak, Steve – iWoz (Biography)

Music

Beethoven, Ludwig van – Diabelli Variations and other works
 Bruckner, Anton – Mass No. 3 in F minor
 Cher – Closer to the Truth
 Haim – Days Are Gone
 Mayer, John – Paradise Valley
 Mozart, W. A. – Symphonies Nos. 35-41; Karl Böhm, conductor
 Rogers, Kenny – You Can't Make Old Friends
 Rutgers Wind Ensemble – Works of Virgil Thomson and others
 Shostakovich, Dmitri – Symphony No. 7
 Webb, Jimmy – Still Within the Sound of My Voice

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COLDWELL BANKER COLLECTS FOR THE YALE TOY CLOSET

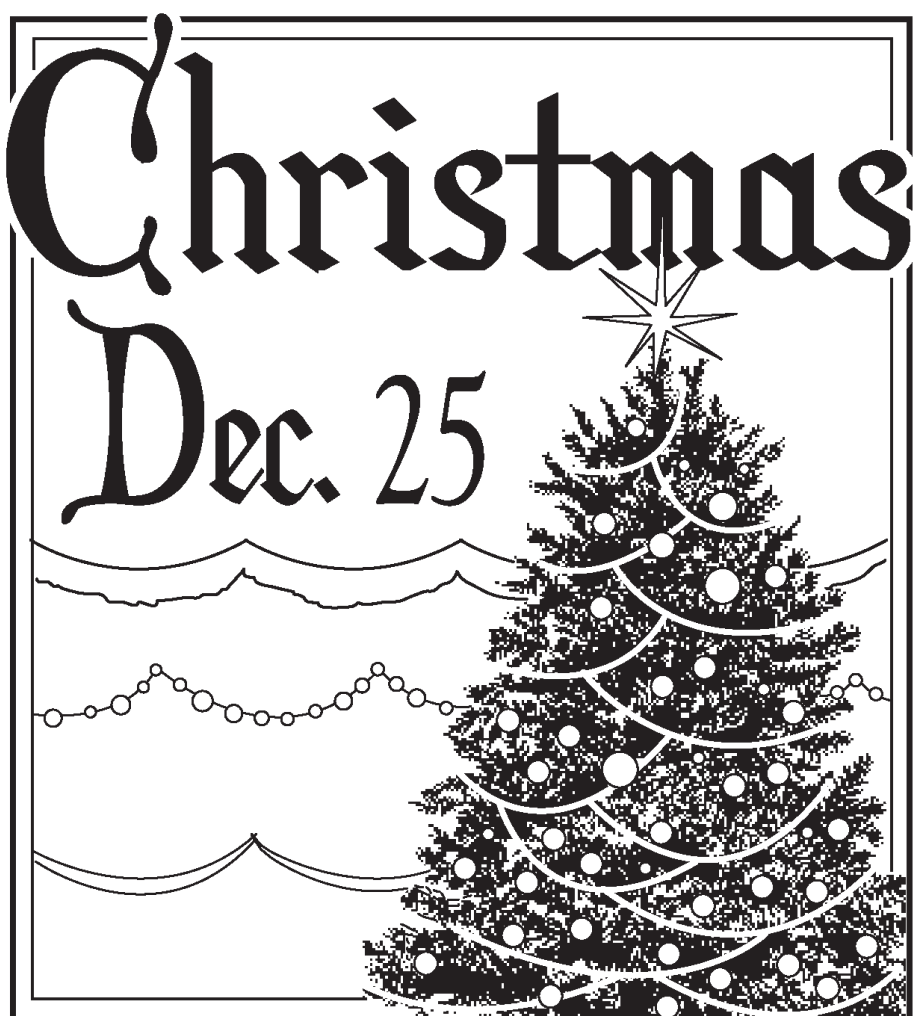
The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Orange has been designated as a local drop site for the Yale Toy Closet program again this year.

Founded in 1993 by Ann Nyberg, WTNH News 8 anchorwoman, the Toy Closet helps insure that pediatric patients come away from their hospitalization with a pleasant memory. In addition, the toys serve as gifts for special occasions such as birthdays and holiday celebrations for hospitalized children. Toys, gifts and financial contributions are needed throughout the year. The success of the Toy Closet program is directly related to community involvement.

The Orange Office, located at 564 Racebrook Road, will be accepting donated toys through December 20th. Once the reception area of the office is full of toys, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage staff and sales associates will deliver the toys to the Yale Toy Closet.

For more information about the Yale Toy Closet collection, please contact Aileen DeFeo at (203) 795-6000. A list of toy suggestions is also available upon request.

W E D N E S D A Y



SAVE BIG ON REAL CHRISTMAS TREES

The Christmas tree is the centerpiece of your home during the holiday season. While some people make their lives easier with a fake tree, nothing beats the smell of a freshly cut tree. Unfortunately, not everyone can afford to drop \$50 or \$100 on a tree that will be around for all of two weeks, and there don't seem to be many options for saving money on one.

So in the spirit of Christmas, Michael Bondi, professor of forestry with Oregon State University Extension Services, shares his top tips to save money on a real tree this holiday season.

1. Shop Around

It's the most commonsense advice you can get when shopping for anything, but there is a specific method to shopping around when it comes to live Christmas trees. "The prices can vary quite a bit," says Bondi, who explains that big-box retailers have the best prices, but the trees tend to not be as fresh because they are purchased in bulk.

Further, you're always sacrificing on customer service when you shop at a big box. Garden centers tend to have the freshest trees and decent customer service, but the prices are greater than a big box. Another option? Look for a nonprofit or charity that's selling trees. Not only can you get them on the cheap, you also can help out your community while you buy.

2. Shop for Species

"Trees that grow faster are less expensive because they can be brought to market faster," says Bondi. Conversely, trees that grow more slowly are more expensive. This isn't just due to the amount of time it takes to grow. Slower-growing trees tend to be a little fussier.

Balsam and Douglas firs are among the least-expensive trees, with more exotic trees like Nordman and Turkish firs being on the other end of the spectrum. Noble firs and Fraser firs are in the middle. For what it's worth, the smell of Christmas basically is the smell of a Douglas fir, so don't feel like you're missing out if you go for one of the less-expensive trees.

3. Accept "Charlie Brown" Trees

Everyone is afraid of getting a "Charlie Brown" tree, but not only does Bondi think there's nothing wrong with such trees, he also has fond family memories of them. As a child, his father often would buy three trees, cut the branches off of two and drill them into the third. "My father was very artistic," says Bondi, "that was his way of putting his personal flair on the tree."

Even if you aren't the artistic type, a Charlie Brown tree might not be as bad as you think. Not only are they significantly less expensive, but there might not be anything wrong with them for your purposes. "One of the beautiful things about real trees is the variation," says Bondi, "If you're going to put a tree up against the wall, a few missing branches don't really matter."

4. Wait for Prices to Come Down ... and Haggle

The closer you get to Christmas, the cheaper a tree will be. "If there are still a lot of trees left on the lot," says Bondi, "they're going to start getting anxious about selling them." If you go tree shopping after the first week of December and there's still a glut of trees left on the lot, don't be afraid to haggle a little.

So to save money on live Christmas trees this holiday season, wait a week or so to shop, aim for cheaper species of tree, don't be afraid to haggle and don't be looking for perfection. Best of all, you're adding to your savings while buying from American farmers, being green and pumping money into the local economy. What could be better than that?

Information courtesy www.gobankingrates.com.

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES

By Chief Robert J. Gagne



The Board of Police Commissioners, along with the members of the Orange Police Department, regretfully announces the passing of Police Commissioner Susan Lewin on November 24, 2013, after a brief illness. Commissioner Lewin was appointed to the Board of Police Commissioners in January 2011. During Commissioner Lewin's service to the Town of Orange, she demonstrated a genuine concern for insuring that the residents of Orange received the best possible service from their police department, while at the same time exhibiting unwavering support for the men and women of the Orange Police Department. The Town of Orange and our police department are saddened by the sudden loss of Commissioner Lewin. We express our thoughts and prayers, along with our deepest condolences, to Commissioner Lewin's family.



Susan Lewin

FROM THE YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

By John Ulatowski



Youth Services High School Volunteers Can Assist With Orange Community Events

Orange Youth Services has a list of Orange High School youth who are available to assist their community with a variety of volunteer needs. Our volunteers have signed up with a parent with Youth Services to access opportunities in regard attaining their necessary school volunteer credits. They are available for a wide variety of

community, school, and organizations located in Orange. The students are reliable, courteous, and conscientious.

If your organization needs assistance, perhaps Youth Services could help. Please feel free to contact John Ulatowski, Orange Youth Services Coordinator, at julatowski@orange-ct.gov.

Area Residents Need Jobs Help? Youth Services Job Bank Can Help

The Orange Youth Services Job Bank provides a service of pre-screened students, ages 13-16, who can be employed by area residents to do a large variety of jobs such as yard work, garden help, attics/basements, raking, snow show-

eling, small painting, party helper, tutoring, clerical assistance, mother's helper...and more. For further information, please call John Ulatowski, Orange Youth Services Coordinator, at 203-891-4785.

TOWN OF ORANGE MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2014

(Subject to Change, Check with Town Clerk's Office, 203-891-4730)



Town Hall

6th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm	Town Hall
7th	Economic Development Comm	5:30 pm	Town Hall
	Town Plan & Zoning Comm	7:30 pm	Town Hall
8th	OVNA Board of Governors	8:30 am	Clark Bldg
	Board of Selectmen	7:30 pm	Town Hall
9th	WPCA	7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Community Services Comm	7:30 pm	HPCC
	OGAT	7:30 pm	Town Hall
13th	Traffic Authority	4:30 pm	Police Dept
	Board of Police Comm	4:30 pm	Police Dept
	Amity Board of Education	6:30 pm	Woodbridge
	Conservation Comm	7:00 pm	HPCC
	Orange Board of Education	7:30 pm	Mary L. Tracy Bldg
	Board of Finance	7:30 pm	Town Hall
14th	Inland Wetlands Comm	7:30 pm	Town Hall
	Board of Health	7:30 pm	HPCC
15th	Recycling Cmte	7:30 pm	HPCC
16th	Case Memorial Library Comm	7:30 pm	Case Mem. Library
21st	Town Plan & Zoning Comm	7:30 pm	Town Hall
22nd	Safety Comm	9:00 am	Town Hall
	Park & Recreation Comm	7:30 pm	Town Hall
23rd	Senior Center Advisory Cmte	1:00 pm	HPCC
24th	Emergency Management Cmte	8:00 am	Police Station
27th	Family Counseling Cmte	9:00 am	HPCC
	ODAAC	7:00 pm	Clark Bldg
	Youth Services	7:30 pm	HPCC

TOWN OF ORANGE HOLIDAY HOURS 2013

- Tuesday, December 24, 2013 – Town offices will close at 1 p.m.
- Exception: Highway will close at 11:30 a.m., Transfer Station will remain open to 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 25, 2013 – All Town offices are closed.
- Tuesday, December 31, 2013 - Town offices will close at 1 p.m.
- Exception: Highway will close at 11:30 a.m., Transfer Station will remain open to 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 1, 2014 – All Town offices are closed.

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ORANGE RESIDENT HONORED

Hamden Hall Country Day School honored local attorney and philanthropist Rolan Joni Young Smith recently with an Alumni Achievement Award for her many personal and professional accomplishments. Smith, who resides in Orange, is a senior partner with Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C., in Milford. Her areas of practice include, among several things, affordable housing and community and economic development. Additionally, Smith was the Macklin Fleming Visiting Lecturer in Law at the Yale University Law School clinic on affordable housing and community development from 2002 to 2003.

"The one thing that hasn't changed at Hamden Hall is the sense of community – the sense of love," said Smith during her acceptance remarks. "There is acceptance here, and I remember how much all of you put into us. We were embraced and we were loved."

Hamden Hall's Alumni Achievement Awards are presented to graduates of the school who have distinguished themselves in some particular manner worthy of recognition. Their achievements or contributions are spread across a diverse array of endeavors, with recognition in categories such as community service, society and world affairs, and professional excellence. "The recipients uphold the highest standards and values in their pursuits, are passionate about their chosen undertaking, and are role models who inspire others," said Hamden Hall Head of School Robert J. Izzo.

Smith graduated from Hamden Hall in 1978. She was presented her award by her former English teacher, Betty Lou Blumberg, with whom she has remained close. Following Hamden Hall, Smith attended Dartmouth College, graduating in 1982. She earned her juris doctorate from American University, Washington College of Law, in 1985. Smith was named Minority Business Person of the Year in 1999 and was listed among 20 Noteworthy Women in 1999. Among her long list of professional associations and memberships: former chair of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority; former President of the Greater New Haven NAACP; chair of the Board of Directors of Start Bank, and a member and past chair of the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven. Smith is married to Rev. Dr. Eric Smith.



Rolan Joni
Young Smith

SLOSSBERG: STATE HELPS LOCAL FARMS RECOVER STORM LOSSES

After suffering ruined crops and equipment and other losses due to storms and flooding earlier this year, Connecticut's farmers are getting some much needed relief. Local farms are receiving Production Loss Assistance Needed Today (PLANT) grants from the State to help them recover their losses.

State Senator Gayle S. Slossberg (D-Milford) welcomed Governor Dannel P. Malloy's announcement that Connecticut's Department of Agriculture (DoAg), in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), approved 239 PLANT grants in October, and began distributing them on the 31st of the month. "The damage inflicted on our farms this year has left them in need of whatever help we can provide," said Sen. Slossberg. "Locally, our communities have stepped up in the aftermath of severe storms, and I'm pleased to see the State doing what it can to aid our recovery efforts."

Locally, Glendale Farms in Milford, Grassy Hill Farm in Orange, Golden Acres Farms in West Haven, and Shepherd Farm in Woodbridge were all approved for PLANT grants. "Severe weather events—the kind that were seemingly unheard of in Connecticut when I was growing up—have become the new normal," said DoAg Commissioner Steven Reviczky in a statement. "These grants are helping farm businesses not only recover today, but also strengthen agricultural infrastructure to better weather tomorrow's tornados, hurricanes, and blizzards, when—not if—they occur. These are wise investments in Connecticut's future and its essential supply of food and farm products."

Nearly \$5 million in PLANT grants will be distributed to farms across the state who applied for the program. Grant applications were reviewed, approved, and processed through a partnership between DoAg and DECD, with assistance from the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association.

Farms can use the assistance to repair damaged property and equipment, to replant lost crops, to apply fertilizer and other soil amendments, to apply any necessary products to prevent disease and pest outbreaks, and to purchase feed to supplement lost hay, corn, and other crops for livestock.

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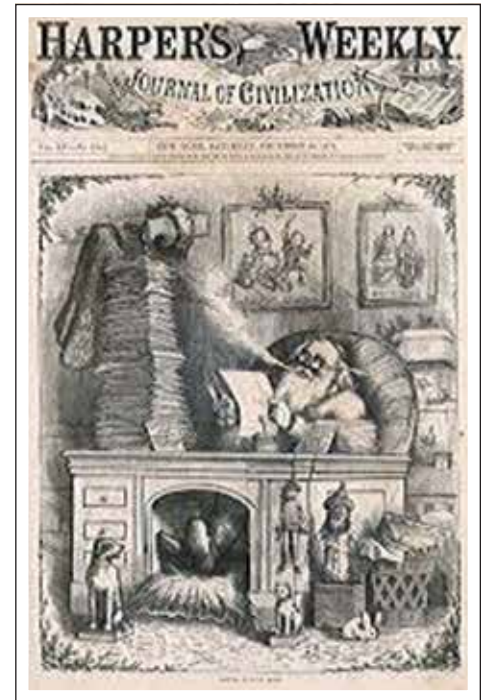
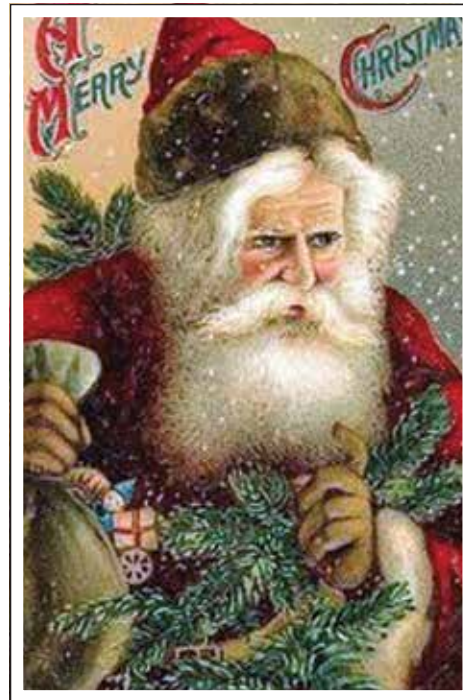
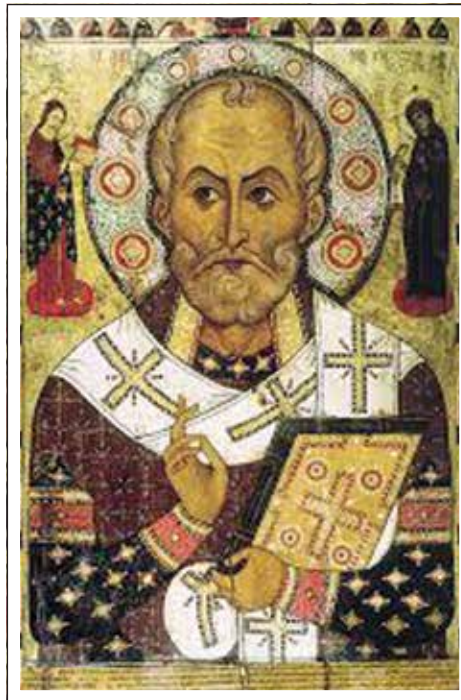


HISTORY CORNER

By Ginny Reinhard



Do You Really Know What It's All About?



Christmas, as we know it today, did not start with the first colonists as they reached our shores. Reason? Our stern Puritan ancestors who were reacting strongly to anything that reminded them of the religious conflicts they experienced in England banned it. Over eighty percent of the early settlers were Protestant, coming from both England and Germany. For the first two centuries the holiday was suppressed by the Puritans, as it was actually illegal to celebrate Christmas in Massachusetts between 1658 & 1689 with a fine of 5 shillings. It was declared by the General court to be a criminal offense.

It was not until the middle of the nineteenth century that Christmas became legal as an official public holiday in New England. At one time mill workers risked losing their jobs if they arrived late for work on the 25th of December. Not only were the Puritans reacting to religious questions, the behavior of many citizens was rowdy with public displays of excessive eating and drinking, mocking authority and sometime invasions of wealthy homes. It was expected that the rich were expected to offer fruits of their harvest to the poorer neighbors who in turn would march into a home with their demands in return for their "good will".

This "exchange" of gifts often included a performance of songs, often drinking songs using a variety of names one of which is held today, wassailing. The young boys and men who were the perpetrators of this ritual would toast their patron's wellbeing while swilling the beer he had supplied them. It's no wonder that Christmas, if you can call it that, was an unwelcome "guest". But there was a need for celebration as a relief from the darkness of winter and the extreme physical effort of bringing in the harvest. Many of the settlers had their own folk traditions and eventually the celebrations emerged out of the darkness. These folk traditions preceded the birth of Christ with some cultures celebrating the beginning of the New Year with their joy heartfelt.

One of these traditions was the English Christmas pudding made with dried fruits with fortune-telling charms inside. If your slice contained a coin you would be rich, a thimble you would be an old maid, a button meant you would remain a bachelor. If you got a ring you would be married. The pudding often referred to as Plum Pudding did not contain plums. No. Plum meant to rise or swell up so the pudding would rise and if it contained raisins it would swell up.

Santa Clause is occasionally referred to as St. Nicholas who was actually the first well-known giver of gifts. As a young man, he grew up in a wealthy family and upon the death of his parents; he himself became a rich man. He was however, a bishop in the fourth century in Turkey with no need for wealth. One story tells of a poor man who had 3 daughters and could not provide them with a dowry. Nicholas, cloaked in darkness tossed a bag of coins into the man's window three times. His good deed became a legend and his fame spread throughout the Mediterranean and people celebrated his death on the sixth of December that is known today as St. Nicholas Day. He became the patron saint of children, sailors and merchants. The three balls associated with a pawnshop represent the 3 bags of gold given to the father and his three daughters.

As traditions continued, it was not uncommon for the children to put their wet or snowy shoes on the hearth to dry and if St. Nicholas were to stop by, he would fill the shoes with fruit and nuts. As gifts became more prominent, a larger receptacle was needed, thus the stocking. St. Nicholas' generosity to the poor man gives us another

idea as he threw the bags down the chimney and the girls' stockings were hanging there to dry. In Germany, the gifts were hung on a tree. It is said that Germany, more than any other country, has influenced the way Christmas is celebrated with the Christmas cookie, the advent wreath and, of course, the Christmas tree. The first commercial ornaments were little decorated boxes filled with edible goodies; fruits nuts, cookies, candy and small cakes. Eventually German glass blowers began making the first glass ornaments. The decorated tree apparently had no popularity in Colonial America and the tradition, followed by the Germans did not catch on until the 1830s.

As Christmas traditions and practices vacillated throughout Europe and the new world colonies, an enormously influential poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" was written in 1822 but did not become widely popular until several years later. It is believed that the tenderness and family values written in Clement Moore's poem helped to bring people together. This was the first time the public had a physical description of Santa. In 1863, an illustrator named Thomas Nast helped to solidify the "look" of Santa in his illustrations and cartoons that made him very famous as he supplied fresh drawings of Santa for the Christmas issue of Harper's Weekly each year.

Christmas is often abbreviated as XMAS which to some dishonors Christ's name. The "X" stands for the Greek letter Chi, the first letter in the Greek word for Christ. The mass media finds that it fits better in a headline. We associate green and red with the holiday and there are many theories why these two colors have become the colors of Christmas. Green is the easiest to understand as evergreens have been used throughout history as important and sacred. The holly berry seems to fit the bill for the color red as it lives through winter, symbolizing life.

The Yule Log's tradition has very deep, pagan roots. The Celts and Druids burned massive logs in winter ceremonies in celebration of the sun. The choosing of the log was of great importance as the celebration fires were to last for the duration of the winter festival. For the Christian celebration, the log was cut on February 2nd, set out to dry and sometimes soaked with spices and decorated with greenery. The Scandinavians saved a piece of the old log as it represented good will from Thor, a god representing strength.

The candle, of course, was a means of light from early history but the practice of putting candles in the window in Victorian times came to represent concern and good will for the poor and placed in the window as a sign to needy passersby that shelter and warmth could be found in the home.

May you all have light, warmth and love in this holiday season. ~ Ginny Reinhard

OHS OPENS HOLIDAY COLLECTION

The Orange Historical Society is ready to present its holiday collection of antiques and collectibles for the Christmas season at the Antique Museum located at 615 Orange Center Road. The shop is open each Saturday from 10:00-3:00. Come visit the museum and shop for those hard to buy for friends and family. You are sure to find something for everyone. For information and directions to the shop call 203 795-3106.



HOLLY HILL THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR ORANGE SENIORS

Thanks to the generosity of the children of Holly Hill Childcare and Learning Center, several senior residents of Orange will be enjoying bountiful Thanksgiving baskets filled with everything needed for a wonderful holiday dinner, along with a grocery gift card. The Thanksgiving food drive was the perfect opportunity for our staff to teach our young people a very valuable lesson... the meaning of giving. Pictured above with the children are (far left) Infant Teacher Alice DiNicola and Assistant Director Debbie Fedorko and (far right), Pre-School Teacher, Stephenie Lucas.



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The Turkey Hill School Community came together to show great compassion and generosity this Thanksgiving Season. The students and staff thought of the families who may not have enough resources to celebrate this Thanksgiving by teaming up with FISH, an organization that gives to the less fortunate, to donate food to the greater New Haven area. The fifth and sixth grade student council put together and ran a food drive. Students and teachers donated non perishable food products, such as pasta, canned goods, and boxed products. Altogether, about 14 boxes were donated to FISH. We thank everyone who helped make our food drive such a success and the organization FISH for allowing us to take part in an activity that reminds us of the true spirit of the holiday season.



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IN ITALY, 'SANTA' RIDES A BROOMSTICK

In Italy, the Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on Jan. 6 with a national holiday, is very much like our traditional Christmas celebrations in North America. Epiphany commemorates the 12th day of Christmas when the three Wise Men arrived at the manger bearing gifts for Baby Jesus. The traditional Christmas holiday season in Italy lasts through Epiphany.

Epiphany's equivalent of Father Christmas, La Befana, arrives on her broomstick during the night of Jan. 5 and fills children's stockings with sweets and toys. Like our very own Santa, La Befana will leave coal for all those naughty children! It's said she carries a broom to sweep away the old year to make room for the new.

Legend has it that the night before the Wise Men arrived at the manger, they stopped at the shack of an old woman to ask directions. They invited her to come along, but she said she was busy sweeping and cleaning her house. Later that night, she saw a great light in the sky and decided to join the Wise Men bearing gifts that had belonged to her child who had died. She got lost and never found the manger. Now La Befana flies around on her broomstick each year on the 11th night, bringing gifts to children in hopes that she might find the Baby Jesus.

La Befana is represented as an old lady, wearing a black shawl and covered in soot who enters houses through the chimney carrying a bag or hamper filled with her gifts. Children hang their stockings on the evening of Jan. 5 awaiting her arrival.

Italians spend their day on Jan. 6 opening their doors to welcomed visitors, watching children unwrapping their gifts and laying out tables full of cakes and traditional Italian liqueurs.

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DINING WITH SUSAN

By Susan Noonan



Reno's Pizzeria

Reno's Pizzeria first opened in December of 2006 to rave reviews and became an instant favorite in the Town of Orange. Reno's is now celebrating its 7th year in business this month and the business is more popular than ever. It relocated to 500 Boston Post Road 3 years ago. Time sure does fly! Owner Dave Kennedy has been in the pizza business for 15 years and along with his lovely wife Stephanie they definitely have made a mark in Orange and the surrounding communities becoming one of the most popular pizza restaurants in the area.

I order from Reno's on a regular basis and have it delivered to my home and must say the food is better than ever. The Kennedy's recently upgraded their menu and added some great new dishes. We all know there are many choices for pizza in the area, but what really impresses me about Reno's is the quality and freshness of its food. Of course the pizza is top-notch, but its wings, salads, sandwiches & entrees are outstanding.

I would like to share some words from the Kennedy's, "In addition to our famous pizza, we have a variety of hot, cold, and specialty subs, like our Chicken Caprese and Steak Bomb. All of our subs are offered all day, every day. We offer several healthy meal-sized salads, including Grilled Shrimp Salad with avocado, red onion, tomato, cucumber, and lime vinaigrette and our popular Harvest Chicken Salad with a freshly grilled chicken breast, apples, cranberries, and glazed walnuts. We have everyone's favorite Italian specialties like Eggplant Parmigiana, Chicken Parmigiana, and Sausage & Broccoli Rabe. Our menu includes chicken wings both regular and boneless with a variety of sauces like Buffalo, Zesty Asian, Bourbon, Chili Garlic Dry Rub seasoning in addition to buffalo, barbecue, and Reno's sweet and spicy sauce. We have some specialty pizzas on the menu including Buffalo Chicken, which has grilled chicken with buffalo wing sauce and a sprinkle of gorgonzola. The Renaldo, which has red sauce, mozzarella, sausage, banana peppers, and onions; and the Z Pizza, which is a white pizza with mozzarella, olive oil, garlic, and roasted eggplant. Our new Mashed Potato pizza has become one of our top selling menu items. Of course, we still offer all of our other favorite pizzas, including Spaghetti and Meatball, Pizza Fritta, Buffalo Chicken, Famous White, and the Post Road special, among others."

Additionally, Reno's now offers dinners in lunch or dinner size. These can be ordered any time of day for those customers who don't want a large portion, but still want to enjoy the delicious food. it offers lunch specials: 2 slices with a soda (\$5.00 cheese/\$5.65 gourmet) or any hot or cold sandwich with a soda for \$5.65. Reno's does catering for home and office. Reno's continues to pride itself on using the freshest ingredients, shopping for produce daily. It makes the sauce and dough in-house and uses the highest quality mozzarella. In addition to pizza, wings, salads, sandwiches, and dinners offer something for everyone. Reno's is still BYOB. Make sure you bring your own glasses. Delivery is available to homes and businesses in Orange.

Reno's motto is "We Live Here, We Work Here, We Go To School Here". It has been running an advertising campaign in local publications featuring a collage of customers enjoying Reno's food. Any readers who have photos enjoying Reno's, whether in the restaurant, at home, or at work, please email to SKennedy0421@yahoo.com and your photo may be included in its next ad. The meaning behind this motto is that Reno's is an integral part of the community. Dave and Stephanie live in Orange, work in Orange, and many of Reno's' employees go to school at Amity and local colleges. Many of these employees also live in town. For many of them, Reno's is their first job. Several have been with them right from the beginning. The great thing about working at Reno's is the sense of community and the family atmosphere. Reno's continues to give back to the community through charitable donations and fundraising. Dave and Stephanie say, "We appreciate all the support the Orange community has given us and are happy to be Orange's favorite pizza."

*Web site www.renos-pizzeria.com where you can find the full menu. Reno's can also be found on Facebook.

*Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 11:30am-8:30pm -Friday & Saturday 11:30am-9:00pm- Sunday 3:30pm-8:30pm - Closed Mondays

*Reno's does school fundraisers by selling Reno's Fundraising Gift Cards. Contact Stephanie by e-mail at stephaniekennedy@renos-pizzeria.com for information on this program. Online ordering at www.renos-pizzeria.com will be available in late December or early January. Reno's is offering discounted gift certificates for the month of December again this year. \$5 off every \$25 worth of gift certificates purchased. For example, a \$50 gift certificate will cost \$40.

All major credit cards accepted - Free delivery to Orange homes & businesses - Handicapped accessible - Ample parking

Reno's Pizzeria
 500 Boston Post Road
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 203-799-7366

Final notes: Reno's motto is: "You tried the rest, come back to the best! Again, Orange's favorite Pizza, Subs, Salads & Wings is more popular than ever! Dave and Stephanie Kennedy give so much back to the community. We are very fortunate to have business owners like them in the town of Orange. Please remember to support our local family owned businesses.

If you have a favorite restaurant e-mail susan@orangetownnews.com. Happy Holidays to all our loyal readers!

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Taraji Henson

Q: I love "The Witches of East End." Can you tell me if it will be back for another season? -- Lynn W., via email

A: Lifetime recently announced that "Witches" will return for a second 13-episode season, to air sometime in 2014 (an exact date has not been decided yet). The hit drama stars **Julia Ormond, Madchen Amick, Jenna Dewan Tatum** and **Rachel Boston** as a family of witches living in the secluded seaside town of East Haven. The show also stars **Eric Winter, Daniel DiTomasso** and **Virginia Madsen**. And don't miss the season one finale, which airs Sunday, Dec. 15, at 10 p.m. ET/PT.

Q: Can you tell me why "King and Maxwell" wasn't renewed? My husband and I really liked that show. We like most of the TNT shows; we especially miss Brenda and "The Closer." -- Karen J. in Florida

A: The consensus reason for the show's demise is the ever-popular "low ratings." And while the drama series -- which centered on former Secret Service agents who become private detectives, played by **Rebecca Romijn** and **Jon Tenney** -- didn't have rock-bottom ratings, the show was enough on the bubble that TNT decided not to renew. On top of low ratings, "King and Maxwell" also lost one-third of its "Major Crimes" lead-in audience, which is usually a nail in the coffin for any struggling freshman series.

Q: We are huge fans of "Person of Interest." We were not expecting Carter to be killed off! She, Reese and Finch are the program. Without her, it won't be the same. Why was Carter written out? -- Laura K., via email

A: **Taraji P. Henson**, who played Officer Joss Carter for two and a half seasons on the CBS drama, was just as surprised as you were that her character

died. However, she knows it was time for her character to go, and it was a great way to surprise and stun the audience. She recently told "Entertainment Weekly": "You portray a character for so long, you care about her and her life. But art imitates life -- it comes to an end unexpectedly. It was bittersweet, because I enjoyed portraying Carter. What a strong, powerful woman on television."

But don't get too sad about Carter's death, because you could see her again someday -- in a flashback. The show is known for using flashbacks to propel the story lines, and Taraji said she definitely would be up for returning to film flashback scenes.

Q: Can you please tell me if "Bunheads" will return to ABC Family anytime this year? -- Frank W., via email

A: ABC Family canceled the ballerina dramedy after only one season, which many critics say was entirely too soon, and that the show was just finding its ground and still had a lot more to give. But fan and critical favor couldn't save this **Amy Sherman Palladino**-created show (she's most famous for "Gilmore Girls"), with "Bunheads" airing its last dance this past February.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

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GARDEN CLUB GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Holiday is a time for members of the Garden Club of Orange to give "Thanks" to the community for its support throughout the year. You will see decorated wreaths on all civic buildings made by members and donated to the town.

Our members also visited Orange Health Care Center to make Holiday baskets with residents to put in their rooms. Each month a nature related program is presented to them by our club members.

Garden Club of Orange is a member of National Garden Clubs, New England Regional and Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. Interested to learn more, please call Nancy Becque at 203-795-9425.



THE GARDEN CLUB OF ORANGE RECEIVES AWARDS

Garden Club of Orange, members of National Garden Clubs, New England Region and Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut recently received five awards at the annual Award Luncheon. The awards were in:

1. Yearbook Award of Excellence - a traveling pewter bowl.
2. Certificate of Achievement in the Osborne Homestead Museum Holiday showcase.
3. Publication Award 1st place in newsletters.
4. Certificate of Achievement for Garden Therapy; we share creative talents with the seniors at the Orange Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center.
5. Yearbook Award Class IV (45 - 69 members) 1st place.

Many of us attended this special occasion. Congratulations!

For information on Garden Club of Orange please visit <http://www.orange-ct.gov/gardenclub.html>.

INAUGURAL GALA

The Orange Republican Town Committee will be holding an Inaugural Gala honoring First Selectman James M. Zeoli and our Republican Elected Officials on Thursday, January 16th from 7-10 pm, Grassy Hill Country Club, 441 Clark Lane, Orange, CT 06477.



Jim Zeoli

There will be Dinner and Dancing, including two hours of open bar, cold hors d'oeuvres, dinner buffet, dessert, coffee and tea, all for \$100 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact:

Debra Marino 203-799-7303 email: dmarinolaw@yahoo.com or Karen Arnold 203-799-7273 email: GOP1KA@aol.com. Make checks payable to ORTC and mail to PO Box 632 • Orange, CT 06477.





IN THE BEGINNING...

The Nathan Bryan-William Andrew house was purchased by the Town of Orange with the agreement of the Orange Historical Society to restore it. The task, which was daunting, has become a reality. What has not been a priority were the artifacts that were found in two consecutive archeological digs. All items were placed in envelopes and the various envelopes were placed in a small paper bag with the areas dug listed.

All of these bags were stored at the Academy until Clare Staib-Kaufman offered to work on the project to separate the items, place them in a library card catalog, labeling each draw and finally printing a brochure to help a researcher find a particular item. For her heroic efforts, Clare will be receiving a Silver Star Award from the Girl Scouts as she exemplifies what today's young people can do for their community. This effort will live on as researchers delve into the 19 families that lived there at one time or another. Because of the number of families, bottles, dishes and the like were moved from place to place as gardens, driveways and lawns were shifted around. Clare's efforts will help to put the puzzles together but in some cases pottery without color or markings will be a challenge to restore.

The Mary Woodruff Research Center on the 2nd floor of The Academy is open by appointment for anyone who would like to research Orange history.

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State Representatives Paul Davis and James Maroney accepting a "Bright Idea" grant of \$5,000 for the Town of Orange from representatives of Clean Energy Communities at a recently held ceremony at the State Capitol. The town was recognized for its progress in achieving energy efficiencies. Under the program, cities and towns pledge to reduce municipal building energy consumption and increase electrical needs from renewable sources.



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Students from Mary L. Tracy School enjoyed dining side by side with their classmates at their annual, school wide Thanksgiving feast. They had the opportunity to make either a Pilgrim or Native American outfit that they would wear during the feast. Here, two students are shown wearing their Pilgrim outfits. After the feast, they got together to sing several songs about Thanksgiving.



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The Wizard of Oz (Sort of!!) was put on by Peck Place students that ranged in grades from 1st through 6th. This was the first school wide production that drew interest from more than 80 students! To get the entire school excited about the play, the students decorated the hallways with posters that they made about the play. The PTO brought in Pantochino Productions that not only wrote the play, but worked with and directed the students weekly. It was a lot of hard work, but in the end the students came together to put on a great play, truly entertaining their audience!

The tag sale season has drawn to a close for the Orange Historical Society but the antique shop is in full swing for the holiday season. Come visit the Academy Museum Antique Shop for those very special and unusual gifts or just browse through the museum for the historical displays of antique phones, radios and cameras. We've come a long way in technology so come visit the "past". Don't forget those fall and winter brides for that special memory. The shop is located at 605 Orange Center Road and is open every Saturday from 10-3. For information, call 203 795-3106.

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Five youth leaders from Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County (CFC) were among more than 300 participants in Habitat International's recent Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. Seen here (left to right standing) Nicole Floriano, Sacred Heart University Habitat Chapter and Youth United (YU) liaison; Jake Noyes (YU Publicity Director) of Orange ; Tess Osinski (YU President) of Orange; Liam Archer (YU Publicity Director) of Redding; (Seated) Phyllis Machledt of Easton, Facilitator and Habitat Board member; Beth Rafferty of Orange, Facilitator and Youth Director, Orange Congregational Church; and Emily Kolodziej of Bridgeport participated in the two-day event as well as a trip to Congress to advocate for affordable housing for low-income families. (Missing: Erika Wezenski, YU Secretary, also of Orange.) The theme of the conference was Constructive Discontent and sessions featured tools and techniques for building a volunteer youth force, advocating for affordable housing locally and globally, running effective meetings, and fundraising, among other topics.

One out of every four people on the planet live in poverty. In Connecticut alone, the number of homeless people rose 10 percent in 2012 to 14,287, which includes 4,155 family members. In addition, housing in Connecticut is too expensive and in short supply, particularly for lower income families (source: Partnership for Strong Communities). Since 1985, Habitat for Humanity CFC has built 177 homes in the Coastal Fairfield County cities of Bridgeport, Stratford, and Stamford. Habitat CFC's Youth United program draws together young volunteers from Bridgeport to Westport, Redding to Orange, all united by their desire to provide affordable housing for neighbors in need. Youth United currently is building its third home on Kossuth Street in Bridgeport. In addition, Habitat CFC's Youth United was recently awarded a \$4,000 matching gift grant from State Farm as well as an additional \$1,000 bonus grant to use toward a rehab. project in the CFC service area. For more information on Habitat CFC's Youth United program, contact Liz Kemp at ekemp@habitatcfc.org or call 203-333-2642.



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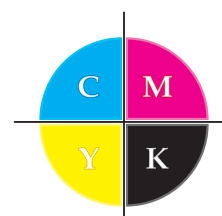


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John Poland
Julia Potter
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Shelby Ronan
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Spencer Shepard
Anthony Tom
Madison Tom
Daria Torrenti
Colton Varholak
Garrett Young
Xian-Zheng Zhong
Clare Zorena

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Abigail Allen
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Amelia Bailey-Schetlin
Jack Balocca
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Anne Marie Allen
George Antonellis
Stone Bragaw
Roberta Buccilli
Brian Carson
Abigail Chamberlain
Ruby Ciskowski
Sam Coury
Peter DeBassio
Carly DeMaio
Carsan Dziejkowski
Jocelyn Eagle
Richard Fagan
Michael Ficaro
Clayton Fischman
Michael Gulia
Jillian Gusciora
Brian Hackenjos
Michael Holloway
Moiz Jabbar
Alexandra Justo
Traci Kingston
Danielle London
Brooke Matyasovsky
Talia Mayerson
Adam Moscato
Maya Oestreicher
Riana Picagli
Veronica Pisano
Gunnar Poulimas
Morgan Ramadan
Gabriela Robles
Ryan Sabo
Melissa Satonick
Joseph Schittina
Alexandria Smith
Emilia Steinbrick
McKenzie Sullivan
Taylor Walsh
Catherine Whitaker

Citizenship Recognition – 7th Grade

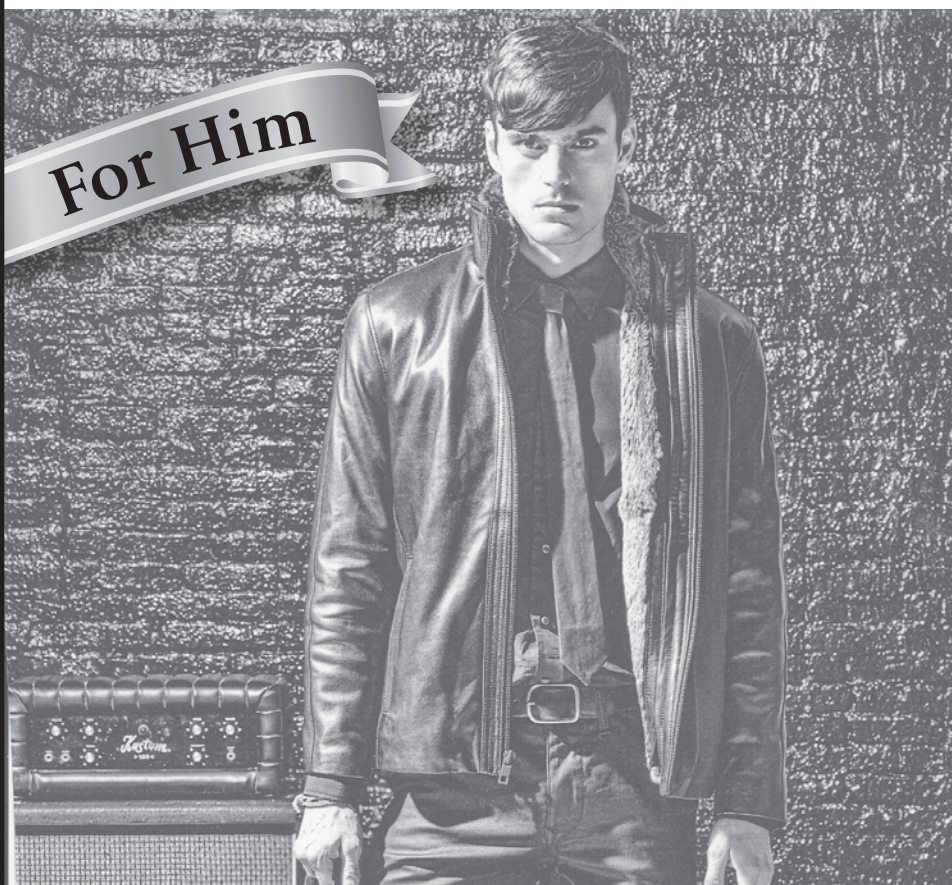
Mounisha Anumolu	Payton Grande	Dorothy Parniawski
Talia Barry	Julia Hoddinott	Julia Potter
Gina Driscoll	Julia Hurlburt	Garrett Young
Dize Eron	Adam Leszczak	
Cailey Esposito	Kaitlyn O'Brien	

Citizenship Recognition – 8th Grade

Kayla Abreu	Jocelyn Eagle	Haegan O'Rourke
Abigail Allen	Christina Emmerthal	Maya Oestreicher
Anne Marie Allen	Joseph Eschweiler	Jessica Paradis
Michael Allen	Jeremy Gustafson	Veronica Pisano
Fady Amro	Nicole Hunt	Gunnar Poulimas
Alexandra Ashworth	Hannah Hutchison	Marissa Proto
Bridget Barnsley	Alexandra Justo	Morgan Ramadan
Catherine Brown	Benjamin Kemp	Hannah Rappaport
Lauren Canna	Emily Killian	Ryan Sabo
Sarah Cartier	Vince Li	Nevia Selmon
Abigail Chamberlain	Arthur Lihar	Yishen Shen
Michelle Chimid	Danielle London	Christina Skerritt
Ruby Ciskowski	Justine Luo	McKenzie Sullivan
Carly DeMaio	Taylor Martin	Grace Vocalina
Vinh Do	Brooke Matyasovsky	Maren Westgard
Ulada Dubovik	Leah Mongillo	Catherine Whitaker

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America's Greatest Christmas Classic

By Rich Lowry

America's classic Christmas song was written by a Jewish immigrant.

Born in Russia with the name Israel Baline, he was the genius songwriter we know as Irving Berlin. He wrote "White Christmas" for the 1942 Hollywood musical "Holiday Inn," starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. On set, the movie's hit number was presumed to be another Berlin composition, the Valentine's Day song "Be Careful, It's My Heart." At first, it was. Then "White Christmas" captured the public's imagination and hasn't quite loosed its grip since.

As my colleague Mark Steyn puts it in a winsome podcast interview with Berlin's daughter Mary Ellin Barrett, "Berlin loved America and he sang its seasons": Easter ("Easter Parade"), July Fourth ("God Bless America") and, of course, Christmas.

Some estimates point to sales of all versions of "White Christmas" topping 100 million. According to Albert and Shirley Menendez in their book on American Christmas songs, it made the charts for two decades straight, and as late as 1969 was the No. 1 Christmas song in the country. You are sure to hear it multiple times any Christmas season, on the radio, on TV or at the mall.

It is a song built on yearning. In lines at the beginning of the original version that aren't usually performed, Berlin writes of being out in sunny California during the holiday: "There's never been such a day/in Beverly Hills, L.A./But it's December the twenty-fourth,/And I'm longing to be up North."

Steyn thinks that if America had entered World War II a few years earlier, the song might never have taken off. But 1942 was the year that American men were first shipped overseas, and it was released into a wave of homesickness. Mary Ellin Barrett says it first caught on with GIs in Great Britain. During the course of the war, it became the most requested song with Armed Forces Radio.

Berlin knew he had something special with "White Christmas" as soon as he wrote it. He supposedly enthused to his secretary, "I just wrote the best song I've ever written -- heck, I just wrote the best song that anybody's ever written!" The song evokes the warmth of the hearth and the comforts of our Christmas traditions in a way that hasn't stopped pulling at heartstrings yet.

In an essay in The New Republic, Jonathan Fischer asks what has become of the golden age of pop Christmas songs between the 1930s and 1950s that not only gave us "White Christmas," but "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The Christmas Song" and such lesser standards as "Silver Bells," "Santa Baby" and "Frosty the Snowman."

Well, the writing was better, the standards higher, the culture more charming and less abased. But Fischer notes something else -- Christmas meant more. "As the religious purpose of Christmas has gotten increasingly remote," he writes, "pop songwriters seem to have less to say about it" and "a traditional and sentimental version of Christmas ... doesn't appeal to the wider, more fractured popular culture the way it once did."

Maybe we can't make great Christmas songs anymore, but we can still listen to them, and that will have to be consolation enough. May your days be merry and bright.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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GET READY TO CRUISE NEWS

By Leslie Marsh



A Holiday Poem

'Twas holiday time, and people were stressed.
What to get for each other, what would be best?
But there's no need to worry, I'm willing to bet,
If you read to the bottom, you'll know what to get!

A cruise for the family, why, that would be great!
You can all go together, hey, let's pick a date!
And then, choose a cruise line, but how will you pick?
Just contact Cruise Planners, we'll sit in for St. Nick.

Cruise like a Norwegian or a pirate with Disney,
Or sail with Celebrity, the choice will be easy.
You could sail on a river to try something new,
Or Royal Caribbean, to name just a few.

You've chosen your cruise line, now where will you go?
The Islands, the Med or Puerto Rico?
You can visit a place like Alaska or Rome,
The choices are endless, why would you stay home?

If you don't like to fly, try a cruise from New York.
The view is spectacular, a truly great port.
From there you can sail to so many great places.
Your family will thank you with their best happy faces!

You've made your decision, now sit back and relax.
I'll take care of your booking, and provide all the facts.
From your stateroom, your passport, you're dining and more,
To touring or relaxing, there's so much in store!

As I mentioned before, there's no need to be blue,
Just count on me to choose the right cruise for you!
Your holiday gift will truly be great.
Call Cruise Planners today, it's never too late!

Wishing You Smooth Sailing This Holiday
Season and Throughout the New Year!

Leslie Marsh, ECC
Cruise Planners of Orange
203-799-2367

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- Between 1659 and 1681, it was illegal to celebrate Christmas in Massachusetts. If you were caught celebrating, you would be fined five shillings.
- St. Nicholas is actually a historical figure, although the name was spelled differently. St. Nikolaus was the bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, and he died on Dec. 6, 343. In different regions of the world he is known as Klaus, Nickel, Sünnerklas, Seneklos, Pelznickel, Knecht Ruprecht, Weihnachtsmann and Christkindl. Sometimes he travels on foot, and sometimes he's shown riding a white horse, a reindeer, a mule or even a goat.
- In 1712, Cotton Mather said, "The Feast of Christ's Nativity is spent in Reveling, Dicing, Carding, Masking, and in Licentious Liberty ... by Mad Mirth, by long Eating, by hard Drinking, by lewd Gaming, by rude Reveling." Doesn't sound much like today's celebrations, does it?
- If you think that Christmas has only recently become a nightmare of consumerism, consider that as early as the mid-1820s, Santa Claus was being employed to sell Christmas goods.
- Clement Clarke Moore, the author of "A Visit From St. Nicholas" (more popularly known as "The Night Before Christmas"), was born during the American Revolution and died during the Civil War.
- The modern image of Santa Claus was invented by American cartoonist Thomas Nast in the late 1800s. Until his cartoons were published at the end of the 19th century, no one really pictured Santa as a fat, jolly old man with white hair.
- The first image of a Christmas tree to be printed in the United States appeared in Boston in 1836. It was an illustration to a book written by a German immigrant.
- There is no Biblical or historical reason to place the birth of Jesus on Dec. 25. It was only in the fourth century that the Church officially decided to observe Christmas on Dec. 25.

Thought for the Day: "At Christmas play and make good cheer,/ For Christmas comes but once a year." -- Thomas Tusser

A Closer Look at Municipal Debt, its Advantages and Risks

Provided by Richard J. Zorena, CFP®

The market for municipal bonds -- debt obligations issued by states, cities, towns or public commissions to fund schools, hospitals and public works projects -- appears to be holding steady despite heightened uncertainty in recent years.

For some investment specialists, municipal bonds represent an option for income-seeking investors looking for high-quality fixed-income assets. Municipal bonds are also increasingly being coveted by investors because they offer several unique advantages over other fixed-income securities.



So should you move in to municipal bonds now? The answer depends on your situation. For investors whose financial objectives include the preservation of principal or reliable cash flow, bonds should be a consideration.

Investors are attracted to municipal bonds because they are generally exempt from federal taxes, and sometimes, from state and local taxes. As a result of their unique tax-exempt status, municipal bonds may provide investors with tax-equivalent yields that are greater than taxable bonds, including some Treasuries and corporate bonds.

What's more, municipal debt is typically of high credit quality, with many investment grade municipal bonds maintaining their credit rating despite default worries. Municipal bonds can also be attractive to some investors because their returns tend to be less volatile, helping bond buyers predict how much they will earn, and when their principal will be returned.

Municipal bonds holders are predominately individual investors. Since retail investors typically buy and hold municipal bonds until maturity, the market experiences less volatility than other fixed income asset classes.

With municipal bonds offering such attractive benefits, new investors may be ready to incorporate the bonds into their investment portfolio. However, before investing, you should be sure you understand the market risk.

For instance, municipal bond prices fluctuate in response to changing interest rates, as do other fixed-income securities. Prices increase when interest rates decline, and prices decline when interest rates rise.

Since each investor's goals, and portfolio size and history are different, the process of building a municipal bond portfolio should be conducted with an experienced financial advisor, who can weigh their personal financial objectives with current market conditions to deliver sound investment guidance.

Whether you are searching for tax-advantaged income, trying to help safeguard your principal, saving for college or targeting other financial objectives, consult with your financial advisor to determine if investing in municipal bonds could help you pursue your goal.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD UPCOMING SERVICES

Weekly Services

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Evening Service of Prayer and Healing

Sunday:
7:45 a.m. Traditional Eucharist – no music
9:00 a.m. Church Alive, Eucharist with the worship band
10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist



Church of the Good Shepherd

Interfaith Service of Remembrance for the Victims of Sandy Hook:

December 14th at 9:00 a.m.

December 24th Christmas Eve, Carols, Candlelight and Communion:

4:30 p.m. Music

5:00 p.m. Communion Service begins

December 25th Christmas Day Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.

December 29th, Sunday:

7:45 a.m. Traditional Eucharist, no music

9:00 a.m. Carols, and Worship for Children with Worship Band

10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols with Eucharist

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAROL SING

The Annual Community Carol Sing will be held at the First Church of Christ on Meetinghouse Lane in Woodbridge on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 p.m. Bring family and friends to the church sanctuary to make a joyful noise. A reception will follow in the Parish House.

CANTABILE VOCAL QUARTET TO GIVE BENEFIT CONCERT

Cantabile Vocal Quartet and the West Haven High School Choral Dept. under the direction of Phyllis Silver will be performing a joint benefit Christmas Concert at First Congregational Church, 1 Church Street, on the Green in West Haven. Proceeds from the concert will go to the church fund. The performance will be on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 p.m. The program will include varied seasonal works for vocal quartet and choir. They will sing traditional and contemporary carols, spirituals and anthems.

Cantabile Vocal Quartet's members include Robin and Jack Sellati, of Cheshire; Leila Tofig Mustakos, of Guilford; and Roy Mazzacane, of Hamden. Each singer has had quite lengthy solo experience in the field of Opera, Oratorio, Operetta, Recital and Musical Theatre. The quartet has performed extensively throughout the state and has appeared on Connecticut Fox TV singing holiday favorites and recorded a particularly whimsical jingle for that station's weatherman.

Admission is \$10.00 for adults, and children under 12 will be admitted free. For concert information call the church office at - 203-933-6291

OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Our Lady of Sorrows Church, a traditional Catholic Church, located at 378 Spring Street, Orange, CT 06477 (203-795-5076) announces its holiday schedule - Christmas (the 25th): Midnight Mass (12:00am), 9:00am, and 1:00pm.



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Lawrence Church is pleased to announce that its annual Christmas concert will take place on Sunday, December 22nd at 2:00pm. This year's program of holiday favorites features many wonderful guest artists from the area who have performed nationally and worldwide: organist and pianist Jeremy Hutchins, violinist Kate O'Brien, Kathy Bizub on trumpet, Kathie Sumrow on flute, Barbie Harger, soprano, and The Saint Lawrence Choir. The performance is led by Orange resident, Cantor/Music Director/ tenor soloist Gary Harger, who has been featured on Broadway, national tours, and with international opera houses and symphonies. St. Lawrence Church is located at 505 Shelton Avenue in Huntington, CT.



St. Lawrence Church

The concert is free and open to the general public --- all are welcome.



CATHOLIC PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION DAY

Thursday November 21st was Catholic School Principal Appreciation Day as appointed by the NCEA (Nat'l Catholic Education Assoc.) and boy, was it a busy day in the St. Mary School office! Principal Lacerenza was showered all day with love and thanks and enjoyed the students as they visited and delivered cards & gifts! The entire school community is grateful for your leadership & dedication to your ministry Mr. Lacerenza!



Happy Holidays from All of Us at the Orange Town News

DEATH NOTICES

Donald Michael "Bud" Priest

Donald Michael "Bud" Priest, 83, of Hamden and formerly of Orange, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at Yale New Haven Hospital. He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Ruth Priest, his loving children, Pamela P. Irving and husband Dr. Jack, of Hamden, Donald M. Priest, Jr. of Branford, and Amy E. Paier and husband Richard of Orange; and his cherished grandchildren Brian Irving, Alison Irving Appleby and husband Michael, Griffin Paier, and Kelsey Paier. He is also survived by his brothers Richard and Edward Priest, both of Syracuse, NY and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his daughter, Susan L. Priest, and his brother, John Priest.



"Bud" Priest

Born December 10, 1929 in Syracuse, NY, he was the son of the late John G. and Catherine Downes Priest. Bud graduated from Holy Rosary High School in Syracuse and St. Bonaventure University, class of 1951. After serving in the U.S. Army, he had a distinguished career as a realtor and owner of First Woodbridge Realtors. He was a past president of the New Haven Board of Realtors and was honored as the CT Realtor of the Year. He was a civic-minded person who was a past president of the Orange Board of Education and a past chairman of the Orange Police Commission. Bud was also a charter member of the Woodbridge Rotary Club, serving as its first president and was a Paul Harris Fellow.

He was a communicant of St. Rita Church in Hamden. Bud was a selfless giver with an abundance of compassion and kindness. He committed himself to family, friends, and those in need. He brought joy to everyone he met. An eternal optimist, he took great pleasure in life and never turned down an invitation for fun. Bud's family deeply thanks all those who cared for Bud over the past six months, especially the staff at Whitney Center.

His life was celebrated with a mass of Christian Burial at St. Rita Church, Hamden followed by entombment in Mt. St. Peters Cemetery Mausoleum, Derby. Sisk Brothers Funeral Home of Hamden handled the arrangements. For those wishing to make a donation in Bud's memory, please make them to either the Woodbridge Rotary Club, P.O.B. 4096, Woodbridge, CT 06525 or to the Rocky Mountain MS Center, 8845 Wagner Street, Westminster, CO 80031 (specify "For Research").

Joseph Robert MacDonald

Joseph Robert MacDonald, age 86, passed away on Monday, November 18th 2013 after a long illness. He was born on August 1st, 1927 in Kingston, NY. He was a resident of Milford for 10 years and Orange for over 25 years.

He is survived by his wife of fifty years, Joan McDonnell MacDonald; his daughter Tara MacDonald Rowe, Drew Rowe and Granddaughters Caitlin and Mackenzie; his son Joseph Robert MacDonald Jr., Megan Betrus MacDonald and Grandson Lincoln.



Joe MacDonald

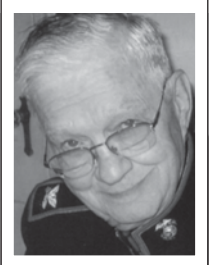
Joe served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War as a fighter Pilot and performed over one hundred missions. He then went on to become a Tugboat Captain and Licensed Docking Pilot in New York Harbor for over 25 years. He piloted ships all over the northeast coast. After he retired, Joe was involved in teaching commercial seamanship.

Joan and Joe retired to Green Valley, AZ in 2001 and he continued to stay occupied as a licensed Realtor for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and enjoyed photography in his spare time. His greatest love of life was his family and close friends.

A memorial mass was held on Friday, November 22rd at 3:00 pm at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in Green Valley.

William L. Conners, Col., US Marine Corps (Ret).

Colonel William L. Conners, US Marine Corps (Retired), beloved husband of Joan Beattie Conners of Orange, December 5, 2013 died peacefully at home with his family. Colonel Conners was born in West Haven, CT on September 21, 1929 and was raised in Orange. He was the son of Florence Buckholz Conners and R. George Conners. He enlisted in the Navy in 1948, went to Naval Flight School, and after graduation joined the Marines as a fighter pilot. He served in the Korean War in 1950. After 11 years of active duty, while remaining in the Marine Reserves, he used the GI Bill to attend college. Graduating in 1962, he began work as an engineer with Southern New England Telephone Company, where he worked until he retired in 1991. During his civilian life in Orange he coached Little League baseball, girls' softball, and basketball. He was a member of Holy Infant Church and American Legion Post 127. He was a founding member of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation.



William L. Conners

Besides his wife of 58 years he is survived by his sister, Jeanne C. Dardis; sister-in-law Frances B. Shepherd; his beloved children Dr. Mary Conners Ashmore of Madison, Dr. Frances A. Conners of Tuscaloosa, AL, Anne F. Conners of Milford, William L. Conners, Jr. of Bethany, Jennifer Conners Antalik of Orange, and John R. Conners of New York, NY; sons-in-law Dr. James Hamilton, Dr. Keith Lawrence, and Michael Antalik; daughters-in-law Pia Conners and Kirche Zeile; grandchildren Gillian Lawrence, Doug Hamilton, Lucy Hamilton, Maeve Ashmore, Libby Antalik, Tim Antalik, Liam Conners, Ethan Conners, and Elaria Conners; and many nieces and nephews.

A mass of Christian burial was celebrated in Holy Infant Church in Orange on Thursday December 12. Burial with military honors followed at St. Lawrence Cemetery in West Haven. Funeral arrangements were handled by Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, www.siskbrothers.com. If you wish to make a donation, please send memorial donations to The Parkinson's Research Foundation, 5969 Cattleridge Blvd, Suite 100, Sarasota, FL 34232 or The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, 909 North Washington St Suite 400, Alexandria, VA 21433. The family would like to thank the Orange Visiting Nurse Association and Vitas Innovative Hospice Care for their care and kindness during this time.

DEATH NOTICES

The Orange Town News will publish Death Notices for Orange families free of charge as a service to our readers. Family members please email notice (limit 250 words, please) to: edit@orangetownnews.com

TEST YOUR CHRISTMAS I.Q.

1. What instrument was the carol "Silent Night" first played on?
2. Electric Christmas-tree lights were first used in what year?
3. Good King Wenceslas was king of what country?
4. In North America, children put stockings out at Christmastime. What do their Dutch counterparts use?
5. The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower, originally grew in what country?
6. In Syria, who traditionally distributed Christmas gifts?
7. In Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker," who is the nutcracker's main enemy?
8. What popular Christmas song was actually written for Thanksgiving?
9. What is the day after Christmas known as?
10. When visiting Finland, Santa leaves his sleigh behind and rides on what animal?

Answers: 1. Guitar 2. 1895 3. Bohemia 4. Shoes 5. Mexico 6. The Wise Men's camels 7. The King of the Mice 8. Jingle Bells 9. Boxing Day 10. A goat



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ENTERTAINMENT

TOP 10 MOVIES

- 1. The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13)**
Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
- 2. Thor: The Dark World (PG-13)**
Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman
- 3. The Best-Man Holiday (R)**
Monica Calhoun, Morris Chestnut
- 4. Delivery Man (PG-13)**
Vince Vaughn, Chris Pratt
- 5. Free Birds (PG)**
animated
- 6. Last Vegas (PG-13)**
Robert De Niro, Michael Douglas
- 7. Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R)**
Johnny Knoxville, Jackson Nicoll
- 8. Gravity (PG-13)**
Sandra Bullock, George Clooney
- 9. 12 Years a Slave (R)**
Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael K. Williams
- 10. Dallas Buyers Club (R)**
Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner

TOP 10 RENTALS

- 1. White House Down (PG-13)**
Channing Tatum
- 2. Grown Ups 2 (PG-13)**
Adam Sandler
- 3. The Heat (R)**
Sandra Bullock
- 4. Pacific Rim (PG-13)**
Idris Elba
- 5. The Hangover, Part III (R)**
Bradley Cooper
- 6. Monsters University (G)**
animated
- 7. The Croods (PG)**
animated
- 8. The Purge (R)**
Ethan Hawke
- 9. After Earth (PG-13)**
Jaden Smith
- 10. This Is the End (R)**
James Franco

CHART BUSTERS

Top 10 Pop Singles

- 1. Lorde**
"Royals"
- 2. Eminem feat. Rihanna**
"The Monster"
- 3. Miley Cyrus**
"Wrecking Ball"
- 4. Avicii**
"Wake Me Up!"
- 5. Katy Perry**
"Roar"
- 6. One Republic**
"Counting Stars"
- 7. Imagine Dragons**
"Demons"
- 8. Drake feat. Majid Jordan**
"Hold On, We're Going Home"
- 9. Lady Gaga**
"Applause"
- 10. Pitbull feat. Ke\$ha**
"Timber"



Lady Gaga

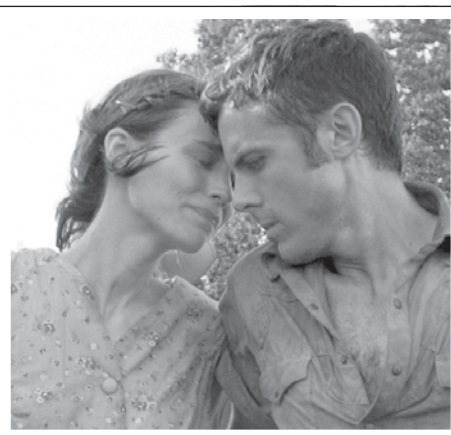
Top 10 Country Singles

- 1. Keith Urban and Miranda Lambert**
"We Were Us"
- 2. Luke Bryan**
"That's My Kind of Night"
- 3. Blake Shelton**
"Mine Would Be You"
- 4. Florida Georgia Line**
"Stay"
- 5. Taylor Swift**
"Red"
- 6. Joe Nichols**
"Sunny and 75"
- 7. Thomas Rhett**
"It Goes Like This"
- 8. Tim McGraw**
"Southern Girl"
- 9. Eli Young Band**
"Drunk Last Night"
- 10. Parmalee**
"Carolina"

- Name the 15-year-old singer who had a No. 1 hit in 1960 with "I'm Sorry."
- What was the very first song recorded by Roy Orbison?
- Who was the first group to release "Hanging on the Telephone"? (No, it wasn't Blondie.)
- What was Diesel's big hit of 1980?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "After I gave you everything I had, You laughed and called me a clown, Remember, in your search for fortune and fame, What goes up, must come down."



1. Brenda Lee, who won her first singing contest at age 3 and was the main support for her family from the age of 10, when her father died. Lee also recorded "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" at age 13.
2. "Trying to Get to You," with The Teen Kings in 1956.
3. The Nerves, in 1976. Guitarist Jack Lee wrote it for the group.
4. "Salsalito Summernight."
5. "It's Just a Matter of Time," by Brook Benton in 1959. Benton penned the song with Clyde Otis for Nat King Cole, but it was decided that Benton would use it as his first release. The song topped the R&B charts for nine weeks.



Rooney Mara, Casey Affleck in "Ain't Them Bodies Saints"

EDITOR'S NOTE: DVDs reviewed in this column will be available in stores the week of Dec. 16, 2013.

PICKS OF THE WEEK

"Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters" (PG-13) -- Percy Jackson is the heroic son of Poseidon, the Greek sea god -- and his human parent must be related to Harry Potter. In this sequel, Percy attends a magic training camp, where he drills alongside other magic teenagers. (If that sounds too much like Potter, then just replace "magic" with "mythical," and you'll get the Percy Jackson flavor.) They need the same Magic Macguffin that the bad guys are after. Eventually, Percy and his pals must brave a large body of water teeming with terrifying creatures. Much like its predecessor, the movie serves as a flashy adventure that will thrill the kids without leaving much to remember. It has plenty of smash-boom action -- Percy carries a sword instead of a magic wand, after all.

"Ain't Them Bodies Saints" (R) -- In a dreamy rural corner of 1970s Texas, two intense and endearing hick kids, Bob and Ruth (Casey Affleck and Rooney Mara), are pinned in a shootout with the law. Ruth shoots a sheriff (Ben Foster, and no word on the deputy), but Bob takes the heat and the 25-year sentence. After some time, Bob busts out of a chain gang, just as the young sheriff starts to take a keen interest in Ruth and the young daughter she's been raising on her own.

Dramatic and focused, the film is at its best when the lonesome wide-open country setting underlines the doomed love story. Mara's performance is especially drawing -- she plays her cards close while living in the most complicated position of all.

"Elysium" (R) -- In the future, earth has become a grimy, overpopulated mess. Hovering over the giant slum is Elysium, an ideal space world inhabited by rich people -- a place full of luxury and super-advanced health care.

Max DaCosta (Matt Damon) is a wisemouth ex-con working in future L.A. When he gets a deadly dose of radiation, Max becomes part of a plan to break through Elysium's security and grab some of that healing technology. The big idea: criminal technicians outfit Max with a cutting-edge exoskeleton system.

DOG OF THE WEEK

"The Lone Ranger" (PG-13) -- In this reboot nobody asked for, Tonto (Johnny Depp) is the show-stealing mentor to the Lone Ranger's (Armie Hammer) whiny, bland, reluctant hero. Overly brutal outlaw Butch Cavendish (Michael Fichtner) kicks up trouble, and a pacifist lawyer from the East, John Reid, has to put on a mask and sacrifice his beliefs in the name of justice and revenge. One of the sacred rules of cinema has been broken: When you make boring, loud, genre-remake schlock, make it short. Finishing up at 149 minutes, "The Lone Ranger" has little to say and too much time to say it.

Sudoku answers on page 38

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

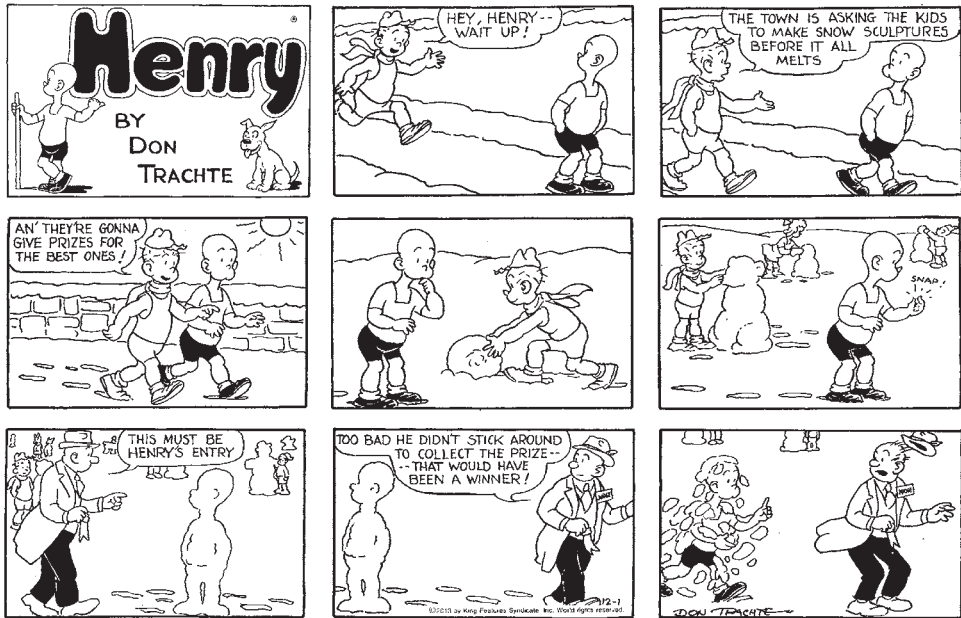
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

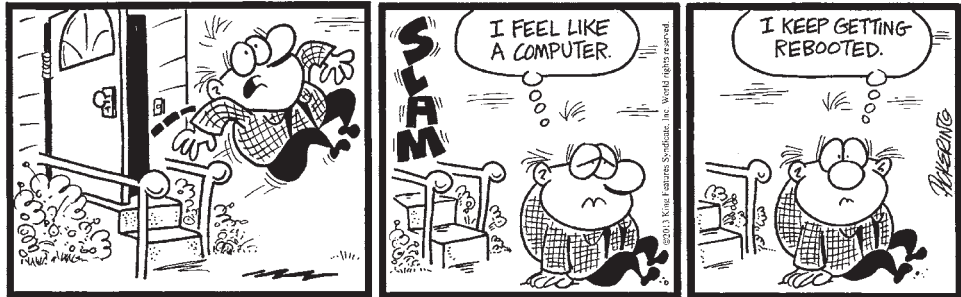
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

- ★ Moderate
- ★★ Challenging
- ★★★ HOO BOY!

COMICS/CROSSWORD/HOLLYWOOD



The Spats



HOLLYWOOD

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- While Robert Downey Jr. is deciding if he wants to star in "Ironman 4," he's been busy making two new films. "Chef," with Jon Favreau (who directed and acted in "Ironman" and "Ironman 2," and acted in "Ironman 3"), Scarlett Johansson, Sofia Vergara, Dustin Hoffman and John Leguizamo, out May 9; and "The Judge," with Robert Duvall, Billy Bob Thornton and Dax Shepard, which will be released Oct. 10. If Downey decides not to do "Ironman 4," Mark Walberg has volunteered to replace him.



Terence Howard in "Ironman"

Terence Howard (Oscar nominated for "Hustle & Flow" in 2005) was signed to play Air Force Lt. Col. James "War Machine" Rhodes in "Ironman" and two sequels. He was replaced by Don Cheadle in the sequels. Howard recently explained, "We did a three-picture deal -- a certain amount for the first, the second and for the third. They came to me with the second and said, 'We will pay you one-eighth of what we contractually had for you because we think the second one will be successful with or without you.' I called 'my friend' (Downey), who I helped get the first job, and he didn't call me back for three months."

Anyone else would have called their lawyers, but Howard only says, "Oh, I love him. God's going to bless him." Sounds like there's a little rust in that tin man.

Daniel Day-Lewis won three best-actor Oscars but made a mess of his private life. Well, it used to be private until his son Gabe Day did a rap video saying, "Bipolar stoop kid taking care of biz. Call me Gabe Day and not Gabe

Day-Lewis, cause if you're trying to call me out, I'm going to Gabe Day-Lose it! I know what my name is, and I know what fame is. Judging someone for their dad is just as bad as being a racist."

Day-Lewis ended his six-year affair in 1995 with French actress Isabelle Adjani, who in 1996 called him a "Lothario" and a "womanizer" in The London Daily Mail. Day-Lewis married Arthur Miller's daughter, Rebecca, soon after, while he was shooting Miller's "The Crucible," and they have two sons. Gabe, 18, who attends Sarah Lawrence College, adds in his rap, "I feel the most grief for my mother, who has no one left but me and my older brother. I'm bipolar, wear it like a badge, was on a bad path, did too many drugs, had a bad trip and re-evaluated my life. Thank God I survived 'cause now it's easier to smile."

You just can't make this stuff up. Hey, Arthur Miller could have gotten two plays out of it!

King Crossword

ACROSS

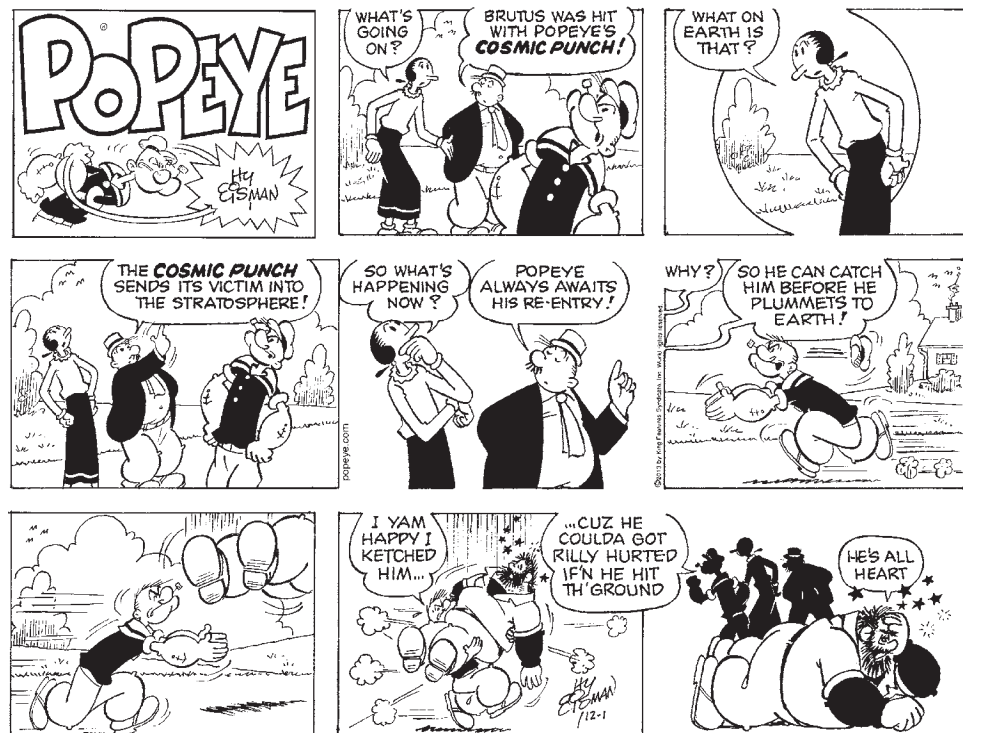
- 1 Crony
- 4 Light (Sp.)
- 7 Summary
- 12 Carte lead-in
- 13 "A Chorus Line" song
- 14 Entertain
- 15 Energy
- 16 Good product, idiomatically
- 18 Recede
- 19 Be frugal
- 20 Record
- 22 Id counterpart
- 23 Loathe
- 27 Possessed
- 29 "Clue" item
- 31 Cavalry unit
- 34 Guiding principle
- 35 Goes over the books
- 37 Weeding implement
- 38 Brewery output
- 39 Med. plan option
- 41 Creche trio
- 45 Eucalyptus eater
- 47 Heavy weight
- 48 Duke Ellington classic
- 52 Clear the

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- tables
- 8 Ostrich's rhyme
- 53 Give a speech
- 9 Scoundrel
- 36 Not barefoot
- 37 Empty
- 54 Deteriorate
- 10 Fool
- 40 New Zealand native
- 42 Cornered
- 43 Overcharge
- 55 Time of your life?
- 11 Em, en, o, —, kue
- 44 Smaller map
- 56 Thick
- 17 Recognize
- 45 Dangling locale
- 57 — Jima
- 21 Psalm group
- 46 21-Down member
- 58 Still
- 23 Seraglio
- 47 Turf
- 24 Mimic
- 48 Turf
- 25 Pirouette pivot
- 49 Exist
- 1 Surfaced
- 26 Conclude
- 50 Erstwhile
- 2 Out of sorts?
- 28 Suitable
- 51 "—
- 3 "The Silence of the —"
- 30 "The Name of the Rose" author
- 31 Bill
- 32 Regret
- 4 Privation
- 33 Praise in
- 5 One
- 6 Woody Allen movie
- 7 Engrossed

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King Crossword Answers on Page 38



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BULLETIN BOARD

Al-Anon Parents Meeting, Monday nights, 7:30pm year-round, United Church of Christ, Plymouth Building, 18 West Main Street, Milford – supporting parents of alcoholics and/or substance abusers. For more information, go to www.ct-al-anon.org or call Margaret at (203) 877-4313.

BREATHE, BALANCE, BELIEVE Vinyasa Yoga for the Family, Mondays @ 5:15-6:15 pm, Saturdays 9:00- 10:00 am, in the Parish hall, Church of the Good Shepherd 680 Racebrook Road, designed to help children and adults strengthen both physically and mentally, participants practice at their own level, teacher is certified and member RYT. Please bring a yoga mat and blocks if you have them.

Nicotine Anonymous Meetings, Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 21 Robert Treat Parkway, Milford, open to all, no dues or fees, only requirement is the desire to be free of nicotine. For more information, call Bridges, 203-878-6365.

Zumba Gold Classes At Congregation Or Shalom, Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., Congregation Or Shalom, 205 Old Grassy Hill Road, simple and easy routines to follow, designed for people of all ages and no experience is needed. If interested, call Robin at 203.314.8176 or temple office at 203.799.2341.

Clean Energy Task Force of Orange, meets on the third Tuesday of every month at HPCC, 525 Orange Center Road, conference room, 8 o'clock. The public is invited.

Orange Arts & Culture Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month, 7:30pm, Case Memorial Library, 176 Tyler City Road. The public is invited.

Orange Recycling Committee meets every 3rd Wednesday except for January, July & August, 7pm, HPCC conference room, 525 Orange Center Road, public is invited to attend. For more information, email Orangerecycles@gmail.com.

Blood Pressure Clinic presented by Gentiva & Maplewood of Orange, 1st Thursday of every month, Maplewood of Orange (formerly Laurel Estates), 245 Indian River Road, 1:30-2:30pm in the Community Room. No appointment necessary.

The Rotary Club Of Orange meets every Friday, 12:15pm at the Racebrook Country Club, 246 Derby Avenue; prospective new members may contact Diane Eger at 203-530-4526 or visit www.orangetrotary.org for information about the club.

Orange Historical Society Academy Antique & Gift Shop Museum, open Saturdays, 10:00am-3:00pm. For information call 203-795-3106.

Cantabile Vocal Quartet and West Haven High Choral Dept. Benefit Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 15, 2013, 3:00pm, First Congregational Church, 1 Church Street, on the Green in West Haven, proceeds go to church fund; Admission \$10.00/adults, children under 12 admitted free. For concert information, call the church office at - 203-933-6291



DOLLAR\$ AND \$ENSE

Gifts That Keep Giving

By Roberta L. Nestor

We all love to give our children and grandchildren the “special gifts” or the “must have” items that appear on their list – there is nothing better than seeing their smiling faces as they unwrap that special gift. Precious and expensive, especially those tech items. Often, especially grandparents, start to question the purchase of an iPhone for a 13 year old, won't it be obsolete in a few short years?

Try something different this holiday season! Chances are your child or grandchild already has a 529 College Savings Plan. These plans allow anyone to contribute on behalf of the child. The attraction of 529 plans is that they grow completely tax free* as long as the funds are used for higher education expenses; room and board, tuition, books, even trade or technical schools.

If you are a parent who hasn't established a 529 plan, maybe you have hesitated thinking it would be unaffordable or that you need a large sum to get it going. Not true! The CT CHET plan will let you start with as little as \$50 and an on-going commitment to \$50 a month. There is also the question, “what if my child doesn't go to college”? You can change the beneficiary on a 529 and pass funds down to a sibling, cousin, niece or any relative – anyone can be the beneficiary regardless of age.

While it is unlikely that parents will be able to save enough to cover all college costs, whatever you can save helps enormously – especially when it comes to all the “extras”. Remember, anyone can contribute on behalf of the beneficiary. A 529 plan can be established by anyone, for anyone. Meaning, if your grandchild doesn't have one yet – you can open the account on their behalf.

Another idea, think ROTH! If the special young people in your life are grown and just starting out in their careers, or even just working part time for extra savings – you can open a ROTH IRA for them. You have to be careful not to over contribute as the contribution maximum is 100% of wages (W-2 earnings) up to a maximum of \$5,500. Some investment companies will allow you to open a ROTH IRA with as little as \$500, and additional deposits of at least \$50.

The greatest attraction of ROTH IRAs is that the accumulation and use of funds (in accordance with IRS rules) is completely tax free. Sometimes it's not how much you invest, it is how long you have to invest. Consider an annual \$500 contribution that grows at a hypothetical rate of 4% for 40 years – that would mean saving \$1.76 a day; over 40 years it could be worth over \$50,000, and all tax free if withdrawn in accordance with IRS rules.

What not to give? While in the past, US Savings Bonds may have been attractive, today's low interest rate environment should make you think twice. Series EE bonds issued from November 2013 through April 2014 earn today's announced rate of 0.10% (one tenth of one percent). All Series EE bonds issued since May 2005 earn a fixed rate in the first 20 years after issue. At 20 years, the bonds will be worth at least two times their purchase price. The bonds will continue to earn interest at their original fixed rate for an additional 10 years unless new terms and conditions are announced before the final 10-year period begins.

Happy shopping and best wishes to all for a joyous holiday season!

*The fees, expenses, and features of 529 plans can vary from state to state. 529 plans involve investment risk, including the possible loss of funds. There is no guarantee that a college-funding goal will be met. In order to be federally tax-free, earnings must be used to pay for qualified higher education expenses. The earnings portion of a nonqualified withdrawal will be subject to ordinary income tax at the recipient's marginal rate and subject to a 10-percent penalty. By investing in a plan outside your state of residence, you may lose any state tax benefits. 529 plans are subject to enrollment, maintenance, and administration/management fees and expenses.

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. Fixed insurance products offered through Nestor Financial Network is separate and unrelated to Commonwealth Financial Network or Nestor Financial Network does not provide legal or tax advice. You should consult a legal or tax professional regarding your individual situation. Roberta can be reached at Nestor Financial Network, 203-876-8066 or roberta@nestorfinancial.com.

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King Crossword — Weekly SUDOKU —

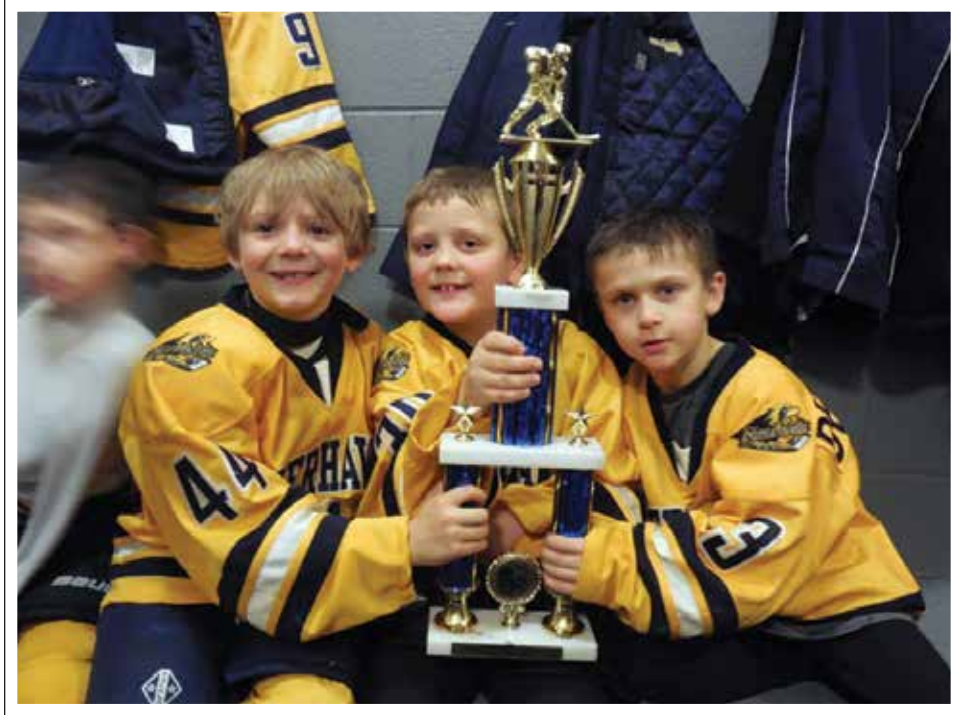
Answers
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Answer

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LOCAL SPORTS



Three of Orange's finest Mite Hockey Travel Players from the CT RiverHawks took second place in the Warwick Jr. Hockey Thanksgiving Tournament held in Warwick, RI. The RiverHawks had wins against BURR, Southern Rhode Island, Warwick Jr. Hockey Association, and Franklin Youth Hockey Association before losing in the Championship game to the Suffolk Mite AA from New York. Pictured with the trophy from left to right are: Oliver Nappi, Jayson Gherlone (Goalie) and Cameron DelVecchio.



TONY BORELLI WINS HIS 100TH GAME!

Tony Borelli started playing softball several years ago and loves it unconditionally. Craig Winkle Jr. started a Tuesday and Wednesday night league and asked Tony if he would like to try and pitch for the team. Tony was so happy and decided to try it out. Tony has known the Winkle family for years; they are very loving, kind and generous people, especially to the town of Orange. All of the softball teams have respect for each other and the competition is great. The umpires are also on top of the game and are very friendly as well. Tony's best friend is "ICE," since he has been playing for so many years and has been injured from head to toe pitching. He loves the game of softball and he plans to keep on playing until the love of the game isn't there anymore. He won a couple of championships and came extremely close on others. He won the best of the town the first year it started. Tony started getting into the game when he was younger. He coached and managed his kids; his two sons Anthony and Michael Borelli and his daughter Lorie Borelli. Finally, he decided it was time to play for himself. Tony truly loves showing up, playing with his buddies and grabbing a bite to eat afterwards. Also, when the weather is nice, the Winkle's are always so welcoming and invite the team over to their house to get together and have a good time. Winning is great, but it isn't everything. Having fun and getting along with all of the guys and getting exercise is what it's all about. This year, Tony is playing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. He wants to thank all of the players that he plays with because without them, he would not have been able to win all of the games he has thus far. Tony won his 100th game on July 2, 2013. He could not be happier! He says he is always so peaceful and relaxed when playing. Tony has lived in Orange for over 40 years and enjoys being able to play in the town he loves and is hoping for a coed league next year!



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Orange Town News

SUBMIT YOUR LOCAL SPORTS PHOTOS, ARTICLES & SCHEDULES

Email edit@orangetownnews.com

ARTS & LEISURE



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS TO DANCE!

'Tis the season to deck the halls, Chestnuts are roasting and it's time for the Annual Carol Farrell Christmas Homecoming!!! In the past decade, The Carol Farrell Dancers have performed annually at Stratford Day, Lake Quassy, the Milford Oyster Festival, Milford Children's Fair, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the Connecticut Post and many other venues across Connecticut. Known for their quality of performance and the variety of music they dance to the Carol Farrell Dancers always draw an enthusiastic crowd wherever they perform.

This holiday season, the Annual Carol Farrell Christmas Homecoming will take place at the St. Ann's Catholic Church Saturday, December 14th at 7:00pm. Students ranging in age from 3 - 18 years old will be celebrating the holiday season "Carol Farrell Dancer Style". Featuring: selections from the Nutcracker, the Jazz company will tell the classic story of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" through dance, a syncopated vigorous tap number to Justin Bieber's rap fusion of "The Drummer Boy". In addition, there will be performances to holiday classics like "Jingle Bell Rock", "Sleighride" and "That's what Christmas Means to me". You will see how Santa does the Mambo and the Personality 1 class will show you how to "Exercise" through the holidays. And if that isn't enough to spice your appetite for the holidays, we add in a hand-clapping, country clogging tap to "I'll Be Home With Bells On" to create the perfect recipe for a holiday event you won't want to miss!

For more information on the Carol Farrell School of Dancing and the Annual Christmas Homecoming call 203-377-4617.

SUZUKI SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The Suzuki Music Schools of Westport & Orange will present two recitals featuring violin and piano students. The concert will take place at the 6th Floor Commons of the Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hamden, CT 06517 on December 15th (Sunday) at 1pm and 3pm. Free admission.

The Suzuki Music School Background: The Suzuki Music Schools of Westport & Orange offer instruction in violin, viola, cello, flute, guitar, piano, chamber music, ensemble and music theory. The schools follow the teachings of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, providing a high quality music education that promotes the values of respect, discipline, personal confidence, teamwork and a strong work ethic. Our mission guides students to acquire a lifelong love of music and develop excellent musical skills within a nurturing environment that enriches family bonds.

The school is a non-profit organization and provides an international faculty trained in the Suzuki Method and highly experienced as both teachers and performers. Alongside the many learning opportunities at the school, we encourage our students to share their gifts with the wider community in performances and class opportunities. For more information, visit www.suzukischools.org.

"HE WHO LAUGHS" KICKS OFF JCC THEATERWORKS SEASON

Thanks to a grant from Connecticut Humanities, JCC Theaterworks is proud to announce the season's kickoff production of He Who Laughs on December 14-16 at the Off-Broadway Theater, 41 Broadway, New Haven, CT. \$25; \$12 seniors and students, tickets available at www.jccnh.org or 203.387.2522 x300.

He Who Laughs, a new play by Ian Cohen, is a modern-day retelling of the Biblical tale of the sacrifice of Isaac. Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac live in contemporary Manhattan and God calls on Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son. Abraham becomes Alfred Wells, a passionately devout businessman with a personal relationship with the Almighty, and his wife, Sheila, will stop at nothing to save their conflicted, video-game obsessed 17-year-old son, Zach (short for Isaac, meaning "he who laughs.") Directed by local resident Reuven Robert Russell, son of the late Joey and Josi Russell.

JCC Cultural Arts Manager DeDe Jacobs-Komisar selected He Who Laughs as JCC Theaterwork's first show because it "exemplifies the company's mission of exploring what Jewish theater is and can be. Plays like He Who Laughs go deep into Jewish tradition to make us question who we are, where we've come from, and where we're going as a community". With the help of the Connecticut Humanities Fund, Jacobs-Komisar is presenting interfaith panels following two of the performances, delving into the theological and sociological themes of the play.

JCC Theaterworks is the resident theater company of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven. Founded in 2012, JCC Theaterworks is dedicated to exploring Jewish identity and community and expanding the meaning of Jewish theater by cultivating new voices and ideas.

Connecticut Humanities (CTH) is a non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities that funds, creates and collaborates on hundreds of cultural programs across Connecticut each year. Connecticut Humanities brings together people of all ages and backgrounds to express, share and explore ideas in thoughtful and productive ways. From local discussion groups to major exhibitions on important historical events, CTH programs engage, enlighten and educate. Learn more by visiting www.cthumanities.org.

GREATER NH COMMUNITY CHORUS TO PERFORM HOLIDAY CONCERT

As part of its 50th Anniversary Celebration, Greater New Haven Community Chorus (GNHCC) will be performing its second of three choral concerts during its 2013 - 2014 50th anniversary concert season. The annual Holiday Concert - Experience the Joy! - will feature traditional seasonal favorites, including select choruses from Handel's Messiah. The chorus will perform under the direction of Noah Blocker-Glynn, Artistic Director with Mark Sullivan, Accompanist. The chorus will be joined by members of the Jonathan Edwards College Philharmonic of Yale University for the Messiah choruses, and the CT Men's Choral Ensemble - the award-winning male choir of the Connecticut Children's Chorus.

The concert will take place Sunday afternoon, December 15 at 4:00 p.m. in Battell Chapel on the Yale University Campus, New Haven, CT. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Tickets and program information are available at www.gnhcc.org.

Greater New Haven Community Chorus consists of approximately 100 voices and draws its membership from throughout the Greater New Haven area. GNHCC strives to embrace the wide diversity of the community and is committed to making quality music accessible and approachable for audiences and members alike. Greater New Haven Community Chorus was founded in 1963 as a venture in community singing and continues to perform with pride and distinction.

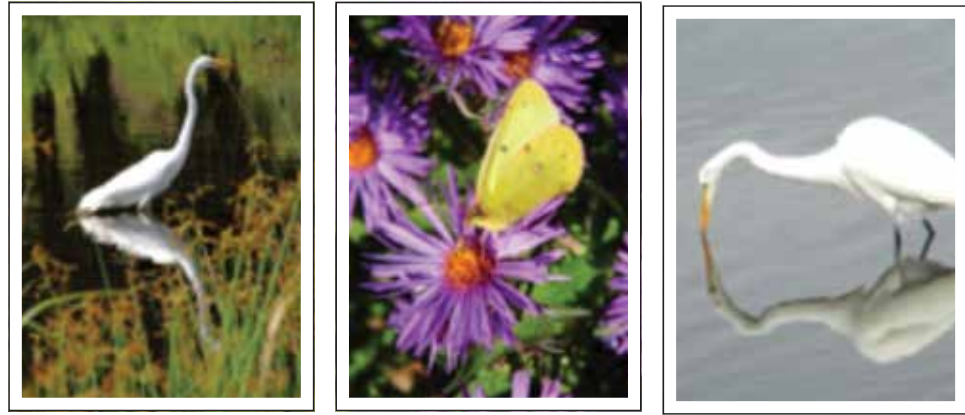
For more information about GNHCC, please visit www.gnhcc.org or email: info@gnhcc.org.

LOCAL ARTIST TO EXHIBIT UNIQUE CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURES

Sandee Spahr, a lifetime artist from Guilford will present her stone and apoxie sculptures December 5th through the 29th at the Case Memorial Library. Her works reflect her many years of teaching and training, and have rewarded her with a reputation for creating unique, high quality, one of a kind three dimensional pieces of art.

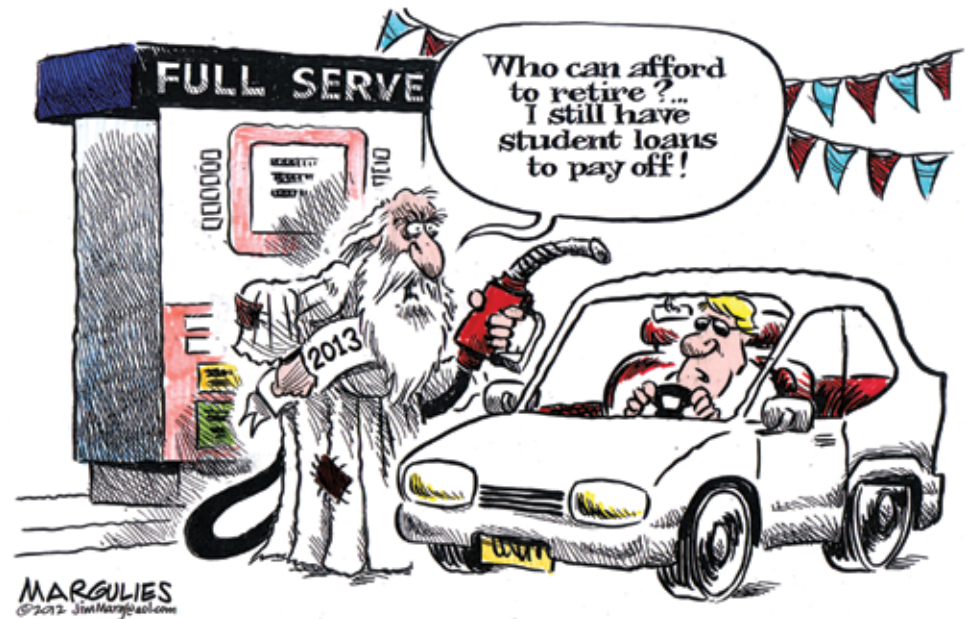
Her work has been previously displayed at numerous venues in Connecticut and Vermont, and can be explored at her home studio in Guilford or at sandeespahrsulpture.com. An opening reception was held at the Library on December 5th.

ARTS & LEISURE



ULATOWSKI EXHIBITS AT TOWN HALL

John Ulatowski, photographer and publisher of fifteen plus books on blurb.com will be exhibiting his work at the Gallery at the Town Hall in Orange during the month of December. He loves photographing nature, people and the sea. Some of his books on blurb.com are with poems, one a history book of essays and one is a children's book. Besides his love of photography, John is the Youth Services Coordinator for the Town of Orange. He has initiated many art programs within its agenda including the Artist Colonies, K-6 Children of Orange Exhibit, and Art Colony. He has exhibited extensively at many of our town libraries in Woodbridge, Orange, Easton, Ridgefield, Stratford, Trumbull, Shelton, Ansonia, Bridgeport and many more. The Town Hall is open Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm.



Wine Talk

With Ray Spaziani



MATCHING WINE AND FOOD

Wine is food. Certain foods go very well with other foods. Steak and potatoes are a favorite match. The texture and weight of the steak and texture and weight of the potatoes are a sharp contrast that seem to go together very well. Some people like green beans or carrots with this combination. I love fresh corn on the cob with mine, preferably from some of our wonderful local growers. What wine would go well with my favorite combination? I like a big heavy red wine with a long dry after taste. California Cabernet, Primativo, Barolo, some Zinfandel, Shiraz, Pinotage and Malbec. All of these wines are full-bodied and go well with red meats. They are also great with Lamb, sirloin and game meats. The key is to find a full-bodied red that you like with your favorite hardy meat dishes.

When wine is properly matched with foods BOTH taste better. If you go out for lobster and order the wrong Chardonnay, (a single fermentation chardonnay usually made with no oak in stainless, cold weather chards from the state of Washington or the Finger Lakes region of New York State and most of our Connecticut chards for example), the match does not work because the crisp malic acid does not match up well with a big buttery lobster. However, if you get a big chard from Napa Valley that has been run through a secondary fermentation where the malic acid changes and turns into Lactic Acid and is aged in an oak barrel. Wow! It is the best lobster and the best Chard you have ever had. (Lactic acid is similar to Lactos in milk, eggs, and butter!) It is too bad many restaurateurs do not know this. The Europeans have known this for hundreds of years. We have salt and pepper shakers as fixtures in every kitchen. The Europeans have a bottle of wine.

Classic matches of food and wine generally are similar in weight. Hardy food matches best with hardy wine. Light foods match with lighter bodied wines and so forth. Some matches are as follows; Sole, Flounder, Clams and Oysters, lighter fish dishes go well with wines such as Pinot Blanc, Alsace Riesling, Chablis, Muscadet, Kabinett and Spatlese, Sauvignon Blanc, Orvieto, Soave, Verdicchio, Frascati, Pinot Grigio, and Pinot Gris. Medium fish dishes such as Snapper, Bass, Shrimp, Scallops and some Veal dishes such as Veal Paillard would match up well with medium bodied whites; such as the following: Pouilly-Fume, Sancerre, Graves, Gavi, Gewurztraminer and single fermentation Chardonnay. Full-bodied fish and chicken dishes such as salmon, tuna, swordfish, lobster, duck and roasted chicken would match well with Chardonnay double fermentation, Chablis Grand Cru, Merasault, Montrachet and Viogner.

Light-bodied reds such as Pinot Noir Bordeaux, Burgundy, Beaujolais, Chianti, Valpolicella Badolino can match well with salmon, tuna, swordfish, duck, and roast chicken. Medium bodied reds including Malbec, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Rioja, Barbera, Docetto Chianti Classic Riserva Zinfandel, Merlot, Bordeaux and Burgundy match wonderfully with veal and pork chops and game birds.

When you cook with wine use a wine that has the same style you are going to serve. If you are not sure what goes well with what, order what I call a user friendly wine. Reds would include Merlot, Chianti and Pinot Noir. Whites would include Pinot Gregio, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Chapagne and other sparkling wines. So go out and find some great wine and food matches. You will be glad you did! By the way Muni, the owner of Vallero Gas station and convenience store on the corner of Lambert Road and The Post Road in Orange has a new Latte machine that makes wonderful stuff! He only charges a dollar or two for the same stuff they get seven to ten bucks for a little further up the road. Muni is a gregarious character who treats his customers wonderfully. Mention you heard about his machine in this article and get your first cup free!

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.

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Careful, Lamb. Don't let your generous nature lead to some serious overspending as you contemplate your holiday gift-giving. Your social life kicks off into high gear by week's end.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A positive attitude helps you weather annoying but unavoidable changes in holiday plans. Aspects favor new friendships and reinforcement of existing relationships.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Demands on your energy level could be much higher than usual as you prepare for the upcoming holidays. Be sure to pace yourself. Friends and family will be happy to help.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't allow a suddenly icy reaction from a friend or family member to continue without learning what caused it -- and what can be done to restore that once warm and caring relationship.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A relationship seems to be unraveling, mostly from a lack of attention. It might be a good idea to ease up on whatever else you're doing so you can spend more time working to mend it.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) New facts emerge that not only help explain the recent rift with a trusted colleague, but also might provide a chance to wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start in your friendship.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A family member's personal situation is, fortunately, resolved in time for you to get back into your hectic round of holiday preparations. An old friend might bring a new friend into your life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Pace yourself in meeting holiday pressures and workplace demands to avoid winding up with a frayed temper and a Scorpian stinger that lashes out at puzzled kith, kin and colleagues.

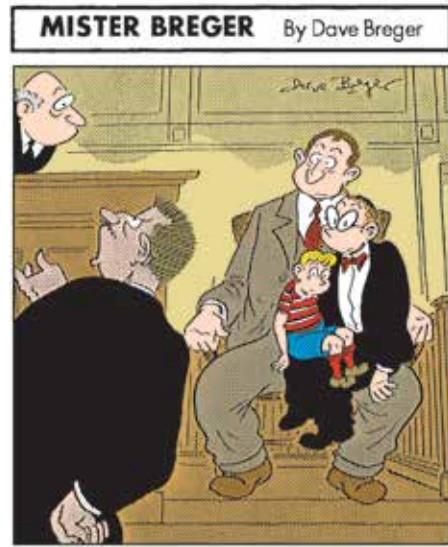
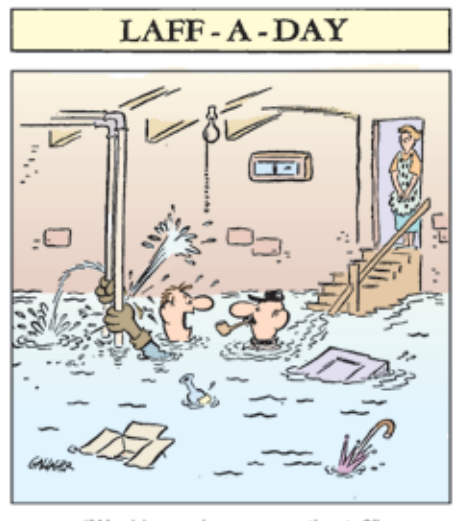
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A financial matter requires close attention. Also, news from a trusted source provides the means to help sort out a long-standing state of confusion and put it into perspective.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This is a good time to reinforce family ties. Make it a priority to assess and resolve all outstanding problems. Start the upcoming holiday season with a full measure of love.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't be pressured into a so-called solid-gold investment. Wait until the holiday distractions are over. Then take a harder look at it. You might find that the "gold" is starting to flake off.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A former friend might be trying to heal the breach between you by using a mutual friend as an intermediary. Best advice: Keep an open mind despite any lingering bad feelings.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of saying the right thing at the right time. Your friendships are deep and lasting.



top ten

Elf names

1. Buddy
2. Elfie
3. Charlie
4. Jingle
5. Fred
6. Jack
7. Snowflake
8. Max
9. Jolly
10. Bob

Source: The Elf on the Shelf

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

DIFFERENCES: 1. Skis are shorter. 2. Scarf is shorter. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Goggles are missing. 5. Jacket is opened. 6. Newspaper is missing.

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REMEMBER PETS IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have two dogs and a cat, and I love them all dearly. I also try to make things a little better for pets that don't have homes by helping out two days a month at the local shelter. Please let your readers know that they can make a huge difference in dogs' and cats' lives even with a small contribution. If they can't give their time, they can donate money, food or other pet-care items. Sign me -- Caring in Kalamazoo

DEAR KALAMAZOO: You told them, and thanks! The holiday season offers the most opportunities to donate, no matter what amount, to a number of causes benefiting pets. So while you're busy making gift lists and holiday preparations, don't forget to include pets in need somewhere in those thoughts.

Most local shelters have Web pages online where you can find out about upcoming fundraising events, see what food or supplies are needed, or find a contact number or e-mail address to learn more. Those that don't have a website often have listings or dedicated space in the town or community newspaper.

Major pet-care organizations and pet-supply stores have fundraising drives throughout the year, while local organizations sometimes hold supply drives and other events with the help of local businesses or municipalities.

You also can donate your free time to help out at local animal shelters. Contact your nearest shelter to see if opportunities are available, how much time is required and if additional training is needed for certain volunteer positions.

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com. Did you know mosquitos can transmit heartworm larvae to dogs, but fleas don't? Find out more in my new book, "Fighting Fleas," available now.

The Garden Bug

Watering in winter

For most houseplants, water when the soil surface begins to dry; rooms that are heated affect how often you do so. The water given should not be too cold or hot, and be sure to provide adequate drainage. Houseplants with more tuberous roots, such as dracena and philodendron, should be kept on the dry side.

Source: www.colostate.edu

- Brenda Weaver

BARK BYTES...

By Vicki & Richard Horowitz

Keep the Holiday Season Fun and Safe for Your Dog

In planning for this season's holiday festivities, it is important to keep your pets in mind. While most of us welcome the sights, sounds and smells of the season, holidays can also be chaotic—especially for dogs. Holiday festivities can interrupt a dog's routine and present a potentially unsafe situation. But by following a few common-sense tips, the holidays can be cheery for everyone—including the family dog.

Holiday foods can be harmful

- Many holiday foods can be harmful to canines, causing symptoms as mild as an upset stomach or as severe as vomiting and diarrhea. Avoid giving your dog fatty or spicy foods, bread dough, fresh herbs, alcohol beverages, caffeine and sweets of all kinds—especially those with chocolate or xylitol, an artificial sweetener.
- Particularly dangerous are cooked poultry bones. Cooked bones easily splinter, and the bone shards can cause choking, get stuck in your dog's gums or possibly damage his intestines. Instead, treat your dog to "dog bones" specifically designed for him to chew. Ask your veterinarian for suggestions.
- Discourage your dog from foraging in the garbage—secure lids on all trashcans.
- It's natural that you'd want to share holiday treats with your dog. While a little taste of turkey or sweet potatoes can make your dog happy, don't overdo it—too much of a good thing can make him sick.

Decorations are not playthings

- Keep your pet away from holiday plants, many of which are poisonous, such as holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and amaryllis (a type of lily). Also be sure all potpourri is out of your pet's reach.
- Snow globes can contain antifreeze, which is toxic to dogs. Whether in the garage or in a snow globe, keep antifreeze products away from your happy, tail-wagging dog. If there is an antifreeze spill, keep your dog out of the room while you clean up the liquid. Dilute the spot with water and floor cleaner to ensure your dog does not lick the area later.
- Keep electrical wires and batteries out of your pet's reach. Chewing or biting anything electrical can cause him shock or burns.
- Don't leave lighted candles unattended. A lit candle knocked over by a swinging tail can burn your pet or cause a fire.

Christmas trees can be hazardous

- Anchor the tree to the ceiling or wall to prevent it from tipping over.
- Hang non-breakable ornaments near the bottom of the tree.
- Avoid putting tinsel on your tree. If ingested, tinsel can twist in your dog's intestines and be deadly.
- Don't let your dog drink the Christmas tree water. The water may contain preservative chemicals, which can trigger severe indigestion in dogs. Stagnant plain water can breed bacteria and cause nausea or diarrhea to the pet that imbibes.
- Regularly sweep up fallen pine needles, as they can puncture holes in a dog's intestines if ingested.

Help your dog feel safe and relaxed

- Most dogs get very excited when guests arrive. To help your dog be calmer, exercise him prior to the festivities. After 30 minutes of walking or playtime, your dog will more likely be relaxed or want to nap.
- As a general rule, don't allow the family dog to greet unfamiliar guests since unusual activities and commotion can cause him extra stress.
- Give your dog a break from the hubbub by putting him in his crate or in a quiet room with his doggie bed. Allow him to rejoin the festivities after guests have arrived.
- Pets stressed by unfamiliar events typically pant more, so keep your dog's water bowl filled with fresh water.

Pets like presents too!

- Help your dog stay busy and out of the holiday trimmings by giving him fun, safe gifts.
- The Buster Cube™ and Kong™ are virtually indestructible puzzle toys that reward your dog with treats and keep him well entertained.

Please don't give a pet as a surprise gift!

A cute puppy might seem like the perfect gift choice, but many of these holiday presents end up at animal shelters. Owning a dog takes a genuine commitment of time and responsibility, and adoptive owners must be ready to participate in training and other activities. If someone you know seriously wants a dog, consider giving a leash and collar, or a dog training certificate from Bark Busters along with a note saying a dog of the recipient's choice comes with it. This helps ensure the lucky person gets just the right pet to bring into the family.

Following these simple tips will help make the festivities safe and happy for your whole family, including your canine companions.

Vicki and Richard Horowitz, of Woodbridge, are dog behavioral therapists and trainers with Bark Busters, one of the world's largest dog training company. For more information, call 1-877-500-BARK (2275) or visit www.dog-training-new-haven-ct.com

'Tis The Season To Be Careful
Avoid the **12 SCAMS** of the Holidays

As you head online this holiday season to order gifts, plan travel and spread cheer, remember to stay on guard and stay aware. Learn how to keep your holiday cheer and avoid the 12 Scams of the Holidays.

- Phony E-tailers**
Only shop at trusted and well-known e-commerce sites.
- Malicious Mobile Apps**
Only download apps from official app stores and check other users' reviews and app permission policies.
- Fake Charities**
When you want to give, visit the charity's website and do a little research before donating.
- Travel Scams**
Be leary of too-good-to-be-true travel offers and when on the road, be careful when using free Wi-Fi connections.
- Holiday Spam/Phishing**
Never to respond to spam emails, or click on an included links.
- iPhone 5, iPad, and other hot holiday gift scams**
Be suspicious of deals on hot holiday gift items and try to verify these "deals" with the retailer.
- Skype Message Scare**
Never click on a suspicious link, even if it appears to come on from someone you know.
- Bogus Gift Cards**
Buy gift cards from the official retailer and not a third party source.
- Holiday SMiShing**
Remember that legitimate businesses, like banks, won't ask you to verify personal information via texts.
- Social Media Scams**
Beware of ads for phony contests, and "stay at home" job postings even if they are from your friends.
- Dangerous E-cards**
Check to see that the sender is someone you actually know and it comes from a well-known e-card site.
- Phony Classifieds**
Don't wire money for "deals" and make sure you don't pay for an item before receiving it.

70% of Americans plan on shopping online during the 2012 holiday season*

24% of Americans plan on using a mobile device to shop online this holiday season*

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Orange Town News

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