

Orange Town News



Orange's Exclusive Newspaper
Mailed Free To Every Home & Business in Orange

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CIRCULATION 6009

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019



Amity Towns Vote For Upgrades To Fields, Buildings

WOODBIDGE VOTERS REJECT ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELD

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Bethany, Woodbridge and Orange residents voted in favor of updating the fields at the high school and — in a separate question — the air handlers and miscellaneous building improvements at the two middle schools for a combined total of \$6.7 million. The referendum on December 4 passed, with a vote of 1,204-445 in favor of the building projects; and 951-746 in favor of the field improvements.

Orange residents voted 659-148 in favor of the building improvements; and 539-279 in favor of the fields. Woodbridge residents voted 331-201 in favor of the building improvements, but rejected the fields, with 211 voting for, 321 against the proposal. In Bethany, residents supported the building improvements, 214-96; and narrowly supported the field project, 165-146.

The two questions put to the voters were as follows:

1. Shall Regional School District Number 5 appropriate \$3,194,300 and authorize the issue of bonds and temporary notes in the same amount for various improvements at Amity Regional High School, Amity Middle School, Bethany Campus and Amity Middle School, Orange Campus?

2. Shall Regional School District Number 5 appropriate \$3,538,000 and authorize the issue of bonds and temporary notes in the same amount for various athletic facility improvements at Amity Regional High School?

In detail, the district plans to replace eight air handlers at the high school, redo a part of the high school parking lot, and refurbish chillers at the high school; and at the two middle schools, install acoustical improvements in the gym, the music rooms and the cafeteria.

As far as the athletic facilities are

See "Amity Fields" On Page 5



Developer Outlines Cluster Housing Revisions

BY LAURA FANTARELLA
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

One of two engineering consultants hired by the town's Inland Wetlands Commission to review a developer's plan to build a cluster housing project off of Turkey Hill Road has signed off on the project.

The application for Turkey Hill Crossing, submitted by Miland LLC, NB LLC and Genvest, LLC, proposes a residential development of 10 multi-family buildings with up to 60 bedrooms and a single community building on more than 22.5 acres. The parcel adjoins the Wilbur Cross parkway which fronts on Turkey Hill Road and includes an undeveloped portion of Cranberry Lane.

At November's public hearing, the town's consultants, George Logan from REMA Ecological Services and Stephen Benben, engineer and Vice President at Triton Environmental Inc. agreed that although the application appeared to be a well thought out proposal, they wanted more details

about elements of the plan. Among the items Benben and Logan cited for further review were whether the depth of a proposed retaining wall would affect wetlands; the possible lack of space for sidewalks near the proposed community center; if emergency vehicles would have appropriate access; how roadway run-off will be handled; whether septic system drainage would create unhealthy nitrogen levels in the wetlands and how extensive bedrock in the area will affect the project. Logan was unable to attend the December 3 public hearing and will present his findings on December 10.

Robert Wheway, civil and environmental engineer and Vice President of Codespoti and Associates, went through Benben and Logan's listed items one by one and outlined revisions that met, and often, exceeded, the minimum standards required by the town's consultants. Wheway proposed increasing the buffer around the

See "Cluster Housing" On Page 11



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ORANGE | 359 Cedarwood Drive | \$699,000
Beautiful 4BR Colonial loc'd on cul de sac on quiet residential road. Lg form LR w/fpl and hwd flrs, form DR w/oak hwd flrg. EIK w/island and plentiful cabs. Big walk in pantry. Dedicated office off the kitchen, massive Great Room w/exposed beams and gas fpl. French doors to sunroom w/gas fpl and access to deck and yard. Upper level has lrg MBR, walk-in closet, Mba w/whirlpool. The laundry is also on the upper level. **Denise Mirto 203-464-9972**



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

Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
January 10 New Year’s Issue	January 3
February 7 Valentine’s Day Issue.....	January 31
March 6 St. Patrick’s Day Issue.....	February 28

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

FROM OUR READERS

Thankful for the Orange Visiting Nurses Association

After a recent hospitalization I required the services of a Visiting Nursing Agency. I had arranged before my hospitalization to have the Orange VNA as my designated agency.
My care was excellent. I was admitted to care one day after coming home which is their standard of care. Jackie Benichov RN reviewed all medications, concerns and in these critical times, pain control. The same day Lisa Capogna RPT reviewed home safety and started my Physical Therapy Program. Wendy Novick RPT continued my PT program with advancing exercises.

Goals were established and met to enable me to begin Outpatient Physical Therapy in 2 weeks. Their knowledge, care and concern was outstanding. The residents of Orange are indeed fortunate to have their own Town nursing agency. Their offices are on Orange Center Road across from the Town Green. The Town has supported the OVNA for over 80 years. Please continue to designate the Orange VNA, this is your choice, as your Nursing agency. If this is not specifically done, you will be referred to another Nursing Agency. Your support makes it possible for these invaluable services and many others to continue and thrive.
Sandra Horling RN



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.

“Amity Fields” From Page 1

concerned, the football field and surrounding track will be rebuilt and turned into an all-weather stadium with new LED lighting and a multi-sport, interactive score board. Field 3, which currently has no permanent bleachers and no light, will see both added, as well as a walkway to the bleachers and a multi-sport scoreboard.
Woodbridge residents in the past have rejected installation of an artificial all-weather field, primarily for health and environmental reasons. In a Facebook post a few days prior to the referendum, Woodbridge resident Jinny Schneider through the Conserve Woodbridge group warned voters about potential health risks from hormone-disrupting chemicals in rubber and plastics and referred to a letter penned by Dr. Diana Zuckerman, PhD from the National Center For Research (http://www.center4research.org/nchr-letter-dc-city-council...). Schneider also referred to an alternative, saying “many of the turf fields in Fairfield County are made of cork and coconut fibers.”
District representatives meanwhile maintained that the chosen surface was considered safe by the Department

of Health. During their presentation to the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen, Amity Finance Director Terry Loomis and Athletic Director Ernie Goodwin said the cryogenic rubber chosen for the project passes the European safety standard for toys.
The all-weather surface would allow the high school to use the new stadium field not only for football, but also field hockey, soccer and lacrosse. It would also allow PE classes to use the field during the day, rain or shine. Baseball, softball, cheer, dance and marching band also benefit. Even after nine inches of rain, the field would be ready to play within an hour, Goodwin said.
Amity School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars in a phone conversation after the referendum said the bulk of the construction — both indoors and outdoors — would be done during the summer of 2020. The only sport that may be affected by the construction is football in the fall of that year, and the district will have to work with other area high schools to come up with “creative scheduling” solutions. Track is a spring sport and should not be affected. Byars said the new stadium, with a newly refurbished track and LED scoreboard, is scheduled to open next fall, possibly in October.

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Pictured left to right: (back row) Governor Ned Lamont; Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education; Dr. Marie McPadden, Amity Regional School District No. 5 Director of Curriculum and Staff Development; (front row) Aiden Graham; and David Ke [Photographer: Marie McPadden]

Middle School Recognized In Governor’s Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Aiden Graham and David Ke for being the top readers from Amity Middle School in Orange in the Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge. Aiden and David traveled to Hartford to receive their recognition

certificates on behalf of Amity Middle School in Orange. The school was recognized for having the highest number of books read by participating students in middle school.

Howard Jacobson Scholarship Award Deadline Approaching

CAC Area 2 will bestow two scholarships in memory of former longtime Chairperson Howard Jacobson. One high school and one college student studying film, mass communications, and television or media studies will receive \$500 to help further their studies.

The Cable Advisory Council of Area 2, which serves the towns of Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, Orange and Woodbridge promotes quality Community Access Television. The Council is an ongoing asset for Cable Area 2 with the support of Altice/Cablevision.

Scholarship Qualifications & Criteria - Applicants must be able to prove:

- › They are residents of one of the six CAC area towns – Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, Orange or Woodbridge – currently attending a high school, community college,

college or university.

- › They have a declared a major in the mass communications, or media studies. Along with pursuing a career in this field, they are taking classes or engaged in independent studies.
- › They are in good standing with their academic institution.
- › They must submit a short essay under 500 words describing their creative coursework, portfolio or project and how it relates to this scholarship award. Supplemental links to media projects are welcome.

The two winners will be selected on the basis of their overall academic performance, portfolio and their personal statement.

Deadline to apply is December 31, 2019. To apply, please email postmaster@cacarea2.com.

Amity Adult High School Registration

Hamden Adult Education is proud to offer a FREE program to provide local adult residents of Hamden, North Haven, Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge the opportunity to complete their high school education. This program is offered through Hamden’s evening adult high school and is similar to regular secondary school, requiring class attendance and passing grades.

It is uniquely adapted to recognize and give credit for adult experiences. Classes are small, allowing for differentiated instruction. Registration for this program is December 9 – December 11 at 6:30 PM. For more information or to request an appointment for registration, call the Adult Education office at 203-407-2028 or email info@hamdenadulthood.org.

Amity Team Advances to “Round of 64” in Debate Contest

The Brewer Foundation and New York University are pleased to announce the high school debate teams advancing into the “Top 64” round of the 19th annual International Public Policy Forum (IPPF). By advancing, the students remain eligible to win a \$10,000 grand prize and an all-expenses-paid trip to the IPPF Finals in New York City.

The IPPF is the first and only international debate competition that gives high school students the opportunity to engage in written and oral debates on issues of public policy.

This year, the IPPF received qualifying round essays from more than 150 teams, representing schools in 28 U.S. states and 19 countries. Each essay affirmed or negated the IPPF topic, “Resolved: When in conflict, a nation’s self-interest should outweigh its international commitments to migrants.”

Submitted essays were reviewed by a committee of judges that determined the “Top 64” teams based on the overall quality of each 2800-word essay. “The IPPF presents an exciting opportunity for high school students to engage in issue-oriented advocacy – competing against some of the best debate teams in the world,” says William A. Brewer III, founder of the Brewer Foundation and Chairman of the IPPF Advisory Board. “The Top 64 teams now enter into written elimination rounds that will test their research, writing and advocacy skills.”

The Round of 64 begins immediately. Teams will volley a series of essays back and forth via email.

A panel of judges will review the essays in the order they are presented, and the winning schools will advance to the “Top 32” round. The process continues until the final eight teams

are named.

The “Elite 8” teams earn an all-expenses-paid trip to the IPPF Finals in New York City April 24-26, 2020. In New York teams compete in oral debates in front of a panel of judges that includes professionals in law, business, politics, debate and academia. The IPPF Champion will be awarded a \$10,000 grand prize and the Brewer Cup.

The Amity High School “Round of 64” Team is: Kevin Lu, Margaret Luo, Arnav Paliwal, Peter Scully, Jack Tajmajer, Zhengyang Wang, Weiss Yuan, Wendy Zhang.

The IPPF was founded in 2001 by the Brewer Foundation and is now jointly administered with New York University. The program is available to all high schools around the world – public and private – for free. The IPPF is endorsed by leading forensic agencies, such as the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, the International Debate Education Association, the Impact Coalition, Associated Leaders of Urban Debate Leagues, and the National Debate Coaches Association.

The Brewer Foundation is a private, non-profit organization funded by companies, individuals and the national litigation firm of Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors. With offices in New York and Dallas, the Foundation has achieved widespread recognition for its efforts to create, fund and manage a variety of educational outreach programs. Visit the IPPF at www.ippfdebate.com, www.facebook.com/ippfdebate, or on Twitter at @IPPF1. For more information, contact Katherine Leal Unmuth, Brewer Foundation, 214-653-4832/hkc@brewerattorneys.com.

“May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and every window open to great possibility.” — MARY ANNE RADMACHER

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Orange Pre-School Blind Lottery

“LIMITED OPENINGS” FOR 2020-21 COMMUNITY PEER/TUITION BASED PROGRAM

The Orange Elementary School System is now accepting names for the “Blind Lottery” for our 2020-2021 Pre-School Program. Our Special Education/General Education integrated Pre-School Program is looking for both three and four-year old children to enroll as community peers. Our Pre-School Program enriches each child’s social, emotional, physical, cognitive, intellectual, and creative abilities through early academic and social experiences. It is designed to prepare the children for early success and school readiness.

Community peer children are selected thru the “Blind Lottery”. The total cost of tuition for the community peers will be \$3,250. This fee-based Pre-School Program is held 5-days/week, for 3-hrs/day. No transportation is provided for general education community peers.

The Pre-School Program follows the district’s school year calendar: the AM class is held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the PM class is held from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Each classroom will be a blend of three and four-year old children. Class sizes are limited to a total of 12 students per class, which includes our special education students. By law, students with special needs identified with an IEP are placed in the Pre-School Program by the Dept. of Special Services through the PPT process.

In order to participate in the lottery your child must be 3 years old but not

older than 4 years old by December 31st, 2020. All children must be toilet trained and a bona-fide Orange resident. If a child’s third birthday falls between September - December, 2020 they will be able to start on their third birthday.

The blind lottery is conducted in two stages. One: All names are ‘picked out of a hat’ by age group for the “limited number of available spaces”, with the remaining names drawn and placed on a waiting list. Two: the 2nd drawing decides if your child will attend the AM or PM class to balance each classroom with an equal amount of 3-year old and 4-year old children.

If you wish to have your child participate in the Blind Lottery, please call the Special Services Dept. (203-891-8023) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to place your child on the list. We will be accepting names for the blind lottery up until 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 31, 2020. Parents will be mailed a letter of the lottery results by February 7, 2020.

Your tuition deposit of \$325 will be due by Monday, February 24th to reserve the space for your child. Your deposit is the first month’s tuition for September 2020. Registration paperwork needs to be completed by March 24th 2020. Tuition payments are due on the first of the preceding month, e.g. tuition for October will be due September 1st. Any further questions call the Special Services Dept. (203-891-8023) at the Orange Board of Education.



Turkey Hill School Supports the Orange Food Bank

The Turkey Hill School Student Council organized a food drive to support the Orange Food Bank. Students and community members generously supported this initiative from November 11th through November 22nd. The

school community collected items such as toiletries, paper goods, cereal, snacks, and other canned and jarred food for people in our community. Over 700 items were delivered to the Orange Food Bank on November 22nd.



One of the favorite school events at Mary L Tracy is the Feast with Friends. The students come together as one group to sing and eat. It is a great day to remember to be thankful for our friendships we have at school.

STUDENT NEWS

Dean’s List/Honors Notre Dame High School

Notre Dame High School of West Haven President Mr. Robert Curis and Vice President for Student Success, Mr. Joseph A. Ramirez, recently announced the honor roll for the First Quarter of the 2019-20 academic year.

Those from Orange achieving First

Honors are: Brett Hutchinson, Class of 2020; Dylan Ekstrand, Class of 2022; Chevintha Edirisinghe, Kyle Grande, and Matthew Vitagliano, Class of 2023. Those from Orange achieving Second Honors are: Joseph Bierowski, Class of 2020; Nicholas Richetelli and Dohyeon (Steven) Yeo, Class of 2021; Alan Lopez; Anthony Young, Class of 2022.



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Families of Mary L Tracy participate in charitable giving events during the school year. During the month of November students brought in items for a Thanksgiving Food Drive to donate to the Orange Food Bank. Thank you for the generosity of everyone who donated!

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



The OCCNS 4-year old class

Open Registration For OCC Nursery School

Orange Congregational Church Nursery School is now accepting applications for fall 2020. Our nursery school has served the community for more than 50 years, and is open to all faiths. Our school day runs from 9-1, with 3-year olds attending twice a week, and 4-year olds three days. We also offer a five-day program for returning students.

We will be holding an Open House on Sunday, February 9, 2020 from 12:30-2:00. Snow date will be February 23, 12:30-2:00.

For more information about the school, or to schedule a visit with your child, please email us at ocns@yahoo.com. Check us out on Facebook!

www.OrangeTownNews.com



Race Brook Families Donate Gifts to Less Fortunate Children

SUBMITTED BY VALERIE ANTON
FOURTH GRADE TEACHER & STUDENT COUNCIL
PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

Race Brook School families from Orange generously donated gifts for the Connecticut Education Association's Holiday Bear Project. The annual gift drive was organized once again by the Student Council under the direction of third grade teacher Janet Greenspan. "It felt wonderful to help kids who don't get many gifts during the holidays. Thank you to the families of Race Brook School for donating so many gifts," sincerely contributes Student Council member Maite I. Many families now include the gift drive as part of their annual holiday tradition. The goal of the program is to collect donated gifts for less fortunate children in Connecticut's public schools and help put more smiles on their faces. "It feels very caring to give clothes and toys to children who do not have enough during the holidays. The families of Race Brook School always care about helping other people," proudly states student helper Brennan W.

Race Brook families chose paper candles from the school's front bulletin board. Each of the one hundred fifty candles had a child's gift wish on it. The sponsoring families bought and wrapped the gifts that will be delivered to twenty-five children this holiday season. The students pictured with the gifts are members of the Student Council Gift Drive Committee. "It felt good to prepare the gifts to be delivered to the kids. Some kids don't have important things like coats, jackets or blankets to keep them warm. I am happy those kids can stay warm now," says Olivia P. The students commendably collected and organized the gifts first thing in the morning and after school giving them the opportunity to show citizenship, responsibility, and good will towards others. "I helped out during the gift drive because I love helping others. It's an amazing feeling," emphatically states Brady W. "There are many kids who do not get everything they need. It was important to me to donate a gift and help get the gifts together," thoughtfully adds Sidney K.



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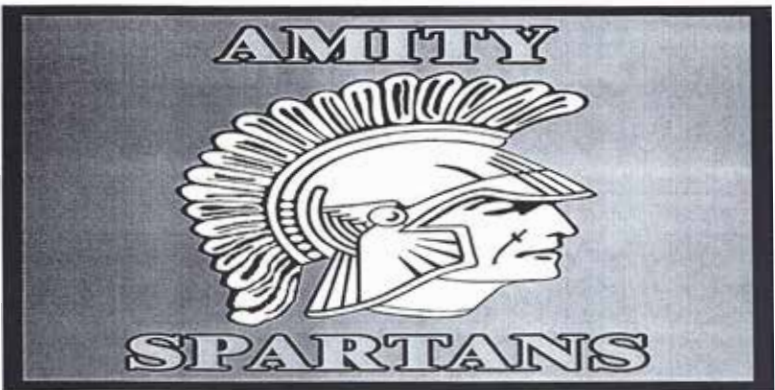
Attention Teachers!

We want to know what's going on in your classroom!
Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.

You can also send us your pictures.
(Parental consent required)

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AMITY YOUTH WRESTLING



Boys and Girls, are you interested in learning self-defense and having fun? If so, come join **Amity Spartans Youth Wrestling**. Wrestling teaches self-discipline, hard work, and determination. All boys and girls, grades K-8, are encouraged to join. All participants wrestle against opponents of their own age, weight and ability. No experience necessary!

Season 7 begins on December 2, 2019 and ends on March 12, 2020.

The cost is \$175 includes and includes a USA Wrestling Membership & T-Shirt.

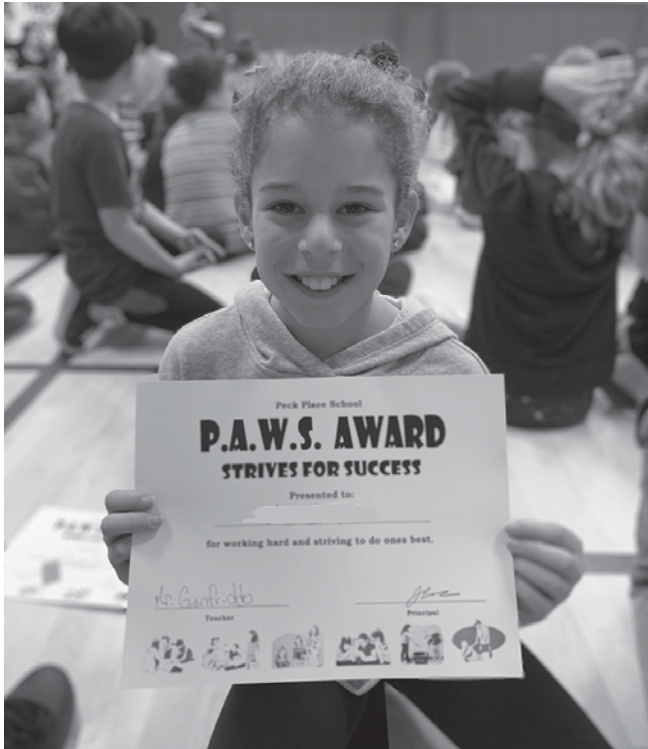
Practice: Mondays & Wednesday, 6:30pm-8pm
Tournaments: Sunday at various parts of the state
Location: Amity High School 25 Newton Rd, Woodbridge (auxiliary gym)

All wrestlers need headgear, sweatpants or shorts to wrestle. If you do not have wrestling shoes you must wear socks on the mat. We do have previously used shoes and headgear on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Any questions contact: Mike Cala 203-974-9493 AmityYouthWrestling@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/AmityYouthWrestling/>

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Peck Place School had its PBIS “P.A.W.S.” Assemblies with grades 1–3 and grades 4–6. The goal of each assembly was to recognize all of the positive things that have been going on at Peck Place School. Mr. Balisciano spoke with students about the school’s Kindness Initiative and had the students share how they have been kind to each other and how the school has helped the community so far this year through fundraisers including Raise Craze, our Veteran’s Day Ceremony and Ribbons, Put a Cap on Cancer, Breast Cancer Awareness Days, etc. Students were recognized for being a Reading Tutor, Student Ambassador and Flag Bearer. Select students from each class also earned Award Certificates for Practicing Kindness, Acting Responsibly, Working and Playing Safely, Striving for Success and the overall P.A.W.S. Award. Each assembly ended with a raffle and an exciting game where students competed with their teachers for the right to not have homework. Congratulations to all of the students for this special recognition.

FROM THE SENIOR CENTER

BY DENNIS MARSH

Senior Center Weather Policy

Classes are canceled when the Orange School System closes due to weather. If there is a school delay then only those classes during the delay are canceled. WTNH 8 is the official station for weather cancelations. If you have any questions, contact the Senior Center at (203) 891-4784.

Holiday Door Decorating

Come on down see the beautiful doors decorated as part of the annual Holiday Door Decorations.

Mind Fit from Home Care Assistance

Just like the body, the brain will show signs of aging over time. While this is a natural result of growing older, there are positive lifestyle changes you can make to keep your mind sharper for longer. In the Mind Fit Series, we will learn about the various factors that contribute to brain health, while engaging in group activities based on the Cognitive Therapeutics Method offered by Home Care Assistance. Join us for a fun and informative six-part series, led by Home Care Assistance brain fitness experts. Part 2 will be on December 17th at 12:30pm. We will be making a brain and heart healthy snack! Call us to let us know you are coming (203) 891-4784.

Living Treasure Nominations

Nominations are being accepted through March 2, 2020 for the 2020

Living Treasure Awards. The three individuals chosen will be honored at Pasta Festa in May 2020, at the High Plains Community Center.

New Haven Chamber Orchestra

Join us on Saturday, February 29 for a very special concert in New Haven. The New Haven Chamber Orchestra will be performing at the Fair Haven School. Park at High Plains and ride with us into New Haven for this free concert. Call (203) 891-4784 to register. Departs at 1:00pm.

Documentary & Discussion

Join us for Michael Jackson's "This Is It" on December 27 at 1:00pm. A documentary of footage as Michael prepares for sold-out shows in London. Call for a seat (203) 891-4784.

Homebound Library Delivery Service

The Case Memorial Library will bring books to homebound Orange residents at no charge. Some restrictions apply. For more information, call Samantha Jasulavic at 203-891-2170 or email sjasulavic@casememoriallibrary.org.

Griffin Hospital/Parish Nurse Van

Take control of your health! Come on the RV and have Griffin Hospital RNs take your blood pressure. High Blood Pressure may have no symptoms at all. Be informed. They will teach you what the blood pressure normally should be and what your reading

means. Have an apple also. They will be at the Orange Senior Center on December 23, the 4th Monday in December.

Afternoon Fun!

Arts & Crafts on Monday, Name 5 or Scattergories on Tuesdays, Mexican Train Dominos on Wednesdays, Bingo on Thursdays, Scrabble on Fridays at 1:00pm in the Cafe. So, come on out and join us and be part of the fun!

Movie Club

Join us on a celluloid adventure! Our group will discuss a current movie playing locally. We will then meet to critique the film as we discuss the script, acting, cinematography and directing. Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at 3pm in the town conference room at the HPCC.

Hot Lunch

The Orange Senior Center offers a lunch Monday through Friday, 11:30am – 12:00pm. A \$3.00 donation is suggested for persons 60 years and over. To register call (203) 891-4765 before 1pm, the day before.

Trips

ESCAPE THE COLD—ENJOY SOME "SUN" @ MOHEGAN SUN— No minimum trip Wednesday, January 29-30, 2020. At Mohegan Sun every turn leads to a new adventure with an indoor 7-story waterfall, the world's largest and most spectacular planetarium dome and the awe-inspiring Wombi Rock. Cost \$169pp double, \$234 single, \$159pp triple. This

no-minimum trip includes round-trip transportation, Hotel Accommodations, and more. Full payment due at registration. Considerable walking.

39TH ANNIAL HOME & GARDEN SHOW at the Mohegan Sun—No minimum trip February 22, 2020 (snow date 2/23). This Show offers a diverse array of home and garden products and services by local, state, and national vendors, each presenting innovative and imaginative displays. You will receive a casino bonus and meal ticket, so feel free to leave the show at any time to try your luck at the gaming tables. Cost \$59pp, includes transportation, Casino Bonus, meal ticket, & Admission. Full payment due at registration. Considerable walking.

2020 AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (AAC) WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, SEMI-FINAL GAME at Mohegan Sun Arena. No minimum trip, Sunday, March 8, 2020. There is nothing like seeing a live game. Cost \$TBApp. This no minimum trip includes transportation and tickets to the game, Food Voucher and Casino Bonus, Driver's Gratuity. Full payment due at registration. Moderate Walking.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY at the Aqua Turf - no minimum trip March 17, 2020. Enjoy live Irish entertainment by Padraig Allen and the Maclean Avenue Band. Enjoy an Irish lunch including corned beef & cabbage, baked scrod, and all the fixings, topped off with carrot cake. Also, a complimentary glass of wine or beer. Cost: \$86pp. Includes transportation, lunch, show, & driver gratuities. Full payment due at registration. Minimal Walking.

Decorate Ornaments With Family, Friends

Deck the halls and trim your Christmas tree with colorful, shiny ornaments that are easy to assemble and design. Choose a craft to fit the abilities of each child so that your whole family can share in the festive spirit of holiday preparation.

You also might use this holiday season as an excuse to invite friends over for an evening of ornament-making. Creating decorations calls forth the imagination, and if we make them with friends of all ages, a happy, artistic collaboration takes place. Best of all, the messiness and the laughter glues together more than ornaments. Memories are made, friendship bonds are strengthened, and the special event might become a new tradition.

Here are some quick and easy ornament-making ideas:

PERSONALIZED BALL ORNAMENT

Express your creativity by decorating purchased or previous years' plain



ball ornaments using nontoxic permanent markers or glitter paint in squeeze bottles. If you print names on the ornaments, they can double as a place card at your holiday dinner table and as a

Christmas 2019 gift memento.

MARBLED BALL ORNAMENT

Remove the metal cap from the top of a clear round ornament. Add a couple

of drops of water inside the ornament, then a couple of drops of acrylic paint. Gently swirl it around. Add a second color if you wish, and repeat for a marbled effect. Replace the metal cap when paint is dry.

SNOWMAN ORNAMENT

Use a glue gun to attach a small, clear ball ornament to the top of a larger one to form the head and body. Use a paintbrush to add a few brushstrokes of white glitter paint. Let dry. Use a marker or paint to create eyes and mouth. Glue a small orange felt cutout for a carrot nose. Dress him with a knit or soft fabric scarf where the two balls are glued together. Glue in place, then add a little hat. Find two twigs outdoors and glue onto the large ball for arms.

"The grandkids are coming!" tip: Start a new tradition and give your grandchild a purchased or homemade ornament each year. The growing collection from you will be treasured in years to come.

“Cluster Housing” From Page 1

existing wetlands, exchange stone at the main drive with wider grass strips and “significant plantings” to reduce grading and absorb and filter water run-off; and a building adjustment which would move construction further from the wetlands -- all of which will decrease disturbance to the site. Snow and ice on the roadways would be treated with eco-friendly materials like Biomelt to further minimize chemicals affecting the wetlands.

In his report to the commission, Benben stressed that he was hired to review engineering portions of the project and evaluate any adverse impact it could have on the site. “It’s not for me to say whether this project is good or bad for the town,” he said. “The applicant has satisfied our engineering concerns and has provided more information and details to meet our guidelines and engineering standard of care.”

While neighbors have maintained that the projects the developer is proposing for the site are too intense for the area, Jeff Gordon, President, Codespoti Associates and a representative for the project, says that is simply not true. “We are proposing 2.66 bedrooms per acre which is not dense,” he said. “You have to take the emotions out of these things. It shouldn’t be a decision based on politics or whether it’s popular, but based on science and what the land can sustain. We go by what the regulations and statutes are and this plan meets all the engineering standards.”

Last year the Town Plan and Zoning Commission unanimously denied Miland’s application for a zone change that would have allowed construction of about 30 one and two-bedroom age-restricted residential units. The plan called for a walkable community that would feature recreational amenities, private walking trails, community buildings and passive outdoor recreation.

Though there has been specula-

tion by residents that Miland’s project could be rental units and/or an affordable housing application, the developer has not publicly announced any specific plans. “It hasn’t been determined how we would approach a zoning application,” Gordon said. “Based on what septic systems could handle, it could be possible to build ten units with up to 60 bedrooms. There is no plan on what the project will be or whether the dwellings would have one, two or three bedrooms.” If the project were to be rental units, Gordon expects prospective tenants would be empty nesters, seniors and young professionals who want easy access to the Merritt Parkway as tenants. “This was a good project the first go around and it’s a good project now,” he said. “We’ve answered and revised everything that was asked of us.”

Fewer people attended the fourth public hearing in early December than previous meetings, but several residents addressed the commission to voice their opposition to the project. Among them was Lisa Jurzyk of Hedgefield Court who said, “This is a very congested development on a small parcel of land located in a single-family home neighborhood. Approving a development of this type within these wetlands will open up opportunities for other projects to be initiated in other inappropriate areas of our town and I strongly urge you to reject this application.”

Deer Run Lane resident Joanna Watts also urged the commission to reject the plan, saying, “We’ve heard a lot of words from the applicants’ representatives and maybe they have addressed some of the issues. But it doesn’t address the essence of this development, which is to build a high density, cluster housing development with 60 bedrooms. The impact that will have on this area doesn’t change by making adjustments. If you have any doubts, your job is to protect the wetlands.”

The final public hearing was scheduled for December 10 at the High Plains Community Center.



Students from OCNS made a delivery to the food bank after a school wife food collection.

Did You Know? There May Be A “Secret Lien” On Your Home

When a Connecticut resident dies owning real estate, whether solely owned or jointly owned, an inchoate lien immediately arises for possible Connecticut estate taxes and statutory Probate fees.

What many people do not know about the lien:

- It arises immediately on the death of the owner of real estate.
- It is a “secret lien” because, unlike most other liens, it need not be recorded on the land records to be enforceable.
- It arises even if the real estate was owned jointly with rights of survivorship with a spouse or anyone else.
- It can only be released by filing the appropriate estate tax return (CT 706 or CT 706NT) with the Probate Court and paying all statutory Probate fees (generally about ½ of 1% of the value of assets reported on the estate tax return).
- In most cases, no estate tax is payable as there is an unlimited exemption for the value of assets passing to a spouse and the exemption for non-spouse beneficiaries is \$3,600,000.00 in 2019.
- Once the probate fees have been paid a “Certificate Releasing Liens” will be issued by the Probate Court which must be recorded on the land records. This is the document that shows title is clear.
- If you purchased your home from a third party, if there was a title issue created by the secret lien, it should have been identified and addressed prior to the closing.
- However, if you are the surviving joint owner of real property and did not file a Connecticut estate tax return with the Probate Court after the other owner’s death, you need to do so.

If you are uncertain about whether a secret lien affects the title to the real property you own, a title search is the way to determine if a secret lien exists. If there is a secret lien, no matter how long ago the prior owner died, it will need to be released before the real estate changes owners, either upon your death, when you try to sell it to a third party, or if it is gifted to family.

If you are interested in learning more about the secret lien, please visit our website and read our blog for recent posts. For advice specific to you or your family, please contact the office. We would be glad to meet with you for a no hassle, no charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



Steven P. Floman, Allison M. DePaola-Drozdz, and Nicole Camporeale of the law firm Floman DePaola, LLC are the authors of this article. This article has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

From Orange Community
Emergency Response Team



CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) of Orange would like to wish all our Residents a very Happy, Healthy, Holiday Season.

As the weather gets colder, conditions can change quickly. CERT reminds you all to listen for any updates regarding weather, be safe in your surroundings.


‘If for any reason the town opens

the Community Center as a Shelter, know your CERT members will be there helping.

If you have any questions, or would like to get involved in the program, please contact:

Town of Orange
Homeland Security
617 Orange Center Road
Att: Kenneth Lyke

Town of Orange Meetings for the Month of January 2020



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

6th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm	Town Hall
7th	Economic Development Comm	5:30 pm	Town Hall
	Town Plan & Zoning Comm.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
8th	OVNA Board of Governors	8:30 am	Clark Bldg
	Board of Selectmen	7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Conservation Comm	7:00 pm	HPCC
9th	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
	Board of Health	7:00 pm	HPCC
14th	Inland Wetlands Comm.....	7:30 pm	Town Hall
15th	CERT	7:00 pm	HPCC
	Recycling Cmte	7:00 pm	HPCC
16th	Case Memorial Library Comm	7:00 pm	Case Mem. Library
21st	Orange Board of Education	7:00 pm	Mary L. Tracy
	Town Plan & Zoning Comm.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
22nd	Safety Comm	9:00 am	Town Hall
	Park & Recreation Comm.....	7:30 pm	Town Hall
23rd	WPCA.....	6:00 pm	Town Hall
24th	Emergency Management Cmte	8:00 am	Police Station
27th	Board of Finance.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall

Youth Services

BY JESSICA SIMONE, MSW, ORANGE
YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

Suicide Awareness Workshop

The Alliance for Prevention and Wellness (APW) will be presenting a suicide prevention training on 1/30/20 from 6:30-8pm at HPCC. This is a community event for high school age students and adults. APW trained staff will provide QPR-Question, Persuade, Refer-Training, described as “3 simple steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide.” A flyer with a sign-up link will be posted in the coming weeks.

Afternoon Craft

Calling all students from grades 3-6! Join us on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 from 4:00-5:15pm to make rock painted cactus gardens! Supplies will be provided, along with snacks/refreshments. Call or email to reserve a spot! (203) 891-4785 or jsimone@orange-ct.gov.

8th Grade B.O.W. Party

SAVE THE DATE!! Orange Youth Services is pairing up w/Woodbridge Youth Services to bring you a B.O.W. 8th grade Mardi Gras themed Party!

2/21/20 (snow date 2/28) from 6:30-8:30pm at Amity High School in the Café. Come meet your future classmates, wear a Mardi Gras hat or mask & have a blast. Admission is \$5. Pre-register to receive an extra raffle ticket. ORANGE STUDENTS register at 203-891-4785 or jsimone@orange-ct.gov.

Tutoring Program

Youth Services has TWO SPOTS AVAILABLE for the Intergenerational Tutoring Program. Retired teachers are available to tutor any subject for students in grades 3-6. Tutors meet at the Case Memorial Library on Thursdays from 3:45-4:30pm. Transportation is not provided. Contact 203-891-4785 for an application.

Job Bank

Interested in actual paid work experience? The Job Bank is an employment referral service for Orange students, ages 13-16. The program offers a sense of responsibility while providing needed services to residents of Orange. Jobs include yard work, raking, shoveling, babysitting, and more. Call for a Job Bank application.



Pictured above: Joan Cretella Director of Orange Community Services accepting two checks and food from Temple Or Shalom for the Community Assistance Programs from Ethan Rothman and his friends John Kennedy and Nate Brower, others in photo are Denise Stein, Municipal Agent; Rabbi Wainhaus, Or Shalom; Jessica Simone, Youth Services Coordinator and Nancy Kline from Or Shalom. Thank you for supporting our programs.

“The Joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others’ burdens, easing each other’s loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of the holidays.” — W. C. JONES

The Grinch's Heart Problem

BY RICH LOWRY

I'm not a Dr. Seuss fan. When it comes to children's books, I'm more a Curious George or Peter Rabbit guy. I generally don't like the doggerel or the illustrations in Seuss, which doesn't leave much to admire.

But "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" is something different.

It deserves to be considered one of the great Christmas stories of all time, and achieves its power from the portrayal of the Grinch, the mountain-dwelling creature with the audacious scheme to ruin Christmas.

Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, published the book in 1957, spawning a famous TV version, two feature films and plenty of merchandise. He wrote it after "The Cat in the Hat," and thought of it as one of his Big Books, aspiring more to literature rather than just madcap fun.

Its claim on that status is based on its compelling, disturbing depiction of pure malice via the Grinch. The cuddly Grinch toys available at toy stores notwithstanding, he is a nasty piece of work whose malevolence never ceases to astonish no matter how many times the book is read and reread.

The Grinch doesn't just hate the Whos, and "the warm lighted windows below in their town," but everything associated with their Christmas delight. He hates the cheerful noise, and hates the feast, and hates the singing. He hates joy itself.

And so he decides to "stop this whole thing." He disguises himself as the instrument of happy surprise, Santa Claus, and sets out to do the opposite.

He descends on the unsuspecting Whos, "all dreaming sweet dreams without care." At the house that is his first target, he steals all the stockings, decorations and toys, up to and including the tree. And he enjoys himself doing it!

When little Cindy-Lou Who wakes up and finds, on the most enchanted night of the year, a purported Santa Claus making off with everything in

the house, "the old liar" deceives the little tot.

The Grinch surpasses his fellow Christmas literary villain Ebenezer Scrooge by a considerable distance. Scrooge only turned away a dinner invitation, declined to make a donation to charity and was reluctant to give his clerk, Bob Cratchit, Christmas Day off. He didn't try to ruin the holiday for the entire town.

Why is the Grinch this way? Well, he's isolated; he lives alone 3,000 feet up with his put-upon dog Max (who is a scene-stealer in the 2018 movie). He is arrogant; he thinks he's clever enough to succeed in his massive theft. And he's cynical; all the Whos care about, he believes, is their presents and food.

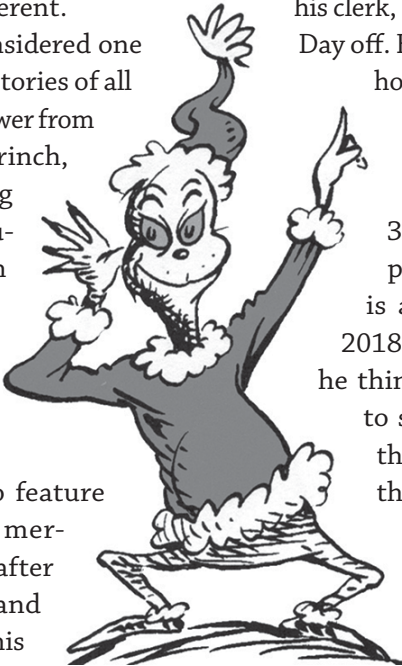
Still, the ultimate source of the Grinch's enmity is unknowable. In the movie, his hatred of Christmas, naturally, stems from an unhappy childhood. This makes him a more sympathetic figure, but takes the edge off his malignity. In the book, Seuss resists explanation: "Now, please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason." All that can be said of the Grinch is that his heart is "two sizes too small."

Of course, the Whos sing on Christmas morning even though their presents are gone. Christmas comes anyway, despite the Grinch's exertions, and -- surprised by joy -- something changes in his heart.

If the Grinch's evil defies explanation, so does his conversion. He returns all he stole and happily carves the "roast beast" at the Christmas feast of the Whos. After zipping through the writing of the rest of the book, Seuss struggled with the ending. He said that he "had gone through thousands of religious choices, and then after three months it came out like that."

It came out perfectly. The Grinch stands for the mysteries of the human heart, and the delights available to us if it's the right size. Merry Christmas!

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



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Orange Town News

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Orange Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
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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. Library hours are as follows: Monday and Thursday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Library will be closed Wednesday, December 25 in observance of Christmas and Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day. Registration is required for all events, unless otherwise noted.

Did you know you can register for events online?

Registration for events opens three weeks in advance of the event date online at casememoriallibrary.org/events.

Events For Adults Chocolate Wars

Saturday, January 25, 2 p.m.

Join us for a chocolate taste-off with chocolate expert Maria Brandriff. Participants will have the opportunity to compare decadent chocolate desserts that we all know and love with a lighter healthier version. Which type wins the showdown will be up to the participants who will have the opportunity to indulge in both. Recipes and samples will be available. Space is limited. Registration is required and begins Saturday, January 4. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Make & Take: Foraged Winter Wreaths

Monday, January 27, 7 p.m.

Create your own foraged winter wreath at this small, hands-on workshop led by Librarian Rebecca Harlow. All supplies necessary for you to make and take home your own wreath will be provided. Floral snips will be shared among participants—please feel free to bring your own. If you would like to customize your wreath, you are welcome to bring your own special greenery, ribbons, or other decorations. Registration is required and begins Monday, January 6.

Jazz Concert: Richard "Cookie" Thomas

Saturday, February 8, 2 p.m.

Join us for a delightful jazz concert with celebrated local jazz vocalist Richard "Cookie" Thomas, whose career began in Philadelphia in 1960 when he had the opportunity to open for B.B. King at age 14. Registration is required and begins Saturday, January 18. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

2020 Oscar Film Series

The 2020 Oscar Film Series will begin on February 3, 2020. The first three films will be announced on January 14 on the Library's event calendar, in



Case Memorial Library

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a special edition of our e-newsletter, and on the Library's Facebook page. Sign up for the Library's e-newsletter by visiting the Library's website and clicking on Sign Up for E-News. Registration is highly recommended for all films. Registration opens three weeks in advance of the film screening. All Wednesday afternoon screenings are shown with subtitles.

Book Discussions

Mystery Book Discussion Group

Thursday, January 23, 7 p.m.

I Let You Go by Clare Mackintosh. Led by Librarian Samantha Jasulavic. Registration is requested.

The Bookcase: Evening Discussion Group

Thursday, February 13, 7 p.m.

A Woman Is No Man by Etaf Rum. Led by Toby Zabinski. Registration is requested.

Events For Teens Book Chat Café

Join Ms. Harlow from the Case Memorial Library and AMSO Media Specialist Mrs. Yeakel at this fun afterschool club for AMSO students who love to read and share their opinions about books over pizza and snacks. Held once a month on Tuesdays in the AMSO media center. Students can see Mrs. Yeakel for more information.

Teen Cooking Class

Wednesday, February 12, 3:30 p.m.

For teens in grades 7-12. Learn to cook tasty treats with ShopRite's Registered Dietician Courtney Huggins. Please notify the Library of any food restrictions at least 24 hours in advance of the program. Space is limited. Registration is required and begins Wednesday, January 22.

Events For Children & Tweens Hot Chocolate Slime

Monday, December 16, 3:45 p.m.

For children in grades 1-3. Use our ingredients to make a cool sensory slime that smells just like hot chocolate! Please note: this slime is not meant to be eaten. Registration is required.

Tween Cookie Decorating Class

Wednesday, December 18, 3:45 p.m.

For children ages 9-12. Frost, sprinkle, and decorate cookies with ShopRite's Registered Dietician, Courtney Huggins. Registration is required.

STEAM Craft: Make a Thaumatrope

Saturday, January 4, 11 a.m.

For children in grades 1-3. Discover the science of optical illusions, then create one of your own. Note: participants' skin may be exposed to rubber bands. Registration is required and begins Saturday, December 14.

Emoji Paint Workshop

Thursday, January 16, 5:45 p.m.

For tweens in grades 4-6. Paint your own emoji on canvas to take home. Registration is required and begins Thursday, December 26.

Chess Club

Saturday, January 18, 11 a.m.

Saturday, February 29, 11 a.m.

For children in grades 1-6. Learn about this strategic board game and play against other club members. Registration is required and begins three weeks in advance of each session date.

Animal Affair Petting Zoo

Saturday, February 1, 10:30 a.m.

For children of all ages. Meet some friendly baby goats, bunnies, pigs, chickens, and ducks at our indoor petting zoo! Parents should be aware that Animal Affair will be in charge of how many children are

allowed in the pens at one time for everyone's safety. Children under 3 must be accompanied by an adult while in the pen. Funded by the Friends of the Library. Registration is required and begins Saturday, January 11.

STEAM Craft: Chalkboard Slime

Saturday, February 15, 11 a.m.

For children in grades 1-3. Learn some cool slime science, then turn your creation into a colorful work of art. Registration is required and begins Saturday, January 25.

Storytimes

Lapsit Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

No storytime on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.

Little ones and their caregivers are invited to this high-energy story time with Ms. Michelle! We'll practice nursery rhymes, sing and move together, and explore touch-and-feel books.

2-Year-Old Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

No storytime on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. The February 12 session will be located in the Conference Room.

Audience participation is highly encouraged at this story time session just for 2s. Enjoy books, stories, music and movement, fingerplays and puppetry together.

3-5 Year Olds Storytime

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

No storytime on Martin Luther King Jr. Day or Presidents Day.

Enjoy storytelling, books, music, fingerplays, and puppetry at this story time series especially for 3-5-year olds! A story-related craft is offered following each session.

Art In The Library

December: Waterworks: Artwork by students of Audrey Galer.

January: Pastels and watercolors by Janice Blanck. Reception: Thursday, January 9, 5-7 p.m.

Services

Homebound Delivery Service

Are you a book lover who is unable to leave your home? If so, the Library will bring the books to you! Orange residents who are homebound may contact the Library to arrange for regular library book delivery service to their home at no charge. Some restrictions apply. For more information, call the Library's Head of Circulation Services, Samantha Jasulavic, at 203-891-2170 or email sjasulavic@casememoriallibrary.org.

Christmas Games Old and New

BY LUCIE WINBORNE

The shopping and wrapping are done, the tree is decked out with lights and tinsel. You’ve hung the holly and you’ve frosted the cookies, and now you’re ... a bit tired of watching the same old Christmas movies and hearing the same carols on the radio. How about taking a leaf from our ancestors’ book and gathering the family and friends for some Christmas-themed games instead?

Snapdragon

From the 16th century onward, a good Christmas Eve party quite likely included a boisterous game of “Snapdragon.” The premise, as zany as it is simple, called for pouring a couple dozen raisins in the bottom of a shallow bowl, followed by a bottle of brandy. With lights dimmed and brandy ignited, participants took turns trying to snag a raisin, and, if successful, extinguish it by eating it. (Note: We take no responsibility for any burns sustained while imitating this at your house!)



Shadows

Those of a bit less daring nature might have enjoyed a game of “Shadows,” in which an individual sat in front of a white tablecloth or sheet hung in a darkened room, with a lamp behind it. The rest of the party then took turns passing in front of the lamp, so the viewer could guess their identities by their shadows. To make things more challenging, participants maneuvered their bodies or clothing however possible, though if the guesser correctly identified them, they were subject to a forfeit or taking the guesser’s place.

Questions and Commands

A precursor to today’s “Truth or Dare.” Failure to follow a command, or answer a question, would either cost you a fine or get your face blackened with fireplace soot!

The Messenger

Reminiscent of “Simon Says,” this parlor game involved one player entering the room and addressing another with “My master sends me to you, madam” (or sir). At the response of “What for?” the messenger would perform a simple but silly action for the responder to repeat, with each guest doing so in turn until everyone in the room was in motion, after which the messenger would exit and reenter the room with a new command. Stop moving too soon, and you’d pay a forfeit.

Blindfold Christmas

Drawing

Back in the 21st century, try tapping into your artistic side with “Blindfold Christmas Drawing.” Grab some markers and paper plates, then have one player describe a Christmas scene while everyone else -- blindfolded, of course! -- tries to render it on their plate. The most accurate drawing wins.

Pin the Nose on Rudolph

Little ones especially will enjoy “Pin the Nose on Rudolph,” or “Find Santa’s Friends,” in which toy elves and reindeer are hidden around the house like Easter eggs. And for the older fry, a holiday version of “Two Truths and a Lie” can generate a lot of ingenuity and laughs by asking players to name three Christmas gifts, only two of which they actually received at some point, with the rest of the group trying to guess which one’s a fake.

The fun is limited only by your imagination. Happy holiday gaming!

MISSING



Hi,
My name is Sampson and I live on Riverside Dr, Orange. I have been missing since Thanksgiving night. I am an indoor cat but go out occasionally. I answer to Sampson, Sammy or Sam. I may also come when you whistle. I’m a tabby with brown/grey/black patterns and green eyes last spotted on or near Patricia court. Please check your garages and sheds for me. Please call or text 203-764-0901 or 203-314-7216 if you see me. I am dearly missed.

www.OrangeTownNews.com

A woman with long brown hair, wearing glasses, a red dress, and a yellow cardigan, is smiling and holding a wrapped gift. The gift is wrapped in red paper with a white pattern. The background is a solid red color.

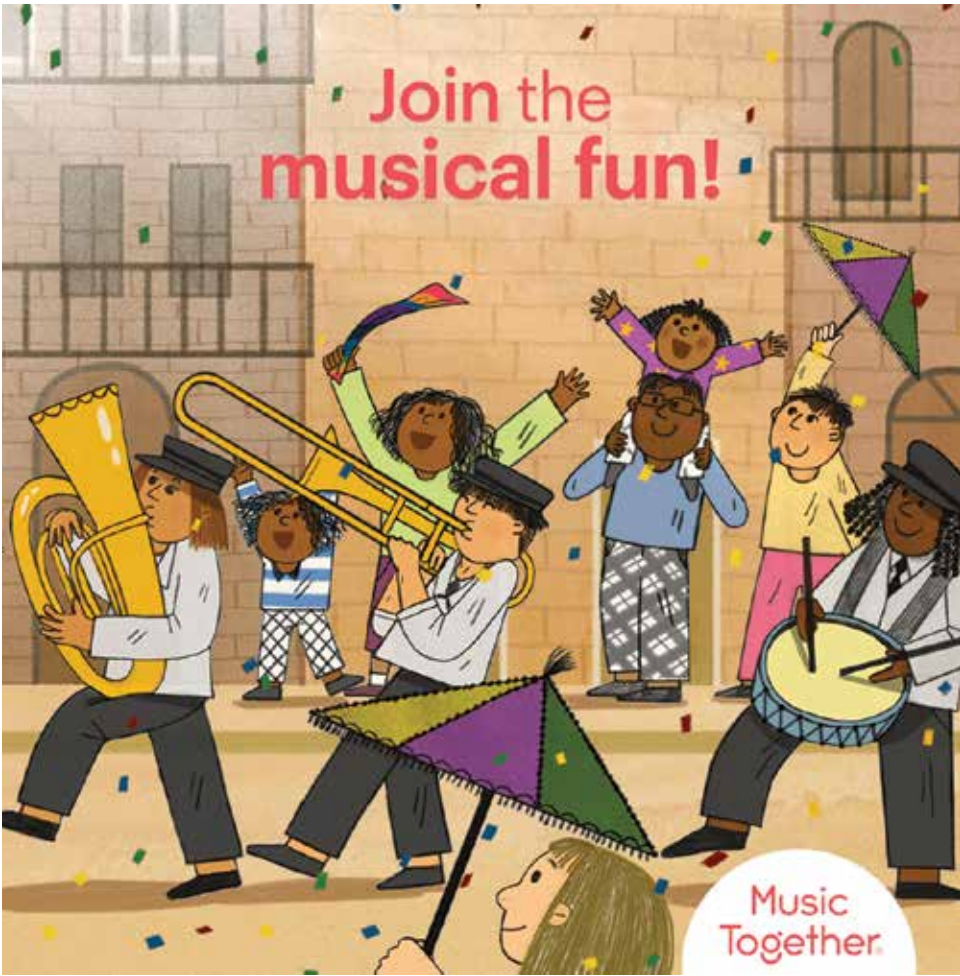
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ARTS & LEISURE



Musical Folk Offers Free Music Classes for Young Children

Musical Folk, offering Music Together® classes, for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers throughout the year in New Haven, Woodbridge, Cheshire, Branford, North Haven, and now in Milford, presents FREE Music Together Demo classes at local libraries in December. To reserve a space at a Demo class, call 203-691-9759. The 10-week Winter semester of Music Together® classes begins January 6, 2020; enrollment is ongoing. For information and class schedules, visit us online at www.MusicalFolk.com.

In Orange, the demo class will be on Tuesday, December 10 at 10:30 am, Case Memorial Library, 176 Tyler City Road, Orange.

Music Together® classes are based

on the recognition that all children are musical. All children can learn to sing in tune, keep a beat, and participate with confidence in the music of our culture. Research shows that children exposed to music making at a very young age can achieve music competence earlier than those who have not had a rich musical environment. Increasing vocabulary and early language skills, building confidence and creativity, and giving children the foundation needed when it comes time to begin formal music lessons are results of this program. The participation and musical role model of the parent or caregiver makes this program so special, and successful, building an emotional bond and a love of music that lasts a lifetime.

Poetry Books By Milford Resident, Orange Teacher

For Pushcart and Best of the Net nominee Elaine Nadal, writing is a way of making sofrito out of the experiences and varied truths of life. Her work is infused with musicality and vivid imagery to stress how the arts can help us during difficult times. Her first book of poetry “Sweat, Dance, Sing, Cut,” published by Finishing Line Press, is available on Amazon and other well-known retailers and wholesalers of books. It deals with abuse, pain, identity, survival, strength, and empowerment. In her second book “When,” Nadal’s poems address the subconscious, dreams, overcoming a



Elaine Nadal



painful past, and healing. It is currently available for preorder by Finishing Line Press and can be reserved with the following link: <https://www.finishinglinepress.com/product/when-by-elaine-nadal/>.

20th Anniversary Celebration of P.V. O'Donnell Comhaltas

Jerry O’Sullivan, Séagda Coyle and Eugene Bender will join the 20th Anniversary celebration of the P.V. O’Donnell Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann traditional Irish music session on Thursday, December 19, at St. Gabriel’s Church Hall, 26 Broadway, Milford. The free session starts at 7:45 pm. BYOB. Musicians, dancers, singers and guests are welcomed.

Founded in 1999 by button accordionist John Whelan, the Comhaltas chapter was named for P.V. O’Donnell, the highly regarded fiddler, originally from Inishowen, County Donegal, Ireland. P.V. eventually moved to Canada and for over 10 years played in several highly respected bands that traveled in Canada and across the U.S. After moving to Manchester, Connecticut in 1987, he hosted a weekly session in Hartford and played in sessions throughout the area, eventually having the Connecticut shoreline Comhaltas chapter named after him.

Jerry O’Sullivan, the gifted uilleann piper, is known throughout the world for his mastery of the instrument. As America’s ambassador of the Irish

pipes, he has appeared on more than 90 albums and has performed or recorded with The Boston Pops, Don Henley, Paul Winter, James Galway, Dolly Parton, The Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Eileen Ivers, and others.

Séagda Coyle, a talented button accordion player from New York, released his first solo debut album “Rip the Bel-lows” in 2017 to critical acclaim. Coyle is “a powerful and very talented button accordionist who plays with great drive and has high respect for the tradition,” said Dan Neely of the Irish Echo.

Fiddler Eugene Bender started playing traditional Irish music in the Sligo style when he was in the third grade. He was a student of fiddle maestro Brian Conway for over 13 years, and won first place in the under-18 fiddle category in the Mid-Atlantic Region Fleadh several years ago. He currently plays in sessions and events throughout the tri-state area.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann was founded in 1951 in Ireland to promote Irish traditional music, song, dance and language. For information on the session, call 203-876-9973.



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ARTS & LEISURE



Holiday “Lights On” Kid-Friendly (Non-Scary) Family Fun Day

Orange resident Charles Rosenay is proud to announce that the state’s largest and largest indoor haunted attraction, Fright Haven, will be a lot less scary on Saturday, December 21. On this day only, from Noon-2:00pm, there will be a very special Holiday “Lights On” Family Fun Day Matinee, designed especially for youngsters. Special guides will escort young ones and their families through the indoor maze, completely renovated and decorated for the Christmas season.

Fright Haven, located at 411 Barnum Avenue Cutoff in Stratford Square Shopping Plaza in the former Bally’s Fitness/Showcase Cinemas building (next to L.A. Fitness and Ninety Nine Restaurant across from Home Depot), is made up of three entirely different themed Halloween haunted houses encompassing over 20,000 square feet, all under one roof. This month, it has gone through a complete transformation into a Holiday attraction, “A Nightmare Before Christmas,” but the scares come only in the evening, though. During the day, it’s a pure kids’ paradise.

Whereas Fright Haven is a world-class haunted extravaganza meant to chill and thrill, on these kid-friendly matinees, all the lights will be turned on, the scary music will be turned off, and no actors will be jumping out. The

all-ages appropriate atmosphere will be completely fun and educational. Educational? Yes, the “scaremasters” will reveal all the hidden secrets to what would normally startle visitors, and what actors are taught to startle the guests during normal evening hours, when the attraction is far more chilling. In fact, the all-ages walk-through will be conducted by not only the owner of Fright Haven, Charles Rosenay, but also by his 13 and 14-year old sons, Ian and Harry. There will also be Christmas favors and an array of ornaments and souvenirs available.

Fright Haven is completely indoors and parking is free. The seasonal attraction has benefited Stratford PAL (Police Activities League) as well as the CT Burns Care Foundation in the past, and has served as a fund-raiser for numerous area schools and non-profits. This Christmas event is collecting canned good donations for the Connecticut Food Bank, and anyone bringing a food donation is entitled to a free gift. Tickets to the Holiday “Lights On” Kid-Friendly Family Fun Day Matinee are only \$9.99 all ages. Advance tickets are available, along with further information, at www.FrightHaven.com, or by phoning (203) 795-4737. Schools, Churches and Group discounts for over 10 are also available.



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LOCAL SPORTS



The Holy Infant Lady Orange Grade 5 Girls Basketball team recently competed in the Milford HoopFest Tourney capturing the Grade 5 Championship. The Lady O defeated West Haven in the Championship 33-21. Players on the team include: Julia DeMaio, Mackenzie Smith, Lily Simons, Addy Pivovar, Ava Storz, Sarah Donegan, Sienna Murphy, Nina Nardecchia, Marlee Lyons and JJ Kirck.



The Holy Infant Lady Orange Grade 7 Girls Basketball team recently competed in the Milford HoopFest Tourney capturing the Grade 7 Championship. The Lady O defeated Milford in the Championship 28-27. Players on the team include: Mackenzie Martin, Vivian Cain, Kelsey O'Connor, Jillian Barnes, Bridget Lowder, Grace Cavallaro, Ava Holden, Lucci Dottori, Grace Launder, Kylee McLain, and Meghan Kirck.

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” — WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

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LOCAL SPORTS

Amity Powderpuff Win Against North Haven

On November 25th, Amity won its first powderpuff game against North Haven in 8 years! To start off the game on the offensive side, quarterback Marissa Dwyer #35 tossed a right pass to running-back Madison Jennes #12 taking the ball along the outside giving Amity the lead in the first 10 minutes. North Haven scored a touchdown in the middle of the first half giving them 8 points in the first, to tie the game. Towards the end of the first half, Dwyer throws another pass this time to the left side for running-back Alex Plaza #6, who makes her way down the outside giving Amity a 16-8 lead. At half time, Amity keeps that 16-8 lead, anticipated more than ever for that win! Starting off the second half, North Haven is hungry for the spotlight. They score a second touchdown of the game, missing their kick, giving them 14 points in the second. In the middle of the second half, Dwyer hands off a dive pass down the middle of the offensive

line for Jennes. Not seeing a kb open gap, #12 runs the ball to the outside, getting around the defense and scoring her second touchdown of the game. Not being able to keep up with Amity, North Haven uses their time outs to stop the clock and give them time to figure out a game plan. Eventually, the time hits 1:00 and Amity feels the heat. With 10 seconds remaining Amity takes its time to finish off the game, with a 24-14 win against North Haven. "Nobody deserves this win more than Coach Bourdeau, he's a role model and puts all of his time into making flag football the best possible experience for our seniors" - Madison Jennes. Also, a huge thanks to the 4 other coaches (Kellogg, Twohill, Stokmal, and Wilson) and the managers who devoted so much time into the team. Some star players today on defense for Amity included: Payton Papa #30, Caitlin Carlson #16, Emily Brown #00, Ana Carney #92, and Macy Lyons #28.



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LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP



State Reps Discuss Legislation with Business Owners

State Representatives Themis Klarides, Charles Ferraro, and Kathy Kennedy held a business informational forum in Orange during the week of November 18 to discuss recent legislation that was passed during the 2019 legislative session.

Rep. Klarides said, “Small businesses are the backbone of our state’s economy comprising as much as 80 percent of all jobs. We need to pay better attention to their needs and what they are telling us otherwise they will either shutter their doors, or leave.”

“As a small business owner, I understand the difficulties of operating a business in Connecticut,” said Rep. Ferraro. “We are consistently seeing the majority party target businesses for more revenue, which is causing business owners to rethink staying in Connecticut or growing in Connecticut. It’s time for the majority party to rethink the way they are treating business owners.”

“I want to thank all the area businesses who attended our business forum,” said Rep. Kennedy. “It is vital to hear from our Connecticut employers and how the General Assembly can help businesses thrive. Many new anti-busi-

ness proposals passed the legislature this year costing employers more. I opposed these bad business proposals; we need to recognize that small businesses are the economic engine to our state and their success is everyone’s success.”

During the legislative session, the majority party increased the minimum wage to \$15 and forced every single Connecticut employee to pay a payroll tax to fund a paid family leave program that every business owner is mandated to follow. In addition, the majority decided to raise business filing fees and passed a grocery tax, which was decided later that it would not be implemented.

The lawmakers expressed their frustrations with the anti-business bills that are being passed and said that they are hosting these forums to let businesses know about these far-reaching bills and the impacts they will have on businesses small and large.

This year, the Tax Foundation ranked Connecticut 47th out of 50 states as one of the worst business tax climates in the country.

For more information about the new laws that will impact businesses, visit cga.ct.gov.



Homewood Suites by Hilton Orange-New Haven Opens

New Hotel Welcomes Guests Visiting Yale University and Subway Franchise World Headquarters

Homewood Suites by Hilton, part of Hilton’s (NYSE: HLT) All Suites portfolio, announced its newest property, Homewood Suites by Hilton Orange-New Haven. Designed for guests who want to travel on their own terms, Homewood Suites by Hilton Orange-New Haven offers guests all the comforts of home, whether they are traveling for work or enjoying a well-earned getaway. With 121 new suites, the hotel is well-equipped for the business traveler and family excursions

“We are excited to bring an all-suites extended stay property to the New Haven area,” said Tom Falco, general manager. “Whether you are in town for business, visiting a university or just a weekend getaway, we are your home away from home.”

Developed and owned by Hartford Lodging Partners, LLC and managed by SBM Hospitality, Homewood Suites by Hilton Orange-New Haven offers a combination of studio and one-bedroom accommodations, featuring fully-equipped kitchens and separate living and sleeping areas. Guests are also provided all the essentials needed for a smart, reliable and convenient stay including complimentary daily full hot breakfast, evening social Monday-Thursday, Wi-Fi and a grocery shopping service*. Homewood Suites by Hilton Orange-New Haven also makes it easy for travelers to unwind with an outdoor kitchen and grill area, fitness center, indoor pool and sports court. There are four electric car charging stations, and the property

also offers 650 square feet of flexible space that is ideal for meetings and social events.

Located at 99 Marsh Hill Road in Orange, Homewood Suites by Hilton Orange-New Haven offers guests convenient access to the Yale University West Campus and Subway Franchise World Headquarters. A complimentary shuttle service within a one-mile radius of the property is also available.

Homewood Suites by Hilton Orange-New Haven is part of Hilton Honors®, the award-winning guest-loyalty program for Hilton’s 17 distinct hotel brands. Hilton Honors members who book directly through preferred Hilton channels have access to instant benefits, including a flexible payment slider that allows members to choose nearly any combination of Points and money to book a stay, an exclusive member discount that can’t be found anywhere else and free standard Wi-Fi. Members also enjoy popular digital tools available exclusively through the industry-leading Hilton Honors mobile app, where Hilton Honors members can check-in, choose their room and access their room using a Digital Key. For more information or to make a reservation, visit Homewood Suites by Hilton Orange New-Haven or call +1 203-553-9148.

Read more about Homewood Suites by Hilton at www.homewoodsuites.com and www.newsroom.hilton.com/homewoodsuites.

*Guest pays for groceries. Other restrictions apply.



celebrity
extra
by Dana Jackson

Q: My wife and I were amazed when **Chris Lasalle**, one of the main characters on “**NCIS: New Orleans**,” left the show. What was the decision behind this? -- E.S.

A: From what I’ve been able to gather, it looks like it was solely the decision of **Lucas Black**, the actor who played Special Agent Lasalle, to leave the popular show. The writers chose to end his character’s story in a very dramatic way, but Black himself stepped down to spend more time with his family. It’s also rumored that he’ll be appearing in the upcoming “**Fast & Furious 9**” film, so perhaps he’s realized that filming one or two movies a year will allow him more time at home than his TV schedule does.

Most surprising to me is that this is the same actor who played the young boy in the classic film “**Sling Blade**” opposite **Billy Bob Thornton** in 1996. His talent was apparent way back then, and now at 36 years old the future certainly looks bright.

Q: Is **Celine Dion** ever going to do her show in Vegas every night like she used to? I was going to book a trip there to see her, but then she stopped. -- W.B.

A: Dion is about to release her 27th studio album, “**Courage**,” and will be touring the United States for the first time in 10 years. Hopefully she’ll appear in a city close to you, since her Las Vegas residency has ended after performing more than 400 times.

Q: Please tell me whether the TV show “**The Fix**” is coming back. I haven’t heard anything about it, and I really enjoyed it. -- L.J.

A: Unfortunately, “The Fix” was one of those network crime dramas



Lucas Black [Cliff Lipson/CBS]

that didn’t generate high enough ratings to be renewed. It was canceled after just one season on ABC. “The Fix” was created by former L.A. prosecutor **Marcia Clark**, best known from the **O.J. Simpson** trial, and starred **Robin Tunney**, **Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje** and **Scott Cohen**. While her career as a producer and TV writer hasn’t been very successful, Clark has penned several legal thriller novels that have sold very well.

Q: What happened to **Derek Hough**? I heard he had emergency surgery, but never did find out what happened. -- L.M.

A: Hough, best known for his time as a pro on ABC’s “**Dancing with the Stars**,” recently underwent an appendectomy. He stated on Instagram that he woke up at 3 a.m. with a sharp, severe sharp pain in his abdomen and “knew” something wasn’t right.

Hough joins a list of celebrities who have had their appendix removed unexpectedly, including singers **John Mayer**, **Elton John** and **Kelly Clarkson**, who hosted the “**Billboard Music Awards**” while experiencing symptoms. Ouch!

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at **KFWS**, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Seeking angels and shepherds of all ages to participate in a Christmas Pageant. Journey to 680 Racebrook Road in Orange on **Sunday, December 22, at 8:30 am**, to pick out your costume and participate in our pick-up pageant! Stay for a festive celebration with a visit from Santa after!

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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Front row: Rita Kelly, Lana Ho, Nancy Becque; Back row: Caroline Dirsas, Betty Hadlock, Teresa Evangeliste, Marianne Bauer, Laurian Kehoe, Gail Nixon, Linda Bradford.

Orange Garden Club Helps Decorate For the Holidays

The Garden Club of Orange spent the morning of November 19 decorating over a dozen wreaths to adorn the doors for the town buildings. Nancy Beque purchased fresh wreaths from a local Orange farm.

Members brought clippings of greens such as pine, juniper, boxwood and holly berries from their yards to embellish the wreaths. Beautiful red bows were then added. The holiday wreaths give a festive look to the doors and were ready for the Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 1.

On Friday, November 22, the

club also decorated the Case Memorial Library rotunda for the holiday season. Under the direction of Lana Ho, members have spent the last few meetings decorating new evergreen roping, swags and wreaths that adorn the railings around the rotunda. Lana designed the swags and roping and many of the club members implemented her design. It has been a busy month for the Garden Club to help beautify the town for the holidays.

For information about membership in the Garden Club of Orange, contact Eileen at 203-878-9597.



Garden Club Helps Decorate the Osborne Homestead Museum

Members of the Federated Garden Clubs of CT and other groups have again decorated the Osborne Homestead Museum in Derby for the holidays with a theme of nature's helpers and pollinators. Each group was given a room to decorate with a different helper or pollinator. The Garden Club of Orange, under the direction of Diane Geary, decorated Eva Little's bedroom and front bathroom with hummingbirds. Club members attended summer workshops and have created hummingbirds and flowers they pollinate from a rainbow of colorful papers. These deli-

cate creations along with other festive decorations have been used to enhance the two rooms. The overall effect is a breathtaking midwinter splash of color.

The Osborne Homestead is now fully decorated and open to the public for Holiday Tours. Holiday Twilight Tours Friday, December 20 from 4 to 7PM. For more tour times and information regarding the museum visit its website at www.ct.gov/deep/.

The Garden Club of Orange is a member of the FGCT, NEG and NEC. For membership information call Eileen Eisenman at (203)878-9597.

Woodbridge Happiness Club Meeting!

Join Bernie Siegel, M.D. & Lionel Ketchian for a discussion on Happiness for our well-being. Lionel Ketchian is the co-host with Dr. Bernie Siegel on Mind Health Matters radio programs. Lionel is also the co-host on "The Happiness Show," broadcast on TV by Cablevision of Connecticut.

Take part in getting valuable tools and techniques for making your life the best it can be. Suffered enough? Do you really need to suffer anymore? Are you ready to learn to Be Happy? Being Happy will help you, suffer less and evolve spiritually. External events are difficult for us without the right tools to deal with the tur-

bulence that we all experience in life. Master these strategies to lessen your suffering. Your happiness can empower you and keep you on track. Learn to have the peace of mind you need and experience happiness now.

Everyone is welcome; meetings are free and no reservations are required. Meet some wonderful people using happiness in their lives.

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 21st, 2020 from 6:00 to 7:45 PM.

Place: The Woodbridge Town Library located at 10 Newton Road, Woodbridge.

For further info, e-mail PrintLRK@aol.com, call 203-258-7777 or www.HappinessClub.com.



Young Republicans Looking for Members

The Young Republicans of Orange Club is reaching out for new membership. Dominick Lombardi stated, "I appeal to our youth to join our organization The Young Republicans of Orange so we can freely discuss the issues of today, review the history

of our past, and confidently move forward with the objective of making our country and world an even better place for us all. We are the future! If interested, please email Dominick Lombardi at dominick.lombardi@icloud.com.



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Wreaths Across America Chooses Orange Cemetery

CIVIL AIR PATROL announces its Wreaths Across America Cemetery Selection for this year in New Haven County for the Wreaths Across America Program. The CT Minuteman Composite Squadron, CAP based at Tweed New Haven Airport, in association with the Orange Cemetery Association, the New Haven Rotary and American Legion Orange Post 127 has selected the Orange Cemetery in Orange, CT for the Veterans Wreath laying Ceremony this year. Wreaths will be placed on veteran grave sites in the cemetery on December 14th, 2019. A short ceremony will be held at 9:30AM at the High Plains Community Center Cafeteria preceding the wreath laying at the cemetery. The public is invited.

Every December, it is a Civil Air Patrol holiday tradition observed by all 52 CAP wings and even abroad. Thousands of CAP officers and cadets participate in Wreaths Across America observances to honor our nation's

fallen. They present the colors, deliver orations and place veteran's wreaths on headstones at national and local cemeteries and war memorials. Last year, more than 1.5 million veterans' wreaths were sponsored by the public for placement on veteran's graves at 1,433 ceremonies in all 50 states and abroad. Members of Civil Air Patrol's CT Minuteman Squadron, located at Tweed New Haven Airport are proud to partner once more with Wreaths Across America.

Wreaths Across America culminates this year on Saturday, December 14, 2019 with an estimated 90,000+ volunteers placing 244,700 wreaths on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery and many of Arlington's memorials, including the Tomb of the Unknowns. Simultaneous ceremonies will be held throughout the day at over 1,400 cemeteries or war memorial sites in all 50 states, as well as over 20 foreign locations.

Amity Teen Center Chilly Chili Run

There is still plenty of time to register for the 23rd Annual Chilly Chili Run on New Year's Day in Orange to benefit the Amity Teen Center. Participants in the 5K Race and Fitness walk will be treated to a hot chili brunch after the race at the High Plains Community Center cafeteria.

This award-winning race will be the first official 5K race of the year, and this year it will also be the first race of the decade, in Southern Connecticut!

You can pre-register online for the Chilly Chili Run at www.hitekracing.com or by filling out an application, and mailing in your registration. Applications are available at the Orange Park and Recreation Office at the High Plains Community Center.

The fees through December 14 are \$25.00 for the 5K race (\$12.00 for runners under 12) and \$12.00 for the 5K Fitness Walk. After December 14, and on Race Day, the fees will be \$30.00 for the 5K race (\$15.00 for runners under 12) and \$15.00 for those doing the 5K Fitness Walk. The online registration will be available until Tuesday, December 24th.

The Chilly Chili Run is also offering Early Packet Pickup and Late Registration on Tuesday, December 31st at the High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Registration on January 1st will begin at 8:00 AM and will close at 10:00 AM sharp. The Fitness walk will begin at 10:15 and the Race will begin at 10:30.

This is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Amity Teen Center, which was formed as a non-profit in 1987. The mission of the Amity Teen Center is to provide a safe place where area teens can meet and socialize in a drug-free and alcohol-free supervised environment. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Teen Center, which is located at 10 Selden Street in Woodbridge.

This is a great way to ring in 2020, and to be served chili by the First Selectman of Orange, Jim Zeoli! If you have any questions, please call Race Director, Joe Riccio, at 203 481-7453. You can also email any questions to wssac-ct@juno.com, or to chillychilirun@hotmail.com or cohen.linda@gmail.com.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut Meeting

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut will meet on Sunday, December 15, 2019 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Temple Sinai, 41 West Hartford Road, Newington, CT, 06111.

Nosh 'n Knowledge: An Opportunity to Network with Each Other! One of the most important benefits of belonging to JGSCT is the chance to learn from each other. Enjoy a little nosh

while sharing your successes, brick walls, and questions. This informal session will provide an opportunity for attendees to share their stories and perhaps get some guidance on strategies to break brick walls. You are encouraged to send topic ideas or questions ahead of time to the coordinator of this program, Deb Holman: deborah.holman@sbcglobal.net.

Knights of Columbus Trinity Council Distributes 540 Coats

The Trinity Council 5th Annual Coats for Kids set another record. This year the council distributed a record number of 540 new boys and girls winter coats; in 2018 the council distributed 468 coats. The coats were distributed to twenty-three schools, churches and service organizations, an increase of five groups. Since the program started in 2015, the council has distributed 1,392 coats in five years.

Bob Ellis, chairman, noted "The program could not have been successful without the financial support of Our Lady of the Assumption, Social Action Committee, Ladies Guild, Trinity Council, A-1 Toyota, Cohen & Thomas

(Derby), Commercial Furniture Service Corporation (Hamden), DiGennaro Service (Bethany), Group Insurance Associates (Woodbridge), Iovanne Funeral Home (New Haven), Lupinski Funeral Home (New Haven); Monahan Cox Smith & Crimmins Funeral Home (New Haven), PEZ Candy, Inc., Project Service, LLC (New Haven) and Vietnam Vets of America Quinnipiac Chapter 484 (East Haven)."

The council meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Our Lady of the Assumption Church on Center Road in Woodbridge. For information about Trinity Council, you may call 203-242-0076.

Expanded Access to Exchange, Commissary

If you have an Exchange or commissary near you that you haven't been able to use, that might change soon. Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, the Department of Defense is expanding the list of those eligible to use all the services: Exchanges, commissary, and morale, welfare and recreation locations on bases.

The new list includes Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, veterans with service-connected disabilities and those who are the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans. While you've been able to shop the Exchange online since 2017, now you can go to the brick and mortar locations.

To use the facilities, you'll need to present your Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC). It will need to specify your eligibility status. (This is not the same as your Veterans Identification card.) Caregivers will need to show their eligibility letter, which was

mailed from the Office of Community Care. Note that you'll be dinged a small amount if you use a credit or debit card.

If you prefer to shop online or if you don't have a VHIC (but are otherwise eligible), go to www.shopmyexchange.com. You'll pay no taxes on purchases, get special deals and free shipping if you use your Military Star Card. If you don't have an Exchange account, click Take the

First Step in the upper right corner and check your eligibility. (You need to use your Star Card at least once every 12 months to protect your accumulated points.)

To get all the details, go online to read the factsheet at www.military-onesource.mil/expanding-access. Click Download File to get the full FAQ.

Read carefully the fine print on eligibility, especially about the VHIC. You don't want to drive a long way to the commissary and then discover you can't get on the base or aren't eligible.



by Freddy Groves

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom Upcoming Events

- Weekly Services**
Minyan Services
- › Sunday 9:00 AM
 - › Monday 7:30 AM
 - › Thursday 7:30 AM - Healing Circle
 - › Wednesday 7:30 AM
- Shabbat Services**
- › Friday 7:30 PM
 - › Saturday 9:30 PM
 - › Tuesdays, Social Mah Jongg

Mah Jong
Looking to learn or play Mah Jogg? We play on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. Call the office if you are interested 203.799.2341.

ZUMBA GOLD At Or Shalom
Congregation Or Shalom announces the continuation of ZUMBA GOLD on Tuesday nights at 7 PM. ZUMBA GOLD is an easy to follow dance movement program that incorporates music from every decade to create an upbeat and fun exercise class. Burn lots of calories, meet new friends, and have a blast. No experience needed and classes are on a drop-in basis. Contact Robin at zumbarobin@gmail.com or call 203-314-8176 or temple office at 203-799-2341.
We are happy to add Zumba Gold with Danielle Pettit. Zumba Gold is perfect for active older adults who are looking to dance and have a good workout. While increasing balance, range of motion and coordination. TUESDAYS



Congregation Or Shalom

10:15 AM, 10- class punch card \$70, drop in class \$8.00. daniellepettit75@yahoo.com, 203-509-3683 (cell).

Coffee and Learn with the Rabbi Wainhaus
Every Wednesday, (please call the office for schedule) Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus teaches an hour-long class focusing on the ancient texts of our heritage and the light they shed on current issues. The class begins at 11:00 am and ends at 12 noon sharp. All Welcome. Synagogue office: (203) 799-2341, Website: orshalomct.org, email: info@orshalomct.org.

First Night Of Hanukkah
Gather with Rabbi Wainhaus as we light the first candle of Hanukkah: Sunday, December 22nd 5:00 pm. Come & enjoy latkes, gelt, dreidel pops and play some dreidel!! Call 203-799-2341
205 Old Grassy Hill Road, Orange, CT 203.799.2341 - www.orshalomct.org



Holly Hill Makes Food Baskets for First Lutheran Church

The true meaning of Thanksgiving was evident at Holly Hill Childcare and Learning Center in Orange this month. Thanks to the generosity of the children and parents of the center several parishioners of the First Lutheran Church enjoyed bountiful Thanksgiving baskets filled with everything needed for a wonderful holiday dinner. Pastor Phil was overwhelmed when he

was presented with the baskets.
Debbie Manson Fedorko, managing director said, “Our Thanksgiving food drive is the perfect opportunity for our staff to teach our youngsters some very valuable lessons...the meaning of caring and sharing and the true joy of giving. We are so happy to be able to share with our neighbors at First Lutheran.”



The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild recently filled 73 handbags full of toiletries, socks, jewelry, cards to be distributed at the Women and Children's Thursday soup kitchen luncheon in December. Pictured are members of the Guild who had a fun morning filling the bags. The donations came from generous parishioners at Holy Infant.

Blue Christmas Service

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Orange, announces a Blue Christmas Service, to be held on Sunday, December 15, at 7 pm. In the midst of joy and the anticipation of the Holiday season, a Blue Christmas service sets aside a time to acknowledge the darkness of the loss and pain that are present in our lives. For some, the loss is new and immediate;



for some, the loss is well-worn with time's passing. Come on December 15 at 7 pm to this contemplative, peaceful service, creating a space for memories that may seem out of place this season. All are welcome. Contact the church office at 203-795-6577 or thegoodshepherd@optonline.net for further information. Visit our website at www.cogsct.org.

“Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time.” — LAURA INGALLS WILDER

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



The Our Lady of the Assumption Bazaar Committee congratulates the winners and thanks the judges of the Golden Spatula Cookie Contest held at the recent Ladies Guild Christmas Bazaar. Shown are (L to R): Linda Reilly, Third place, DJ Collins, second place, Sally Hehn judge from Kathy's Famous Cookie Shop in Milford, Johanna Burland Contest Chair, Carlos Fernandez, judge from Solun Restaurant in Woodbridge, and Mary Ellen Faroni, judge and President of the Ladies Guild.

Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel Events

Daily Services

- › Sunday 9:00 am and 5:45 pm
- › Monday 7:00 am and 5:45 pm
- › Tuesday 7:00 am and 5:45 pm
- › Wednesday 7:00 am and 5:45 pm
- › Thursday 8:15 am and 5:45 pm
- › Friday 7:00 am

Shabbat Services

- › Friday 6:00 pm
- › Saturday Morning 9:15 am
- › Saturday Children's Services 10:45 am
- › Saturday Afternoon 1:00 pm

Book Talk and Brunch on Sunday

This Sunday, December 15 at 10 AM, the community is invited for a book talk and brunch to celebrate the publication of *The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia: From Abraham to Zabar's and Everything in Between*, written by the hosts of Tablet Magazine's Unorthodox Podcast—Stephanie Butnick, Liel Liebovitz, and BEKI's own Mark Oppenheimer. Reservations, please, to office@beki.org or 203.389.2108 x114.

Oppenheimer is the former Beliefs columnist for the *New York Times* and the author of *The Bar Mitzvah Crasher:*



Road-Tripping Through Jewish America. He has a PhD in American religion from Yale and lives in New Haven with his wife

and five children. The podcast for which the three are hosts, Unorthodox, is the most popular Jewish podcast on iTunes.



Bluegrass Tuesday, December 24

The Bluegrass Characters, will offer their annual December 24th show at



Congregation Beth El - Keser

7:30 pm with Betsy Rome on vocals and flat top guitar, Phil Zimmerman on mandolin, Rick Brodsky on bass, Jerry Oland on banjo, and Sofia Chiarandini on fiddle. Admission is free, but The Bluegrass Characters will pass the hat for tips. Beverages and cookies will be available for a donation.

For more information, especially about ordering a kosher deli (or vegetarian) sandwich, or to reply that you plan to attend, e-mail icooper@coop-erlaw.net with the subject "The Bluegrass Characters." Meal orders must be placed by December 19.

The Bluegrass Characters were brought together in 2011 by the legendary Grammy award-winning fiddler and Debroyist Stacy Phillips, and they continue to champion Stacy's mission of bringing authentic vintage Bluegrass music to northern urban audiences. The Bluegrass Characters deliver straight-ahead traditional mountain-style Bluegrass with soaring vocals and hard-driving instrumentals, following the recipe laid down by Bill Monroe, Flatt & Scruggs, The Stanley Brothers, and other pioneers of the genre.

Paintings about the Binding of Isaac

"Akeidah Verbs and Others," paintings by Richard McBee, is on exhibition through January 11. "Akeidah Verbs" is a series of 30 paintings that attempt to plumb the mystery of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac's experiences in the story of the binding of Isaac.

Located at 85 Harrison Street (corner of Whalley Avenue - Route 63 - in Westville)

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The First Church of Christ Special Christmas Services

The First Church of Christ Woodbridge invites all members of the community to join us at 5 Meeting House Lane, for the following Advent and Special Christmas Services & Events.

Sunday, December 15, is the third Sunday of Advent. In addition to the 10 a.m. service featuring our Bell Choir, the Annual Community Carol Sing will be held in the Meetinghouse at 3 p.m. followed by a reception in the Parish House. The carol sing includes favorite carols and songs of the season with special guest performances. Bring your singing voices, your jingle bells and join in the fun.

Sunday, December 22, is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The annual Christmas Pageant will be held during the 10 a.m. service. We welcome you to this special service put on by the children from our church school. This is always a special service for our children and adults alike.

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve we have our traditional Candle Light Service at 7 p.m. in the Meetinghouse. Nursery care will be available for the Christmas Eve service in addition to the Sunday morning services.

Sunday, December 29, the first Sunday after Christmas we have our annual Service of Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m. where we here again the stories we know and love to tell.

Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., will continue to meet through Advent and the New Year in



The First Church of Christ

the Parish House. We study both Old and New Testament passages based on the Lectionary.

In January we will return to our regular schedule of services and events:

Sunday Services - 10 a.m. including our Intergenerational Service the first Sunday of each month. Nursery care for small children is available during the Sunday services.

Church School - Sunday at 10 a.m. the second through fifth Sundays during the school year, presently with children aged 3-6 with older children helping with the younger children until we hire a new Director of Christian Education.

Middle School Youth Group for 5th - 8th graders will be reforming later in the school year.

Boy Scout Troop 907 - meets weekly on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

For more information on these events, please contact us at (203) 389-2119, E-mail us at office@uccw.org, or visit our Website at uccw.org.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



Shabbat Pre-Chanukah at Temple Emanuel

Come join the fun and celebrate Shabbat Pre-Chanukah at Temple Emanuel. On Friday, December 20, we will welcome Shabbat with a music-filled service led by Rabbi Michael Farbman and the Temple Emanuel Band. We will practice the holiday blessings and fill the sanctuary with the light of our chanukiot, followed by a delicious dinner with family and friends. All are welcome to participate in this joyous annual event. The service begins at 6pm. Please bring your voices, your favorite chanukiah and candles and, if you'd like

to, some latkes to share as part of our family-style meal. Dinner reservations are required and can be made either on our new website, tegnh.org, or by calling the TE office, 203-397-3000. The suggested donation for dinner is \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Not a member of TE? Come check us out. For more information about services and celebrations at Temple Emanuel, please go to the TE website, tegnh.org. Temple Emanuel is located at 150 Derby Avenue in Orange.

Orange Congregational Church Happenings

Orange Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, welcomes you to join us at 205 Meeting House Lane in Orange for worship on Sundays at 8am in the Chapel and 10am in the Sanctuary. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, which means we welcome all people into the full life and leadership of the church regardless of race, class, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or family type. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! We love kids and teens and welcome them with love into our community, too. During the 10am service children are invited to gather upstairs in our kids' area for a variety of fun faith-based activities. On December 24th, we will have



Orange Congregational Church

two Christmas Eve services in our Sanctuary. At 5pm there will be a Family Service where children, youth, and families gather to hear the story of Jesus' birth and sing carols. At 10pm there will be a traditional candlelit Festival of Lessons and Carols. Please join us! You can learn more at www.orangecongregationalchurch.org.

Lights of Connecticut

Connecticut Cantors Sing the Songs of Chanukah

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 4:00pm

at Congregation B'nai Jacob, 75 Rimmon Rd, Woodbridge

Cantor Arthur Giglio
Congregation Mishkan Israel
Hamden

Cantor Luis Cattani
The Conservative Synagogue
Westport

Cantor Sandy Bernstein
Temple Shalom
of Greenwich

Cantor Sandy Cohn
The Emanuel Synagogue
of West Hartford

Cantor Sharon
Citrin Goldstein
Beth El Synagogue
Woodbury

Cantor Stephanie Kupfer
Congregation Beth Israel
West Hartford

Cantor Malachi Kanfer
Congregation B'nai Jacob
Woodbridge

Tickets at **BnaiJacob.org**

\$36 for members of participating congregations; \$50 for non-members

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Cantors Assembly and Congregation B'nai Jacob

Congregation B’Nai Jacob Events

Learning and Prayer
Bread & Torah
Every Shabbat Morning Before
Services, 9:00 – 9:45am
Rabbi Shapiro explores the weekly Torah portion and how its story relates to our own. Lively discussion over bagels and coffee. No experience necessary.

Ongoing Learning
Pirkei Avot, The Ethics of the Fathers
Rabbi Rona Shapiro
Monday nights, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Ongoing classes: January 27
Using the new Rabbinical Assembly edition, with commentary by Raba Tamar Elad-Appelbaum and Rabbi Gordon Tucker, we will explore this foundational text in the Jewish canon. Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary. Nonmembers \$100.

Special Events
Lights of Connecticut
Connecticut Cantors Sing
the Songs of Chanukah
Sunday, December 15 4:00 pm
This wonderful holiday musical event will feature Cantors Sandy Bernstein of Temple Shalom of Greenwich, Luis Cattani of the Westport Synagogue, Sanford Cohn of the Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford, Sharon Goldstein of Beth El Synagogue in Woodbury, Arthur Giglio of Congregation Mishkan Israel, and Malachi Kanfer of Congregation B’nai Jacob in Woodbridge. The proceeds from this fundraising concert will benefit both the Cantors Assembly and B’nai Jacob. Individual tickets are \$36 for members of one of the participating synagogues and \$45 for non-members. Family pricing TBA.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might... ISAIAH 11: 1,2

“I find that it’s the simple things that remind you of family around the holidays.” — AMY ADAMS



Here’s What to Wear on New Year’s Eve

The age-old question of “But what shall I wear?” takes on special significance on New Year’s Eve. After all, it’s the biggest party night of the year! And unless you’re breaking open the midnight bubbly in your PJs from the comfort of your family room couch, you’re probably looking to stand out.

As always, venue plays a role. Do you plan to boogie at a swanky club soiree, or nibble on hors d’oeuvres at a casual house gathering with old friends and a background playlist?

Stylist Alex Sweterlitsch has a few simple rules, not least of which is “try to be unique.” For the ladies, a richly colored pantsuit or jumpsuit presents a nice change from the more typical sequined dress. She also advises that simple fabrics, such as velvet, should fit the body in a tailored manner, while keeping flashy ones such as gold lame loose. Fringe or feathers add a noticeable splash while dancing.

Not much of a glamour gal? Try pairing some snazzy earrings with a tuxedo blazer and skinny jeans. Chrome nail polish or a glittery highlighter applied to eyelids and lips serves as a great accent to any type of outfit, but beware of “wearing everything at once” -- you don’t want your fellow partygoers to suspect you of competing with the Times Square ball!

And what about your feet? Those rhinestone-studded sandals may look like the perfect accessory in a shoe

store display, but will they leave you in grin-and-bear-it mode before the second dance? Gals in the know recommend popping a Midol shortly before slipping on your stilettos. With pumps or other closed-toe footwear, try taping your third and fourth toes together, or even inserting a maxi pad in the bottom of your shoe.

And you boys! We haven’t forgotten you. You don’t need to splurge on a tux to make a statement, but a crisp white shirt pairs nicely with anything from a velvet blazer (don’t forget the fancy tie and stylish cuff links) to cashmere sweater. Just to be clear, a “black tie” invitation means bow tie, while a good pair of dark jeans accompanied by a cardigan in a seasonal shade, or rock-star leather jacket over a message T-shirt, make a great choice for less formal affairs. When it comes to your footwear, consider some dapper leather boots, or polish those comfortable Oxfords till they shine like a new penny.

One thing you probably won’t be giving too much thought to this special night is, ahem, your underwear ... but according to an old New Year’s legend, you really should! The color, that is. Are you hoping for wealth in the new year? Go for yellow. Romance? Red. How about peace, harmony and happiness? White! Life and wellness? Don green or blue.

Happy New Year, Gorgeous!

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2016 TOP 100 AGENCY HomeCare Elite

Al-Anon Meeting, Monday mornings, 10:00 - 11:30am, Holy Infant Church Hall, 450 Racebrook Road, Orange; a support group for relatives and friends of alcoholics. For more information, contact www.ct-al-anon.org.

Shelton Art League (formerly Bridgeport Art League), meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month, noon, Shelton Community Center, 41 Church Street, Shelton, CT, 2nd floor, room #2, a diverse group of artists, future meetings include acrylic landscape, watercolor and oil painting demos. Visit <http://www.sheltonartleague.org> for additional information. Guests are always welcome.

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.

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.

Alzheimer’s and Dementia Family Support Group Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge in the West Rock Room. For more information, contact Averil Kelly, Ms, R-DMT, 203.389.2911.

Bereavement Support Groups, Tuesdays 4:00-5:30pm and Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm, Griffin Hospital, 130 Division Street, Derby, support groups for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. Contact Janice Lautier at 203-732-1100 or jlautier@griffinhealth.org to register.

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, HPCC, 525 Orange Center Road, check chalk board for meeting room. The public is invited.

Orange Recycling Committee meets every 3rd Wednesday 7:00pm, HPCC conference room, 525 Orange Center Road, public is invited to attend. For more information, email Orangerecycles@gmail.com.

Elm City Kennel Club General Meetings, third Wednesday of each month, except during July and August, 7:00pm, North Haven Recreation Center, 7 Linsley Street, North Haven. For more information, contact New Member Coordinators Maureen Anderson, at 203-430-5229 (maureenanderson@snet.net).

Blood Pressure Clinic presented by Gentiva & Maplewood of Orange, 1st Thursday of every month, Maplewood of Orange, 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.rotarycluboforange.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.

Continuum of Care Needs Caregivers, Would you like to make a difference in someone’s life as a caregiver? Continuum Help at Home is currently looking for individuals to work as a Homemaker, Companion, or Personal Care Attendant. We have full-time, part-time and live-in positions available. Visit www.continuumct.org/events to register and download an application.

Donate Your Car, Truck or Van, help raise funds for a local private school; FREE, FAST, TOW AWAY; Running or Not Running; Can be used for a charitable tax deduction. Call Charter Oak Education DBA Sterling Education at 860-643-1100.

Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, December 14, 2019, 9:00am-12pm, 52 George Street, West Haven. There will be activities and photos with Santa. Tickets available at door. More Info, Kyla 203-859-2088.

Holiday Fair and Cookie Walk - Derby Historical Society, Saturday, December 14, 2019, 10:00am-2:00pm, David Humphreys House, 37 Elm Street, Ansonia, \$5.00 suggested donation for adults; children under 5 are free; hot cider, unique Christmas gifts. Santa will be here from 12-2:00pm. Cookies are baked fresh and cost \$5.00 per 13 cookies. Call 203-735-1908 for information or visit our website www.derbyhistorical.org.

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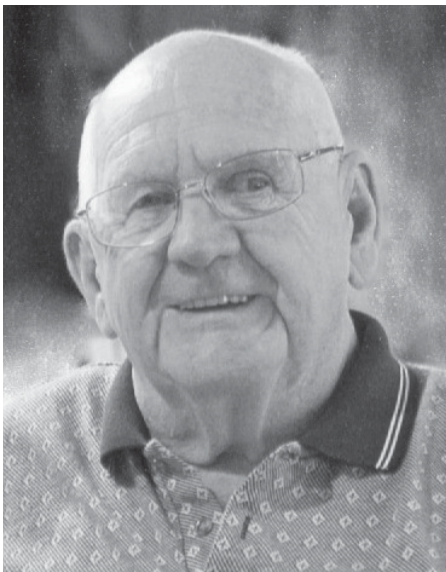
DEATH NOTICES



Lee Sekas

Lee Sekas, age 70, of Wethersfield and Orange, CT entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, November 27, 2019. Preceded in death by his loving parents, Paul and Mary (Botsolas) Sekas. Lee was the dear brother of Gail Sekas Paul and husband Harry of Wexford, PA and of Mark Sekas and wife Roberta, and nephews Paul G. Sekas (fiancée Danielle Sahni) and Michael J. Sekas. all of Orange, CT. He is also survived by numerous Botsolas and Sekas relatives.

Lee graduated from Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, CT. In his 20s he sustained devastating injuries. With the encouragement of his family, Lee adapted to his disabilities. Although confined to a wheelchair, losing a leg, and having limited use of an arm, he resided independently at the First Church Village at Wethersfield for many years. He worked as a check-out bagger at Stop & Shop, initially at the Wethersfield store and then at the Rocky Hill store until retiring in 2012. Lee was a familiar figure in Wethersfield, as he scooted around town doing errands and attending activities. Over the years, he volunteered with the Wethersfield Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, the Wethersfield Memorial Day Committee, and the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center. He often spoke at local schools about the challenges encountered by individuals with special needs. He thoroughly enjoyed the social activities at First Church Village. Lee was blessed to have the support of his wonderful friends and neighbors. Services were in the capable hands of the Smith Funeral Home, 135 Broad St., Milford, CT on December 4 and 5, 2019. Funeral services were held in St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, 480 Racebrook Rd., Orange on December 5th. Interment followed in Orange Center Cemetery, Orange Center Rd., Orange, CT. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that remembrances be made in Lee's name to either St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund, 480 Racebrook Rd., Orange, CT 06477, or the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center, 156 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT.



Arthur W. Linsley

Arthur W. Linsley, 84, of Orange, beloved husband for 65 years to Joan (Pannone) Linsley, passed away on November 30, 2019. Arthur was born on July 7, 1935 in West Haven to the late Merwin and Anna (Bornemen) Linsley.

As an electrician, Arthur worked hard to establish his own business "Arts' Electric", which is now Linsley Electric owned by his son and grandsons. Arthur had many interests; he was a lifetime-member award recipient from City Point Yacht Club and he loved investing in the stock market, fishing, and hiking the Alligash. He spent many years hunting in Baxter State Park in Maine and enjoyed spending time with his family at the camp he built with "upcycle" material. He also belonged to the Nutmeg Beagle Club and raised beagles for hunting. Arthur enjoyed all of his grandchildren in his own special way and was blessed to have known his great granddaughter. He will be missed by his family and friends.

In addition to his wife, Joan, Arthur is survived by his children, Anna Jane and Stuart Platcow, Anthony and Donna Linsley, and Joann and David Pugliese; his eight grandchildren; his great granddaughter; and his brothers, Russell and Penny Linsley, and Merwin and Dianne Linsley. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his siblings, Hurby, Ernie, Alberta, Dorothy and Ruthy.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 6, 2019, at Holy Infant Church, 450 Racebrook Rd., Orange. Interment followed at Orange Center Cemetery, Orange Center Rd., Orange. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. The family is being compassionately cared for by Cody-White Funeral Home, 107 Broad St., Milford, CT 06460. To leave online condolences, please visit our website at www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.



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

The Orange Historical Society is open every Saturday with the antique shop and museum. New and interesting items arrive weekly for those special occasions. Holiday items are also available. Avoid the long lines at the mall and shop at 605 Orange Center Road from 10-3. If you like vintage dolls, this is your place. For information call 203 795-3106.

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ENTERTAINMENT

TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Frozen II (PG)

animated
2. Ford v Ferrari (PG-13)

Matt Damon, Christian Bale
3. A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (PG)

Tom Hanks, Matthew Rhys
4. 21 Bridges (R)

Chadwick Boseman, Sienna Miller
5. Midway (PG-13)

Ed Skrein, Patrick Wilson
6. Playing With Fire (PG)

John Cena, Keegan-Michael Key
7. The Good Liar (R)

Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen
8. Charlie's Angels (PG-13)

Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott
9. Last Christmas (PG-13)

Emilia Clarke, Henry Golding
10. Joker (R)

Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro

TOP 10 V.O.D.

1. Good Boys (R)

Jacob Tremblay
2. Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (PG-13)

Dwayne Johnson
3. The Peanut Butter Falcon (PG-13)

Shia LaBeouf
4. The Angry Birds 2 (PG)

animated
5. 47 Meters Down: Uncaged (PG-13)

Sophie Nelisse
6. The Kitchen (R)

Melissa McCarthy
7. The Lion King (PG)

animated
8. The Art of Racing in the Rain (PG)

Milo Ventimiglia
9. Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark (PG-13)

Zoe Margaret Colletti
10. Toy Story 4 (PG)

animated



Cate Blanchett in "Where'd You Go, Bernadette?" [Ascot Elite Entertainments]

PICKS OF THE WEEK

“Angel Has Fallen” (PG-13) -- Following a drone attack on President Trumbull (Morgan Freeman), Agent Mike Banning (Gerard Butler) -- code name “Angel” -- is the lone remaining survivor, save the president. And while POTUS lingers unconscious in a hospital bed, Banning makes a perfect patsy for the attack. Malicious forces are afoot, but Banning is never down for long. He escapes to enlist some off-the-grid help to take back his good name and, of course, protect the president. It’s nothing you haven’t seen before and all that you expect out of the third installment of this action flick series. I will, however, give double high fives for Nick Nolte’s crazy supporting performance.

“Where’d You Go, Bernadette?” (PG-13) -- The eponymous Bernadette (Cate Blanchett) is a functional ago-

raphobic who once was a celebrated architect, full of life and big ideas. Now she spends her time feuding with a pretentious neighbor (Kristen Wiig), abhorring the unimaginative busybodies at daughter Bee’s (Emma Nelson) school and planning a family trip to Antarctica with a dubious online personal assistant. But then Bernadette disappears, launching her own voyage of discovery to reclaiming her former creative urges. It’s left to Bee to find out where she went and why. Directed by Richard Linklater.

“Don’t Let Go” (R) -- David Oyelowo stars as L.A. cop Jack Radcliffe, who discovers the slaughtered bodies of his niece Ashley (Storm Reid) and her parents. But then four days later, he gets a phone call. From Ashley. From the past. Using this crack in the time-space continuum (paging Dr. Emmett Brown, anyone?), the pair must work together to keep the girl’s murder from occurring in the first place. Although Oyelowo gives a wonderful performance, it’s just too much to keep up with, and I personally let go about halfway through the film.

“Official Secrets” (R) -- In a riveting political drama ripped from the history books, Keira Knightley leads the cast as Katharine Gun, a British intelligence officer who comes by a piece of information so shocking, she is unable to keep it secret: The U.S. is attempting to gather information on Security Council members that would sway their vote to authorize a war against Iraq. Director Gavin Hood serves up a story that is tightly wound, with a courageous hero who unceremoniously does the right thing at considerable cost to herself and her family. Matthew Goode, Matt Smith and Ralph Fiennes also star.

1. What was the name of the group formed by Agnetha Faltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad?

2. Who was Murray the K?

3. How many Grammys has “The Boss” won?

4. Why is the date Feb. 3, 1959 significant?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: “There is someone who really needs you, here’s my heart in my hand.”



1. The Swedish group ABBA, using the first letter of their four first names. They first gained international notice after winning the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest in the U.K. The 1999 musical “Mamma Mia!” was created around their songs.
2. Radio DJ Murray Kaufman. He considered himself the fifth Beatle, saying George Harrison gave him that title.
3. So far Bruce Springsteen has won 20 Grammys, plus an Academy Award and two Golden Globes.
4. That’s “the day the music died,” when Ritchie Valens, Buddy Holly and Jiles Perry “JP” Richardson (The Big Bopper) died in a plane crash. Don McLean repeatedly refers to it in his 1971 song “American Pie.”
5. “Turn Around, Look at Me,” by Glen Campbell. In 1961. This was followed by a 1962 Letterman cover. But it was the Vogues in 1968 who had the most popular version.

Sports Quiz

BY CHRIS RICHCREEK

1. Who was the last pitcher before Cincinnati’s Michael Lorenzen in 2018 to homer in three consecutive at-bats?

2. In 2018, Kyle Higashioka of the New York Yankees became the ninth major-league player since 1920 to have his first three hits be home runs. Who was the only other Yankee to do it?

3. Who is the only kicker to be named the NFL’s regular-season MVP?

4. Name the first Division I men’s basketball player to lead the nation in points and assists per game in the same season.

5. Entering the 2019-20 season, where did former NHL goaltender Robert Luongo rank on the all-time victory list?

6. In 2019, Dalilah Muhammad set the women’s world mark for the 400-meter hurdles (52.20 seconds, then 52.16 seconds later in the year). How long had the previous record lasted?

7. When was the last time a Canadian male golfer won the Canadian Open?

1. Colorado’s Mike Hampton, in 2001. 2. Alfonso Soriano (1999-2000). 3. Washington’s Mark Moseley, in 1982. 4. Oklahoma’s Tye Young, in the 2017-18 season. 5. Third, with 489 victories. 6. Nearly 16 years -- Russia’s Yuliya Pechonkina set the mark of 52.34 seconds in 2003. 7. It was 1954 (Pat Fletcher).

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Sudoku answers on page 32

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

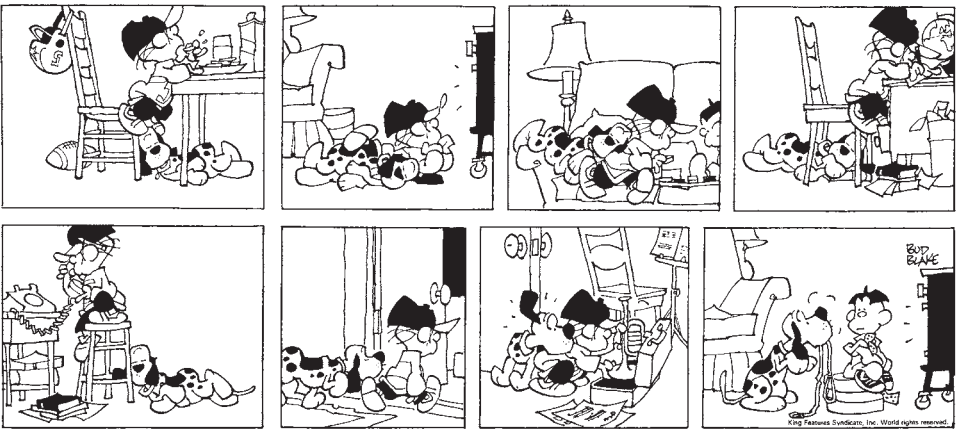
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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COMICS/CROSSWORD/HOLLYWOOD

TIGER



The Spats



Amber Waves



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Zinger
5 Nuisance
9 Oprah's net-work
12 Chills and fever
13 Viscous
14 Dove's call
15 Short musical works
17 "Hail, Caesar!"
18 Yule quaff
19 Fairy tale villains
21 Chic
22 Island porch
24 Formerly
27 Evergreen type
28 Break suddenly
31 Tasseled top-
32 Lobe locale
33 Gorilla
34 Dread
36 Attempt
37 Car sticker no.
38 Batman's pal
40 Proceed
41 Dishes
43 Commercial song
47 Scoot
48 Varieties of wheat
51 Carte lead-in

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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41	42					43				44	45	46
47				48	49	50						
51				52						53		
54				55						56		

DOWN

- 1 Foundation
2 Enthusiastic
3 Ladder step
4 Cap with a propeller
5 Bluenose
6 A billion years
7 Hot tub
8 Mike of the ring
9 Simple wind instruments
10 Used a loom
11 Vetoers' votes
16 Heavy weight
20 Petrol
22 Memorize
23 Distorted
24 Vacationing
25 Born
26 Ivan's and Peter's wives
27 Bigfoot's cousin
29 Spring mo.
30 Vigor
35 Director Howard
37 "Friends" role
39 Soaks up some rays
40 Hodges of baseball lore
41 Seafood entree
42 Streaming video giant
43 Apple co-founder
44 Wildebeests
45 Whip
46 Catch sight of
49 Away from WSW
50 Do some lawn work

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HOLLYWOOD

BY TONY RIZZO

Shockwaves went through the soap opera world when Ken Corday, producer of "Days of Our Lives," announced that the show's entire cast had been FIRED!! The once popular NBC soap premiered Nov. 8, 1965, and I began covering it, first for Soap Opera Digest and then for Soap Set, which I edited in 1967. The longest running regular cast members were Deidre Hall, as Marlena Evans since 1976; Susan Seaforth (Hayes), as Julie Williams since 1978; and Bill Hayes (Susan's husband), who joined the cast as Doug Williams in 1970 and has recurred to the present day despite turning 94.

Allegedly, NBC/Universal have wanted to cancel the soap since they took over. "Days of Our Lives" has enough new shows to air until the end of the summer of 2020, and a decision will be made by then to renew or cancel the show. The problem for "Days" is that it's much cheaper to produce a talk show, like Kelly Clarkson's, so all the soap actors have been released from their contracts because their salary escalations over the years have made it costly to produce. In order to afford to bring it back, actors would have to earn a much lower salary. Unless longtime "Days" fans show dissatisfaction in big numbers, it's unlikely the soap will be renewed next summer.

"La La Land" Oscar-winner Damien Chazelle has cast his Oscar-winning star, Emma Stone, opposite Brad Pitt in "Babylon." Chazelle wrote and directs the film about when movie-making went from silent films to "talkies." Paramount Pictures outbid Netflix for the film. Stone has completed Disney's "Cruella" for a May 2021 opening.

Rin Tin Tin, the dog who saved Hol-



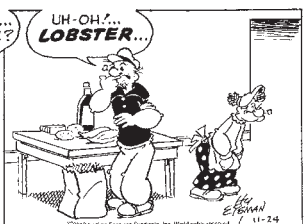
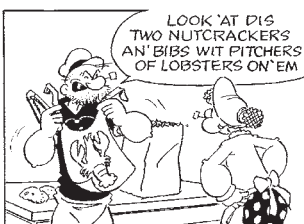
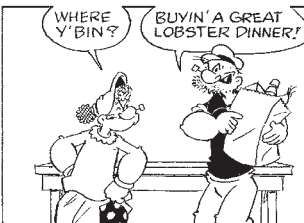
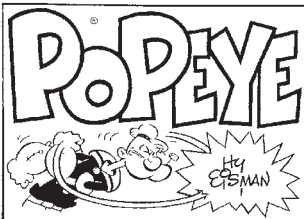
Deidre Hall [Mitchell Haaseth/NBC]

lywood (appearing in 27 films, which saved Warner Brothers from bankruptcy several times), will be making his 28th film. However, the original Rin Tin Tin died in 1932.

"Theory of Everything" co-stars Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones are reteaming in "The Aeronauts." Set in 1862, he's a meteorologist and she's a balloon pilot fighting to survive while making discoveries in a gas balloon (coming Dec. 5). Redmayne is currently filming Aaron Sorkin's "The Trial of The Chicago Seven," with Sasha Baron Cohen, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Frank Langella and Mark Rylance.

Patrick Schwarzenegger, whose last film, "Midnight Sun," was a financial hit, has four films backed up: the horror thriller "Daniel Isn't Real," with Mary Stuart Masterson (due Dec. 6); the sci-fi film "Warning," with Alex Pettyfer; "Echo Boomers," with Michael Shannon, Alex Pettyfer and Leslie Ann Warren; and director Amy Poehler's Netflix film, "Moxie," with Marcia Gay Harden and Clark Gregg. All of Patrick's films plus dad Arnold back in "Terminator: Dark Fate" make them theater hogs!

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The logo for J.M. Kriz is displayed, featuring the name "J.M. Kriz" in a large, white, serif font. To the right of the name, the services "DESIGN · PRINT · WEB" are listed in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below the name, there is a circular emblem divided into four quadrants by a cross. The top-left quadrant contains the letter "C", the top-right contains "M", the bottom-left contains a stylized "Y", and the bottom-right contains "K". To the right of the emblem are two grayscale images: a laptop computer and a briefcase. At the bottom of the logo area, the website address "J M K R I Z . C O M" is written in a large, white, serif font, with spaces between the letters.

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THROUGH
THE BALL.



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TYPE OF ACTION,
MEASURE YOUR
BACKSWING
THE SHOT
DISTANCE THEN
ACCELERATE THE
CLUEHEAD THROUGH
THE GULF WITH
YOUR ARMS.
WRISTS AND
HANDS AS YOUR
SHOULDERS
MOVE UNDER
AND PAST
HEAD.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

— **King Crossword** —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	A	R	B		P	E	S	T		O	W	N
A	G	U	E		R	O	P	Y		C	O	O
S	O	N	A	T	I	N	A	S		A	V	E
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F	E	A	R		T	R	Y		M	S	R	P
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C	H	I	N	A			J	I	N	G	L	E
R	U	N			S	E	M	O	L	I	N	S
A	L	A			K	N	O	B		C	A	S
B	U	S			S	E	W	S		A	S	H

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HISTORY CORNER

BY GINNY REINHARD

Let's See, What Holiday is it Now?



The turkey is almost finished except for a wing or two here and there. The soup is all but gone and Friday has been “black” for a few weeks now with the ever so tempting low prices for things you don’t really need. Santa Claus is offering his lap to the little ones who believe in him, asking for things the “real” Santa never thought to make in his workshop and snow is on the way. Now don’t go thinking I have lost my mind. Didn’t YOU think there was a “real” Santa Claus? Of course you did. Religion has nothing to do with Santa Claus, he’s apart from all religions as an entity unto himself.

I don’t remember the day I found out that it was my mother and father who bought my presents. I guess youth just adjusts to what they already suspect and then just slide into the truth, the awful truth that there is NO Santa Claus. But there was, wasn’t there?

With his red suit all in place, a hearty Ho, Ho, Ho and the help of eight reindeer, the image of hope and love flies through the sky delivering gifts and good cheer. So who notices the label “Made in China?” Kids watch TV with its hype and glitz and when “it” arrives, under the tree, that jolly red-suited man in the mall knew just what they wanted. Yipes, how gullible can we be? Well, gullible for a few years of faith didn’t seem to scar me into faithlessness. I have just put my faith elsewhere with an adult spin.

Actually, dear readers, there WAS a St. Nicholas, a favorite in many lands, an actual person born in the 4th century in Lycia in Asia Minor. He was born to parents of wealth and position and

while in his teens became a priest and then a Bishop of Myra in Turkey. He touched many lives through his courage and generosity. Soon after his parents died, leaving him a vast fortune, he spent his legacy in charitable ways. One of the more famous stories told is about three young daughters of an impoverished nobleman, unable to support them and give them a proper dowry. The father had no choice but to sell them into slavery. Hearing of this, Bishop Nicholas rode to their home and tossed a bag of gold through an open window, followed by two more on two consecutive days. This is also interpreted as the bags landed in their stockings as they hung by the window to dry and another was the bags landed in their wooden shoes by the fire.

Not long after Nicholas’ generosity was discovered, he became known as the gift giver. If you can find a pawnshop that knows of this story you will find the sign, over the door with gold balls to represent those gifts. St. Nicholas became the patron saint for pawnshops. Another tale of his work took place on a stormy night where a ship was being tossed about and Nicholas prayed for the seas to calm. And calm they did allowing the ship to return to port. For this, St. Nicholas became the patron saint of sailors and in the 19th Century, there were more churches named for him than any other saint.

It is not quite clear when St. Nicholas became associated with our custom of Santa Claus and our present day customs, as he differs in many countries. In Europe, as a bearer of gifts, he wears bishop’s robes and is accompanied by a servant. In Holland he rides a horse and at one point in history, the wooden

shoes were left on the hearth, filled with hay and sugar for the horse and hope for candy and some shiny coins. (You know, those candy coins wrapped in gold foil in a mesh bag) and you thought some candy manufacturer came up with that one. In Austria circa 1894, St. Nicholas wore a gold robe trimmed in fur carrying a backpack while in Czechoslovakia he was clad in a multi-colored Byzantine garment wearing a crown.

In Germany by 1901, his robe was red and trimmed in fur and at times a green robe symbolizing that evergreens possess magical powers. Another figure would visit the children a few weeks before Christmas known as Belsnickle. He held a switch in his hand to deal with those who were naughty and candy in his pocket for good little boys and girls. This tradition came to America with the Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsche). In many countries, December 6th is celebrated as St. Nicholas Day, celebrating the day he died, honoring the memory of a benevolent man but in New England, for the first two centuries of colonial settlement, most people did not celebrate Christmas to say nothing of being a religious symbol. It was suppressed by the Puritans between 1659 and 1681, and was illegal to celebrate Christmas. To do so resulted in a fine of 5 shillings, it being a criminal offense. They believed that the day only resulted in public displays of excessive eating, drinking, mockery of authority and aggressive begging involving a threat of bodily harm!

There was a reason for this or so it seems. In the northern agricultural societies, December marked the end of the growing season and celebrations

involving recently fermented beer and spirits. Other cultures have marked the season with light and greenery to help them plow through the dark days of December and the return of the sun. Between 1500 and 1800 in Europe when meat became plentiful, reveling could easily become rowdiness and the season had become one of misrule. Some carols were even sung with disparaging lyrics and in some cases requiring the house owner to provide pear wine lest he receive a few rocks through his windows.

Eventually the war on Christmas subsided in New England as more and more people embraced the feeling of hearth and home, sugar plums and being snug in their bed. It was Clement Moore who penned his poem of the “little old driver, so lively and quick.” It was in 1823 that his poem entitled “A Visit From St. Nicholas” was anonymously written to help quell the antagonism and the pervasive anger associated with Christmas with its 17th century origins. By 1842 Santa appeared, as he is today, stout, bearded, smiling with a red suit and white fur trim with a bag full of toys for all the good girls and boys. Did any of you get a lump of coal from Santa when you were naughty?

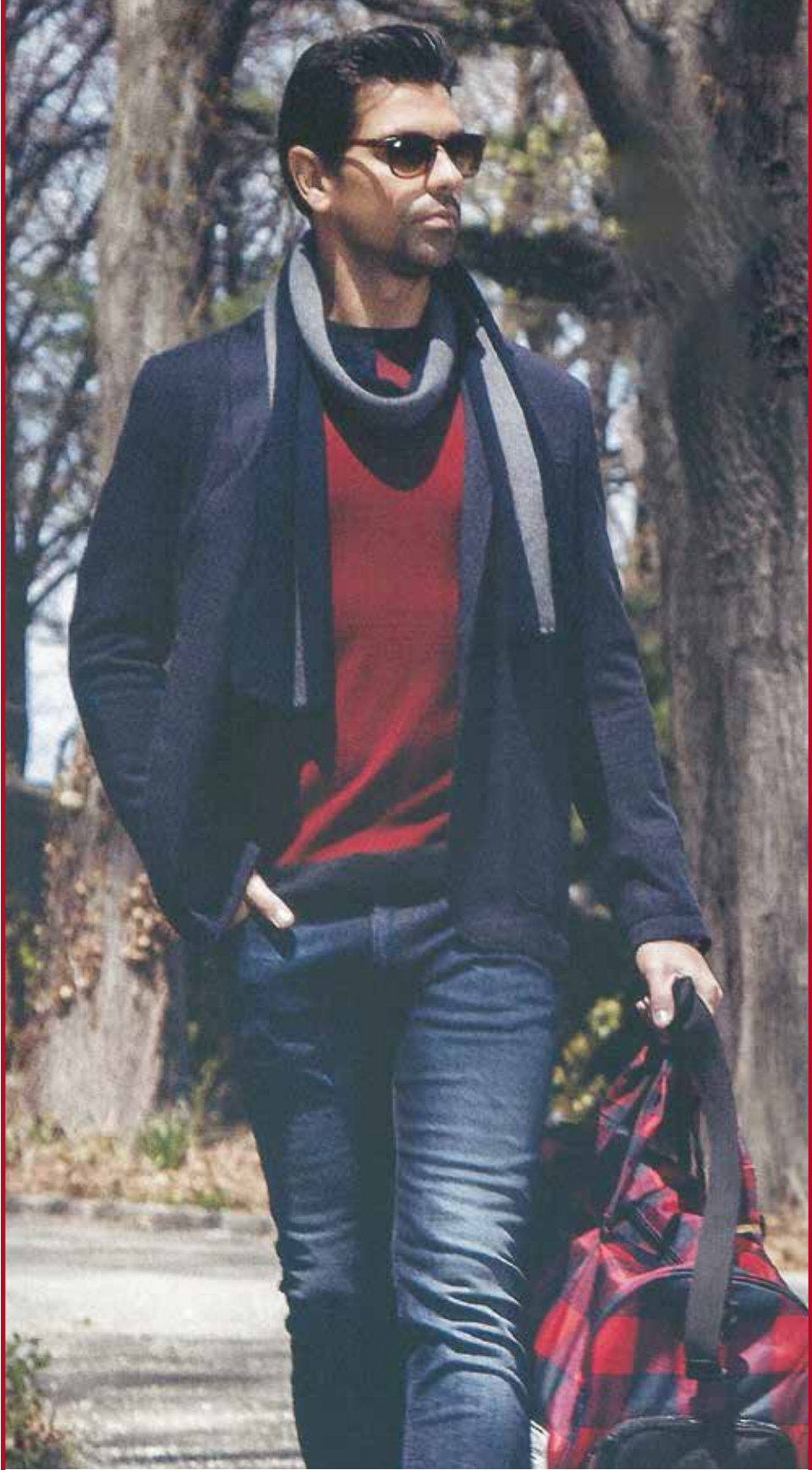
Christmas for children is Santa Claus, reindeer and elves. (I don’t like the elf on the shelf though). Thomas Nast’s caricatures are often seen in today’s advertising which helps to standardize today’s Santa. What is a cherished holiday for some is a history lesson for others, “I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night.”

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The Gift of Credit

BY ROBERTA L. NESTOR

Establishing credit is easy. Establishing good credit is not, especially for a young adult. Building credit is necessary if you want to take out a loan for a car, house, or even college. It can take anywhere from months to years to reverse bad credit—so start off strong. You can help your children get off on the right financial foot by helping them establish good credit—an incredible, priceless gift.

What is good credit for? Less expensive auto insurance for one. Most car insurance companies not only look at the basics of age, gender etc., but more companies look at your credit score before setting an amount. Good credit is necessary for better loan rates not only for a car or a home, but for college as well. If your college-bound student has good credit, they could get their own loan without tying your name, and credit, to a loan. Landlords often do a credit check to make sure their tenants are financially trustworthy. Cell phone companies may check credit as well; someone with bad credit may have to pay a deposit before getting a cell phone contract.

The easiest way to help your child build credit would be by adding them as an authorized user to your credit card. You can add them, without giving them access to your account, from an early age. Companies like Capital One, Chase, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo do not have a minimum age for an authorized user on a credit card. By adding them as an authorized user, their credit will grow as you use your card and make monthly payments.

Before giving them access as an authorized user, set firm ground rules for what they can charge and how payments will be made. If it turns out that they are irresponsible spenders or fail to make agreed payments, you can always remove them from your account, but if you cannot pay the monthly limit, it will be your credit that will also be adversely affected.

Once your children are college age and if they have established good financial habits, they can apply for their own credit card. Credit card companies like Discover are more likely to offer a credit card as long as they can show some income – even a part time job is good enough for their first credit card. They may have lowered credit limits, but that is okay. It is a place to start to establish credit for the longer term.

Now the fun part, periodically checking your child's credit rating. Children age 13 or older can check their

own credit the same way you do. They can visit annualcreditreport.com. This happens to be the only website federally authorized to provide credit reports from Equifax, Experian and TransUnion for free. Also, Discover credit card actually sends you your credit score each month with their monthly statement. Certain credit cards like Capital One allows you to check your score, for free, with Creditwise.

Help your child to understand what the credit ratings mean. It will require six months of history in order to create a person's first credit score. Credit scores range from 300 (the lowest possible) to 850 (the highest possible). Generally, most people will begin with a middle of the road credit score. A missed payment (again, very easy to happen with paperless statements), a late payment, even late payments for college loans will all negatively affect their credit rating. By helping your child early on to build credit, they can be sixteen and have an 800+ credit score.

Learning how to keep a good credit score is another generous gift to give your children. Pay your bills on time. Light but regular use of your credit accounts. Pay balances in full. Avoid closing accounts if you're trying to build or improve credit. A skipped payment could deteriorate someone's credit by 100 points.

In life, you will need good credit if you want to rent an apartment, buy a home or to purchase a car. Teens will appreciate the gift of good credit especially when they are taking out loans for college. Good credit allows them to start their financial life on a good foot. This gift of establishing good credit at a young age is priceless.

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) That change in holiday travel plans might be more vexing than you'd expected. But try to take it in stride. Also, it couldn't hurt to use that Aries charm to coax out some helpful cooperation.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your Bovine determination helps you deal with an unforeseen complication. And, as usual, you prove that when it comes to a challenge, you have what it takes to take it on.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although a romantic theme dominates much of the week, all those warm and fuzzy feelings don't interfere with the more pragmatic matters you need to take care of.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Best not to ignore those doubts about an upcoming decision. Instead, recheck the facts you were given to make sure nothing important was left out. A weekend surprise awaits you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) No time for a catnap -- yet. You might still have to straighten out one or two factors so that you can finally assure yourself of the truth about a troubling workplace situation. Stay with it.

VIRGO (August 23 September 22) News from an old friend could lead to an unexpected (but nonetheless welcome) reunion with someone who had once been very special in your life. Be open to the possibilities.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It might be time for a family council. The sooner those problems are resolved, the sooner you can move ahead with your holiday preparations. Don't let the opportunity pass you by.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out to give more attention to a personal relationship that seems to be suffering from a sense of emotional neglect. Provide that much-needed reassurance.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Cheer up. That unusual circumstance that might faze most people can be handled pretty well by the savvy Sagittarian. Look at it as an opportunity rather than an obstacle.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Someone you believe has hurt you in the past might now need your help. Reaching out could be difficult. But the generous Goat will be able to do the right thing, as always.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Prioritizing is an important part of your pre-holiday scheduling. Try to give time both to your workday responsibilities and those personal matters you might have neglected.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) With the vestiges of your anger about that painful incident fading, you can now focus all your energy on the more positive aspects of your life, including that personal situation.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of bringing your own strong sense of reassurance to others and encouraging them to hope.

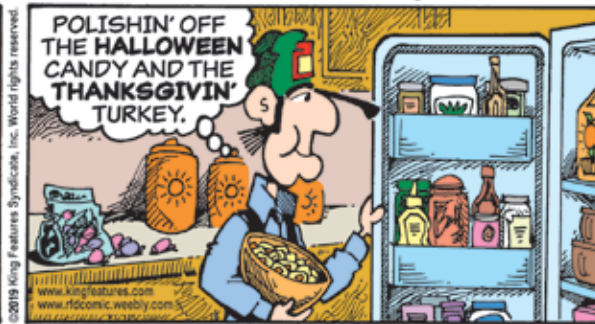
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



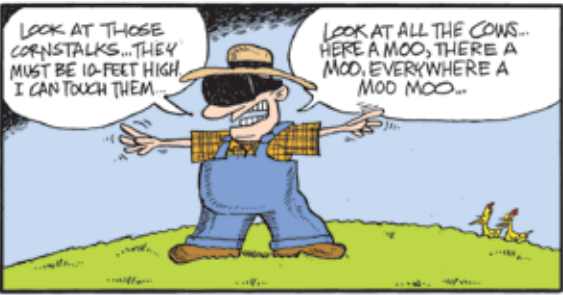
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R.F.D.



Out on a Limb

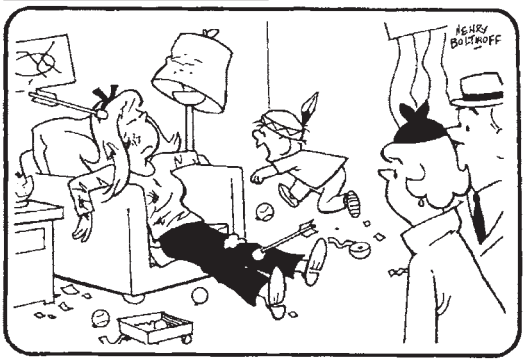


top ten

- Never Flush Items***
1. Dental floss
 2. Paper towels
 3. Sanitary, baby wipes
 4. Q-tips/cotton balls
 5. Cigarette butts
 6. Fats, oils, grease
 7. Feminine hygiene products
 8. Kitty litter
 9. Adhesive bandages
 10. Medications
- * Septic and sewer systems
Source: Harts Services

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.
Differences: 1. Boy's pants are black. 2. Ball near boy's foot is missing. 3. Mom's hat is gone. 4. Drapes are wider. 5. Girl's bow is different. 6. There's more trash on floor.

The Garden Bug

Christmas rose

This plant blooms in early winter in mild climates, and late winter or early spring where the soil freezes hard. Native to Europe and western Asia, this plant loves shade or dappled sun and moist soil. It ranges in many colors from white and cream to pink, rose, burgundy and light green. Amend the soil with plenty of organic matter, such as aged leaf mold and compost.

- Brenda Weaver Source: www.hgtv.com, www.whiteflowerfarm.com

Gifts for Pets Should be Useful and Safe

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm invited to a Yankee swap party with friends I met at the dog park over the past year. The theme is not presents for humans, but for our dogs. I don't want to get a gift that everyone else is buying, so what are the most popular pet items right now? That way I can hopefully avoid a duplicate gift. -- Cheri in Somerville, Massachusetts

DEAR CHERI: If the item really is popular, I bet people won't mind duplicate gifts -- dog booties come to mind as items that wear out quickly in the winter and are expensive to replace.

For those not in the know, a Yankee swap (known as a Santa swap in other parts of the country) is a group gift-giving event where participants

each bring a gift, then draw numbers to take turns picking a gift from somebody else -- or opt to swap their gift for another gift. Things can get a bit wild, I know, but that's how we party in the Northeast. The gifts are usually inexpensive -- less than \$50.

Concentrate on buying a practical gift that will make a dog more comfortable or happy. A box of treats, a raincoat or sweater, spare booties, a collar and leash, a chew toy or feeding bowl, or a stylish item like a bandanna or a bow tie. If your dog likes or needs something, then your friends' dogs are almost certain to like or need the same thing.

And, since people rarely end up with exactly what they want at a Yankee swap, save a few dollars to buy something you think your dog will really like after the party.

by Sam Mazzotta

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO ASK@PAWSCORNER.COM.



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