

Orange Town News



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018



Police Officer Denny Peterson is pictured in front of Police Department flag wearing his body cam.

Police Officers Wearing Body Cams

BY LAURA FANTARELLA
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Turning on their body cameras as soon as there is interaction with the public has become second nature to

Orange police officers who were outfitted with the technology about a year and a half ago. Though wearing body

See "Body Cams" On Page 2



Orange Police Detective Jay Menga, FAA licensed drone operator, with OPD's new drone.

Police Department Acquires New Drone

BY LAURA FANTARELLA
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A drone is the newest tool in the Orange Police Department's arsenal that has the potential to aid in emergency situations and even assist in day-to-day security issues and police business.

Chief Robert Gagne sees the latest piece of technology as another way to

keep his officers, and his community safe. "We plan to use the drone very conservatively, it is more for safety than enforcement," he said. Stressing that the department has no intention of "circumventing the fourth amendment," Gagne expects the drone will be an asset when investigating events

See "Drone" On Page 3



Amity Regional Middle School – Orange Campus
First Marking Period
Honor Roll – Page 12

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UNTIL JANUARY 31

“Body Cams” From Page 1

cameras are becoming standard practice in departments throughout the country, Orange actually implemented its program before larger area departments like New Haven and Bridgeport.

Rather than revealing any issues within the department or pinpointing procedures that could be done better, Orange Police Chief Robert Gagne is finding the cameras highlight everything the department is doing so well. “Our department has historically been a transparent department and we treat people with respect,” Gagne said. “We’ve always had a very low number of civilian complaints, lawsuits or use of force issues, so we didn’t delve into this to address a problem but rather to be even more transparent than we already are. Our officers have been using dash cams for years so this basically took that program and extended it to everything the officer is doing — not just from car point of view but from the officer’s point of view. “What Gagne has discovered, and studies support, is that generally everyone behaves better when they know they are being filmed. “And if that protects our officers, that’s great,” Gagne said. Officers receive training on body cam protocol and attend re-training each year.

The Department received a reimbursement grant from the state to purchase the 50 body cameras, docking stations and computer storage. The town laid out the initial \$52,289.22 investment which was recently repaid to town coffers.

The body cams are only activated at the point when officers interact with the public on a call and department protocol dictates instances privacy and turning off the cams is called for — like when police are interacting with a sexual assault victim, or any medical or psychological treatments, evaluations or procedures. They are also turned off when officers enter a hospital or medical/mental health facility, and when in conversation with other law enforcement. When cameras are deactivated, the reasons must be documented and are subject to supervisory review. Taped footage is reviewed regularly for training purposes and is also used routinely as evidence, particularly in drunken driving arrests and motor vehicle accidents.

According to Assistant Chief Max Martins, after the initial learning curve, the body cams were quickly adapted by officers as police procedure. “There was a recent incident where an officer was chasing someone on foot and instinctively turned the camera on before his radio,” Martins said.

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“Drone” From Page 1

like when a child or elderly person goes missing, serious motor vehicle accidents, hazardous waste spills, hostage situations, and also aiding in security assessments to get an aerial view of a business or property. “We’re acting very cautiously and conservatively,” Gagne said. “We are very concerned with privacy-related issues and don’t want to infringe on privacy rights. Each situation is different and the circumstances would have to be conducive.”

The Police Department partnered with the Orange Volunteer Fire Department to purchase two drones, one for each of the departments, through a state grant. Each drone cost approximately \$1,500. Police acquired the drone over the summer but Chief Gagne waited until protocol and policies were in place and staff training was completed in October before it was ready to use. In addition to Fire Marshall Tim Smith; three police department staff, Sergeant Ray LaPlante, drone supervisor; Detective Jay Menga and Officer Jim Boyles underwent rigorous training to receive their Federal Aviation Administration licenses. Training included logging practice flight hours and completing a written test. Gagne also called in personal friend, retired NYPD Sergeant and attorney Michael Geary, to provide additional training to his staff. Geary, an associate professor in criminal justice at Albertus Magnus College, has

written extensively about drones for law enforcement publications.

Detective Menga has been getting comfortable learning to control and fly the drone during practice runs at the Old Tavern ball fields and open areas in town. “I like it a lot! I’ve always been fascinated by drones and their capabilities so when the chance came along to operate one for the department I jumped at it,” Menga said.

Gagne can’t predict the drone’s full potential until an emergency situation arises, but he does know it would have come in handy in 2011 when a local teenager went missing and law enforcement waited for an FBI helicopter to arrive from NY to canvass the area. Last summer a drone from the Westport Police Department aided in locating an emotionally disturbed male in Eisenhower Park in Milford. “It will be very helpful to us in the event we have to cover large rural areas,” Gagne said.

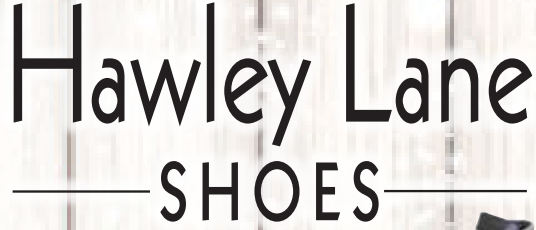
Assistant Chief Max Martins gave an example of a drone’s role in the event of a hostage situation or a “barricaded individual.” “A drone could be used to assess the situation without sending in an officer which allows us to potentially resolve a situation without anybody getting hurt,” Martins said. “I hope we never have a significant event requiring the use of the drone, but someday something will occur and ultimately if the drone can help our officers stay safe, or have a situation come to a peaceful resolution, all the better.”

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Orange Town News

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.

A graphic for the New Year featuring the year '2018' in large, stylized, textured numbers. Below the year, the words 'happy new year' are written in a cursive, script font. The background is a light gray with some faint, abstract patterns.

Orange Town News

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

Upcoming Issue Deadline

February 9 | Valentine's Day Issue..... February 2

March 9 | St. Patrick's Day Issue..... March 2

March 30 | Easter & Passover Issue..... March 23

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

DEATH NOTICES



Robert H. Reinhard, Jr

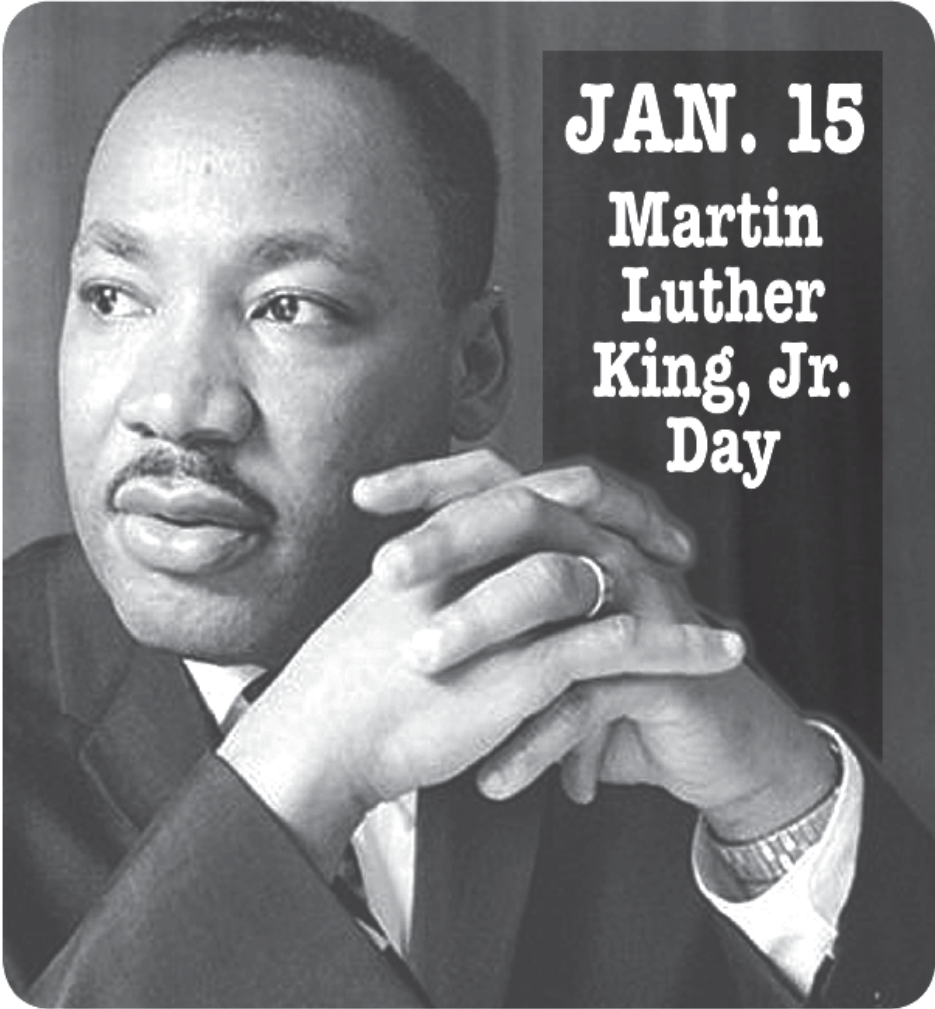
Robert H. Reinhard, Jr. age 77, died on January 2, 2018 at Hospice in Branford. He was born August 26, 1940 to Robert H. Reinhard, Sr. and Elizabeth Gaug Reinhard. An Orange resident for 32 years he is predeceased by his parents and his sister Judith Reinhard

Gallagher. He is survived by his wife Ginny Ray Reinhard, brother Brian Reinhard and his wife Joanne, sister Janet Reinhard Pinette and her husband Joseph, stepdaughter Lori Halliday Carbonell and her husband Peter and their children James and Allison, nieces & nephews Steven Reinhard, Susan Reinhard, John Reinhard, Joseph Pinette, Jr., Debbie Yeamans, and Brenda Ruff. Robert is also survived by grand nieces Christina, Rebecca and Madelyn. Mr. Reinhard graduated from Cheshire High School and made his living as a mechanic/welder, working for J.M. Rosa, C. & J. Repair both of Milford and in partnership with his brother Brian Reinhard in their family business, The Reinhard Corporation for over 5 years. Donations may be made in his name to the Orange Historical Society, Bryan-Andrew House Restoration, P.O. Box 784 Orange, CT 06477.

Orange Town News

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



JAN. 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Amity Joins Connecticut Green Leaf Schools Program

BY MELISSA NICEFARO
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The principals of Amity’s three schools have signed commitment letters to participate in Connecticut Green LEAF Schools Program. The commitment letters have been sent to the CT Green Leaf representative at the Institute for Sustainable Energy and committees are forming at each school, according to Superintendent of Schools Charles Dumais.

“The Director of Finance & Administration and the Director of Facilities will participate in the committee work at each school. Each committee will complete a Green LEAF School Self-Assessment and work with the program liaison to identify the District’s accomplishments and future goals,” according to Dumais.

Connecticut Green LEAF Schools is a program of Connecticut Departments of Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, Administrative Services, and Public Health, in collaboration with more than thirty-five environmental and educational partners. The program helps schools to grow greener and focuses on “Leading, Educating, Achieving, and Fostering healthy, green schools for all.” There are three goals to the program including: providing effective environmental and sustainability education; improving the health and wellness of students

and staff; and reducing environmental impact and cost.

Connecticut Green LEAF Schools is free and open to all K-12 schools, both public and private. Implementation starts with a letter of commitment from the school administration. The school then can complete a self-assessment of their “green” activities and goals. Schools receive support in meeting their goals, including webinars, lessons, and professional development.

All participating schools are recognized for their accomplishments. Schools that show substantial progress in greening their schools may be eligible for nomination for the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon honor. To date, 13 schools and one district across the State have earned federal Green Ribbon recognition.

The Connecticut Green LEAF School program supports Connecticut schools in providing effective environmental and sustainability education, improving the health and wellness of their students and staff and reducing their environmental impact and costs. The program celebrates and recognizes those Connecticut schools making progress toward sustainability. The Connecticut Green LEAF School program will also support the nomination of a select group of schools to the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon School program.



Students left to right kneeling in the front row: Hanin Anwer, Elena Lupoli, Isaiah McCoy, Alex Gilbride, Ariyanna Orosco, Nyeela Miller, Isabel Cavanagh, Ralph Toussaint, Sage Paglia, and Zshonna Singleton. Left to right standing in the back row: Kelly Chow, Asia Sierra, Ariana Cortes, Isabella Santamaria, Victoria Hoyas, Ruby Yumbla, Diogo Artaza, Owen Lee, Nazr Badmus, Zephaniah Abdus-Salaam, Eze Miguel Iheanacho, Ryan Lima. [Photo: Marika Wissink]

Lead! Leadership Conference

Students from Amity Middle School in Bethany and Amity Middle School in Orange attended the Discover, Lead! Leadership Conference for Young Men and Women of Color in Middle School sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools at Sage Park Middle School on Thursday, December 14, 2017. Students participated in workshops and exercises to promote students’ leadership skills led by Omari Pearson, a former professional basket-

ball player, and Founder and President of Passion to Purpose, LLC, a mentoring company, who works to inspire and empower students. Mr. Pearson discussed goal-setting and planning for achievement of personal goals with our students. Students also engaged in group discussions about common issues they deal with at the middle school level (peer pressure, bullying, social-media concerns, etc.) and how to best handle these situations.

Literacy Volunteers Names New Executive Director

Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven is pleased to welcome Louis Perno as its new Executive Director. He will be responsible for all operations in the New Haven area, the Valley, Meriden and Wallingford. Literacy Volunteers is a non-profit educational organization that recruits, trains and supports volunteer tutors. The tutors provide free literacy tutoring for adults who need to improve their reading, writing, and English-speaking skills. The organization’s goal is to empower adults through literacy. This past year over 1,500 adults were serviced by the program.

Lou resides in New Haven, CT and has more than 40 years-experience in the nonprofit sector. Before joining Literacy Volunteers, he served as co-Executive Director of Farnam Neighborhood House. Prior to his leadership role at Farnam, Lou was Executive Director of Sterling House

Community Center in Stratford for nearly 30 years.

Lou takes over as Executive Director replacing Donna Violante who is retiring from the position after 4 years at Literacy Volunteers. Prior to her career in the non-profit sector, Donna had over 30 years experience in Marketing, Customer Service, Sales Operations and Training with AT&T, in the Consumer, Wireless and Business divisions. Her last position there was Director of Consumer Marketing for the East Region.

Lou has extensive experience working in and managing human service programs, as well as in strategic planning, program and organizational design, human resource, financial management, and development and special events, Lou is also an adjunct instructor at Gateway Community College for

See “Perno” On Page 11

STUDENT NEWS

Area Eastern Students Compete On Swim Team

Willimantic, CT -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women’s swim team has the Little East Conference (LEC) on high alert this season.

Thanks to a plethora of new talent, as well as a core of returning veterans, the team is building on last season’s success in a big way. There is very good reason to believe the 2017-18 season

could end in gold for this group of Warriors.

Among the Orange student athletes on this year’s team are: Maggie Lasto ‘21, who majors in Exploratory Arts & Humanities; Megan Lasto ‘21, who majors in Visual Arts; and Moll-ee Lasto ‘19, who majors in Health Sciences.

Kindergarten Registration

If your child is turning five on or before December 31, 2018 it is time to register for kindergarten! Please register on our website oess.org by February 16th.

Registration appointments/screening will be held in March. Parents are asked to bring a birth certificate, proof of residency, and medical/immunization records with them to the appointment.



Mary L. Tracy School

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Clean Audit for Amity Schools

BY MELISSA NICEFARO
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

An annual audit of Amity Regional Schools’ finances turned up no surprises or issues, according to the auditing team from Mahoney Sabol. Michael VanDeventer and Samantha Thomas oversaw the audit and presented reports to the Board of Education at its December meeting.

“We did issue an unmodified clean opinion on your financial statements. Our opinion provides reasonable assurance that your financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud and that they have ultimately been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America,” VanDeventer explained.

“We also issue a report on compliance – we do not express an opinion on compliance with laws and regulations or the effectiveness of your internal controls. Over the course of performing our audit procedures, if we identified materials of non-compliance with the law or material weakness in your internal control structure, we would be required to include those in the report and we did not identify any such matters,” he said.

The district was required to undergo an additional state audit, where the auditors issue an opinion on the district’s major programs. “For fiscal year 2017, the district expended about \$1.1 million in state financial assistance. Of that, only \$90,000 was considered non-exempt and subject to our testing. The major program for the district is the Open Choice and the Inter-District Cooperative Grant. We did issue unmodified clean opinions for compliance with those programs and we did not identify any material weaknesses in your internal controls over compliance,” VanDeventer said.

He showed a comparative balance sheet for the district which, he said, shows a snapshot in time of where the district stands with its overall financial position. “You have an unrestricted net position of about \$3.8 million, last year was about \$3.7 million and that reflects your net pension and other post-employment liabilities associated with your pension and OPEC plans,” he explained.

He noted an increase in cash of about \$2.3 million that reflects unspent bond proceeds of about \$1.6 million. “That is restricted for capital improvements. There was also an increase in other liabilities of about \$680,000 and that relates to the amounts that were due back to member towns on your favorable budgetary results for

the year,” VanDeventer said, adding, “You did have increase in capital assets of about \$1.2 million that was offset by depreciation. Major capital projects include HVAC improvements, LED light projects, classroom renovations as well as your tennis court replacement.”

Amity ended the school year with a surplus of almost \$2 million.

Board member John Belfonti asked, “With a surplus of about \$1.8 million, which represents about 3.7% of our budget, what do you see in other districts that you audit as a typical range for budget surplus?”

“We do perform audits of about 25 local governments and five regional school districts and typically I see that surplus being around 1% to 3%,” VanDeventer said. “You are on the higher end, but it is something that you might want to look at from a trending perspective year over year. You may want to look at it if you are continuously above 3%.”

The audit turned up no changes that were made to the scope of the audit and no issues with respect to the overall timing.

“In terms of significant audit findings, we do look at your accounting policies and practices. During the year, the district was required to implement a new accounting standard on post-employment benefits and that did result in additional disclosures and additional supplemental information if you’re comparing statements to last years. We did review your disclosures and found them to be neutral and clear,” VanDeventer said.

“In terms of difficulties encountered in performing the audit, there were no significant difficulties or any surprises during the course of the audit. There were no uncorrected misstatements. There were no adjustments that were made to the budget to change the surplus for the year. There were no disagreements with management, there was nothing unusual that we are required to inform you of.”

The auditors did have one recommendation regarding construction and progress and the status of capital projects. “Right now those are all being maintained on a budgetary basis. We do need to provide information on a gap basis and the recommendation there is that during the closing process, we need that reconciliation from a budget basis to a gap basis,” he said.

“The last item I had is on cyber-security and this is more for your information for the board. This is an area where we have seen increased risk,

See “Audit” On Page 11

Amity to Launch Transition Program

Proposed Relationship with Albertus Magnus

BY MELISSA NICEFARO
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Amity Board of Education is in discussion with administrators at Albertus Magnus College to offer a new transitional program to special needs students after they leave high school. “You’ve heard me talk about conversations between the leadership in the Town of Woodbridge and Albertus Magnus College about securing facilities. We are one step closer to developing a relationship with Albertus Magus,” said Superintendent of Schools Charles Dumais. “Keep in mind, when I talk about a transition program, I’m talking about special education students between the ages of 18 and 21. Transition truly means from high school to outside of high school.”

Students would split their time between a Woodbridge facility and the Albertus Magnus campus, where they would benefit from working with students and staff in the special needs program there. In exchange for their involvement at Albertus, students would work on the college campus.

“The college would see this as an asset and our students will benefit from interacting with students in their programs there. Albertus is about to start a special education program, which would be super for our kids, Dumais said.

“Our goal is to create a program that not only meets the educational

needs after these students leave high school, but for that true transition period where we would have them interact with their non-disabled peers, and the easiest place to do that is with college,” Dumais said, adding, “We had a very productive conversation with the Town of Woodbridge, and there is a good possibility that we will be able to use the second floor of the firehouse and simultaneously our students will spend some time there, at Albertus Magnus beginning in the fall.”

Based on today’s special needs population at the high school, five Amity students would be eligible for the program in the upcoming school year, eight for the following year and 14 in the year that follows. “That is the number of students going into the transitional program that we currently outpace at an expense, not including transportation, of \$40,000 to \$45,000 per student. Instead of putting that money in the budget for tuition, we’ll have to see how we can negotiate that,” he said.

“We pay a lot of attention to requests for services for our special needs population, but you have to have the skills program to intersect with the opportunity and that’s where we are right now. We have a phenomenal program for our transition students and I am highly confident that we’ll be asked to take on tuition students for this program,” Dumais said.

Amity Member Towns to Split \$1.8 Million

BY MELISSA NICEFARO
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

At its December monthly meeting, after the Amity Board of Education approved the audited financial statements for the school year that ended June 30, 2017, the board authorized Superintendent Charles Dumais to return to the district’s member towns a balance of \$1,818,631. Bethany will receive \$370,801, Orange will receive \$886,400 and Woodbridge \$561,430.

“I’ll add some context,” said Dumais. “The amount is actually larger than we originally thought – \$1.7 to

\$1.8 million – based on P.O.s that had not been resolved from the prior year.”

“One thing to keep in mind is that when we look at state budgets, and

what has been eliminated by the state in terms of funding to the towns, what we are returning to the towns far exceeds the total amount that the state has withheld from the three municipalities total. Not just education, but all municipal funding including education,” Dumais said.

The breakdown of funds is based on student population from each of Amity’s three towns.

“The amount is actually larger than we originally thought.”

LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP



Mark and Mike Tagliatela with Sales Manager Mark Foisey, Jr.

News for Pet Owners and Lovers in Orange

Husse has finally come to Orange. For 30 years, this Swedish company has been delivering its own high quality pet foods and products directly to customers' doors. Up until now, there was only one other franchise territory in the entire state. In an announcement from the company, brothers Mark and Mike Tagliatela, of Orange, will now be delivering Husse in its own branded vehicle.

All Husse pet foods are GMO-free and made to the highest standards of the European Union. Adherence to these standards has resulted in there never being a single recall in the more than 50 countries in which Husse operates, including the U.S. Husse offers a wide-ranging line of pet foods that includes grain-free and sensitive digestive formulations, as well as foods for puppies, active adults, and seniors. As a result of Husse's rigorous manufacturing standards, the foods are highly

digestible. Husse representatives worldwide are trained extensively in nutrition, as are Mike and Mark Tagliatela of Summit Drive. The brothers, who are attorneys in town, decided to join Husse after running their own law practice for many years. Being a part of the four-legged friend community, Mark and Mike found a dire need for healthy pet food. Then they discovered Husse. "Mark and Mike come to Husse with dedication to contributing to the healthy lives of pets. Their energy will make them a great team to grow the brand here in Connecticut," said Mark Foisey Jr, Sales Manager at Husse. The brothers can be reached via email newhaven@hussenortheast.com or by phone (866) GO-HUSSE. They are very excited about helping to keep pets in Orange and the New Haven County well-fed and healthier in the New Year.



Gifts collected at the Orange sales office for the 2017 Senior Stockings gift drive.



Affiliated agents with the Orange sales office collect gifts for the Yale Toy Closet.

Coldwell Banker Donates to Three Local Charities

The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Orange recently donated toys and volunteers to three local charitable organizations. The donations were made through the Orange sales office's affiliated agents, employees, friends and members of the community. Gifts and toys were donated to the Orange Community Services Adopt a Senior/Family and the Yale Toy Closet, while a decorated Christmas tree with ornaments and gift cards was donated to the Orange Community Assistance Program. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Orange sales office sponsored approximately 25 seniors, adults and young children with Orange Community Services. Through these sponsorships, these community members receive holiday gift bags and stockings. For five years the Orange sales office has been a designated drop-off site for toys for the Yale Toy Closet. The toys are used to help hospitalized pediatric patients come away from their hospitalization with a pleasant memory. These gifts are used not only throughout the holidays, but for other special occasions such as birthdays and other holiday celebrations. The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Orange sales office donated a decorated Christmas tree with gift

cards to local stores and restaurants for the Festival of the Lights and Trees auction to benefit the Orange Community Assistance Program. "It is through generous contributions by the affiliated agents and employees of the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Orange office that we are able to make charitable donations to organizations that assist some of our community's residents. We are pleased to support our neighbors who are facing hardships, especially at this time of year," said Aileen DeFeo, Vice President and Managing Broker of the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Orange. The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Orange is located at 236 Boston Post Road and can be reached at 203-795-2700. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, a leading residential real estate brokerage company in Connecticut and Westchester County, N.Y., operates approximately 51 offices with more than 2,300 affiliated sales associates serving the communities of Connecticut and Westchester County, N.Y. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is part of NRT LLC, the nation's largest residential real estate brokerage company. For more information, please visit ColdwellBankerHomes.com.





Alves Joins Coldwell Banker

Aileen DeFeo, Branch Vice President of the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Orange office, welcomes Sara Alves, a team member of the Shanbrom Real Estate Group, to her team of experienced and dedicated real estate agents.

Sara is passionate about real estate. A professional full-time agent with strong ethics who places her clients first. Her goal is to provide the best service and communication and assist buyers and sellers through the process of their real estate transaction.

Born in Bridgeport, Sara attended schools in Bridgeport and Fairfield. She is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport. Sara has owned property in Bridgeport, as well as in Milford for 20 years, living in the Bayview Beach area of Milford for 15 years. She enjoys traveling, working out, walking and jogging along the shoreline. She is often found beachcombing for finds to create decorations for her home. Sara has built her career in Business Development/Sales, mainly in Medical and Dental, and now in Real Estate,



Sara Alves

focusing on the needs of her customers. Sara can help, if you are looking to buy or sell, single family, condo, investments, rental, second home or relocating out ofstate.

Sara can be reached at Coldwell Banker's Orange office at 236 Boston Post Road at her direct line phone number is 203-685-0556 or email at Sara.Alves@CBMoves.com.

UI, SCG & CNG Award \$417,000 in Grants

Grants Were Issued Under Connecticut's Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program

United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas distributed more than \$417,000 in grants aimed at helping community and neighborhood organizations across the state improve energy efficiency and save on energy costs. The three Connecticut subsidiaries of AVANGRID, Inc. (NYSE: AGR), a diversified U.S. energy company, officially awarded the grants to 56 non-profit organizations during a ceremony at the Energize Connecticut Center in North Haven. The grants, ranging from \$3,000 to nearly \$14,000, were provided under the auspices of Connecticut's Neighborhood Assistance Act tax credit program.

"For our nonprofit partners in Connecticut, we know every dollar saved on energy is a dollar that can instead be spent on programs and services in the community, whether they're training guide dogs for the blind or providing emergency shelter services for women," said Anthony Marone III, president and CEO of Connecticut

operations for Avangrid Networks. "By supporting projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs, we help our partners achieve ongoing savings so they can devote more resources to their mission."

Since 2010, the Connecticut AVANGRID companies have awarded more than \$2.9 million in grants through the state's Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit Program, which provides a corporate tax credit to encourage businesses to provide financial support to qualified local nonprofit organizations.

Projects supported in 2017 include energy-efficient lighting upgrades for Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Inc. in Windsor; window replacements at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission; and improvements at the New Reach, Inc. emergency shelter for women in New Haven. A full list can be found at the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services website, <https://goo.gl/Y2vpDv>

Projects include lighting upgrades.

Did You Know? A New Year, New Numbers to Keep in Mind for 2018

Estate and Gift Tax:

- The federal lifetime exemption for property passing to non-spouse beneficiaries has been increased to \$11,200,000.00.
- The Connecticut lifetime exemption for property passing to non-spouse beneficiaries has been increased to \$2,600,000.00.
- There is still an unlimited gift/estate deduction for property passing to a spouse; however, in order to qualify for the unlimited gift/estate tax deduction the spouse must be a U.S. citizen.
- The amount that can be gifted to any one person without needing to file a gift tax return has been increased to \$15,000.00 per recipient. Additional gifts can be made for qualified medical expenses and qualified education expenses without needing to file a gift tax return.

Long Term Care in a Nursing Facility:

- If one spouse is living at home ("Community Spouse") and the other spouse is living in a nursing home, the amount of non-excluded assets the Community Spouse can keep remains the same at \$120,900.00 (as of the date of this publication).
- If one spouse is living at home and the other spouse is living in a nursing home, the minimum amount of monthly income the Community Spouse can have has been increased to \$2,030.00, and the amount it can be increased to, without an administrative hearing, has been increased to \$3,022.50.
- If one spouse is living at home and the other spouse is living in a nursing home, the amount of equity in the family home that can be excluded has been increased to \$840,000.00.

Long Term Care Provided in Your Home:

- The amount of monthly income you can have and still be eligible for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) has been increased to \$2,205.00.
- The amount of monthly income that triggers a co-pay requirement has been increased to \$2,010.00.
- Use of a pooled trust for excess income to establish eligibility or to avoid co-pays remains a viable option.

If you are interested in learning more about how these 2018 numbers affect you and your family 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, and Nicole M. Camporeale of the law firm Floman DePaola, LLC are the authors of this advertisement. This advertisement 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 advertisement without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY JOHN ULATOWSKI





Students of a recent Youth Services Artist Colony Watercolor class taught by Audrey Galer.

Youth Services Job Bank Residents Can Assist With Variety Of Jobs

Orange Youth Services Job Bank provides a service of pre-screened students, ages 13-16, who can be employed by area residents to do a large variety of jobs such as yard work,

garden help, raking, snow shoveling, mother's helper, and more. For further information, please contact John Ulatowski, Orange Youth Services Coordinator at 203-891-4785.

Youth Services High School Volunteers Can Assist With Community Events

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

their necessary school volunteer credit hours. They are available for a variety of community and organizational services located in Orange. For information, please email John Ulatowski, Orange Youth Services Coordinator, at julatowski@orange-ct.gov.

O.V.F.D. Auxiliary Pancake Supper

The Orange Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will hold its 9th annual Pancake Supper on Wednesday, February 28th at Chip's Restaurant, 321 Boston Post Road, Orange. Menu includes Pancakes, Eggs, choice of Bacon or Sausage and beverage.

There will be an early seating at 5:30 PM and late seating at 6:30 PM. Prices are: \$12.00 for Adults, \$6.00 Children 10 and under, gratuity in-

cluded. Tickets must be purchased in advance as we have a limited number of seats available. Tickets may be purchased from any Auxiliary member or at Knight's Inc., 286 Boston Post Road, Orange. All proceeds benefit the Orange Volunteer Fire Department.

For further information, email Lynn@LMK415@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.orangevfd.com.

From the Tax Collector

BY SANDRA PIERSON



To avoid paying interest on your tax bills, PAY EARLY, and make sure:

- › The correct bill number is listed on all checks and on-line checks,
- › Checks must be signed,
- › Written amount must be legible and match the numeric amount, - if we can't read it we can't process it. Numeric and written amount must match,
- › Your check must be written in pen,
- › Payment coupon should be enclosed with payment to ensure proper posting, and
- › If you pay with an on-line check be sure to make your financial institution aware of the 2/1/18 date.

Acceptable means of receiving a tax payment:

- › Hand to tax office staff or/in office drop slot

- › U.S. Post Office Mail
- › On-line credit card payment
- › FEDEX/UPS

Non-acceptable means of receiving a tax payment:

- › Rear door milk box
- › Front hallway heat register
- › Leaving with another office
- › Slid under office door

As the last day to pay approaches, the office is extremely busy. If you mail in a payment U.S. postmarked on OR prior to February 1, 2018, it is considered on time even if we don't process it until after that date.

If your check is returned for any reason your original post mark doesn't apply. A replacement check must be postmarked by February 1, 2018 to be considered on time.

Town of Orange Meetings for the Month of January 2018



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

15th	Board of Health	7:30 pm	HPCC
16th	Orange Board of Education.....	7:30 pm	Mary L Tracy Bldg
	Town Plan & Zoning Comm	7:30 pm	Town Hall
17th	CERT	7:00 pm	HPCC
	Recycling Cmte	7:00 pm	HPCC
18th	Case Memorial Library Comm	7:00 pm	Case Memorial Lib
22nd	Family Counseling	9:00 am	HPCC
	Youth Services	7:00 pm	HPCC
	Board of Finance	7:30 pm	Town Hall
24th	Safety Comm	9:00 am	Town Hall
	Bond Construction Oversight Cmte	7:30 pm	Town Hall
	Park & Recreation Comm	7:30 pm	Town Hall
25th	Water Pollution Control Authority	7:00 pm	Town Hall
26th	Emergency Management	8:00 am	Police Station



Orange Town News

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“Audit” From Page 7

so we recommend that you consider looking at for your information technology, specifically related to cyber security. Although we do look at your internal control environment in terms of backups and passwords, it is not as specific as some of the issues with

cyber security. One of the things that we recommend is that the district consider having a vulnerability assessment done on their IT systems. That would help identify where there may be some potential risks,” he said.
After the presentation, the board voted in favor of accepting the financial statements from fiscal year 2017.

“Perno” From Page 6

the past 17 years, teaching courses on human services and sociology. He is also an active volunteer, and serves on the board of FISH of Greater New

Haven.
Additional information about Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven, becoming a tutor, or making a charitable donation is available at www.lvagnh.org or by calling 203-776-5899.



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- Real Estate Transactions
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Amity Middle School – Orange Campus

First Marking Period Honor Roll

First Honors 7 th Grade	First Honors 8 th Grade	Second Honors 7 th Grade	Second Honors 8 th Grade
Alana Abrams Faryal Akbar Sedra Alasadi Colin Aronin Giovanni Bonazzoli Bridget Browe Francis Cavallaro Katherine Cesare Justin Chang Hannah Chen Jenna Chizmadia Sophia Cossitt-Levy Ana Debassio Nicholas Digiovanni Emilia Dottori Lauren Fitzgerald Leo Gao Natalie Garcia Kyle Grande Jack Hawes Brandon Hutchison Lucas Ketchian Emma Kirck Izabela Kurpios Trevor Lavallee Jennifer Li Matthew Li Si Ru Liang June Lin Sophia Liu Marco Lopez Rodriguez Jennifer Luo Annika Lyngdal Nicholas Massey Zoe May Maggie Mcdonald Sydney Melchiore Sheehan Munim Savannah Obymachow Jessie Palermo Avery Palmucci Harshil Parmar Robert Pergolotti Michael Perrone Sean Pivovar Aanchal Poddar Sarah Pultz Troy Ramos Caitlyn Richards Isabelle Rosewater Isabella Salvatore Joseph Sansone Luca Santin William Shaw Kyra Shevis Spencer Stratford Sreenidhi Tadepalli Holly Thorndike Craig Wezenski Adam Zhang Samuel Zhang Bill Zheng Athanasia Zikos	Daniela Abreu Anika Agrawal Mitchell Bachman Benjamin Bae Lucia Belbusti Faith Bernier Molly Blair Jack Bordeleau Alison Bowler Aditi Chalasani Cindy Chen David Cho Ryan Cohutt Paul Cortes Emma DelVecchio Mia Dow Matthew Fitol Gillian Fuchs Jake Genovese Chloe Hawkins Seamus Hennessy Claudia Homiski Levi Huss Eze Iheanacho Greta Imre-Seres Niharika Jog Hannah Johnson Zola Kneeland Alexander Kovalsky Jade Krukar Jason Kwon Meredyth Laskowski Makena Legault Ryan Lima Anibal Loureda Scott Lowder Brodey Lu Jessica Luo Jason Marino Aaron Mayerson Bryan McMillion John McNabola Kaia Melville Cassandra Millea John Neary Colby O'Connor Greta Pedenski Senara Perera Varun Prabhu Emma Quaranta Akil Rajendran Liliana Restrepo Corey Richards Colleen Shaw Melanie Sherrick Eric Song Pranav Sundararajan Liam Tassiello Jacqueline Tice Julianna Tran Anna Varholak Rose Wegman Jayne Whitman Megan Wu Tiffany Yang Nolan Young Ivy Zheng	Omar Almashi Elizabeth Antalik Andrew Aronin Kwesi Asiedu Jayden Benichak Adana Blair Ashley Blake-Washburn Jessa Bohan Olivia Breving Ryan Burns Jason Byun Christopher Carlson Arielle Chetwynd Patrick Coughlin Marin Cunningham Emma Curis Michael Curley Brandon Cysner Mya Dizenzo Aleksander Duz Timothy Everett Millicent Fuller Brock Goodwin Sarah Granados Yazeed Hasan Lillian Kaempffer Benjamin Lima Dylan Lyons Nyeela Miller Sally Morbidelli Declan O'Rourke Cameran Palermo Julieanne Pereira Mia Perrotti Landon Rocchio Brendan Smith Caitlyn Smith Cassidy Smith Chance Starrett Peter Turner Merina Visnic Jake Woodward	Amal Abbasi Mason Beaudette Hadley Boguniecki Elizabeth Bowler Avery Butt Benjamin Cap Shannon Carrier Myzel Cervera Christian D'Astous Maria Dalle Ave Ashley Daneshfar Ava DeMaio James Denton Keira Droney Adam Glassman Emily Hoddinott Alexandra Hurlburt Jeffrey Hutchinson Amir Jarad Jasmina Krehic Daniella Landino Du Gohn Lee Addison Levy Katelyn Losty Alexandra Louros Kalliopi Maniatis Elizabeth Massey Ethan Moffett Melissa Musante Jonathan Salado Ryan Schumann Caelin Smith Andrew Soldra Gabriel Sousa Robert Stankye Stephen Stardellis Adriana Tufano Andrew Visnic Piper Zschack
Citizenship Recognition – 7 th Grade			
Sedra Alasadi Kwesi Asiedu Katherine Cesare Hannah Chen Sophia Cossitt-Levy Patrick Coughlin	Ana Debassio Millicent Fuller Sarah Granados Jack Hawes Brandon Hutchison Emma Kirck	Jennifer Luo Giovanni Bonazzoli Sydney Melchiore Kyra Shevis Sreenidhi Tadepalli	
Citizenship Recognition – 8 th Grade			
Daniela Abreu Benjamin Bae Molly Blair Gianna Borrelli Alison Bowler Benjamin Cap Ryan Cohutt Jake Genovese Chloe Hawkins Seamus Hennessy Padraig Haughton	Zola Kneeland Jasmina Krehic Meredyth Laskowski Anibal Loureda Alexandra Louros Brodey Lu Aaron Mayerson Greta Pedenski Emma Quaranta Emily Reed	Liliana Restrepo Jenna Ricciardi Ryan Schumann Colleen Shaw Pranav Sundararajan Liam Tassiello Anna Varholak Rose Wegman Jayne Whitman Megan Wu	

ARTS & LEISURE



Casey Carle’s Bubble Mania!

Presented By Orange Community Women

Orange Community Women (OCW) presents “Casey Carle’s Bubble Mania” on Saturday, January 20th, 2018 at High Plains Community Center at 3:00pm. Bubble Mania is a highly-acclaimed show combining the science of bubbles with theatrical showmanship and comedy. Its website describes the show as an “extremely unique program combining high energy entertainment with artistic achievement. Bubble Mania is loaded with visual comedy, quick wit, big band swing music and the untamed, often unbelievable qualities and beauty of spherical liquids.” This will be a wonderful community event and lots of fun for all ages.

Tickets are \$5 in advance before January 15th or \$7 at the door, and under 1 yr. are free. Contact Michelle Bailey for tickets at fbailey1@optonline.net/203-605-4383 or any OCW member. Ticket order forms are also available at the library or can be sent via email if requested.

Orange Community Women is a chapter of Connecticut Junior Women, Inc.

We seek to unite the women of Orange and surrounding areas by participating in community service and providing enrichment, leadership and social interaction. Proceeds from the show will be used to fund our various projects which include: awarding scholarships to Amity students, donating children’s books to the library, collecting for veterans, organizing activities for the Tracy Bunch (a group of special needs adults sponsored by Orange Community Services), visiting and working with the seniors at Silverbrook Estates, and donating holiday food baskets and gift cards to Orange Community Services. We also contribute our time, talent and funds to other organizations such as Days for Girls, Manes and Motions - Therapeutic Riding Center and Female Soldiers/Forgotten Heroes. Proceeds from this fundraiser support projects such as these.

For more information on Orange Community Women, contact Donna Wesolowski at donnaweso@optimum.net.



“Languages of Art”

Paintings & Sculptures in Orange

Watercolors, oil paintings, and sculptures by three New England artists, whose styles and media vary, will be on display during January at the Case Memorial Library, 176 Tyler City Road, Orange, Conn. The joint exhibition features oils and water-

color paintings by the late Joseph Barber, also watercolors by Dennis Gentle, and metal sculptures by Doug Toth.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. For the Library’s hours, call (203) 891-2170.

Kol Shira

A Celebration of Jewish Music

Religious school students and teachers, rabbis, cantors, cantorial soloists and instrumentalists from seven area synagogues will come together on Sunday, January 28 at 10:00 am, for a morning of singing in celebration of the power of Jewish music. The concert, which will take place at The Towers, 18 Tower Lane, New Haven, is free and open to the public. Please bring your friends and your voices and RSVP to the Towers if you plan to attend.

The participating congregations include Congregations B’nai Jacob (Woodbridge), Beth El-Keser Israel (New Haven), Mishkan Israel (Hamden) Or Shalom (Orange); Temple Beth David (Cheshire); Temple Beth Tikvah

(Madison); and Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven (Orange).

This annual concert is dedicated to the memory of the music and legacy of Debbie Friedman, z”l, a Jewish musician who died in 2011. In addition to several iconic songs by Friedman, traditional tunes and songs by two generations of musicians who were influenced and inspired by her ability to bring a woman’s voice and perspective into late 20th century Jewish music, and to write accessible songs combining liturgy and social commentary, will be performed.

For more information about this event, please go to the Temple Emanuel website, www.tegnh.org, or call the temple office at 203-397-3000.



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Pictured (left to right): Jessica Rizzo of the Woodbridge Social Restaurant, Amity High School Counselor Gerilyn Ferguson, Student of the Month Christina Emmerthal and her parents Ronald and Denise Emmerthal, Rotary President Tony Anastasio, Rotarian Dr. Guy Stella, and Dr. Vince Scarpetti, Orange Superintendent of Schools.

Emmerthal Named Student of the Month

The Woodbridge Rotary Club recently honored Amity High School senior Christina Emmerthal as Student of the Month for November. Each month, the Woodbridge Rotary Club and Woodbridge Social Restaurant partner to honor an Amity High School Student on a monthly basis. Christina was nominated by her School Counselor Gerilyn Ferguson who stated that she is known for her integrity, empathy, and diligent work ethic. While she has placed an emphasis on her academic success, Christina has also made tremendous personal growth through her extracurricular involvement. Her academic record has resulted in a standing in the top 15% of a competitive senior class. Her academic success has resulted in membership in both the National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society. While she has placed an emphasis

on her academic success, Christina has also made tremendous personal growth through her extracurricular involvement. Christina’s extracurricular activities involve her in both the school and community. In her sophomore year she joined JSA, Junior Statesmen of America. She has since become increasingly more involved in the club, attending conventions in New York City and Boston. Her passion for government and political science has grown as a result of her involvement in the club. Christina is currently the President of Teen Teaching. In this club, students visit the J.S. Martinez School in New Haven where they are placed in a classroom to assist the teacher and make connections with students. Other activities include being a four-year member of the Field Hockey program and being a pianist.

Jewish Genealogical Society of CT to Hold Monthly Meeting

Please join the Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 1:30pm at Temple Sinai, 41 West Hartford Road, Newington. They will present “Sharing the Bounty of the 2017 International As-

sociation of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference in Orlando” immediately followed by Assisted Research facilitated by our Board Members. The program is free and open to the public. Please check out website, www.jgsct.org, for additional information.



Hiking West Rock Ridge State Park-October 1

Boy Scout Troop 41 Update

BY SAMUEL MARTIN

Troop 41 has enjoyed a fun-filled first half of our 2017-18 calendar. In early September, the troop started off our year by gathering around a roaring campfire for our Court of Honor, during which members were recognized for their achievements at summer camp and received their hard-earned merit badges. Overall, some two dozen badges were awarded. On September 22-24, a group of senior scouts represented Troop 41 at Camp Sikorsky in Stratford. Along with scouts from across the state of CT, these boys had the privilege of taking a behind-the-scenes tour of the Sikorsky facility, exploring the interiors of various aircrafts and land vehicles, and taking merit badge classes from trained Sikorsky employees. On October 20-22, the troop visited one of its regular stomping grounds, Camp Horace A. Moses in Russell, MA for a weekend of fun, relaxation, and advancement. The troop stayed at its favorite campsite overlooking the lake. Just like always, the boys took full advantage of the human foosball court; it is just like the classic arcade game, only the ground serves as the table and the boys are the soccer players. When not playing human foosball, troop members focused on advancement skills and cooking. Younger scouts learned how and when to use different types of lashings and how to safely handle a saw, axe, and pocket knife. Scout-designed and executed meals did not disappoint, the highlight being an amazing shakshouka (a middle-eastern egg dish) and deep-fried Oreos. The next outing took the boys back in time with a visit to Sturbridge Vil-

lage in early November. Scouts witnessed authentic demonstrations of period workers, including a blacksmith, shoemaker, and butcher. Campsite activities included Frisbee, an outdoor movie, and lots of great cooking in true Troop 41 fashion. The trip was highly educational as well as enjoyable. Troop 41 is also very active in giving back to the community. On Veterans Day, representatives from the troop presented the colors at the Veterans Day ceremony at High Plains Community Center in Orange. There are currently six scouts in the process of planning their Eagle Scout community service projects which promise at least 100 hours of service per project and numerous opportunities for the whole troop to get involved. Most recently, troop members enjoyed a day-trip to the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA. The boys viewed numerous artifacts pertaining to the history of basketball including a model of the first basketball hoop, jerseys of famous players, and a variety of basketballs from throughout the decades. The next Court of Honor was held on Monday, December 18. Nearly every scout was recognized with badges and rank advancements. If you are a boy, age 11 or older, who likes the outdoors and enjoys learning new skills while having fun, Troop 41 invites you to check them out! The troop meets at the Social Hall of Congregation B’Nai Jacob in Woodbridge. Boys from all surrounding towns are encouraged to join. For more information, please email the troop at contact_us@woodbridge41.mytroop.us.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Left: Flora the Cow. Right: VP Nancy Bartle, Marion Rizzo & President Linda Bradford. [Photos by Linda Bradford]

Flora Joins Garden Club of Orange

The Garden Club of Orange recently welcomed a “new member”. Originally from Quechee, Vermont, Flora the Purple Calf was donated to the club by former Orange resident Deborah Rizzo Bernal. Painted with bright yellow flowers Flora was introduced to members at their recent

holiday wreath workshop. Flora will make her first public appearance at the May Market on Saturday, May 12, 2018.

The Garden Club of Orange is a member of the FGCCT, NEGC, & NGC. For member information, call Joanne Friedrichs 203-795-4266.



From left to right: Pat Dray, Gail Nixon & Maryellen Bespuda. [Photos By Brenda Zandri]

Nixon & Bespuda Win Top Awards

Gail Nixon and Maryellen Bespuda received high honors at The Garden Club of Orange Small Standard Holiday Home Placement Flower Show held in December. Gail Nixon earned the Designer’s Choice Award, and the Holiday Excellence Award for the highest scoring blue ribbon design exhibit. Maryellen Bespuda won the Grower’s Choice Award for her blue ribbon winning lavender topiary and also earned the Award of Excellence for the highest scoring exhibit in the Horticultural

division. Other blue ribbon winners included Pat Dray for a Petit Design as well as the CT Judges Design Award; Larry Huzi and Diane Geary each earned blue ribbons design awards. Nancy Bartle, Pat Nizen and Sandra Horling were blue ribbon winners in the Horticulture Division. The Garden Club of Orange is a member of the FGCCT, NEG & NGC. For membership information contact Joanne Friedrichs 203-795-4266.

Knights of Columbus Holds Ziti Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Father Breen Assembly will hold a Ziti dinner on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at its new location, 240 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford, CT. The dinner will be from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and open to public. The cost is \$10 for Adult and Children (under 10) is \$5, also a 50/50 raffle and other prizes. Please make

check payable to the K OF C and mail payment to Joseph Lucisano, 93 Berkeley Terrace, Milford, CT 06460. The payment must be in by January 18, 2018. If you have a group of 8 or 10 people, call Joe to reserve a table for your group. Any questions, call Joe at 203-878-8343 or email me at lucejk@aol.com.



Pictured are Eileen Lopez-Cordone, UI’s Community Development Specialist, Amity Teen Center Program Director Jennifer DiBlanda, Amity Teen Center President Jane Oppen and Al Carbone, Manager of Community and Government Relations for AVANGRID.

Amity Teen Center Recieves Grant

On December 19, at a ceremony held at the Energize Connecticut Center in North Haven, the Amity Teen Center received a Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program grant from AVANGRID, Inc. for \$9,283.98. This grant is aimed at helping community neighborhood organizations across the state improve

energy efficiency and save on energy costs. AVANGRID’s Connecticut companies, United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas are grateful for this opportunity to support nonprofit organizations that improve our neighborhoods and communities.



An architectural rendering of the fitness lounge, with a view into the fitness room.



Judy Alperin takes reporters through the JCC, showing off the newly designed fitness area



Reporters get a hard-hat tour through the JCC.



A new color scheme gives the familiar hallway an updated feel.

Fitness Facility Moves Back to JCC

Grand Opening Planned for March

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A year of soul-searching allowed the members and the leadership of the Jewish Community Center to develop a new vision for the building at 360 Amity Road, which was closed for much of 2017 to recover from a devastating fire in December 2016. But parts of the facility, reopened recently, offering familiar activities in new and improved spaces; and planning for new activities that will instill excitement and new uses for the 25-year-old building.

"We are going to recapture every square inch of this building," said Judy Alperin, CEO of the Jewish Federation, when she took local media on a tour of what was then still largely a construction site. Since then, many activities have returned to the building. A grand opening is scheduled for March 18.

The Jewish Community Center offers a pool and gym facility as well as spa membership; a library and classrooms, an auditorium, café, as well as offices for the Jewish Federation. It is open to people of all faiths. There is a preschool and an after-school program. "This is a non-profit community center built on Jewish values," said

Debbie Brander, director of member and community Engagement.

By last week, the spinning and fitness classes had returned to new equipment and bigger spaces. The pool was the first facility to open back in the summer, along with racquet ball court. So far there are temporary changing rooms, but by the end of January the hope is for fully installed, high-end lockers. Babysitting is being offered in a larger space than previously available, and come February, a new café is slated to open featuring Willoughby coffee and take-way food.

A new feature will be a multi-sport floor on one side of the gym, which will allow new activities such as floor hockey, pickle ball and indoor soccer. Basketball teams are currently still playing at Hopkins School, but are expected to return as soon as the gym floor is done. Another new feature that is highly anticipated is a climbing wall, a fun and challenging activity for kids and adults.

One issue that weighed on everyone's mind after a string of threatening phone calls to Jewish centers throughout the nation was how to improve security and yet make people feel welcome at the same time. The

redesigned entry will have a sign-in desk opposite the main door. Everyone will have to sign in, and a concierge will be available to direct people who don't know where to go. A state grant will also help with additional security features, such as additional cameras.

"It is not often that we get a chance to stop and hit the pause button," Alperin said of the unanticipated exile. But this was such an opportunity. The vision took shape when members expressed their ideas in town-hall-style meetings, through a survey and in focus groups. "We listened," Alperin said. What they found was that people wanted to come back to the familiar building.

Things are taking shape very quickly, and the basketball court, the climbing wall and the locker rooms are all expected to be finished by the end of January. New tiles have been installed in the future café space. Furniture has been delivered for a new lounge outside the fitness area.

The spa will be the very last thing to be completed, with new, in-ground whirlpools. There will be lifts to lower handicapped people into the whirlpool. Generally there will be a new emphasis on making the different

activities more accessible for people with physical handicaps, in particular the locker and shower facilities. The library will get a special reader for the eye-sight impaired.

The Vine auditorium will get new lighting and new floors as well as a new sound system. The former teen lounge will become a "Maker Space," with room for messy hobbies such as pottery and woodworking; and for a space for sewing.

A new feature will be a co-working office space, where people can plug in and get their work done. Dubbed for its sponsor the "Hurwitz Hub," the business center will function like a home office. It can also be used to offer monthly programming, such as for networking, storytelling or using social media for small businesses.

To make all these new ideas a reality, the JCC has launched a \$2 million capital campaign, of which they already raised half. The improvements also include 14 new HVAC units to be installed on the roof as well as an additional solar array. The existing solar carports were not damaged by the fire, Alperin said. Coupled with a natural gas-powered co-gen unit, the center can almost be off the grid, Alperin said.



Q: I really like the girl who plays the sister on **“The Goldbergs”** and think she has a wonderful voice. Will she try to pursue a career in singing as well as acting? -- Denise W., via email

A: **Hayley Orrantia**, who plays Erica Goldberg on the hilarious family comedy that centers on the trials and tribulations of growing up in the 1980s, began singing as a child and recorded her own songs at the age of 14. In 2011, she was a contestant on the first season of **“The X-Factor”** and was eliminated in week five. When she was cast as Erica in **“The Goldbergs”** in 2013, creator/writer **Adam F. Goldberg** heard about her singing talent, and he incorporated that into her character.

Hayley will be going on the road this spring in the Strong, Sweet and Southern Tour. She has been building up her country/pop music career and is excited to get out and perform for her fans. Says Hayley: “I couldn’t be more excited to get a chance to meet everyone and share music that has been deeply inspired by this wild last year of my life. I’m looking forward to meeting and personally thanking the fans who have followed my musical journey from the beginning, and those who have found me through **“The Goldbergs.”**” Go to hayleyorrantia.com to see if she’ll be performing near you.

Q: My mom heard they were making a movie about **Jody Arias** and the murder mystery surrounding the death of her ex-boyfriend. Is this true, and if so, what can you tell us about it? -- Gilda F., Land O’ Lakes, Florida

A: **“Investigation Discovery”** will air a three-part limited series surrounding the events, beginning Sun-



Hayley Orrantia [ABC/Craig Sjodin]

day, Jan. 14, at 10/9c as part of its American Murder Mystery franchise. For those unfamiliar with the horrific case, on June 4, 2008, friends found 30-year-old **Travis Alexander** dead in the shower of his Mesa, Arizona, home. He was stabbed more than 20 times, his throat was slit and he was shot in the head. Alexander’s family and friends were stunned, and phone calls flooded the police station with tips and information about the case. Alexander’s family and friends point to one key person of interest: Jodi Arias.

Q: Can you tell me when **“Victoria”** will return to PBS? I am hooked on that show! -- Allan T., via email

A: The critically acclaimed period drama that revolves around the young queen of England will return for its second season on Jan. 14 at 9 p.m. ET/PT. **Jenna Coleman** returns as Victoria, as does **Tom Hughes** as **Prince Albert** and **Rufus Sewell** as the prime minister. Joining the cast is legendary actress **Dame Diana Rigg** (**“Game of Thrones,” “The Avengers”**), who plays the **Duchess of Buccleuch**, the court’s new Mistress of the Robes. She’s a fount of old-fashioned good sense for the queen, who is now in the throes of motherhood.

Write to Cindy at [KingFeaturesWeeklyService, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803](mailto:KingFeaturesWeeklyService@628VirginiaDrive.com); or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

Did You Know?

Aerial yoga is a relatively new form of the Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline of yoga. Inspired by aerial gymnastics, calisthenics, pilates, and, of course, yoga, aerial yoga is sometimes referred to as “anti-gravity yoga.” This unique form of yoga involves the use of hammocks suspended from the ceiling that support practitioners’ bodies, allowing them to work against gravity. Popular aerial yoga poses include aerial lunges, the half boat pose, the reclining

angle pose, and the one-legged king pigeon pose. Though aerial yoga is a recent phenomenon, those interested in pursuing this unique form of exercise can seek more information at local yoga studios. Unlike traditional yoga that many people can practice at home without supervision, aerial yoga participants should only perform the poses under the direction and supervision of professionals to reduce their risk of injury.



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The 3s and 5s classes at Orange Community Nursery School enjoyed a holiday sing along. The classes enjoyed playing bells and singing favorite songs with Ms. Cindy at the piano.

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If You're Looking For An Amazing Colonial Home In Orange - Read This

Orange, CT - If you're looking for an amazing Colonial Home in Orange, the new **2018 Guide To Orange Colonial Home Prices** will be very helpful for you.

There are over 1,100 colonial homes in Orange and you want to be able to find the right one for your needs. This guide gives you all the information you need to make a smart decision about which colonial home is just right for you.

Here's What You Get In The Guide:

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2. Market Data on all colonial homes sold in Orange over the last 12 months including days on market and price per square foot. Plus: Information on all the colonials for sale right now.
3. The Orange Colonial Home Market-Watch weekly newsletter, which gives you updates of new colonials as they come on the market and updates on closed prices.

Here's How To Get Your 2018 Guide To Orange Colonial Home Prices:

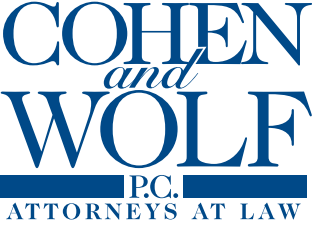
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OrangeColonialHomes.com

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Four year olds at Orange Congregational Church Nursery School prepare for Christmas by singing some holiday favorites.

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HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!



Holiday Caroling

Junior Girl Scout Troop 60253 sang holiday carols at the Orange Senior Center during the month of December. This troop consists of girls from all three Orange elementary schools that have stayed together since kindergarten.

Together, they have bridged from being Daisies back then to Juniors now. All of the girls did a beautiful job singing and also earned their caroling patch.

VA Proud of 2017 Accomplishments

For all the grousing so many of us do about the Department of Veterans Affairs, when you add it all up, there's a lot it did last year. VA Secretary David Shulkin wrapped up the year in a message that highlights all they got accomplished.

- To name just a few:
- With HUD, got 61,000 homeless veterans into housing.
 - Authorized 6.1 million community-care appointments, 42 percent higher than previous year.
 - Raised the level of Service Disabled Veteran Owned businesses to 19 percent, double the goal.
 - Launched Big Data Super Computer to expand research into veterans health.
 - Reduced dropped calls on the Crisis Line from 35 percent to less than 1 percent.
 - Lowered veteran unemployment to 2.6 percent, the lowest in years, and much lower than the U.S. average of 4.4 percent for the year.
 - Helped 1 million veterans use the GI Bill for education.
 - Helped 620,000 veterans with opioid addiction, resulting in a 36 percent drop in use.



The list summed up with a claim that the veteran "trust" score went from 46 percent a few years ago to 70 percent now.

And we can't forget President Donald Trump. No matter what side of the political aisle you sit on, Trump signed nine bills for veterans, plus an Executive Order and three Proclamations. He pushed until he got the 24/7 Hotline for Veterans, and actually showed up in person at no less than six veteran events. Vice President Pence was there too, at Honor Flight ceremonies and Wounded Warrior rides.

It's easier to take the measure of a man when you can see him in person, or at least on a video. If you want to view Shulkin's end of year message to all of us, go on YouTube at youtu.be/1I8d_nMFU14 to see him talk about the progress the VA made in 2017.

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."
— RALPH WALDO EMERSON



Some students at Holly Hill Childcare along with Pre-School teacher Kristen Bean (far left), Assistant Director Debbie Fedorko (left), Head Infant teacher Paula Curry (seated, center), Pre-School teacher Barb DeRosa (right) and Head Toddler Two teacher Patty Bocco (far right). Holly Hill has been a part of this wonderful teddy bear drive since it opened its doors in 2010.

Holly Hill Childcare Collects Bears for Children's Hospital

In the spirit of giving, Holly Hill Childcare and Learning Center of Orange has been very busy this holiday season collecting teddy bears and other stuffed animals for the 19th annual "Teddy Bears with Love" drive.

Thanks to the generosity of the students of Holly Hill, their parents, our staff, and Ann Marie & Jim's Cleaning Service, 91 stuffed animals were collected. A lovely Bethany woman whose real name is Candy Cain (no, I am not kidding!) hand crocheted 4

beautiful bears for our drive! All of these bears will be given to children to snuggle with in Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital this holiday season.

This project is the brain-child of the Fairfield University Student Alumni and since its inception nineteen years ago, the "Teddy Bear with Love" drive has put smiles on the faces of thousands of children in area hospitals and facilities. We hope this helps make their holidays bright!



Recorder Club Performs

The Peck Place Recorder Club performed at the Orange Health Care Center for residents and staff during the month of December. The children played songs on their recorders and also sang carols. Some residents were able to join in with the bells they were given to jingle and tambourines to shake.

The recorder club consists of 4th grade students that practice once a week during recess time. They hope to return for another performance in the spring.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom 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 7:00 PM; Saturday 9:30 PM

Coffee and Learn with the Rabbi

Every Wednesday (please call the office for schedule) Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus teaches an hour- long class devoted to the ancient texts of our heritage and the light they shed on the current issues. The class begins at 11:00 am and ends at 12 noon sharp. All Welcome. Please call the office to confirm class is meeting. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Adult Education Movie

The Women’s Balcony, Sunday, January 14, 2018, 2:00pm

An Orthodox Synagogue is celebrating a Bar Mitzvah when the Synagogue’s women’s balcony suddenly collapses! The elderly Rabbi, stricken with shock, is unable to cope with the challenge. A young, ultra- Orthodox Rabbi, however, arrives to fill the vacuum - and that’s when the plot begins to sizzle. The devout Rabbi informs the women, “The accident happened because you weren’t dressing modestly enough!” “Women’s Balcony” is a delightful much acclaimed comedy with a profound message about religious extremism. Released in 2016, with subtitles Screenwriter: Shlomit Nehama “The Womens Balcony” is a huge box office hit in Israel. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Learn to Read the 4 Questions By Passover!!

Announcing a new Learn-to-Read



Congregation Or Shalom

Hebrew Class! Beginning Saturday January 20th. On 6 consecutive Shabbat mornings, following services, Rochelle Hutchings, a member of our Synagogue, will remain to teach anyone interested how to read Hebrew! The class will begin @ approx 11:45 am and last 40 minutes. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Blood Drive

Tuesday, January 30, 2018- 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

DONATE BLOOD, BECOME A HERO FOR PATIENTS IN NEED! American Red Cross heroes come in all shapes and sizes. They don’t wear capes or special suits, and their badge of honor is the bandage that shows they gave the “gift of life”. Each presented donor will receive a Dunkin Donuts Gift Card. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or redcrossblood.org, enter 725 to schedule an appointment.

ZUMBA GOLD at Or Shalom

Congregation Or Shalom announces the continuation of ZUMBA GOLD on Tuesday and Thursday 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.

Orange Congregational Church Services

Orange Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 205 Meeting House Lane, Orange, CT 06477, 203-795-9749, invites you to come to one of our two weekly Sunday Worship Services: at 8 a.m. in the Chapel or 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

As well as our regular Church School program for children who attend the 10:00 a.m. worship service, every Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. there is a child-care experienced Crib Room Attendant for all birth to Pre-K children whose parents or guardians are attending worship service.

For upcoming events, our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2018 in the Sanctuary after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The following week, the Pilgrim Fellowship youth will have its annual “Freeze-out” in front of the church on the evening of



Orange Congregational Church

February 2nd until the next morning. This night is spent outside in shifts by the youth as they inhabit makeshift shelters, hoping to raise awareness and funds which will reduce homelessness. Our church-wide Annual Chili Cook-off will be held on Saturday, February 3rd from 3-6 p.m. in the John Ho Dining Room. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on February 13th from 5-7 p.m. also in the Dining Room.

Services & Events at The First Church of Christ

Happy 2018. The First Church of Christ invites all members of the community to join us at 5 Meeting House Lane in Woodbridge for the following weekly services and special 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 with lessons based on the life and teaching of Jesus.

Confirmation Class for children in 7th – 9th grades meets the first Sunday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the parish House.

Middle School Youth Group for 5th – 8th graders – the January meeting of the youth group will be on Sunday the 14th at 4 p.m. The group will be mak-



The First Church of Christ

ing fleece scarves which they will then distribute in downtown New Haven.

Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., in the Parish House. We study both Old and New Testament passages based on the Lectionary. Bible study is open to the community so everyone in the community is welcome.

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



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

HEBREWS 4:13,14



Detail of “Hand of God” by Clare Leighton (1952)



ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest. We will publish them for free.

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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 12-8; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10-5; Saturday 10-4. The Library will be closed Monday, January 15 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents Day.

Events For Adults

Book Discussions

Books and Breakfast: Morning Discussion Group

Tuesday, January 16, 10 a.m.

Join Books & Breakfast leader Carol Davidson for a discussion of *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. Check for copies at the Circulation Desk.

The Bookcase: Evening Discussion Group

Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m.

Join The Bookcase leader Toby Zabinski for a discussion of *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore. Check for copies at the Circulation Desk.

2018 Oscar Films

Preliminary film schedule to be announced in February.

Rhythms of the World with Handler and Levesque

Saturday, February 24, 1 p.m.

Experience an exuberant celebration of cultures with this exceptional program of music from around the world. Presented by the Friends of the Library in celebration of its 25th anniversary. Registration is required and begins Saturday, February 3.

Events For Teens

Book Chat Café

For Amity Middle School students who love to read and share their opinions over refreshments. Held at the Amity Middle School Media Center. Please see Ms. Liebrock to join and for more information about meeting dates and times.

Events For Children

3-5 Year Olds Storytime

Mondays, 4 p.m.

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. Registration is not required. No storytime January 15 or February 19.

Lapsit Storytime



Case Memorial Library

176 Tyler City Road, Orange, CT 06477
203-891-2170 • www.casememoriallibrary.org

Tuesdays, 10:30 p.m.

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, plus explore touch-and-feel books. Registration is not required.

2-Year-Old Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Audience participation is highly encouraged at this storytime session just for 2s. Enjoy books, stories, music and movement, fingerplays and puppetry together. Registration is not required.

STEM Storytime

Saturdays, January 27;

February 24, 10:30 a.m.

Can a fairytale or picture book really be used to teach science? See how with Ms. Michelle! We'll read the book together as a group, learn more about the story through our re-telling, then make a scientific craft or try some hands-on experiments together. This story time is designed for children ages 3-5, but older siblings are welcome. Registration begins three weeks in advance of the storytime date.

Tween Event: Make Your Own Bubblegum

Wednesday, January 17, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

For children in grades 4-6.
Case Memorial Library Craft Room
You've probably chomped it, chewed it, and stretched it, but do you know how to make bubblegum? Learn the science and history behind this mouthwatering treat as we whip up a batch of our own. Registration is required and begins December 27.

Squishy Circuits with Cool-ology®

Thursday, January 25, 4-5 p.m.

For children in grades K-6.

Are you ready to experience STEAM in action? We'll learn all about electrical conductors and insulators. Then, using conductive and resistant play dough, participants will design and build their own electronic sculptures that light up, make sounds and more! Registration is required and begins January 4.

Up, Up, and Away! Balloon Science Challenge

Wednesday, January 31, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

For children in grades 3-6.

Learn the science of hot air balloons with some hands-on experiments in flight! After a brief demonstration, we'll provide everyone with materials so they can make a flying balloon of their own. Registration is required and begins January 10.

Take Your Child to the Library Day: Li Liu, Chinese Acrobat

Saturday, February 3,

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

For children of all ages.

Spend Take Your Child to the Library Day watching a one-woman acrobatic performance by world renowned Chinese acrobat Li Liu! Marvel at such jaw-dropping feats as hand balancing, plate spinning, artistic cycling, ribbon dancing, diabolos & foot juggling. A limited number of volunteers will get to join Li onstage to create an impromptu ribbon dance and also to try their hand at plate spinning. Registration is required and begins January 13. Sponsored by the Shirley Martin Prown Fund.

Valentine Card Making

Wednesday, February 7,

3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

For children grades K-3.

Make a special Valentine for a friend or loved one at this fun and easy craft session. Registration is required and begins January 17.

Tween Event: Brownies in a Mug

Wednesday, February 14, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

For children in grades 4-6.

Enjoy a twist on this classic treat with our "kitchen hacked" version! Our brownies in a mug recipe will be your new favorite. We'll provide the dry ingredients, you add the rest at home and enjoy. Please be advised that we will be working with ingredients that may contain allergens. Registration is required and begins January 24.

"The Fir Tree" Drama Workshop with Ingrid Schaeffer

Tuesday, February 20, 1-2:30 p.m.

For children ages 5-10.

In the forest, a tiny fir tree wishes to grow up and do great things like the other trees of the woodlands. But while he despairs, he misses the beauty of the fresh air, gentle sunlight, and soothing wind that surround him. Ingrid Schaeffer will read this poignant short story aloud and provide costumes and props. Then, we'll re-enact the story together. Participants will also complete an art activity based on the book as part of the workshop. Registration is required and will open on Tuesday, January 30, 2018. This drama workshop is generously funded by a grant from the Orange Foundation Trust U/A, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee.

No Bake Kids' Cooking Class with Courtney Huggins

Wednesday, February 21, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

For children ages 5-10.

Make tasty, healthy recipes with Courtney Huggins, Orange ShopRite's Registered Dietician! Registration is required and begins January 31. Please notify us of any food allergies at the time of registration so that we may make the proper accommodations.

Art Reception

January: Watercolors by Dennis Gentle, watercolors and acrylics by Joseph Barber, and metal sculpture by Doug Toth, on view January 29.

February: Acrylics by Afaf Khalil and acrylics on wood by Mridula Kumar, on view February 3-28. Reception: February 15, 5-7 p.m.

"Make New Year's goals. Dig within, and discover what you would like to have happen in your life this year. This helps you do your part. It is an affirmation that you're interested in fully living life in the year to come." — MELODY BEATTIE

Books for Babies

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library is pleased to continue to offer the Books for Babies program to encourage early literacy. The gift bags have 2 new books from the Friends, a DVD generously donated from the Read To Grow organization, and supplemental materials to assist new parents with information about the benefits of reading to babies from the very first day to support their process of understanding language.

The free gift bags are available to new parents in Orange and can be picked up in the Children's Dept. at the Library.

Newest Additions To Case Memorial Library

Case Memorial Library, located at 176 Tyler City Road, has added more movies on DVD, Audiobooks and music CDs to its extensive collection. Check them out!

Movies on DVD

- American Horror Story: Roanoke
 - The Beguiled
 - The Dinner
 - Girls Trip
 - Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
 - A Midsummer Night's Dream
 - Snatched
 - Starship Troopers: Traitor of Mars
 - Transformers: The Last Knight
 - Westworld, Season 1
- ### Audiobooks
- Dan Brown -- Origin
 - Hillary Clinton -- What Happened
 - Michael Connelly -- Two Kinds of Truth
 - Jennifer Egan -- Manhattan Beach
 - John Grisham -- The Rooster Bar
 - Mark Manson -- The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck
 - Kate Quinn -- The Alice Network
 - Gabriel Tallent -- My Absolute Darling
 - Jesmyn Ward -- Sing, Unburied, Sing
 - Andy Weir -- Artemis

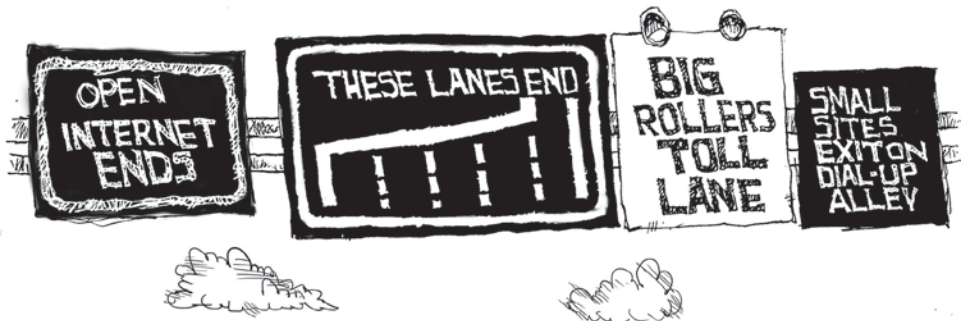
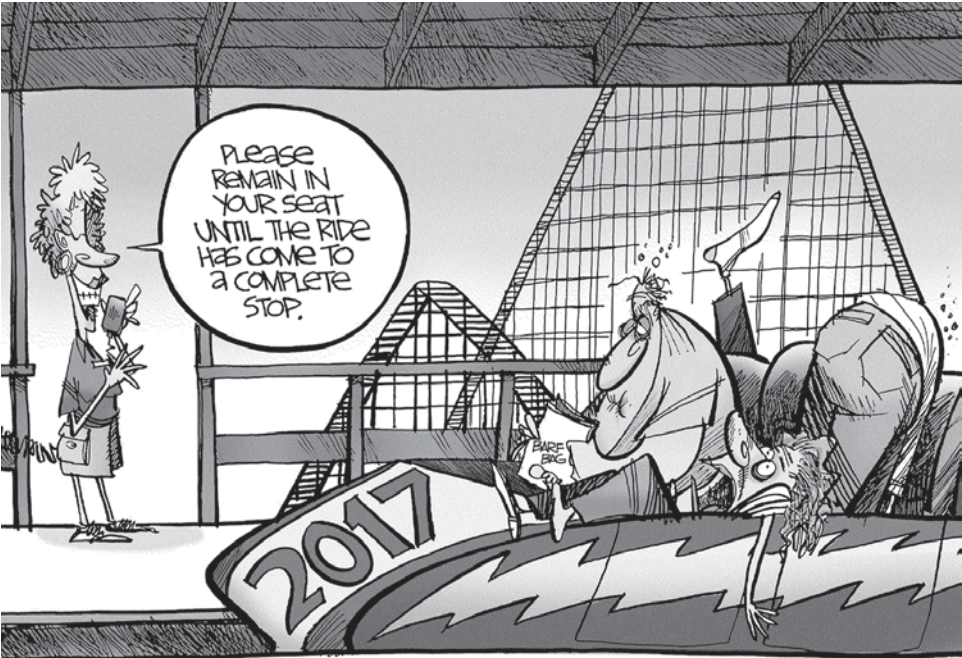
Music on CD

- Beck -- Colors
- Kane Brown (self-titled)
- Bootsy Collins -- World Wide Funk
- King Krule -- The Ooz
- Lang Lang -- New York Rhapsody
- NF -- Perception
- Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers (self-titled)
- Queen -- News of the World
- Kaityln Aurelia Smith -- The Kid
- Tyshawn Sorey -- Verisimilitude

LOCAL SPORTS



Congratulations to Orange residents, Grace Vocalina and Hannah Hutchison on helping the St. Joseph Girls Volleyball team capture the Class M State Championship over host East Haven! The top seeded Cadets (25-2) won the last state title in 1997 and finished with a perfect 16-0 regular season conference record in the FCIAC. Grace and Hannah both attended Turkey Hill School and Amity Middle School before beginning their high school careers at St. Joes in Trumbull. Congratulations!



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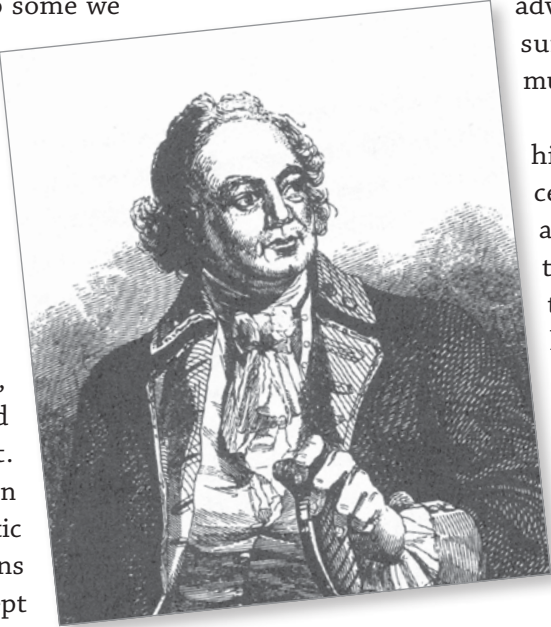
HISTORY CORNER

By GINNY REINHARD



There Are 169 Of Them...

The State of Connecticut has 169 towns, some small and some very large like Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. The little towns, as with the larger ones have stories to tell, stories and tales of long ago some we should believe as gospel and others tongue in cheek. Let's start with Pomfret and Israel Putnam. Putnam was born in Salem Massachusetts in 1718, a town associated with witchcraft. His father had been an outspoken critic of the persecutions of witches and kept a loaded rifle and fast horse saddled at all times. It was into this environment that Israel was born.



The young man hated the classroom but loved the great outdoors where he fished and hunted, getting a full measure of all of nature. Israel came to Connecticut in 1739 and settled on a farm in the Mortlake district of Pomfret but he soon took on the "enemy" when he participated in campaigns against the French and Indians with British forces. He continued to excel in his military career with the legendary event when he alone saved Fort Edwards from being blown up by putting out a fire where 300 barrels of gunpowder were being stored.

Of all of the legends, the one most famous includes the war of nerves. It appears that a British officer said that he had been insulted by Putnam and sent him a nasty note challenging him to a duel. Israel ignored the letter but the officer appeared at his tent demanding a reply. When Putnam replied that he was but a poor farmer who never fired a shot, Israel came up with a plan to show who was the bravest. Now here is where the tongue in cheek comes in. Putnam secured two powder kegs and bored a hole in each one, placing a match into each. The idea was for the officer and Putnam to sit on the kegs and the one seated the longest without squirming was declared the bravest.

The legendary tale has a comical side as the British officer, after conceding was later told, that the barrels were full of onions. With fifteen wounds and memories of a hundred hair-raising adventures, the legend returned home to Pomfret in 1765 but soon donned a military uniform and went full steam ahead into the Revolutionary War. His exploits continued to make him a hero in the true sense of the word with what

has been called Putnam's Valley Forge. It was in Redding that he commanded a contingent of Connecticut and New Hampshire troops during the winter of 1778-1779 under adverse conditions suffering fully as much as they were.

A stroke struck him down in December of 1779 and he went home to live out his last ten years to a home filled with veterans, neighbors and friends. His wife, half-facetiously suggested he "open a tavern so he could charge a

little something to pay for the wear and tear on the furniture."

Who would you nominate for the First Lady of Connecticut? Lady Alice Botelor Fenwick was the bride of Colo-

nel George Fenwick, governor of the infant colony of Saybrook. Not only was she the first noblewoman to endure the rigors of New England but the first white woman to alter history. It seems that Colonel Fenwick was endeavoring to establish a baronial refugee center of Oliver Cromwell and his aristocratic Puritan cronies.

With his young wife's death, Fenwick lost all interest in his efforts to bring Cromwell to the colonies ending what might have changed the history of Connecticut.

Another nominee for first lady could be Ella Grasso, the first woman governor in the state and the first woman in the nation ever elected a states' chief executive in her own right. Governor Grasso held a high place in Connecticut and an argument could be made for her to be the "first lady." History has another idea with that of Goody Barber, not well known but whose varied feats have inspired our folk tales. With Barber's legend, historians have seen proof that Wethersfield was Connecticut's first truly settled town. Tradition tells us that in the spring of 1635, a small group of Puritans set sail from Watertown, Massachusetts to sail around Cape Cod, into Long Island Sound and up the Connecticut River to an area known



by the Native Americans as Pyquag or the dancing place. An earlier group of men had paved the way for these travelers and had set up a few huts to make it through the winter.

Our weary travelers from Massachusetts had to endure squabbling among the menfolk for one reason or another and upon landing the boat at Pyquag, the men were arguing who should have the honor of being the first ashore. Just as several men were about to come to blows, up sprang Goody Barber, hurling herself over the rail into the shallow water. With petticoats billowing, she waded ashore. Now, with Goody Barber being the first white woman to ever set foot on dry land, she turned to the now silent men and gave them her unmistakable gesture of triumph.

One of the most fertile and imaginative minds to come to Connecticut was Abel Buell.

Born in Killingworth in 1742, he showed a strong direction into the arts with leaning toward metalworking. At

an early age, Abel was apprenticed to Ebenezer Chittenden, a talented goldsmith whose work was well-known among the affluent families of the colony. Abel's talent in designing and creating works of beauty made him a favorite with Chittenden and he was raised in the business so that at the age of 19 he was able to marry and begin

life under very fine circumstances. But is that all there is to this story?

No indeed. It seems that shortly after his marriage, neighbors noticed that a light was shining through a small window on the second floor of his home to the wee hours of the morning, night after night. When one neighbor could stand the suspense no longer, he set a ladder against the house and peered into the window. As the story goes, he could hardly keep from a gasp of surprise. There in the flickering light was Abel holding an engraved plate, ink and bundles of paper currency. Yipes, he

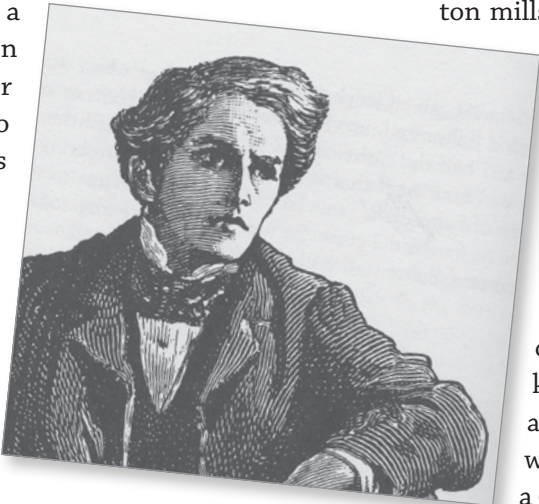
was altering 5-pound notes into large denominations! Making money was not a crime in Connecticut in the 1760s but making big ones out of small ones was indeed wrong.

Counterfeiting or forgery was a serious crime in colonial New England with harsh penalties however, his standing in the community and exemplary conduct weighed in his favor but penalties were very severe at that time and leniency would not be considered lenient today with cropping of his ear, branding on his forehead with the letter "f" and imprisonment in the Norwich prison. The sentence was imposed in the kindest way possible with a small portion of his ear which when kept warm was reattached. The branding was far up on his forehead to allow his hair to hide it and he eventually spent his sentence within the confines of the town.

He soon moved to New Haven where he could start anew. Working with Bernard Romans, the earliest American mapmaker, he was sent to Florida to survey and draw maps of the area. He was suspected of being a spy and a trap was laid for him by the Spanish government. Buell was sent to prison but with his ingenuity he built a boat with the help of an island boy and made his way to a southern Florida port and from there, made his way back to New Haven. Romans had been working on a map of North America and when it was ready to print, during the Revolutionary War, British type* was not available. Buell hired 20 boys to create the type needed for the map in America's first type foundry.

The State Legislature, impressed with Buell, sent him to England to buy copper for coins with a side trip to spy on the newly built textile machines. Before he could leave with his ill-gotten information, Buell came upon a bridge in readiness to collapse. He solved the problem and was given 100 guineas for his advice. So with an ample supply of copper, abundant information on cotton mills and a smuggled

Scotch mill expert, Abel Buell returned to New Haven where he directed the construction of one of the first cotton mills in Connecticut. With all of his knowledge, he died a pauper but his life went through being a goldsmith, forger, jewelry designer, engraver, surveyor, type manufacturer, mint master, bridge engineer, industrial spy and textile miller. Phew...Abel was certainly able.



SENIOR CENTER

Volunteer as English Language Tutor

Literacy Volunteers Offers Tutor Training to Help Local Adults

Make a difference in someone else's life! Did you know there are more than 15,000 people in Milford and Stratford without a high school diploma? Did you know there are more than 1,600 adults who are not fluent in English? Did you know there are 53 non-English languages spoken in these cities? (Data taken from the Milford and Stratford School District Strategic School Profile, 2012-2013.)

Literacy Volunteers is offering volunteer Tutor Training classes in ESL (English as a Second Language) and Basic Literacy.

Tutor Training classes in Milford will be held at Fannie Beach Community Center, 16 Dixon Street, Milford from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21.

Tutor Training classes in Stratford will be held at the Stratford Library, 2203 Main St. Stratford from 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. in Spring 2018.

Volunteer tutors will learn techniques to assist Basic Literacy and ESL students with dialogue, listening comprehension, oral fluency, phonics, reading comprehension and writing skills. No previous teaching experience required! All prospective tutors will be interviewed in advance. For further information, call The Literacy office between the hours of 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 203-878-4800 or stop by the Stratford Library Satellite Office on Mondays, 10:00 - 12:00, Wednesdays, 10:00 - 12:00 or 3:00 - 5:00.

Additionally, if you are interested in working with students preparing for their GED (General Equivalency Diploma) examination, or prefer to help adult students with basic literacy skills, call the Center's office to schedule your orientation meeting.

Literacy Volunteers is part of the ProLiteracy network of adult basic education and literacy programs. ProLiteracy is working with its member programs to raise awareness of available ESL services.

"Non-English speakers in the U.S. can fall behind in education or employment in an already challenging job market," said David C. Harvey, president and CEO of ProLiteracy. "Language barriers can also prevent them from understanding important financial, educational, health care, employment or legal rights issues. By raising awareness of our members' ESL programs, adults in need will know where to find resources that can help them gain skills to address everyday matters."

For more information on Literacy Volunteers of Southern CT's ESL and other volunteer programs, visit www.lvsct.org or call 203-878-4800.

ProLiteracy, based in Syracuse, New York, champions the power of literacy to improve the lives of adults and their families, communities, and societies. It works with adult new readers and learners and with local and national organizations to help adults gain the reading, writing, math, computer, and English skills they need to be successful. ProLiteracy advocates on behalf of adult learners and the programs that serve them, provides training and professional development, and publishes materials used in adult literacy instruction. ProLiteracy has 1,200 member programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and works with 125 nongovernmental international agencies. For more information, please go to www.ProLiteracy.org and www.NewReadersPress.com.

Volunteers Age 55+ Needed

The Agency on Aging of South Central CT has volunteer opportunities for adults age 55+. Volunteers can tutor young children in reading in East Haven, Hamden & New Haven schools and afterschool programs (training provided), help frail seniors organize

their monthly bills, read with a child in a North Haven elementary school, or visit with a homebound senior or a veteran. For more information, call Cherie at 203-785-8533 x2907 or email volunteer@aoascc.org. Also, visit www.aoascc.org.

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Largest Girl Entrepreneurial Program in the World

It's almost Girl Scout Cookie time! On Saturday, January 6, Girl Scouts of Connecticut will kick off the beginning of the 2018 cookie season by hosting two Cookie Rallies to help prepare girls to become the next century of female entrepreneurs! Current Girl Scouts are encouraged to attend and bring a non-Girl Scout friend to join in on the fun and learn about all the benefits of being a Girl Scout!

The Cookie Rallies will be held at Shelton Intermediate School in Shelton and at RHAM High School in Hebron. At the Cookie Rallies, girls will immerse themselves in activities to prepare them to be true cookie bosses this Girl Scout Cookie season. They will learn marketing tips, play games, and have access to a number of marketing tools to help them reach their cookie goals! There will also be tables with general Girl Scout information for non-Girl Scouts who wish to learn more about all of the incredible things that Girl Scouts has to offer!

For over 100 years, Girl Scouts has been the experts on girls. Girl Scouts is the best girl leadership experience in

the world. Only Girl Scouts gives girls access to an inclusive, safe, girl-led, all-female environment where they can try new things, develop a range of skills, take on leadership roles, and feel comfortable failing, dusting themselves off, and trying again.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program, now over 100 years old, is the largest girl entrepreneurial program in the world. Every year, Girl Scouts set goals, make decisions on how to target their customers, develop business ethics, manage money, and learn people skills. Proceeds from your purchase stay local and help power new experiences for her and every awesome G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ who sells Girl Scout Cookies! Whether it's a trip she'll never forget, a service project that will change her community forever, or the opportunity to build a lifetime of memories at camp, Girl Scout Cookies help make it all happen!

To learn about joining Girl Scouts, visit gsocfct.org. To find out when Girl Scouts are selling cookies near you, visit girlscoutcookies.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

TOP 10 MOVIES

1. **Star Wars: Episode VIII -- The Last Jedi (PG-13)**

Daisy Ridley, John Boyega
2. **Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (PG-13)**

Dwayne Johnson, Karen Gillian
3. **Pitch Perfect 3 (PG-13)**

Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson
4. **The Greatest Showman (PG)**

Hugh Jackman, Michelle Williams
5. **Ferdinand (PG)**

animated
6. **Downsizing (R)**

Matt Damon, Christopher Waltz
7. **Coco (PG)**

animated
8. **The Darkest Hour (PG-13)**

Gary Oldman, Lily James
9. **Father Figures (R)**

Owen Wilson, Ed Helms
10. **The Shape of Water (R)**

Sally Hawkins, Octavia Spencer

TOP 10 V.O.D.

1. **Kingsman: The Golden Circle (R)**

Taron Egerton
2. **Despicable Me 3 (PG)**

animated
3. **Home Again (PG-13)**

Reese Witherspoon
4. **American Assassin (R)**

Dylan O'Brien
5. **Detroit (R)**

John Boyega
6. **The Hitman's Bodyguard (R)**

Ryan Reynolds
7. **Wind River (R)**

Kelsey Asbille
8. **Logan Lucky (PG-13)**

Channing Tatum
9. **Atomic Blonde (R)**

Charlize Theron
10. **Home Alone (1990) (PG)**

Macaulay Culkin

COUCH THEATER DVD PREVIEWSBY AMY ANDERSON



Emma Stone, Steve Carrell in “Battle of the Sexes” [20th Century Fox]

EDITOR’S NOTE: DVDs reviewed in this column are available in stores the week of January 1, 2018.

PICKS OF THE WEEK

“American Made” (R) -- Tom Cruise is back behind the controls of a plane as Barry Seal, TWA pilot turned CIA mapmaker turned drug runner. It’s no surprise that Cruise shines in the role of characters that are larger than life, and his pure energy and charisma are on full display. Domhnall Gleeson plays CIA agent Monty, who approaches Seal, then a low-level pilot, to conduct a little extra-curricular surveillance “for his country.” Seal’s drug contacts take advantage by using him to mule ever more drugs, then guns, etc. It’s a wild and dangerous ride, but somehow it all just seems crazy and harmless in the light of that megawatt smile.

“Battle of the Sexes” (PG-13) -- It’s 1973. Social upheaval and the sexual revolution brought us a combination for

the ages: colorful male chauvinist and former men’s champion Bobby Riggs (Steve Carrell) versus the then No. 1 women’s player Billie Jean King (Emma Stone). The match was billed as the Battle of the Sexes, and this movie was well-done start to finish. It would be easy to make a comedy in this framework, but with both players struggling with personal issues off court (Riggs’ gambling addiction and King’s sexual preference), director Simon Beaufoy brings out the humanity point for point.

“Rebel in the Rye” (PG-13) -- Based on the book “J.D. Salinger: A Life,” director Danny Strong tells the story of the writer behind an American masterpiece: “Catcher in the Rye,” starring Nicholas Hoult as Salinger in a strong performance. Victor Garber plays Salinger’s unsupportive father, and Zoey Deutch portrays Oona O’Neill, Salinger’s college love interest. Kevin Spacey commands as Salinger’s mentor, famed editor/publisher and Columbia University teacher Whit Burnett, credited with inordinate influence on the young writer. A man who told stories but who had no love for film chronicled in a feature film? The result is surprisingly watchable.

“Love Beats Rhymes” (PG-13) -- Aza-leia stars in the RZA-directed story of Coco, a young rapper on the verge of finding her voice. With her group going nowhere, Coco enrolls in a college poetry class. Jill Scott plays her college professor, who both walls up the worlds between poetry and rap music while challenging Coco to find her voice and dig deeper into her own expression. There is a nicely developing love story between Coco and TA Derek (Lucien Laviscount). Common cameos as an influential and inspiring underground slam poetry rap guru. If you really can’t tolerate slam poetry or rap battles, you can skip this one.

1. Which band released “Love Her Madly,” and when?

2. Who was Boo in Lobo’s debut single?

3. Why did the Starfires change their name to the Outsiders?

4. What was on the flip side of “We Can Work It Out”?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: “I don’t want our love to cause you so much pain. If this is how it’s going to be, I’ll walk away.”



1. The Doors, in 1971, as a single and on their “L.A. Woman” album a month later. The song was used in the film “Forrest Gump” in 1994. 2. Boo was the dog (“Me and You and a Dog Named Boo”), depicted as a black and white sheepdog on the record cover. 3. Rumor says it was because they left one recording label, headed by a family member, and went to another ... making them Outsiders. 4. “Day Tripper,” on a double A side single by the Beatles, in 1965. 5. “Surrender to Me,” by Ann Wilson and Robin Zander, in 1988. The song was used in the soundtrack for Mel Gibson’s crime thriller film “Tequila Sunrise,” also starring Michelle Pfeiffer.

Sports Quiz

BY CHRIS RICHCREEK

1. Who was the last Boston Red Sox pitcher before Rick Porcello (22 wins) in 2016 to win 20 or more games in a season?

2. Name the last player before Houston’s Jose Altuve (2014-17) to have at least four consecutive 200-hit seasons.

3. Indianapolis’ Adam Vinatieri set an NFL record in 2016 for most consecutive made field goals (44). Who had held the mark?

4. Who was the first U.S. male player to win two Olympic basketball gold medals?

5. Since the NHL adopted its current playoff format in 1994, how many times has a No. 1 seed been swept in the first round?

6. When was the last World Cup before 2018 for which both the Italian and the U.S. men’s soccer teams failed to qualify?

7. Who was the last French cyclist to win the Tour de France?

1. Who was the last Boston Red Sox pitcher before Rick Porcello (22 wins) in 2016 to win 20 or more games in a season? 2. Name the last player before Houston’s Jose Altuve (2014-17) to have at least four consecutive 200-hit seasons. 3. Indianapolis’ Adam Vinatieri set an NFL record in 2016 for most consecutive made field goals (44). Who had held the mark? 4. Who was the first U.S. male player to win two Olympic basketball gold medals? 5. Since the NHL adopted its current playoff format in 1994, how many times has a No. 1 seed been swept in the first round? 6. When was the last World Cup before 2018 for which both the Italian and the U.S. men’s soccer teams failed to qualify? 7. Who was the last French cyclist to win the Tour de France?

Sudoku answers on page 30

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Winter woe

4 Movie frag-
ment

8 Restaurant
employee

12 Deteriorate

13 Stash

14 Head light?

15 Formed rust

17 Too

18 Felon's flight

19 Tasted

21 Miss Muffet's
bugaboo

24 Prune

25 Candy in a
dispenser

26 Deli buy

28 Rid of frost

32 Sandwich
cookie

34 Yuletide quaff

36 Crucial time

37 Re ebb and
flow

39 Existed

41 Individual

42 In medias —

44 Libra symbol

46 Sweet girl in
an old song

50 Yale student

51 Poi base

52 Worried
greatly

56 Ear-related

57 Links warning

58 Detergent
brand

59 Timid

60 Applications

61 Rep. rival

DOWN

1 To and —

2 Bagel topping

3 Worked with

4 Doorbells,
often

5 Claiborne of
fashion

6 Mid-month
date

7 Accelerator,
e.g.

8 In need of
balm, maybe

9 Corridor

10 Differently

11 Comestibles

16 Father

20 Chic, in the
'60s

21 Location

22 Actress Gilpin

23 Take off

27 Violinist's
need

29 Put on a ped-
estal

30 Chaplin prop

31 Spud's buds

33 U-shaped
part of a row-
boat

35 Petrol

38 Hawaiian
souvenir

40 Parts of an
act

43 Big glitch

45 — Baba

46 Teeny bit

47 Piece of info
on an invita-
tion

48 Great Lake

49 Ids' counter-
parts

53 Raw rock

54 Before

55 Beavers' construct

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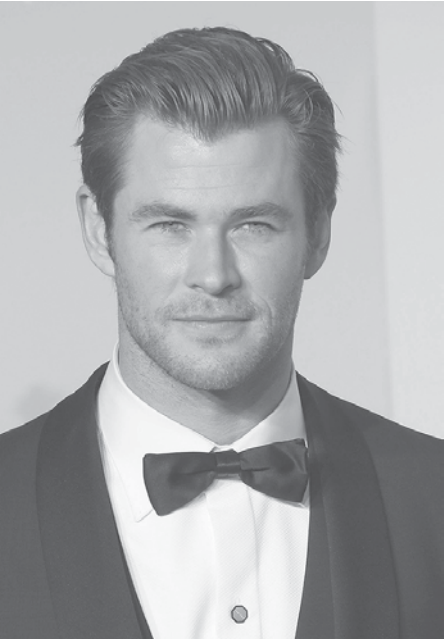
HOLLYWOOD

BY TONY RIZZO

Chris Hemsworth's biggest mon-eymakers have been the six films in which he played Thor (2011-2017). Despite the golden touch of director Ron Howard, "In the Heart of the Sea" (2015) cost \$100 million and grossed only \$94 million. "The Huntsman: Winter War" (2016) cost \$115 million and grossed \$165 million (which wasn't a break-even gross). With "Avengers: Infinity War" now completed and due May 4, and the untitled "Avengers" movie currently filming (for a May 2019 premiere), Hemsworth is filling in the gaps with "12 Strong," with Michael Shannon and "Mom's" William Fichtner, opening Jan. 19. Also upcoming is "Bad Times at the El Royale," set in a dilapidated part of the California Lake Tahoe region, with Jeff Bridges as a down-on-his-luck priest.

Another star needing a big hit is Gerard Butler. While "London Has Fallen" (2016) grossed \$206 million, "A Family Man" (2017), with Gretchen Mol, Alfred Molina, Allison Brie and Willem Dafoe, made \$1.2 million overseas and nothing in the U.S., and "Geostorm" (2017) needed to make double its \$120 million cost to turn a profit and only grossed \$207 million. Butler will try to change that with the heist/action-thriller "Den of Thieves," with Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, out Jan. 19, and "Hunter Killer," with Gary Oldman, Billy Bob Thornton, Willem Dafoe and Oscar-winning songwriter and actor Common, opening in 2018.

Egyptian singer Shyma was sentenced to two years in jail and fined 10,000 Egyptian pounds (\$560) for making her music video "I Have Issues," in which she appeared in scanty underwear and suggestively ate a banana. An Egyptian court "Had Issues" with her for inciting debauchery and



Chris Hemsworth [Depositphotos]

producing a video harming public morality. The director of the video also was fined and given two years in prison, but in true double-standard chauvinism, his sentence was in absentia. They're both appealing the verdict in a higher court.

Disney is buying the assets of 21st Century Fox for a mere \$55 billion. That won't include the famed 20th Century Fox lot, which still will be owned by Rupert Murdoch and has 80 permanent buildings (sound stages and offices) spread over 1.8 million square feet. Currently, "Modern Family," "Fresh Off the Boat," "The Orville," "Speechless," "The Mick" and Ryan Murphy's "American Crime Story: The Versace Murder," among others, film there.

In 1956, Fox sold its vast back-lot acreage to cover losses when Elizabeth Taylor's "Cleopatra" went millions of dollars over budget. The back lot was converted into The Century Plaza Hotel, Century City, with huge office buildings and a huge mall. Now that Disney owns ABC Television, Pixar, The Marvel Universe, the "Star Wars" franchise and more, the only thing Disney has to worry about is 21st Century Fox gobbling up Mickey Mouse!

POPEYE

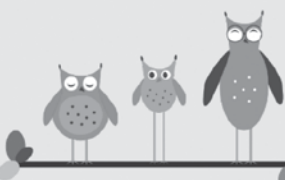
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Melvin Lopez, with his children Marco, Melanie, Mia & Marissa, built an igloo from the January 4, 2018 snow storm. The inside is a wooden structure Melvin built himself prior to the snow.



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DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

Tax Cuts & Jobs Act of 2017

What Taxpayers Need to Know

PRESENTED BY ROBERTA L. NESTOR

On December 22, 2017, the President signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (the act or TCJA). The legislation makes significant changes to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), including individual, corporate, and gift and estate taxation.

Individual Income Tax Changes

Although the act maintains seven tax brackets, these brackets will change.

New Tax Rates Under The TCJA

Tax Rate	Single	Married/Jointly	Head of Household	Married/Separately
10%	\$0-\$9,525	\$0-\$19,050	\$0-\$13,600	\$0-\$9,525
12%	\$9,525-\$38,700	\$19,050-\$77,400	\$13,600-\$51,800	\$9,525-\$38,700
22%	\$38,700-\$82,500	\$77,400-\$165,000	\$51,800-\$82,500	\$38,700-\$82,500
24%	\$82,500-\$157,500	\$165,000-\$315,000	\$82,500-\$157,500	\$82,500-\$157,500
32%	\$157,500-\$200,000	\$315,000-\$400,000	\$157,500-\$200,000	\$157,500-\$200,000
35%	\$200,000-\$500,000	\$400,000-\$600,000	\$200,000-\$500,000	\$200,000-\$300,000
37%	Over \$500,000	Over \$600,000	Over \$500,000	Over \$300,000

In addition to the changes made to the tax brackets, many exemptions and deductions for individual income tax will be repealed or modified.

- › The personal exemption of \$4,150 per taxpayer and dependent will be eliminated.
- › The standard deduction for individuals will go from \$6,500 for individuals and \$13,000 for married couples to \$12,000 for individual taxpayers and \$24,000 for married couples who file jointly. This near doubling of the standard deduction will result in more taxpayers taking it instead of itemizing.
- › The legislation also places limits on several itemized deductions, listed in the table below.

Specific Itemized Deductions That Will Be Eliminated Or Modified

	2017 Tax Year	As of 2018
State and local income tax, property tax	State and local income and property tax fully deductible	All deductions for state and local income tax, as well as property tax, limited to a maximum of \$10,000
Mortgage interest deduction	Interest payments on mortgage debt deductible up to \$1 million in indebtedness	Debt limitation lowered to \$750,000
Medical expenses	Deductible to the extent they exceed 10% of adjusted gross income (AGI)	Deductible to the extent they exceed 7.5% of AGI
Moving expenses	Personal moving expenses deductible, including employer-sponsored reimbursements	No longer deductible at the personal or employer level, except for military
Miscellaneous itemized deductions	Certain miscellaneous itemized deductions may be taken to the extent they exceed 2% of taxpayer's AGI	Miscellaneous itemized deductions repealed; no longer deductible
Income phase-out for itemizing deductions	Itemized deductions limited by phase-out beginning at \$266,700 (single) and \$320,000 (married)	No phase-out for itemizing deductions

Cash donations to charity. Under 2017 law, gifts of cash to charity offer a taxpayer the ability to deduct the contribution, up to 50 percent of AGI. The TCJA will increase the limitation to 60 percent of the taxpayer's AGI.

Education planning. The TCJA includes an expansion of 529 savings plans that will allow families to save for K-12 expenses, in addition to college expenses. 529 plans will also be able to use qualified distributions for elementary and secondary school expenses, up to \$10,000 per year, per student.

Affordable Care Act individual mandate. The TCJA will eliminate the penalty imposed under the IRC for individuals who do not maintain individual health care coverage.

Individual alternative minimum tax (AMT). The individual AMT exemption amount will increase to \$70,300 for individual filers and \$109,400 for joint filers. The phase-out for the AMT exemption will increase to \$500,000 for individuals and \$1 million for married couples. With enactment of the new act, fewer Americans will be subject to the AMT.

Assess where you are headed. In light of these sweeping changes, 2018 should result in a complete review of you financial snapshots. An overall review of income, assets, and balance sheet is important in order to get a clear picture of how the significant changes to individual income taxation will affect you and their families.

This material has been provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute either tax or legal advice. Although we go to great lengths to make sure our information is accurate and useful, we recommend you consult a tax preparer, professional tax advisor, or lawyer.

Roberta L. Nestor is a financial advisor located at 491 New Haven Avenue, Milford CT 06460, she offers securities and advisory services as an Investment Adviser Representative of Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Roberta can be reached at (203) 876-8066 or at Roberta@nestorfinancial.com.

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Happy New Year!

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Bark Bytes...

BY VICKI & RICHARD
HOROWITZ



Does Your Dog Make Mistakes?

People often believe that their dogs are “perfect” and they never make mistakes as they are dogs. But no dog or person is 100% perfect all the time. When a dog makes a mistake it’s often the owner’s fault for not teaching the dog what is expected or what is acceptable.

To prevent this from happening:

- › **Be Proactive:** You should try to make a mental note of what occurred so you can recreate the situation and teach him what you do want him to do.
- › **Education:** Educating your dog is one of your responsibilities both as a dog owner, and as its leader. It’s the owner’s responsibility to keep him safe and teach him how to not just survive but to thrive.
- › **Do some planning:** Try to come up with different but similar scenarios, so you can practice educating your dog.

Educating and teaching your dog:

- › Educating a dog is a lifetime commitment. If you do not maintain rules or you become lax, a dog will see you as being weak and will revert back to previous behaviors.
- › Things take as long as they take, depending on your consistency and the dog’s age and personality. Also, are you communicating clearly with your dog and does he understand you. For example, just calling his name is not being clear... tell him what you want.
- › The more frequently you work with your dog, the quicker he will learn. Dogs are routine oriented. Incorporate the commands and rules into your daily routine.

- › Training is an opportunity to enhance our bond and develop trust while having fun spending time working together.
- › As he trusts you as his owner and leader, he knows that you are not going to let anything bad happen to him. This trust takes time and effort on both your parts. It took patience and not putting him in situations he wasn’t prepared to handle.

How can you tell training is working?

- › When your dog is in situations that he has been trained in, he will remember the expectation and behave accordingly.
- › If you have established strong leadership with your dog and he is in a situation and doesn’t know what to do, he will look to you for a response or guidance. It’s your dog’s way of asking what he should do. If you show him what you want in that situation, he’ll usually follow your lead and get a lot of praise.

The reality is we all make mistakes. What we do with those mistakes is what’s important. We can berate ourselves or our dog or we can turn them into learning experiences and use them to grow.

The choice is yours. So make the right choice...educate your dog and so you can have the loving relationship you all desire.

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



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might be hurt by a colleague's harsh criticism. But don't let it shake your confidence in what you're trying to do. A more positive aspect starts to appear by week's end.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're torn between your sensible self and the part of you that enjoys acquiring lovely things. Best advice: Wait for an end-of-month sale, and then buy something wonderful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your artistic side has practical applications this week, such as redecorating your home or redesigning your personal stationery. Whatever you do, someone special will like it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You could be drawn into a problem 'twixt friends or family members. Best bet: Ask the questions that go to the heart of the matter, then get them all together for a group hug.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) As much as you love being the center of attention, your big Lion's heart impels you to share the spotlight with a colleague who helped you with that well-praised project.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your eagerness to act on a challenge is wisely tempered early in the week by a lack of necessary information. Things begin to

clear up during the weekend.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A relationship you'd hoped would keep going seems to be going nowhere. Close it out and move on to a brighter romantic aspect just beginning to manifest itself.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Things don't go completely as planned this week. But enjoy the surprises, even if you have to adjust your schedule. Some of them could be quite delightful.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Making choices is usually easy for straight-shooting Archers. But a new development could deflect your aim. Try to put off decisions until you know more.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While part of you might prefer taking a more familiar path, let your more daring and -- admit it -- super-curious self see what the unexplored has to offer.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Those nasty types have slithered back under the rocks and present no more problems. Now's the time to move ahead on that promising new relationship.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A new offer could clear up that lingering money problem. Also, a more confident attitude on your part might well help get that personal situation back on track.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of turning chaos into order. You're also generous with your help for those who seek it.

Cat Relationship Is All About Compromise

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Why do cats do what they do? Why do they tear ornaments off the Christmas tree, knock glasses off the coffee table, attack our shoelaces and knead their claws into our sweater? Is there any way to get mine to stop doing, like, all of these things? Sign me -- Frayed Sweater, and Nerves, in Toronto

DEAR FRAYED: After years and years of studying this conundrum, I can honestly say most cats won't respond to pleas, begging or even treats. Well, sometimes they'll respond to treats. But they'll go right back to doing what they enjoy most: destroying all that you love.

I'm being (slightly) sarcastic, of course.

Having a cat means making a few compromises in your life, particularly in the interior-decorating department. It means being more careful

about setting expensive glassware on the countertop. It means a Christmas tree whose bottom third remains undecorated, or adorned with unbreakable, pet-safe ornaments. It means patiently retying your shoelaces after your cat has pounced on them. It means buying a new sweater every fall, or keeping your favorite ones in a drawer to wear on special occasions only.

The tradeoff, however, is that you have a companion for many happy years. A cat kneading his or her claws on your sweater while curled up in your lap is an expression of

contentment, an acknowledgment that you're family. You don't have to give up all the breakable things that you love in order to live with your cat, you just need to make a few concessions to keep both your cat and your glassware safe.



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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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"Of course I love you, Dad. That's why I'm here."

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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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*New Year's Eve
Source: Allovoyages.fr

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Scarf is shorter. 3. Glove is smaller. 4. Shovel is turned. 5. Doghouse is missing. 6. Sign is missing.

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Source: United States Department of Agriculture

- Brenda Weaver

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