

Synergy students showcase skills for senator

By Robert Kanehl

Educators, students and Senator Richard Blumenthal spend Monday morning testing out the new manufacturing lab at Synergy Alternative High School.

Thanks to a federal grant of \$730,000 sponsored by both Connecticut U.S. Senators, Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, the newly-equipped, state-of-the-art manufacturing lab was in place and operational at the beginning of this school year.

"Those in Washington D. C., slashing and burning national education funds, need to see that every penny of this grant was well spent," he pointed out. The funds went directly into Synergy "to purchase the machinery to provide the students the skills they will need to be successful."

He noted \$730,000 is a small fraction of the total federal budget. But it was a huge win for town schools and promises to bring about a world of difference for students fortunate enough to be enrolled in the Synergy classroom.

Lab instructor Steve Socolosky is no stranger to teaching technology in the classroom. An enthusiastic learner himself, and a pilot who helped students assemble

See **SYNERGY LAB**, page 10

SYNERGY SHOWS SENATOR HOW ITS MADE



US SENATOR RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, center, operates one of the new pieces of computer-controlled manufacturing machines at Synergy School Monday as student Ryan Kenyon, left, and Board of Education Chair Tyron Harris, right, look on. Synergy received a \$730,000 grant to establish a classroom manufacturing lab.

Cavaliere, Walsh parade honorees

The East Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee has selected former East Hartford mayor Mike Walsh as the 2025 East Hartford Parade Marshal, and Brittney Cavaliere, founder and leader of the East Hartford High School Alumni Association, as the 2025 East Hartford Town Honoree.

Cavaliere and Walsh will be honored this Saturday, Feb. 15 at a parade brunch beginning at 11 a.m. at the Irish American Home Society, 132 Commerce St., Glastonbury. The 2025 St. Patrick's Day



WALSH

Parade steps off at 11 a.m. March 15 in Hartford.

Brittney Cavaliere is a third-generation resident and a life-



CAVALIERE

long lover of East Hartford. After high school, she moved away for a decade, but the town that raised her called her home in 2018. She is very involved in town, serving as the board chair of the East Hartford Alumni Association and Education Foundation, coaching girls' basketball in the town Parks and Rec league, and as a member of the Democratic Town Committee. Brittney is passionate about East Hartford and its residents and is focused

See **PARADE HONOREES** page 10

Board of Ed notes budget targets

By Robert Kanehl

At its regular meeting the East Hartford Board of Education heard from Department of Finance Director Tea Culani on the state of the district's budget.

In her report, Culani stated that the midyear budget projections were still influx, but there was concern around Special Education costs and tuitions. On the upside, the district was seeing a positive projection in its staffing costs and magnet school tuitions. The district's utilities costs have also remained on budget.

Currently the budget lines for SPED Services, tuition and legal cost are over by around 14 percent because of an increase in mandated services to students not just in town, but also in magnet schools and in the Juvenile Detention Center. East Hartford is financially responsible for covering the costs of 'outplaced' students.

Culani also noted that revenue from Woodland School was lower than projected. The current tuition student total is about 20 students lower than anticipated.

But the budget looks good in the following areas:

Staffing budget: Four percent surplus. Tuitions: East Hartford has a surplus in funds set aside for tuition payments to area magnet schools. This decline is attributed to both the

See **BOARD OF ED**, page 10

AROUND TOWN

State revises Hockanum fish advisory

The CT Dept. of Public Health (DPH) loosened its the consumption advisory for eating the fish caught in four sections of Hockanum River in East Hartford, Vernon, Manchester, and Ellington, Connecticut (Table 1). DPH is taking this action in close coordination with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). DPH changed the advisory on the Hockanum River after evaluating perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) concentrations from fish sampled in 2022 and reported in 2023 from several sections of the Hockanum River using DPH's safe consumption limits.

"These consumption advisories are necessary to protect public health while allowing for community members to benefit from the nutritional benefits of eating fish," said DPH Commis-

sioner Manisha Juthani, MD.

DPH is modifying the previous 'do not eat' consumption advisory for the Hockanum River from the Connecticut River in East Hartford to the outlet of Union Pond in Manchester including East Hartford Lake as well as the Ellington section of the Hockanum River to "Do not eat bass, all other species - one meal per month." However, the "Do not eat" consumption advisory remains in effect for the section of the Hockanum River from and including Union Pond in Manchester east through the remainder of Manchester and through Vernon to the outlet of Shenipsit Lake on Tolland Avenue. The "Do not eat" advisory also includes several riverine impoundments of Papermill Pond, including Pitney Park in Vernon and the Tankerhoosen River upstream to the dam on Main St,

Vernon. Shenipsit Lake is not included in the advisory.

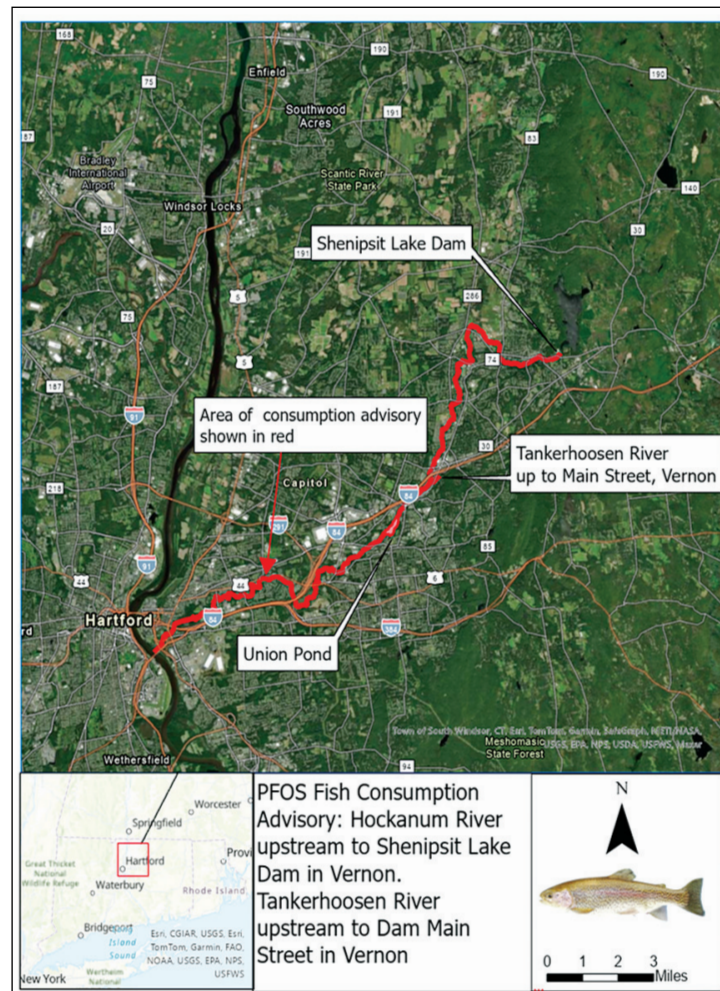
DPH's safe consumption limits for PFOS are protective of the general population as well as sensitive groups, which include pregnant women, women planning on becoming pregnant, nursing women and children under 6 years old. However, it also is important to note that there is a pre-existing statewide advisory in place for all freshwater finfish and shellfish caught in Connecticut because of mercury contamination. Sensitive groups should limit their consumption to no more than one meal per month. For all other groups, the advice is to limit consumption to no more than one meal per week of freshwater finfish and shellfish. This statewide advisory does not apply to sunfish or trout as there are no consumption limits for these fish species, unless otherwise noted.

Additional information on DPH fish consumption advisories can be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/fish> or by calling a DPH staff person at 1-877-458-FISH (3474).

P&W Retirees meeting on Wednesday

FEB 19 - Pratt & Whitney and UTRC Retirees February meeting at the PWA Club Inc., 200 Clement Road. Coffee and

doughnuts at 9:30 followed by program beginning at 10 with Chris Marolda, guitarist. FMI call 860-565-6236.



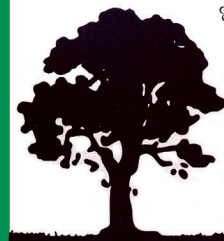
PFOS Fish Consumption Advisory: Hockanum River upstream to Shenipsit Lake Dam in Vernon. Tankerhoosen River upstream to Dam Main Street in Vernon

OUR 40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

PETER'S LANDSCAPING, LLC

Landscaping Maintenance, Design and Installation

✿ STARTED IN 1980 - EST. IN 1981 ✿



860-646-1169

806 HILLSTOWN ROAD
MANCHESTER, CT 06040

We are a full-service company, fully licensed and insured, with Workers Comp and Insurance proof provided upon request. References always available.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mowings | <input type="checkbox"/> Walks installed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-ups | <input type="checkbox"/> Koi ponds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerating | <input type="checkbox"/> Grading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overseeding | <input type="checkbox"/> Excavating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydro-seeding | <input type="checkbox"/> Stumps removed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liming | <input type="checkbox"/> Clearing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling of lawns | <input type="checkbox"/> Demolition work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dethatching | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailbox posts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low-voltage lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing of all types |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patios | <input type="checkbox"/> Firepits |

"When landscaping, think Peter's"

FOUNDED IN 1980 - EST. 1981 - 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Art Market at Hillstown Grange set for February 22

Hillstown Grange is holding a Valentine's Art Market and Comfort Food Lunch - on Sunday, February 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come visit local arti-

sans and vendors who will be selling items that will brighten your day! Items such as local honey, soap, plants, books and crafts will be available. The Hill-

stown Grange will be hosting a luncheon of comfort foods from 11am to 1pm - Gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup along with baked goods will be available.



Let your loved ones care for you - and get paid!

Funded by Medicaid, choose FAMILY or FRIENDS as your paid caregiver.

Your caregiver gets paid same day!

★★★★★
OVER 5,000 5-STAR REVIEWS!

 **FreedomCare**
COMPASSION • INDEPENDENCE • CHOICE

Find out if you are eligible today.

CALL 855.267.6776

CLASSIFIEDS

LAW FIRM HELP WANTED

Growing EH office seeks f/t legal assistant for e-filing/legal processing.

Starts at \$19-\$20/hour.

Contact Adam Olshan at aolshan@rubinrothman.com

FREE TO A GOOD HOME:

Two parakeets w/cage. 1 blue male, 6 yrs old, 1 yellow female, 3 years old.

Call 860-289-2859.

SALES POSITION - PERFECT POSITION

FOR SEMI-RETIREEES at Maple & Main Liquors, East Hartford. Register, inventory, cleaning. 25-35 hours per week. Call 860-881-7479

LOST DOG? ITEM FOR SALE? - A \$12 ad in the Gazette makes more sense than spending for markers, staplers, etc to place ugly signs on telephone poles.

DESDE LA ESQUINA

Para Celebrar El Amor No Se Tiene Que Gastar Tanto

Ya llegó San Valentín, el Día del Amor y la Amistad, o el día de salir a buscar un nuevo amorcito. No importa cómo lo celebres ni con quién, lo importante es acordarte de esas personas especiales en tu vida: un amigo(a), tu pareja, tu hijo(a), o hasta tu crush. Y lo mejor de todo es que no tienes que gastar un billete para hacerlo. Aquí te dejo algunas ideas para celebrar sin romper el banco:

Cena en casa, sin el revolú

Seamos realistas: el 14 de febrero, todo está lleno y conseguir mesa en un restaurante es misión imposible si no reservaste con tiempo. Pero no te preocupes, que una cenita en casa puede ser hasta más chula. Cocinen juntos algo rico, como una pasta con ensalada, enciendan unas velitas y pongan musiquita para darle el toque romántico. ¿Te quieres botar? Un mofongo relleno de camarones a la luz de las velas suena mejor.

Cine y un jangueito

Ir al cine nunca falla, ya sea con tu pareja o con amistades. Y si andas soltero(a), una buena película y un mantecado después (aunque haga frío) te van a poner de buen humor. ¿No quieres gastar en taquillas? Haz tu propio cine en casa con popcorn y refresco, y dale play a esa serie o película que tenías en lista.

Noche creativa para los nenes

Si tienes hijos, sobrinos o hermanitos, esta es una idea nítida. Enséñales a hacer tarjetitas de amistad o regalitos hechos a mano para sus amiguitos de la escuela. También pueden pintar, hacer manualidades o hasta cocinar juntos. Es una forma linda y económica de celebrar el cariño.

Juegos y corillo

Si lo tuyo son los juegos de mesa o los videojuegos, monta un mini torneo con tu pareja o con tus amistades. Pide unas pizzas, busca unos refrescos y prepárate para una noche de risas y competencia.

Horneando con amor

Nada dice "te quiero" como un postre hecho en casa. Hornear galletitas o cupcakes es un plan divertido, ya sea con los nenes, tu pareja o amistades. Y lo mejor es que al final se los pueden comer juntos. ¡Doble ganancia!

Al final del día, no se trata de cuánto gastes, sino de pasarla bien y compartir con la gente que quieres. No hace falta botar la casa por la ventana para demostrar amor, solo ponerle cariño y creatividad.

Próximo:

El Consejo Local de Prevención de East Hartford (LPC por sus siglas en inglés) estará reuniéndose el 20 de Feb. A las 5:30pm. La reunión se llevará a cabo en el Centro de Comunidad Cultural (50 Chapman Place) No te lo pierdas.

¡Huele a boda! En celebración del Día de los Enamorados, la ciudad de East Hartford estará eliminando los cargos que normalmente conlleva obtener una licencia de matrimonio. Si te interesa aprovechar esta oportunidad, Para más información entra aquí

<https://www.easthartfordct.gov/home/news/marriage-license-fees-waived-in-east-hartford-on-valentine's-day>



BRUCE MANEELEY

**Call 860-52-PARTY
(860)-527-2789**

65 Rye Street
South Windsor, CT 06074








Diamond Earrings

1/2 Carat tw \$299
1 Carat tw \$399
2 Carat tw \$699
Lab-grown diamonds

**W/ FREE
TEDDY BEAR
&
CHOCOLATES**



1015 Main St, East Hartford, CT (860) 528-2181

National Nutrition Month: Meet the Experts!



Saturday, March 1st

10AM - 1PM

**ShopRite of Manchester
(214 Spencer Street)**




Come celebrate National Nutrition Month with local Registered Dietitians. Each Dietitian provides a unique skillset to help you and your loved ones live a healthy life. Get resources, engage in activities, and try some delicious samples! Learn how a Dietitian can help you!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindsey Kent, RDN & Sarabeth Campanelli, RDN: ShopRite Dietitians Justin Breedlove & Galilea Yanza-Quito Masters Students of Health Promotion Sciences UConn Healthy Family CT SNAP-Ed Kate Zahner, RDN: SNAP-Ed Dietitian at UConn Jessica Dorner MS, RD: Worksite Wellness Dietitian, nutrition education and programming for businesses & groups of all sizes. Carrie Skopic, RDN, Corporate Wellness, and Community Nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katherine Sayre Bontempo, CT Kids Eat Right & pediatric and eating disorder dietitian in private practice Sandra Dunningan RDN, CDCES: Diabetes Educator @ ECHN Johanna Eichner, RDN, CDN, NBC-HWC: Private Practice, Board Certified Health Coach, client-centered & inclusive nutrition counseling Lisa Shettle, RDN, Swan Integrative Health Cara Andreoli, RDN, MS, CDCES: Private Practice- Nutrition Matters: Sustainable Eating for Lifelong Health. Certified Diabetes Care & Education, Kidney Care Specialist
--	--

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

lindsey.kent@wakefern.com or sarabeth.campanelli@wakefern.com

The Gazette

Thursday, February 13, 2025

PUBLISHED BY ACORN MEDIA SERVICES LLC
1406 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108
Office: 860-289-6468 ♦ Fax: 888-809-3026

Founded October, 1885 by Henry Bidwell Hale
www.EHGazette.com
'Devoted to Local Interests'

William A. Doak, editor ✉ editor@ehgazette.com
✉ John Karas, jkaras@ehgazette.com ✉ Corinne Horan-Action!
Advertising: ads@ehgazette.com

EDITORIAL, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The President of distraction

By Rep. John B. Larson

Less than a month into his term, Donald Trump has proven to be a 'master of distraction,' flooding media markets with dozens of divisive and legally dubious executive orders that have little to do with lowering grocery costs or creating new jobs.

I have heard directly from many residents at forums in East Hartford and surrounding towns who are concerned about what the next four years mean for them and their families. I will continue to hold forums where constituents will have the opportunity to discuss their concerns. It is my responsibility to make that possible for them as citizens in the First District.

The people of this District remain my priority. These last few weeks have made it clear that we must push back and stand up for the American people. My Democratic colleagues and I have stood strong... and will continue to call out President Trump's actions, including

when he pardoned violent rioters who assaulted police officers on January 6th, when he signed an executive order impeding efforts to lower drug costs, and when he illegally 'froze' federal funding that impacts vital programs for people in Connecticut and across this country.

I have already introduced legislation with my colleagues to protect federal workers from his orders, support access to reproductive health care, and block him from driving prices up on our families as part of what economists at The Wall Street Journal have called 'The Dumbest Trade War in History.'

As we work to prioritize the needs of everyday Americans, Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries has put forward a multi-step plan to push back against President Trump's reckless and illegal stream of orders. Funding for the federal government expires next month, and Democrats are prepared to negotiate a new budget with Republicans that protects pro-



CONGRESSMAN LARSON

grams like Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and SNAP from Elon Musk and Donald Trump's attempts to cut Americans' benefits. These programs must remain available to the millions of people who need them, and we will oppose any attempt to weaken or end them.

Additionally, we have introduced legislation to prevent

Elon Musk and his unelected cronies from accessing your sensitive personal information through the U.S. Treasury Dept. Elon Musk was not elected, and no one voted to have their privacy exposed. Our Congressional delegation is working with state leaders, like Governor Lamont and Attorney General William Tong, to fight back.

When President Trump froze funding on everything from childcare centers to lifesaving cancer treatments, Connecticut joined a coalition of 21 other states to block this 'freeze,' which has been halted by a federal judge. We are following this case, as well as more than 20 other lawsuits filed against President Trump's orders, including his discriminatory transgender military ban and his unlawful attempts to fire career federal workers.

Congress is a co-equal branch of government, and whether Republicans join us or not, we will do everything we can to block these blatant power grabs. With every stroke

of a pen, Trump and 'Citizen Musk' are doing away with programs that impact working class people without due process of law or passing a bill in regular order through Congress. They want to get rid of every program and person that doesn't suit them so they can provide more tax cuts for large corporations and the wealthiest one percent. Meanwhile, it's families who will pay the price.

Let's be clear: The billionaire class has no mandate to dictate how the government is run. That's not how a democracy works. As your representative, I am prioritizing the kitchen table issues that keep regular people up at night...like lowering the cost of groceries, gas, and medications. Our focus needs to be on creating good-paying jobs throughout our community, and protecting and enhancing your hard-earned Social Security benefits.

Unlike Donald Trump, we will prioritize your needs... not the needs of Elon Musk or the billionaire class.

Governor wants state to offer universal access to early childhood education

Gov. Ned Lamont announced Monday that he is urging the General Assembly to approve legislation he is proposing which will implement the expansion of preschool access, enabling thousands of families to enroll their children in high-quality early childhood education which have been unattainable for many.

"I want Connecticut to lead on early childhood education, and that means making preschool affordable and accessible for all of our kids," Gov. Lamont said. "Access to early childhood services is massively important to the state's success, not only because these programs provide valuable tools for children that will lead them to professional achievements in the future, but also because being able to enroll your child in care right now means that parents can join the workforce and earn an income that supports their family. Connecticut has

an opportunity to make an investment in our future by expanding access to affordable preschool."

The governor's proposal includes depositing a portion of the state's anticipated surpluses over the next several years into a brand-new fund known as the Universal Preschool Endowment. The endowment will be seeded by \$300 million from the fiscal year 2025 surplus, and in the following years any unappropriated surpluses from the General Fund will continue to be transferred into it. The endowment will be managed by the Office of the Treasurer, and the commissioner of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood may expend up to 10% of the balance of the endowment in any fiscal year. The proposed use of the endowment aims to expand affordable preschool options for families by:

- Making preschool available at no

cost to families earning up to \$100,000 per year;

- Limiting cost-share for families earning between \$100,000 per year and \$150,000 to a maximum of \$20 per day;
- Creating 20,000 new preschool spaces by 2032;
- Reducing the cost to families for approximately 19,000 existing preschool spaces; and
- Being easy to access and flexible.

"Governor Lamont's historic action to establish a Universal Preschool Endowment will make preschool more accessible, affordable, and for many, free," Connecticut Early Childhood Commissioner Beth Bye said. "It will stabilize the early care and education industry by increasing compensation for teachers and staff. This investment builds on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Care, which brought together voices from

across child care providers, businesses, government, and parents to provide a roadmap to guide ongoing investments in early education."

"Governor Lamont's proposal for universal preschool will make Connecticut a national leader among states because of its comprehensive approach to supporting children and families," Walter Gilliam, executive director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute, said. "It supports early learning and allows working families the ability to work. The focus on quality of care and options that meet family needs also stands out. Perhaps the most unique feature is that it protects the care of infants and toddlers while creating universal preschool."

House Bill 6867, "An Act Creating the Universal Preschool Endowment", has been referred to the legislature's Education Committee.

LETTERS, VIEWPOINTS

The days when newspapers declared their 'Citizen Kane' manifesto

By Robert Kanehl

Did You Know newspapermen once and awhile have a Citizen Kane Moment? A new one happened this week.

Citizen Kane is a movie from 1941 starring Orson Welles. It follows the lived of a millionaire who decides "it would be fun to run a newspaper." Obviously, Welles never ran a real newspaper.

Like many newsmen, I watched that movie and dreamed like Charles Foster Kane of the newsprint world. I have enjoyed many similar events, frustrations and glories experienced by the main char-

acter.

My latest "Citizen Kane" moment came while in the *Gazette* offices.

The *Gazette* started in the late 1800s. Editor Henry Hale's paper circulated around all the area towns along the Connecticut River from Glastonbury to East Windsor.

An achieve of memorabilia and past issues are found in the attic or third floor of the current office space. It is not a museum. It is more like the pile of items being inventoried at the end of Citizen Kane. The camera zooms in on the gathered estate of statures, jigsaw puzzles and the sled "Rosebud."

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back on our East Hartford

I will not give away the meaning of the sled, but instead draw your minds vision back to the original zooming camera. There in the middle of the pile is a framed document. It is the editorial manifesto of rules and responsibilities that Kane sets for his paper.

There in the piles of artifacts at the *Gazette*, we found a copy of the manifesto Hale penned for the publication. In part it states:

"This paper has no politics, in the common acceptance of the term. It is not a democratic organ, nor is it a republican organ, and it will not at any time hesitate to commend the candidates of either party when

they show by their public acts that they intend to further the interests of good government in their respective towns.

We look upon political parties as a means, not an end. We do not care a penny whether the post-office is held by a republican or by a democrat. We want the post-office well administered and are not concerned about anything else in connection with it. We want the interests of our towns looked after in the General Assembly and the men who are likely to look after them are our candidates for representative, every time."

A copy of the *New Britian Herald's* 1980s manifesto exists also, penned by the publisher when the *Herald*, purchased the *Gazette* from the owner at the time, the pugnacious Rolly Charest. The new publisher was now Judy Vance Brown, the granddaughter of the founder of that city's venerable newspaper.

The Herald was one of the last of the independent, family-owned newspapers New England was known for - strong advocates for their community,

pro business and in many ways the public and moral conscience of the city's citizenry, all of whom turned to the editorial pages and columnists to help guide their thought.

In part, Mrs. Brown's declaration reads:

"In every town there exists a need for a central voice - for a vehicle to mirror and record the life of their community.

"There's always been this need to recognize the accomplishments of our neighbors, our relatives, our friends, and quite naturally, our foes - whether the deeds are achieved in school, on the field of sports, in business, or exercising social and community leadership.

"For 96 years the Town of East Hartford has had its own newspaper - *The Gazette* - dedicated solely to local interests, reflecting the moods of the people, and reporting the news both happy and sad. And this tradition will be vigorously maintained by the *Gazette's* new Publisher and its new Editor. Local news will continue to be *The Gazette's* heartbeat."

LETTERS: The *Gazette* welcomes signed letters on subjects of interest to our readers.

Remember to also provide a daytime phone number. Mail to: **The Gazette, 1406 Main St., EH, CT 06108** or e-mail to **editor@ehgazette.com**

PUBLISHED SINCE 1885, DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE WEEKLY GAZETTE ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE STATE LIBRARY DIGITAL NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

Welcome, new students; welcome, Senator Blumenthal - and welcome AI

Dear Friends,

Kindergarten registration is open! We are excited to welcome our new kindergarten families to EHPS for the 2025-2026 school year. Please note the new state law requires that children turn 5 on or before September 1, 2025 to start kindergarten next year. Children who turn 5 between September 2 and September 30, 2025 can apply for a waiver through the online registration process. The waiver deadline is March 30, 2025. Please visit our website to learn more about kindergarten and how to register: www.easthartford.org/kindergarten.

We continue to share the excellent programming available to our students from PreK through 12th grade. We welcomed U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal and several town, district and industry leaders to our Synergy Manufacturing Showcase this week. Last year, Senator Blumenthal and Senator Chris Murphy helped us secure \$730,000 in federal funding to create a manufacturing lab at Synergy Alternative High School and offer students high-tech training without leaving the building. During the showcase, students displayed their skills using the first-year lab's state-of-the-art equipment. Recently during the Mayor's State of the Town Address, EHPS highlighted program offerings that can be seen as the return on investing in our schools. East Hartford Public Schools serves all abilities and has unique high school offerings from automotive systems to robotics. There are also extensive opportunities for students to grow their talents in the arts and athletics. We appreciate Mayor Martin's sup-

WHAT'S WELL FROM WELLS HALL



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent of Schools



Tyron Harris
Chair, EH Board of Education

port in recognizing these points of pride and for investing in our students and schools, which is an investment in East Hartford as a whole.

We're excited to share the Connecticut State Department of Education selected East Hartford Public Schools as one of seven districts to participate in an innovative?artificial intelligence (AI) in education pilot

program. Through the end of this school year, select classrooms at East Hartford Middle School, East Hartford High School and Connecticut IB Academy will experience AI tools.

We look forward to learning how these tools can be effectively integrated into the classroom to enhance the teaching and learning process.

We appreciate your support as we remain firm in our commitment to providing a high-quality education that not only enriches minds but also unlocks economic opportunities. Our systems are designed to cultivate critical and analytical thinking skills, equipping our students to navigate an ever-evolving world with confidence. Our responsibility is to cultivate a society where every individual has the tools and opportunities to shape a brighter future for themselves and for generations to come. The crossroads we face today are NOT challenges, but powerful opportunities to unite our voices, drive meaningful change, and continue moving forward together to benefit our children.

If you have any questions or feedback regarding our district offerings or if we can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Anderson's office at 860-622-5107 or superintendent@easthartford.org or Mr. Harris at 860-622-5017 or harris.tv@easthartford.org. With East Hartford Pride!

Tyron V. Harris
Board of Education Chairman
Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
East Hartford Public Schools

Society

'Support Our Soldiers' to pack boxes

Support Our Soldiers-Connecticut will be holding an Easter/Spring collection event to support U.S. troops stationed overseas on Sunday, March 23 from noon until 2 p.m. at Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills St.

Donations of snacks, sweets (especially "Peeps") drawings and greetings cards needed and may be dropped off that day by noon or by special arrangement. Volunteers to help sort and pack always needed. FMI call Frank at 860-690-2845 or email sosconnecticut@aol.com.

Donations also needed to help defray postage. Checks should be made out to 'SOS Connecticut' and mailed to: SOS Connecticut, c/o Frank Forrest, 165 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118.

ON THE CAMPUS

Matthew Chuchro, of East Hartford, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus in Madison, NJ, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester.

Morgan Macfarlane of East Hartford was among students named to the Dean's List at Endicott College for the Fall 2024 semester. Macfarlane is majoring in Applied Mathematics at the Beverly. Mass school and is the child of Cynthia Macfarlane and Timothy Macfarlane.

Nine students from East Hartford attained Dean's List distinction at Quinnipiac university in Hamden. They are Alfreda Amponsah, Mikelia Darko, Matilda Frimpong, Makiyah Stewart, Nana Tabiri, Jaron Thomas, Andrew Tran, Melissa Trudeau and Savanna Velez-Merrick.

Zander Robinson from East Hartford was named to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester at Springfield College. He is majoring in Business Management.

EAST HARTFORD COMMISSION ON AGING SENIOR DISCOUNT LIST

(updated September 23, 2024)

- 1) Always ASK for the senior discount listed **BEFORE** you place an order
- 2) When using a service company, always check out the reputation and ratings ahead of time
- 3) The listing has 3 sections; one for **local businesses**, one for **nearby businesses**, and one for **National/AARP** listings.
- 4) For questions, additions, or deletions send an email to Commission on Aging Chairman garyjameskelly@yahoo.com

EAST HARTFORD BUSINESSES

<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>DISCOUNT</u>	<u>NOTATION</u>
Auto Zone	12 Main Street	(860) 200-9188	10%	Veterans only
Burger King	708 Silver Lane	(860) 568-9837	10%	Age 60+ and drink discount
Dairy Queen	435 Main Street	(860) 568-8171	10%	Age 55+
Dunkin Donuts	E. Htfd & Glast	(860) 291-0677	10%	Age 55+ 10% or a free donut
Elexios Salon/Barber	918 Main Street	(860) 461-7201	\$5	Age 55+ \$5 off anything
Ginger Root Rest.	9 Main Street	(860) 568-1583	5%	Dine In Only!
Jiffy Lube	480 Main Street	(860) 568-6689	10%	Age 55 plus
KFC	300 Burnside Ave	(860) 282-9596	15%	Age 55+ 5-15% off plus free small drink with meal
Lili Cleaners	906 Main Street	(860) 289-9100	10%	Dry cleaning only!
McDonalds	1261 Burnside Ave	(860) 528-7380		Age 55+ Discount on small drinks only
Michael's Crafts	5 Main Street	(860) 266-1341	10%	Age 55+ (excludes clearance, some sale items)
PetSmart	5 Main Street	(860) 895-1816	10%	Senior Discount on Tuesday's for grooming salon
Shop Rite	31 Main Street	(860) 895-8390	5%	Tuesday's only (no liquor, lottery, stamps, cigs)
Strano Landscaping	Local	(860) 866-1478	10%	Varies on services - ask for Joshua Strano
Taco Bell	268 Silver Lane	(860) 569-8890	5%	Age 65+ up to 5% plus free beverage
Walgreen's	922 Silver Lane	(860) 569-4120		10% Discounts for 55 plus, 15% for 60 plus
Walgreen's	20 Connecticut Blvd	(860) 289-4944		10% Discounts for 55 plus, 15% for 60 plus
Wendy's	303 Main St	(860) 200-8539	10%	Free drink or 10% discount

NEARBY BUSINESSES

<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>DISCOUNT</u>	<u>NOTATION</u>
Chick-fil-A	2941 Main St., Glast.	(860) 633-0800	10%	Age 55+ 10% or free small drink - Varies by store
Chili's	2855 Main St., Glast.	(860) 657-2333	10%	Age 55+
Goodwill	2709 Main St., Glast.	(860) 657-8195	10%	Age 55+ Tuesdays only
Hallmark Store	175 Glast Blvd., Glast.	(860) 659-3157	10%	Age 55+
Home Depot	115 Putnam Blvd., Glast.	(860) 657-1184	10%	Veteran's and Spouses
I HOP (pancakes)	191 Deming St., Mnch	(860) 644-1713	10%	And Senior Menu
Katz ACE Hardware	2687 Main St., Glast.	(860) 633-3551	5%	
Kohl's	155 Tolland Tpke., Mnch	(860) 643-4225	15%	Wednesdays only, age 60+
Mastercuts	194 Buckland Hills, Mnch	(860) 648-9446	20%	Discount Mon thru Thurs., must join club
McDonalds	184 Spencer St., Mnch	(860) 812-1977		Age 55+ Discount on small drinks only
Ocean State Job Lot	205 Spencer St., Mnch	(860) 646-8462	20%	Food only - Mondays only between 8-9am
Outback	3210 Berlin Tpke., New.	(860) 666-0002	10%	AARP members and Veteran's only
Pep Boys	205 Spencer St., Mnch	(860) 646-5900		Military discounts or coupons only
Popeye's Chicken	199 Spencer St., Mnch	(860) 432-0277	10%	Age 60+
Red Roof	425 Hartford Tpke., Vern	(860) 871-2432	10%	Age 65+
Sonic	90 Buckland St., Mnch	(860) 327-6242	10%	Age 60+ 10% or free small drink
Supers	1 Indust. Park, Cromwell	(860) 632-8888	10%	Age 60+
Supercuts	2995 Berlin Tpke., Suite A	(860) 667-8125		Age 65+ \$2 to \$5
UPS store	2842 Main St, Glast.	(860) 633-0051	15%	Age 55 plus

NATIONAL DISCOUNT LISTINGS

<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>DISCOUNT</u>	<u>NOTATION</u>
Alamo	Bradley Airport, W Locks	(844) 855-7198		AARP up to 25% off
American Airlines	Nationwide	(800) 433-7300		Age 65+ Choose this option when booking
Amtrak	Nationwide	(800) 872-7245	10%	Age 65+
AVIS car rentals	190 Buckland Hills, Mnch	(860) 648-1001		AARP - free size upgrade up to 30% off
Budget car rentals	190 Buckland Hills, Mnch	(860) 648-2118		AARP - free size upgrade OR 10% seniors
Carnival Cruises	Nationwide	(800) 764-7419		Age 55+ Discounts vary by destinations & dates
Choice Hotels	Nationwide	(877) 424-6423		Age 60+ or AARP up to 10% off
Consumer Cellular	Nationwide	(888) 345-5509	5%	AARP members & 30% off all accessories
Dollar Rent-A-Car	Bradley Airport, W Locks	(860) 386-2225	10%	Age 50+
Enterprise	298 Governor Street, EH	(860) 289-8881	5%	AARP
Hampton Inn & Suites	351 Pitkin Street, EH	(860) 282-2500	10%	AARP
Hertz car rentals	1 Union Place, Htfd	(860) 247-0044		AARP
Leaf Filter	Nationwide	(860) 530-4315	10%	Age? Seniors and Military
Marriot	Nationwide	(800) 535-4028	15%	Age 62+
Peter Pan Bus Lines	1 Union Place, Htfd	(800) 343-9999		Phone in or Ticket Counter 10% walk up rate
Royal Caribbean	Nationwide	(866) 562-7625		Age 55+
Southwest Airlines	Nationwide	(800) 435-9792		Discounts vary on location and dates
United Airlines	Nationwide	(800) 864-8331		Age 65+ Senior rates on select destinations

EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

Eagles LIX Chiefs

Nobody saw that coming. The bookmakers who spent a fortune on Super Bowl LIX ads made it back in spades off loyal clients who don't realize they have a problem.

The "smart" money was on Kansas City and orange. Both were losers, as was just about everything in between that the "smart" money was poured into.

This Super Bowl was full of surprises, not the least of which was how the officials pretty much stayed anonymous. All in all it was a clean game that required little yellow flag interference. The fact the officiating wasn't the major topic of con-

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



versation Monday morning, as it is the morning after most Chiefs playoff games, was testament to that, save for one brief moment in the Eagles opening drive, when a big play was called back on a shaky offensive pass interference call and you could hear gulps from coast to coast, "Here we go again".

At that point the players were allowed to take over, and that's just what the Eagles did, with a classic example of a full team effort. Like he did two years ago, Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts outplayed Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes. Like two years ago, the Eagles were the better team. Unlike two years ago the Eagles won, this time leaving nothing to chance. It was 24-0 at halftime on the way to a 40-22 rout that was never that close. It was 34-0 before the Chiefs finally got on the board on their final drive of the third quarter, the first Kansas City possession to cross midfield.

Hurts claimed game MVP honors, masterfully switching to a downfield passing game when the expected break out of Saquon Barkley never materialized. But Hurts will be the first to tell you everyone on his team deserved a piece of MVP hardware. The tone of Super Bowl LIX was clearly set by Philly's defensive line, a four man front that manhandled the six man front protecting Mahomes, who was sacked six times and bottled up the rest of the night, launching just one Mahomesian connection, well after the game was out of hand. The Eagles secondary gave the line plenty of time to swarm and swarm again. Mahomes threw two interceptions, one a pick six, and looked more like the goat than the GOAT. His assault on Tom Brady's throne is on hold and hopes of a K.C. three-peat now have to start from scratch.

It wasn't what we expected, much to the delight of gambling entrepreneurs who spent the week, through the game itself, collecting bets that leaned to Kansas City red. Which brings us to the losing color. The Gatorade the Eagles dumped on head coach Nick Sirianni was green. The betting favorite was orange.

I couldn't help but think if Pete Rose was alive he'd be a go-to spokesman for gambling houses that are now NFL business partners.

As for the usual commercials, I'm kinda partial to Harrison Ford's "I love my Jeep, even though my name is Ford." All in all a pretty good Super Bowl, because nobody saw it coming.

Hornet grapplers take CCC title



THE 2025 EAST HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL HORNET WRESTLING TEAM with the CCC championship banner.

by Gerry DeSimas
CT WRESTLING ONLINE

In two weeks, No. 4 East Hartford will try and capture their second Class LL championship in the last four years. The Hornets earned a share of the state title in 2022, finished 3½ points behind Trumbull in 2023 and were third behind Fairfield Warde and Danbury a year ago. On Saturday, East Hartford looked ready to rock.

The Hornets put six wrestlers in the championship finals and all six won as East Hartford captured their second Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) championship in the last three years with a 213 to 166½ win over No. 10 Southington. Conard was third with 149 points, their best finish since the CCC began hosting one league championship tournament.

"It's very exciting," East Hartford coach Todd Alberts said. "Coming in first, six wrestlers in the finals and all six winning in the finals. It was a dream. It's pretty huge."

East Hartford senior Jaeckez Mendez (144) won his third consecutive CCC title with an 8-1 decision over Conard's Harry Marino while Hornet teammates Issac Quiles (132), Yaxiver Rivera (157) and Drayvn Roberts won their second CCC

titles. Freshman Riley Storozuk (150) won a CCC championship along with sophomore Chris Montovani (106), who erased a six-point deficit to win his first CCC title.

Alberts is optimistic about where his Hornets are as they seek to challenge two-time defending state champion No. 2 Fairfield Warde in Class LL along with No. 3 Ridgefield, No. 6 Danbury and No. 7 Trumbull. "The competition here is phenomenal," he said. "(Our) guys are all healthy. We're in a good spot. I am really excited on what we did this weekend going into the LL meet. We will see what happens."

Mendez (37-1) looked outstanding in becoming the first CCC wrestler with three individual titles since the league went to a one-tournament format in 2021. He went 4-0 with two pins and just seven points and one takedown allowed. He was named the tournament's most outstanding wrestler.

"I've been trying to find myself as a wrestler again and bring myself back," he said. "I found that today in this tournament. I feel that I am back but I am a new wrestler."

Quiles (35-0) got two takedowns, including one with 57 seconds left in the match to beat defending State Open champion Isaiah McDaniel of Middletown in the finals at 132

pounds. Quiles' previous CCC title came in 2023.

At 150, Storozuk, a freshman, built a 7-2 lead and held off Southington junior Jake Rivera (32-5) with a 7-5 decision in the finals.

Yaxier Rivera (34-1) overwhelmed Berlin's Aidan DeJesus in the final at 157 pounds with a 13-2 decision. Rivera had a pin and three major decisions in the tournament. Rivera's previous CCC title also came in 2023.

Roberts (165) won his first CCC title since 2023 by pinning Bristol Central's Lincoln Archibald (34-5) in 47 seconds. Roberts (30-1) finished with three pins and a major decision in the tournament.

At 106, East Hartford sophomore Chris Montovani (34-4) trailed Middletown's Joshua Ramos (32-5) by six points, 7-1 in the second period. A reversal with 57 seconds left cut the lead to 7-3 after two periods.

After an escape, Montovani tied the match at 7-7 with a takedown with 54 seconds left. A four-point near fall with eight seconds remaining gave him an 11-7 lead and his first CCC title.

"We've been working a lot on conditioning so I knew I was ready to go in the third period," Montovani said. "I kinda felt he was slowing down a bit so I was trying to speed it up and get some points on the board."

OBITUARIES

Dorothy 'Dot' (Irwin) Christiana, 97

Dorothy "Dot" (Irwin) Christiana, 97, of Manchester and formerly of East Hartford, peacefully entered into eternal life on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at the Manchester Manor. She was the beloved wife of 31 years of the late Carman F. Christiana of East Hartford. Born in Manchester on July 17, 1927, a daughter of the late Frank and Letitia (Magee) Irwin, she had been a lifelong resident of the Manchester/East Hartford area. Dot was a graduate of Manchester High School, class of 1945. Prior to her retirement, she was employed by Aetna Life Insurance Company in Hartford as a Secretary for many years. She was a talented baker and was known for her delicious pies, especially lemon meringue. She loved to play "set back" and other card games with her friends as well as traveling with her friends. Dot enjoyed living on the fami-



Dorothy Christiana

ly farm in E a s t Hartford and hosting backyard picnics for family and friends to gather. Most of all, Dot was a proud and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who looked forward to Sunday afternoon dinners with her daughters and their families.

Dorothy is survived by her three daughters: Linda G. Christiana of Manchester, Patricia J. Christiana and her husband James Iacobellis of Manchester, Karen J. Christiana of Old Saybrook; two cherished grandchildren,

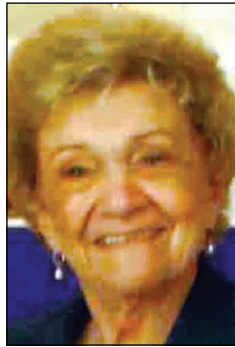
Vivian Tardiff

Vivian Tardiff was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend. She entered into eternal life on February 10, 2025 with her daughters by her side.

She was born to Eudore and Marguerite (Nadeau) Nadeau on May 21, 1931 in Keegan, Maine. She grew up in Van Buren, Maine, attended Van Buren High School and Husson University in Bangor.

She was the Van Buren Town Clerk and Town Treasurer for several years. She married her high school sweetheart, Rudolph, on November 25, 1952 and moved to Connecticut where she worked at Pratt & Whitney as a materials analyst for 27 years.

Vivian was a devout Catholic and member of St. Christopher Church for over 60 years. She very much enjoyed crocheting and shared her talents not only with her family but also with the community, making baptism blankets, prayer shawls, and lap blankets for the veterans. She was also a contributor to many charities. She loved ballroom dancing,



Vivian Tardiff

shopping sprees and trying out new restaurants. She enjoyed traveling with her husband and in-laws. Their journeys took them throughout the country, and she collected shot glasses from each location. She had quite the collection! But above all, she especially loved bragging about her grandchildren and great grandchildren. There were never enough shelves or tabletops for all the pictures she had of them.

She is survived by her two daughters, Beverly Collins and Barbara Lynn Tardiff. She was predeceased by her husband of 71 years, Rudolph, her daughter Deborah Fallacaro, her son Mark Tardiff, her sister Joanne Nadeau, and her son-in-law Ronald Collins. She leaves behind 6 grandchildren, all of whom brought her much joy: Jessica Lacasse and husband Patrick, Gregory Bottaro and

Nina Bloom and her husband Orion of Burke, Virginia, Samuel C. Iacobellis of Washington, D.C.; three adored great-grandchildren, Annie, Adalin, and Noelle; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many dear friends.

A private funeral service and burial at East Cemetery in Manchester will be held at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours.

Memorial contributions in Dorothy's name may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or MACC (Manchester Area Conference of Churches), 466 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040. D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford has been entrusted with the care of the funeral arrangements.

For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com

wife Barbra, Elizabeth Klemonski and husband Kevin, Danielle Brower and husband Dave, Eric Bottaro and Stacey Brand, Nicholas Bottaro and wife Kristi; and 19 great-grandchildren: Chase, Avery, Elijah, Francesca, Gabriel, Avila, Joseph, Petra, David, Ryan, Brielle, Cody, Jackson, Ethan, Lucas, Gemma, Jonathen, Anthony, and Giovanni. She will be dearly missed by each of them.

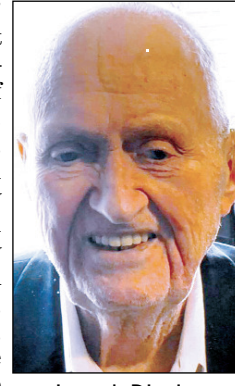
Funeral services will begin on Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 9 am at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St. East Hartford, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10 am at St. Christopher Church of North American Martyrs Parish, 538 Brewer St. Burial will be at Hillside Cemetery.

Vivian's family will receive relatives and friends on Friday, February 14, 2025 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the funeral chapel.

For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com

Joseph 'Joe' Diggins; Marine

Joseph E. "Joe" Diggins, 85, of East Hartford, loving husband of 63 years of the late Shirley M. (Simoneau) Diggins, peacefully passed away Friday, January 31, 2025 surrounded by his caring family at his home. Born in Rockingham, Vermont March 16, 1939, son of the late James W. and Grace May (Griffith)



Joseph Diggins

Diggins, he had been a resident of East Hartford since 1966. He grew up in Vermont and was a graduate of Bellow Falls High School, class of 1957. One month after high school, he became a proud United States Marine.

After serving his country Joe came to the East Hartford area where he was a machinist at Pratt & Whitney for over 30 years, walking to work every day wearing his Cowboy hat. A devout Catholic, he was a faithful communicant and former usher at both St. Christopher and Blessed Sacrament churches. An intelligent man, he liked tinkering on his automobile and became a gas mileage expert in the mid-1970s during the gas rationing era.

He was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox and Boston Celtics, an avid bird watcher and loved red cardinals. Most of all, Joe was a devoted husband and caregiver for many years to his loving wife, Shirley.

The family extend their heartfelt appreciation for the

loving care provided by Pam Taylor and her family and the Visiting Nurses hospice team.

Joe is survived by three daughters Linda Diggins-Domina and her husband Wayne Domina of Manchester, Kathleen "Kathy" Diggins and her significant other Robert Sussdorff of Burlington, Marjorie

Witmer of East Hartford; four special grandchildren, Clarissa Diggins of Northfield, NH, Brittany Gould of Franklin, NH, Michaela Sabinski of Hartford, Joseph Witmer of Greenbrier, Tennessee; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. Besides his beloved wife and parents, Joe was predeceased by two infant sons: Joseph Diggins and Peter Diggins; and two siblings: Alice Wands and James Diggins.

Funeral service will be Friday, Feb. 14 with Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at St. Christopher Church, 538 Brewer St. with burial with military honors to follow at St. James Cemetery, Manchester. Go directly to the church Friday morning. There are no calling hours.

Gifts in Joe's name may be made to the CT Audubon Society, 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06824. D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel has been entrusted with funeral arrangements. On-line please visit www.desopoeh.com

Celebrating Each Life Like No Other.

Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home

(860) 528-4135 www.newkirkandwhitney.com

Benjamin J. Callahan Funeral Home

(860) 289-0209 www.callahanfuneral.com

318 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, Ct 06108

Bonnie J. Latronica – *General Manager*

Christopher J. Kulmacz – *Lead Funeral Director*

**Advanced Planning ~ Celebrant Services ~
Monuments & Engravings ~ Bilingual in Spanish**

K.G. KEENA MEMORIALS, INC.

Monuments · Markers · Cemetery Lettering
Pre-need designs and inquires encouraged.

Evenings and weekend appointments at our office or at your home. Visit our indoor and outdoor display at

1375 SILVER LANE, EAST HARTFORD • 860-569-3125

Carol A. Keena

Kristopher J. Keena

Kevin G. Keena

Synergy shows new lab

From Page One

an airplane and appreciate flying, he taught in the technology classroom at East Hartford High School for many years.

Socolosky threw himself enthusiastically into the new challenge the new manufacturing lab equipment at Synergy presented, and realizes the unique opportunity it offers to students at the school.

Thus far, about 20 students have been instructed in the use of the various computer-based machines. Some have already been recruited by employers. Synergy has an active partnership with several local manufacturing companies.

The new lab takes advantage of that. The lab has state-of-the-art, computer-guided manufacturing equipment to help train Synergy students in the needs of the modern manufacturing worksite.

Principal Edgardo Figueroa, speaking at a small reception held to thank the senators, noted the lab will “give Synergy students an edge over the competition” when it comes to landing a job. Superintendent of

Schools Thomas Anderson called the lab an “investment in human capital.”

Having hands-on experience on programming the machines in the lab – and understanding how they work and repairing them or a job when something goes wrong allows the Synergy students to learn real-life skills needed today in the field of manufacturing.

Senator Blumenthal was treated to a walk through of the new lab Monday, and watched as students demonstrated several of the machines.

Among these demonstrations were of full-size and desktop mills, 3-D modeling software, and mobile simulators.

Visitors also saw the lab’s lathe, laser engraver, and quality control equipment.

Sen. Blumenthal, guided by Synergy Senior Ryan Kenyon, operated one machines which ran Kenyon's program to produce Blumenthal's name plate.

Teacher Socolosky’s dream is to open the lab up to all students at Synergy. That would really let their future take flight.



SYNERGY SENIOR RYAN KENYON with Senator Richard Blumenthal.

Board of Ed

From Page One

fact that fewer East Hartford students attend out-of-district magnet schools, and overall tuition at magnet schools has decreased.

Finally, Culani expressed delight at the Board’s savings in utilities. Despite the increase in natural gas and electricity prices, the district is still holding utility costs within budget because of various updates to the district school buildings. She did add that a better picture will be available soon after colder months pass.

The second quarter report, like in the past, will be used to help predict future budget levels. She was also hopeful that the surplus from the staff account will cover the SPED overage. The Board then approved the 2026-2027 school calendar.

The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 26. The first three days, as in the past, will be half-day student days. The calendar will also have a Professional Day on Election Day, and recognize the same holidays as this year. There will be a longer Christmas break ending after Three Kings Day. There will also be an April vacation the week of April 12.

The Board then set its own business calendar for 2026, placing all its regular meetings on a Monday of each month, except July, starting at 7 p.m. with the Connecticut IB Academy hosting the event. It also revised its list of committee members. Both of these are available online.

Finally, the Board approved a 2026 trip to China proposed by teachers at the IB Academy and East Hartford High School. The trip will happen during the April break and will be subsidized by the Chinese government. Over the past years the Chinese government has been offering to help Connecticut students come to their country by linking high schools with universities while covering all costs occurred while in China.

The last time East Hartford schools have been to China was 2018. Other area high schools have taken advantage of the Chinese government program.

Board approval was needed for fundraising activities to begin. It is estimated each student will need \$3,500 to cover transportation, visa and insurance. If costs rise too much, the trip may be canceled.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN

In The Matter of The Estate of

**WILLIAM B. WHITEMAN
DECEASED
(ST-2024-PB-00127)**

**Petition for Ancillary Probate
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Ancillary Administration has been filed on behalf of the Estate of William B. Whiteman, deceased, and all persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, by affidavit, and all person indebted to the Estate to make payment promptly to the undersigned.

Sally J. Whiteman
Petitioner

Law Offices of Richard H. Dollison, P.C.

Dated: October 25, 2024

By: s/ Richard H. Dollison, Esq.
Richard H. Dollison, V.I. Bar
502
5143 Palm Passage, Ste.
B28/29
P.O. Box 6135
St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00804-
6135
(340) 774-7044
(340) 774-7045 fax
rhd@rdollisonlaw.com

Brittney Cavaliere, Mike Walsh to lead parade

From Page One

on creating community across town. Brittney serves as Senior Director of Strategy at Connecticut Foodshare, the food bank serving all towns across the state. In her role, she is responsible for overseeing the food bank’s strategic planning and strategic implementation. Brittney’s experiences working with people with HIV in the beginning of her career fuels her passion for a more equitable America where everyone can thrive. She received a Master of Public Health from Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Fordham University. When she's not at her job or volunteering around town, you can find Brittney on a walk with her dog Scout, riding her bike through town, swimming laps at one of the town pools, or at a bookstore finding her next read.

Former East Hartford mayor Mike Walsh approached town business in a new way by separating the daily operations from long-term projects. By trusting employees to handle the daily operations, senior staff were

able to focus on long term projects using a communication and planning document called a “Control Tower”. The Control Tower defined 20 critical projects in 2023 enabling the town to accelerate the work on eight development, seven infrastructure, and five new programs.

The results of this new way of doing business through development include the taking of the long-blighted Silver Lane Plaza by eminent domain to pave the way for new retail and housing. At the Showcase Cinema site, 400 market-rate apartments will bring much needed foot traffic back to Silver Lane are breaking ground in April.

2.5 million s.f. of warehouse space occupied by Lowes and Wayfair will open in April adding 1,000 new jobs and millions in new tax revenue. Church Corners Inn was purchased by the Town and will be renovated into new housing in order to settle the Main Street business district.

Related to infrastructure, an obsolete Town Hall was closed for 18 months and over \$20 million was invested in new mechanicals with the opening on track for May 1. The Veteran’s

Memorial Clubhouse will undergo a complete \$7 million renovation and be turned over to a well-know local businessman for events and other functions. Finally, a three-season porch will be added to the Golf Course restaurant.

Related to programs, an embedded social worked was added to the Police Department because not every call needs a uniformed officer, gun and taser. Town Hall was reorganized adding a Project Manager to accelerate projects, Chief Diversity Officer responsibilities were added to the Human Resource Director to insure that all new hires reflect the diversity of the Town, and finally, Chief Administrative Officer duties were added to the Finance Director responsibilities so that momentum is not slowed when administrations change over. And then Mike got out of the way, handing the reigns of Town Hall over to Mayor Connor Martin to lead the community of 51,000 for perhaps the next 10 years.

Tickets to Saturday's brunch are \$25. Contact Sana Hart at 860-558-6261.

Local Services You Can Trust

GRAHAM REAL ESTATE



East Hartford's oldest real estate company is still serving you. Please call or email for a free Market Evaluation of your property.

GRAHAM REAL ESTATE
1406 MAIN STREET
860-289-1541

GRAHAMREALESTATE@COMCAST.NET
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

HINDS HOME IMPROVEMENT



- CARPENTRY
- BASEMENTS
- DECKS
- FLOORS
- WINDOWS
- DOORS
- PAINTING & MORE...

Connecticut Licensed Contractor

860-778-6232 - 860-888-1160

HENRY'S Tree Service

Tree and stump removal
Landscaping
Bobcat work
Yard extension
FULLY INSURED - FREE ESTIMATES!
15% OFF WITH THIS AD!

860-847-0067

Got Stumps



Stump Grinding Call Dwayne - Ed Manager
860-670-6293

Burn Oil

COMPANY
(860) 295-9046

Residential & Commercial Heating Oil
Senior & Volume Discounts

Minimum **100** No Pre-buys
Delivery **GALLONS!** Available

- NO CONTRACTS NEEDED - H.O.D.
- COD DELIVERY AVAILABLE - #1087

P.O. Box 32 · Marlborough



Put a Classified Ad to work for you.

E-mail your ad to ads@ehgazette.com

NEVER WORRY ABOUT POWER OUTAGES AGAIN.



Gain peace-of-mind with the most powerful line of home standby generators.



When choosing a standby generator, check the specifications closely. Only Briggs & Stratton PowerProtect™ generators feature NGMax™ technology, delivering up to 12% more power on natural gas than the competition. For homes with natural gas, Briggs & Stratton is the ideal choice.

Industry-Leading Comprehensive Warranty for Years of Worry-Free Performance

Standard Warranty of **7 YEARS** \$849 Value

Call 1-877-553-6259



*Engineered and assembled in the USA of domestic and foreign components.

Consumer Cellular®

BIG WIRELESS COVERAGE, WITHOUT BIG WIRELESS COST.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

Switch & Save Today.

833-654-2028

© 2021 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations.

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

FEB 14: BE MY VALENTINE DANCE, Connecticut Ballet's annual romantic evening of dance and music, Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Hartford's Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St. The \$20.25 online charge includes the performance and after-party with wine and nibbles. Enjoy classics from the American songbook with the Margi Gianquinto Quartet. Tickets at the door: \$25. Connecticut Ballet offers a limited number of deeply discounted tickets for same-day performances to seniors over the age of 65, full-time high school and college students, veterans and military personnel on active duty. Proof of student/senior/military status will be requested at the box office. For info, call us at 203-964-1211 or 860-293-1039.

FEB 16: CHILI COOKOFF at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St. starting at 11 a.m. Taste the entries - or enter your own winning recipe - and cast your vote for the winner. Try multiple chili dishes at a nominal cost during this tasty fundraiser, with serving sizes ranging from \$1 to \$5. Additional chili chefs welcome. If you have a treasured family recipe, or have been hankering to experiment with a new one, this is your chance! Try to claim the coveted "chili necklace". No charge to enter. E-mail Lisa at cefe@southucc.org for info.

FEB 16: COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS of WWII at 2 p.m. in the Friends Meeting Room of the South Windsor Public Library, 1550 Sullivan Ave. South Windsor, presented by the East Hartford-based World War II Legacy Foundation. On February 3, 1943 the troop transport ship, SS Dorchester was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. The Four Chaplains gave their life jackets, and lives, saving servicemen on board.

BLOOD DRIVE - 2/20/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Crossroads Community Cathedral, 1492 Silver Lane. All who come to give Jan. 27-Feb. 28 get a \$15 e-gift card. RedCrossBlood.org/Flurry - or RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

FEB. 12, 26: FREDERICK DOUGLASS - FROM SLAVE TO STATESMAN. Join us to hear about the path of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave, to becoming the most important leader of the African American civil rights movement in the 19th century. Professor Bryan Sinche will discuss Douglass's interesting life and his complicated relationship with President Abraham Lincoln. Wednesdays, Feb. 12, 26; 2:30-4 p.m. This is just one of the many winter/spring courses & lectures for adults at the Presidents' College Lifelong Learning Program at the University of Hartford. Hartford.edu/pc. Email pcollege@hartford.edu to be added to the mailing list.

FEBRUARY 13 - TALK TO YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

- East Hartford's delegation at the state capitol invites you to attend a Legislative Town Hall at the Wickham Library, 656 Burnside Ave., from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Listen to the issues of the day in Hartford, and tell them about issues that matter to you!

FEB 15: BRUNCH BEGINNING AT 11 A.M. honoring East Hartford's 2025 Town Marshal and Town Honoree in the 2025 St. Patrick's Day Parade at the Irish American Home Society, 132 Commerce St., Glastonbury. Tickets are \$25. Honorees include former East Hartford mayor Mike Walsh, selected as the 2025 East Hartford Parade Marshal, and Britney Cavaliere, founder and leader of the East Hartford High School Alumni Association, chosen as 2025 East Hartford Town Honoree. All welcome! For tickets please contact Sana Hart at 860-558-6261. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is March 15, at 11 a.m. in Hartford.

FEB 20-23 - Can't wait until Spring? The sights and scents of that season will be on full display at the "43rd Connecticut Flower & Garden Show" starting Thursday at the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd. in Hartford Feb. 20, Feb. 21, Feb. 22 and Feb. 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Discounted tickets on sale now at www.CTFlowerShow.com

MARCH 1: HILLSTOWN GRANGE "SPRING BREAK PANCAKE BREAKFAST" Saturday, 8:30 to 11 a.m. Feature pancake: cinnamon with cream cheese frosting. Pancake breakfast includes sausage, coffee, tea and juice, \$6 (\$3 kids 14 and under). Plain and chocolate chip pancakes also available. Upstairs the Grange Hall features a library and reading area for playing board games or post-pancake relaxation. Books available for a donation to the historic 135-year-old Grange Hall building fund. Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills St.

MARCH 8 - MOVIE NIGHT - The East Hartford Commission on Culture & Fine Arts presents a free film, "Hive" at 7 p.m. in the Community Cultural Center auditorium, 50 Chapman Place. East Hartford Summer Youth Festival will be selling concessions, in-

cluding popcorn. Hive is a searing drama based on the true story of Fahrige, who has lived with fading hope and burgeoning grief since her husband went missing during the war in Kosovo. She pulls the other widows in her community together to launch a business selling a local food product. NR.

MAR. 6, 13, 27: MINI-COURSE ON THE SILK ROAD: How Music & Art Migrated. Globalization...It was happening even back in 1500 BC. Material goods flowed along the Silk Road, and so, too, did culture. Delve into how music and art from Greece, Persia, Turkey, India, and Central and East Asia influenced each other's development. Thursdays, March 6, 13, 27; 3-4:30 p.m. This is just one of the many winter/spring courses & lectures for adults at the Presidents' College Lifelong Learning Program at the University of Hartford. Hartford.edu/pc. E-mail pcollege@hartford.edu to be added to the mailing list.

MAY 22: CONNECTIKIDS "BOTANICAL BALL" Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pond House in Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. Dinner, entertainment, dancing and caricature artist. Funds raised through this unique fundraiser empower this 46-year-old nonprofit's after-school programs creating a safe haven for children to learn and grow. ConnectiKids has supported over 20,000 young people ages 6 to 18 through educational and personal development. The goal is to continue this through one-to-one and group mentoring and career and college exposure. Tickets are \$100. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit givebutter.com/CTKBall or contact Kaleitha Brown at 860-522-8710 x12. FMI visit www.ct-kids.org

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HORSESHOE CLUB has moved to 50 Oakland St. (off Park Avenue) and are looking for people interested in playing horseshoes indoors during the winter months. E-mail debbiescully@comcast.net; 860-778-1057.

VETERANS COFFEE HOUR at the Senior Center, 15 Milbrook Dr., 10 a.m. third Tuesday of the month.

MY SISTERS' PLACE: Help My Sisters' Place provide affordable housing and services for families in need by sending a donation to: Community Housing Advocates, 221 Main St., 4th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106. FMI call 860-808-2048.

INTERVAL HOUSE helps victims of domestic violence, advocacy, legal rights. 860-527-0550.

PROJECT LINUS delivers blankets to local hospitals. We are always looking for people to donate handmade quilts or afghans. Blankets need not be fancy, just colorful and washable, any size, receiving to twin. To donate call 860-649-5513.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP at Riverside Health & Rehab Center meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 745 Main St. Facilitated by Scott Ginter. RSVP: 860-289-2791.
