

The Gazette

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Thursday, March 20, 2025

Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

1406 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108

860-289-6468

editor@ehgazette.com

website: ehgazette.com

Murphy rallies Seniors

State Sen. Chris Murphy came to the East Hartford Senior Center Monday to ask residents to let his office know if they have problems with the federal government in the wake of planned closure of many of offices nationwide.

Dozens of Social Security Administration offices across the country are slated to close this year due to actions taken by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency as part of the Trump administration's unprecedented effort to shrink the size of government.

DOGE published a list of nearly 800 federal real estate

See **MURPHY RALLY**, pg 10

GREAT DAY TO CELEBRATE THE IRISH



BANDS, FLOATS, politicians and step dancers in Hartford Saturday.

VALUE OF PI TO 221 PLACES



O'BRIEN SCHOOL FIFTH GRADER RAPHEL AGYAPONG won Friday's Pi Day contest reciting the constant out to 221 places. That's 3.1415926535897932384626433832795028841971693993751058209749445923078164062862089986280348253421170679821480865132823066470938446095505822317253594081284811174502841027019385211055596446229489549303819644288109756659334461 so you need not stop to look it up.

EHHS awarded \$450K for chef

By Robert Kanehl

At the last East Hartford Hunger Action Team (HAT) meeting it was announced that the town's public schools have received the Connecticut State Department of Education's Professional Chefs for Schools Grant.

The award is for \$450,000 over the next three years.

K-12 Foodservice General Manager Shari Staeb noted that money will be used search for a chef who can not only oversee the district meal planning and preparation but also to teach district staff on how to prepare food.

"That was the primary goal of applying for the grant," Staeb explained. "To have someone capable of training the staff to integrate different things from our Farm to School program into our cafeteria meals."

She hopes that the staff would become more skilled at "scratch cooking using the fruits and vegetables the local farmers provide the district to create exciting dishes."

This position will also be used by the District's food services to conduct "small focus groups with students to help expand and adjust the school's menus," grant writer and district dietitian Carolyn Pancarowicz stated.

She is hoping the executive chef will provide a means of getting the students to try new and interesting foods. Data for

SEE **CHEF GRANT**, page 10

History on display Sunday

Inspired by the what can be found in old newspapers and articles of the time, acknowledging long-forgotten doers of the area and how they dealt with life in their day.

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown and other historians and researchers agree the simple turning of a page of an old newspaper, magazine or book can ignite so many thoughts and moments of appreciation.

This Sunday, March 23, at the Raymond Library downstairs lecture room from 1:30 until they drag us out at 4:30 p.m. flip through the photographs and pages of town history with us as hundreds of paper items and other East Hartford memorabilia will be on display.

These items one would not see by purely doing an internet search. Bring a relative or friend who appreciates going

down memory lane to this free all-local and personal history show.

Touch the same sources people of that day may have touched.

"The discoveries are amazing - you see things that otherwise would never have come to mind," stated Brown who enjoys and appreciates the many details and nuances of the past. "And family searching - often a notable mention can be found. Take a photo of it and do some exploring! Might be good for a new history project or paper for school.

Brown welcomes younger residents especially to find out more, ask questions, and discover the history of their town.

"Come and join us for a cookie, and have a treat of history that will have YOU talking.

See **HISTORY DISPLAY**, pg 10

AROUND TOWN

Roundabout talk Wednesday

Mayor Connor S. Martin, the state Dept. of Transportation and BETA Group will host an information meeting at Town Hall "to dispel some of the myths about roundabouts, provide modern safety data, and share examples of successful roundabouts across the state" Wednesday, March 26 at 6 p.m. The presentation will include a review of design concepts and plans for roundabouts on Main Street and at Forbes and Chester streets.

Panelists will include the mayor, Scott Bushee, Principal Engineer with the Division of Highway Design at the state DOT and chairman of the

CTDOT's Roundabout Committee; Chief of Police Mack Hawkins; irector of Public Works Alex Trujillo and Town Engineer Doug Wilson.

At Town Hall and Microsoft Teams (Meeting ID: 251 897 175 694; Passcode: rR2J7jT7)

Said Mayor Connor Martin: "This initiative reflects East Hartford's commitment to improving roadway safety, easing traffic flow, and enhancing the overall quality of life for everyone in our town, so it's important to be a part of this important conversation early on and become an advocate within our community as we move East Hartford forward."

EHHS HELPS VETERANS



EAST HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS traveled to the Meriden headquarters of the Disabled American Veterans Friday to help pack Christmas in April gift bags. Pictured, above from left, are students Olivia Brown, Alissia Mercado, Emily Rodriguez and Noel Rodriguez.

Rotary scholarships

Five East Hartford Rotary Scholarships will be given to students who reside in East Hartford regardless of where they attend high school. A sixth offering, the Gioconda B. McGettigan scholarship, is for any East Hartford high school.

This scholarship is made available by a generous bequest from the Estate of Gioconda B. McGettigan. There is a common application for all six scholarships in the guidance offices. Only high school seniors are eligible. The applicant must have at least a C+ or 2.8 GPA to be eligible, and major consideration will be given to students who best exemplify the Rotary Motto "Service Above Self".

Over the past six years the East Hartford Rotary Club has awarded over \$100,000 to East Hartford students based upon their service to the community.

Garden scholarships

The East Hartford Garden Club will award a scholarship to a student who will major in any plant-related science. For an application please ask in your school's guidance office. Deadline is April 1.

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AmEagle has new digital banking partner

Alkami Technology, Inc., a leading cloud-based digital banking provider, announced East Hartford's American Eagle Financial Credit Union signed on to use Alkami's Digital Banking Platform. This reflects AEFUCU's dedication to offering enhanced digital banking experiences to its members. Alkami promises to make it easier for members of the credit union to easily access and manage their financial info, according to a press release from the Plano, Texas-based company.

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CLASSIFIEDS

DID YOU DRIVE A SCHOOL BUS in Glastonbury in the 1980s? We're looking to interview former drivers for a short film about childhood and memory. Earn a \$20 Stop & Shop gift card for approximately one hour of your time. If interested, please contact Meredith at meredithmillerphoto@gmail.com.

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

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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.

Manteniendo Viva Nuestra Historia

El 22 de marzo, Puerto Rico conmemora el Día de la Abolición, recordando el fin de la esclavitud en la isla en 1873. Este día es un recordatorio de las luchas y victorias por la libertad en Puerto Rico.

No es solo un momento de reflexión, sino también un llamado a reconocer que la lucha por la justicia racial y social sigue en pie. La historia es mucho más que un simple relato del pasado. La historia moldea nuestra identidad, nos ayudada a entender las luchas del presente y guía a las futuras generaciones. En Puerto Rico, donde se puede ver las huellas del colonialismo, la migración, y la identidad racial, el día de la abolición es un momento im-

DESDE LA ESQUINA

by Carmen Maldonado

portante para honrar la valentía de quienes resistieron la opresión y aportaron a la cultura, la economía y la fuerza de la isla.

Sin embargo, en Estados Unidos, cada vez más vemos como hay intentos de borrar o minimizar la historia, especialmente aquellas relacionadas con la raza la diversidad y la opresión sistemática.

Mantener viva nuestra historia es bien importante, no solo para honrar a quienes lucharon por la justicia, si no para asegurarnos de que las generaciones futuras comprendan los sacrifi-

cios y logros que han dado forma a nuestro mundo.

No importa si eres de Puerto Rico o no, en estos tiempos donde hay quienes intentan borrar el pasado, recordar y honrar nuestra historia es más necesario que nunca.

Próximo

¡Gente! Estas reuniones son importantes, así que presta atención. El 26 de marzo a las 6:00pm en el Town Hall, Town Council Chambers y virtual en Microsoft Teams (Meeting ID: 251 897 175 694; Passcode: rR2J7jT7) se van a reunir para discutir los redondeles que

quieren crear en Main st como manera de reducir el tráfico. Esta reunión es importante por si tienes dudas preguntas o simplemente estas a favor o en contra. Otro evento para los residentes de East Hartford es un Taller Creativo para la Comunidad. Este evento está diseñado para recopilar ideas y opiniones sobre la nueva identidad de East Hartford. Este taller interactivo se llevará a cabo el 27 de marzo, de 6:00pm a 8:00pm, en la Biblioteca Wickham (656 Burnside Avenue).

Llego la búsqueda anual de huevos de Pascua en East Hartford en McAuliffe Park (30 Remington Road), el 5 de abril desde la 1:00pm. Habrá dulces, sorpresitas, y huevitos de plástico con premios adentro. Mientras los niños esperan su turno, podrán disfrutar de manuali-

dades gratis. Este evento es para niños de 10 años o menos, y los participantes serán divididos por edades. Niños de 1 a 3 años tendrán su turno de 1:00pm a 1:20pm, las edades de 4 a 5 participarán de 1:30pm a 1:50pm y los niños de 6 a 10 tendrán la oportunidad de participar de 2:00pm a 2:20pm. Cada niño debe de estar acompañado de un adulto.

Si necesitas ayuda con tus taxes East Hartford está ofreciendo ayudas gratuitas en la biblioteca, el 30 de marzo, abril 6, y abril 13. La ayuda es gratis, pero para participar necesitas cita: (860) 291-7460.

Únete al 'Japan Society' de Connecticut y participa con la siembra de 40 árboles. El evento se llevará a cabo el 12 de abril desde las 9am hasta las 12pm en Rentschler Field.



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SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is the Zombie Apocalypse still collecting Social Security?

By Steve Robinson

Elon Musk made headlines this week when he revealed the Social Security Administration (SSA) failed to record the deaths of millions of people over the age of 100 and suggested vampires might be real and a lot of them were collecting Social Security. He also noted there were more "eligible" Social Security Numbers (SSNs) than U.S. citizens, suggesting "this might be the biggest fraud in history."

Sadly, Musk's comments reveal how little he knows about Social Security, rather than how

much the program pays to dead people or non-citizens.

Since Social Security was enacted in 1935, there have been more than 530 million SSNs issued, that's out of one billion possible combinations of nine-digit numbers. The number of SSNs for each age group that Musk revealed does not reflect the number of people collecting benefits, but rather the number of SSNs issued minus the number of deaths recorded by the SSA. Thus, these numbers are not indicative of scandalous activity, as Musk seems to believe.

As The Concord Coalition has previously written, most

SSNs are issued when children are born in the United States. However, many immigrants are also eligible to receive SSNs for employment purposes. Some of these immigrants obtain U.S. citizenship, while others leave the country. As a result, the number of SSNs will always be greater than the number of U.S. citizens.

That is especially true given the difficulty of obtaining comprehensive death records, both here and abroad.

The SSA maintains a computer database known as the Death Master File. However, this database was not estab-

lished until 1983, and not every state has fully participated until recently. Thus, deaths that occurred prior to the 1980s were less likely to be included.

According to a report issued by the SSA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in 2023, there were 18.9 million individuals born in 1920 or earlier with no death information reported in their official ("Numident") record. Approximately 44,000 of these individuals were receiving benefits. That's less than the roughly 80,000 centenarians identified by the Census Bureau in the 2020 Decennial Census.

The SSA OIG recommended that the Agency add a death indicator to the records of individuals who have exceeded some reasonable maximum life expectancy. The Agency rejected this advice claiming such actions would involve individuals who do not receive benefits, and amending their records would divert resources from other work necessary to administer the program.

Agree or disagree with the Agency's decision, one thing is perfectly clear, the vampires are not the ones responsible for Social Security's financial problems.

Playing the dangerous global game of 'Trump or Consequences'

To the editor:

Fact: Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. It was assumed that Ukraine would fall in short order. Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky was offered safe passage by the United States out of Ukraine. His legendary-like response: "I need ammunition, not a ride." In point of contrast, then former President Trump called the initial Russian incursion into eastern Ukraine "genius." It was nothing less than "wonderful." The accolade was based on giving homage to Putin's propagandistic acumen in his admiration of the Russian president's manipulation of "alternative facts" in masking Putin's colonial driven masterstroke.

Zelensky's courage reinforced Ukraine's resolve to take on the juggernaut from the east in a brutal ground and air war. The Ukrainians have fought valiantly over the past three years in a long, vicious stalemate. Combining their own

heroic military efforts with the massive support provided by a broad array of European nations, the U.S. and other allies, the Ukrainians have prevented Russia from dominating their country and, thereby, stalled Putin's efforts to further extend his nation's encroachment into eastern Europe.

I do not recall Trump ever paying homage to the Churchillian leadership of Volodymyr Zelensky, who has taken up the challenge against the Russian onslaught despite the most insufferable odds. Neither could Trump bring himself to pay due respect to President Biden's historic role in galvanizing the free world to lend key support, not only for the sake of Ukraine, but also in halting the broader expansionist drive of Putin's imperialist aim.

Moving toward the current crisis, recall the Border Patrol Enhancement Act of 2024, which consisted of many central Republican agenda items.

The Act included military resources to Ukraine and Israel. Trump's pressuring Republicans to veto it, resulted in a several month delay of vital aid to Ukraine, which had the effect of assisting Russia. Recall too, Trump's 2024 pejorative caricature of Zelensky as the "greatest salesman on earth," utterly dismissing his patriotic heroism based upon his pivotal role in holding Russia at bay. In his insinuation, too, that Senator John McCain was not a hero because he was put in a North Vietnamese prison camp, I see no evidence that Trump has any appreciative sense of what heroism truly is—hence his depiction of Zelensky in purely transactional terms.

Trump's analysis of the power differential between Russia and Ukraine helps explain his persistence in negotiating first with international war criminal, Vladimir Putin, then to assign to Ukraine and the European partners their respec-

tive roles in carrying out the agreement. Equally troubling is Trump's insistence on U.S. rights to a sizable portion of Ukraine's valued rare minerals ahead of that nation's knowing the exact nature of any potential agreement, and without a security agreement that would protect Ukraine against further Russian incursion into their country. Meanwhile, nothing that has surfaced requires anything from Russia, which Trump refuses to call the aggressor nation, including that of paying Ukraine reparations for invading and destroying a good portion of that nation's infrastructure.

More troubling yet is Trump blaming Ukraine for the war by not making concessions to Russia before the 2022 invasion. In Trump's words, Zelensky "could have made a deal" and there would have been no war to begin with. It was this failure that Trump drew on for justification to deny Ukraine a seat at

the negotiating table, nonetheless, demanding concessions in advance.

Frustrated with Zelensky's reasonable claims for a security agreement, Trump 'paused' needed military resources and intelligence assistance to Ukraine, thereby placing that nation's capacity to effectively defend itself in jeopardy, particularly from Russia's air war. Trump would only resume such aid "if they want to settle," meaning trusting the U.S. to negotiate for Ukraine, requiring that nation to accept in advance any ultimate agreement that he and Putin would come up to with.

Relenting against his more extreme demands, Trump agreed to lift the pause after Ukraine agreed to a 30 day cease fire if Russia similarly followed suit. In this, Trump is no neutral negotiator. As reflected in the president's recent statement: "We've been discussing

Continued on page 5

LETTERS: *The Gazette* welcomes signed letters on subjects of interest to our readers. Provide a daytime phone number. Mail to: *The Gazette*, 1406 Main St., EH, CT 06108 or e-mail to editor@ehgazette.com

Did You Know... it's not easy to get a map?

Did you know it is not easy to find a paper town map today? When you first start working on a local paper, you tend to meet the town librarian, town clerk and obtain a town map.

These past few weeks, I set out to accomplish my reporter's duty, even though I have been writing now for well over a year.

Meeting the librarian and the town clerk went well, but getting an East Hartford hard-copy map was not so successful.

It's not that the town has changed much since my 1990 map was printed, but a more up today representation would make my life a little easier.

But the map gods being vengeful or equipped with a horrible Dad Sense of Humor prevented me updating.

Older readers will sympathize, while younger readers will just say look on your phone.

A hard-copy map is important because you get to orient yourself to neighborhoods and perspective distances in your mind, while an online map focuses your attention on nearby attractions to a desired location. The Board of Education understands this concept, for they display a large map at their welcome center baring pictures of the various schools.

Years ago, you could find a map in the back of the local

phone directory - but there are no more phone books. Displaying one when teaching third graders always brings quizzical

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back on our East Hartford by Rob Kanehl

looks and smiles from their teachers.

Within the past ten years, a trip to the Chamber of Commerce or the town hall would net a folded paper map printed with the support of local merchants. Their ads would dominate the free handout.

But there were no such maps available at either place for this search.

The library did not have any, but they offered wonderful advice. "If you can find local one in a book, we can photocopy it for you." Of course there was a fee. Or you can find one on the internet and "we can print it out for you," for the same fee.

The maps found in such books are small, and the street indexes are very hard to read, especially when photocopies. Old fold-able paper maps tend

to run one foot by one foot up to 18-by-24 inches. The street indexes located on the side of back were easily read.

About to call it a wild goose chase I happened upon the Parks and Recreation office in the Community Center on Chapman Street.

There, two wonderful ladies addressed my concern.

One immediately pulled out her own folded representation of East Hartford. "I have mine right here," she noted, "I use it all the time."

Instantly she was at the copier trying to figure how to make a visual on 8-by-14 legal size paper.

The efforts were well received and I would be happy to tape the various sheets together.

But as she came back she handed me the actual map.

"You take it, I'm sure I have another one somewhere."

Have to love the town workers.

Food need

To the Editor:

Please join J J & C Contractors LLC in supporting New Covenant United Methodist/Sodexo-Backpackers Program. We are deeply committed to ensuring that every child has access to nutritious meals, recognizing that their needs extend beyond the school day.

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Attn: Rosemary

Reach out to Ashley with any questions:

Ashley.tierinni4454@hotmail.com

inner fortitude to move in a direction that honors the heroism of Zelensky, the valiant struggle of the Ukrainian people, and the leadership of the United States during the first three years of the war, is a glaring example of the smallness of own imagination. His demand for a compromise in utterly uprooting the policy of his predecessor - undoubtedly in Russia's favor - may very well lead to the demise of Ukraine's independence.

One thing remains certain: Trump alone cannot fix it. But the consequences? Capacity to cause a great deal of damage to Ukraine, the NATO alliance, a fragile world order and the integrity and long-term interests of the United States of America. All may follow in Trump's undiplomatic wake.

George Demettrion
East Hartford

LETTER: A dangerous game

From previous page

with Ukraine land and pieces of land that would be kept and lost, and all of the other elements of a final agreement" (New York Times, 3-13-2025).

While specifics remain to be seen, based on this statement and previous commentary, it is difficult not to draw the conclusion that Trump remains biased in favor of Russia's primary demands, even if final negotiations require Putin to compromise on some minor points.

If Trump truly sought greatness, he would have taken a more principled bi-partisan path in largely building on Biden's leadership with NATO in supporting Ukraine against the Russian aggression, showing Putin that his cause is ultimately hopeless. That he does not have the knowledge base or

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Would your child benefit from mentoring? Parents can now refer their East Hartford public school student, ages 5-18, for mentoring. For more information or to refer your child for mentoring, please scan the QR code or contact us at 860-291-7187.

Town of East Hartford
Crisis Intervention Department



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Wearin' o' the green in Hartford

East Hartford well represented in St. Patrick's Day Parade



Photos by Bill Doak



Society

AT THE LIBRARY

The East Hartford Public Library has announced an exciting lineup of programs scheduled for spring vacation.

LEGO Play Days - Saturday, April 12, 11 AM - 1 PM; Sunday, April 13, 2 - 4 PM. Use your imagination to build and create with LEGOS! Pick a design challenge card out of the bowl or make a creation of your own. Completed LEGO masterpieces will stay on display at the library for the month. For all ages. Duplo blocks will be available for young builders. Register for a reminder on our online calendar of events.

Pratt & Whitney Hangar Museum Tour - Tuesday, April 15, 10 AM - noon. Join us as our celebration of the Pratt & Whitney Engines' 100th Anniversary continues with this special guided tour of the Pratt & Whitney Hangar Museum, 423 Airport Avenue, East Hartford. We'll follow the course of P&W aviation achievements with retired engineers and NEAM volunteers Carl Cuff and Keith Lindstrom from Hartford's Capitol Avenue to the former East Hartford tobacco fields and beyond, examining P&W engines, aircraft and more. For all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). Registration required. Directions to the P & W Hangar Museum campus will be emailed to registrants. Please note the day and time will depend on P&W business needs, and may be changed. Registered participants receive updates.

Wickham Program: Family Cooking - Tuesday, April 15, 2 - 3 PM. Join us for a family cooking program offered by Lindsey Kent, RD, retail dietician at the ShopRite of East Hartford & Manchester. She will teach us how to prepare a delicious and healthy snack. Recommended for children ages 5 and up, accompanied by caregivers. Registration required.

Family Art Night - Wednesday, April 16, 6 - 7 PM. Come visit the library to create your own art. We'll try a different material or technique each month. Please wear clothes you don't mind getting a little messy, just in case. Best suited for pre-K through early elementary ages, siblings are welcome

to join in! Families with young children will work together. Registration required.

Family Movie: Mufasa, the Lion King (PG, 1 hour 58 minutes) - Thursday, April 17, 2 - 4 PM - Mufasa, a cub lost and alone, meets a sympathetic lion named Taka, the heir to a royal bloodline. The chance meeting sets in motion an expansive journey of a group of misfits searching for their destiny. Popcorn provided! For all ages, register for a reminder.

Makerspace Program: DIY Jibbitz in TinkerCAD (3D Printing) - Thursday, April 17, 6 - 7 PM. Come to the Makerspace and learn how to design 3D prints. Make your own custom Jibbitz for your Crocs that we will print and have available for you to pick up. Ages 10 and up. Registration required.

Wickham Program: Pajama Storytime - Thursday, April 17, 6 - 6:45 PM. Join us at Wickham Library for a special evening storytime! You're invited to wear your pajamas and bring a cozy blanket and stuffed animal friend. We'll enjoy bedtime stories, songs and rhymes! Stay for a craft to take home before bedtime. This program is best suited for children ages 7 and under and their caregivers. Register for a reminder.

Job Prep for Teens - Monday - Thursday, April 14 - 17, 10 AM - noon. Are you between the ages of 14 - 19 and looking for help finding a job? Join us at Raymond Library for a series of in-person workshops. Participants must attend at least one session (Monday - Wednesday) to receive an invitation to Thursday's job fair. Registration required for each day that you plan to attend.

Monday: Job Prep 101: resumes, interviews, applications, and more - Get ready for the working world with this introductory workshop presented by Sarah Eiseman, CCSP, CPRW, Head of Workforce Development & Digital Inclusion at East Hartford Public Library.

Tuesday: Credit for Life Fair with Liberty Bank - Role play as an adult trying to manage a household budget; learn about the financial challenges and choices you will face as an adult.

NEWEST EAST HARTFORD LIONS



THE EAST HARTFORD LIONS CLUB welcomed six new members at their meeting at the East Hartford Grange on Wednesday, March 11. All smiles are sitting left to right, Klity Joseph and Ashley Tierinni. Standing, from left: Melanie Castro, Osvaldo Castro, Lions President Ros White, Christopher Tierinni, and MacDavid Neequaye.



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KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

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Your child must turn 5 on or before September 1, 2025 to start kindergarten.

Children who turn 5 between September 2 and September 30, 2025 must apply for a waiver by March 30, 2025.

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Su hijo(a) debe cumplir 5 años el 1 de septiembre de 2025 o antes para comenzar el Kindergarten.

Los niños que cumplan 5 años entre el 2 y el 30 de septiembre de 2025, deben solicitar una exoneración antes del 30 de marzo de 2025. Los niños recibirán una evaluación para determinar si están preparados para el Kindergarten.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO BEGIN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

It's March, and it's madness

I said my piece. The NCAA selectors disagreed. The Big East tipped the scales. The UConn women are a number two seed, in the Spokane 4 region with a Saturday afternoon game against Arkansas State at Gampel Pavilion. Of the four top seeds only 31-3 Texas, in the Birmingham 3 region, had as many wins as UConn. One team had more wins than all first and second seeds: 32-win Grand Canyon, the 13th seed in the Spokane 1 region where 30-2 UCLA is top seed. 30-3 South Carolina is number one in the Birmingham 2 region with 28-3 Southern Cal, led by Player of the Year favorite JuJu Watkins,

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



the number one seed in UConn's region, Spokane 4.

If it plays out to the top two seeds in the region UConn will face USC on March 31st in Spokane for a trip to the final four with two legitimate Player of the Year candidates, Watkins and Paige Bueckers, going head up. It comes down to supporting casts. With Azzi Fudd and freshman sensation Sarah Strong heading Bueckers support crew I'll take UConn to advance to Tampa with UCLA, South Carolina and Texas. The one factor that worked against UConn was strength of schedule. The culprit was their conference. Only two Big East teams (Creighton) made the tournament field. I still like my arguments for a number one seed for UConn. The Huskies will be happy to play it as it lays.

Congratulations to the other Connecticut team to make the women's NCAA tournament, 28-4 Fairfield, 12th seed in Spokane opening Friday against #5 Kansas State.

As for the UConn men there's no easy road to San Antonio. A disappointing showing at the Big East Tournament, a nine point semi-final loss to Creighton, and the committee's lack of respect for the conference, only four Big Easters getting invitations to the dance, landed the Huskies a number eight seed in the West, where they'll open Friday night in Raleigh against Oklahoma. If they pass that test they'll in all probability draw regional top seed Florida in round two. I have Florida going to my final four. Enough said for UConn's chances of a three-peat. I see it this way, Michigan in the South, Duke in the East and Tennessee in the Midwest. Duke beats Florida in the championship game.

And congratulations to Ivy champ Yale, seeded 13th in the South. I'm picking Yale to upset 4th seed Texas A&M in the opening round.

P.S. You didn't really think anyone other than Rory McIlroy would win a PGA Players Championship playoff on St. Patrick's Day did you?

P.S.S. It's with great sadness I note the passing of long time Willow Inn Hot Stove League member Marshall ("Marsh") Potter last week at the age of 81. His personality drew crowds that came away renewed and enriched for knowing him. I spent many happy hours with Marsh, sharing memories of our common roots in Manchester in the era of Deci's Drive Inn and the Dugout Pool Hall. I will miss him dearly.

Local racer qualifies to play eNASCAR College challenge

East Hartford's Jose Solis Jr., a junior majoring in economics at the University of Connecticut from East Hartford, is competing in the e-NASCAR College iRacing Series challenge.

The e-NASCAR 2024-25 campaign was held Tuesday night featuring 40 collegiate drivers who first had to qualify in the A-Main race through the official Time Attack.

Solis competed for a share of scholarship money and championship points at the Iowa Speedway race course.

Solis and the other 39 students faced the latest challenge of the NASCAR Xfinity Series cars in the final short track race on the calendar.

The seventh race of the season was streamed live Tuesday night at eNASCAR.com/live.

The eNASCAR College iRacing Series, presented by Playfly

College Esports, gives college students from the United States and Canada the opportunity to compete for their share of \$60,000 in scholarships. Using machines from the NASCAR Xfinity Series or NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, 40 drivers qualify for the event by registering here and posting their fastest lap times in a two-week Time Attack through the iRacing UI. With hundreds of colleges and universities represented in each Time Attack and a limitation on the amount of qualified drivers per school, drivers are competing not only against the greater iRacing community, but also their own classmates, for a spot on the prestigious grid.

Last Race: John Forbes Jr broke into eNASCAR College iRacing Series victory lane by the slimmest of margins last

month in the sixth race of the 2024-25 academic calendar. After 60 laps and a late restart, Saddleback College's Forbes Jr managed to escape the big one at the white flag and defeat the University of Maine at Machias' Daniel Faulkingham by 0.001 seconds.

Last Season: Iowa returns to the eNASCAR College iRacing Series schedule for the first time since 2023. Two years ago, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's Garrett Lowe led the majority of the way early from the pole position, but cautions and late strategies put Rutgers University's Daniel Buttafuoco in the prime spot, that is until Clampitt, driving for Saddleback College at the time, caught and passed late for the victory, holding off the field in eNASCAR Overtime.



NASCAR racers compete online for college scholarships.

Huskies football Spring Practice underway at Storrs

The UConn football team has begun spring practices at the Mark R. Shenkman Training Center. Coming off one the most successful seasons in program history, capped off with the team's first bowl victory since 2009, a host of new faces are on the roster, with a combination of 27 new transfers and freshmen taking the field this

spring. UConn is looking to build up last season's success where the Huskies posted a 9-4 record, just the fourth time in school history a team has posted nine or more wins. "We're excited to get back out here and get to work," stated Coach Mora. "I think the players were anxious to do it, they worked really hard this winter."

"I think we did a great job of bringing in good people, which is very important. Obviously we want good players, but good players that are good people. That is what is going to help you be successful," he added.

The Huskies 2025 schedule features six games Pratt & Whitney Stadium. The Huskies finished 6-1 at home in 2024.

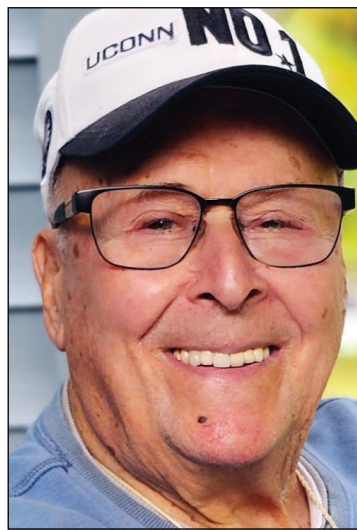
OBITUARIES

Martin 'Marty' Peck; veteran

Martin R. "Marty" Peck, 93, of East Hartford, loving husband of over 67 years of the late Teresa A. "Terry" (Cianci) Peck, peacefully journeyed home on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at Hartford Hospital. Born in Old Saybrook on March 27, 1931, a son of the late Phillip and Ella (Martin) Peck Terente, he had been a resident of East Hartford for the past 59 years. He was a graduate of Old Lyme High School, class of 1949 and a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Prior to his retirement, he was employed for 30 years by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford and Middletown.

A devout catholic, Martin was a longtime communicant of St. Christopher Church in East Hartford. He was an avid gardener and was very meticulous working in his yard, where he enjoyed sitting outside during the nice weather. He was a loyal fan of the Boston Red Sox and UConn Women's basketball teams. Most of all, he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished his time spent with his entire family.

Martin is survived by a son, Stephen M. Peck and his wife Lori Lowry of Glastonbury; a daughter, Jennifer A. Slocum and her husband Peter of Rocky Hill; four grandchildren, Lindsay Peck, Michael Peck,



Martin Peck

Cullen Slocum, and Sean Slocum; two step-grandchildren, Kristen Wang and Shane Lowry; two great-granddaughters, Avery Peck and Emerson Peck.

Honoring Martin's wishes, private funeral service and burial with military honors at Silver Lane Cemetery in East Hartford will be held at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. The 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.desopoe.com

Regina (Hunter) Kustwan

Regina (Hunter) Kustwan, 80, of Wethersfield, beloved wife of Walter J. Kustwan, died peacefully on Monday, March 10, 2025 at home surrounded by family. Regina was born in Hartford April 15, 1944, daughter of the late Richard G. and Shirley H. (Hauschulz) Hunter. She was graduated from East Hartford High School, Class of 1962 then went to work for the Royal Typewriter Co. as a tester. Regina then took a job with CBT which would later become Bank of New England where she specialized in estates, then finished her working days with Babies "R" Us.

She met and married the love of her life, Walter J. Kustwan, Sept. 20, 1980 and they began life together in East Hartford before moving to Wethersfield in 1997.

She was an active member

of St. John's Episcopal Church, East Hartford, then later in Vernon. Along with her husband of over 44 years, Walter, she leaves her twin sister, Virginia A. Hunter of South Windsor; brothers John A. Hunter and his wife Charlene of Coventry; Lawrence P. Hunter and his wife Karen of Westerly, RI, and James S. Hunter and his wife Deborah of Amston; her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Rev. Deborah Galtere and her husband Rev. Glenn Galtere of Port St. Lucie, FL, Russell McClelland and his wife Nancy of Tilton, NH, and Beth Hunter of Dunbarton, NH, and many nieces and nephews, including Kimberly and David who helped her in her illness.

She was predeceased by siblings Patricia McClelland, Richard G. Hunter Jr., and Edward R. Hunter.

Monika Kulhawy, 73

Monika Kulhawy, 73, of East Hartford, passed away on Thursday, January 30, 2025 at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

Born in Alfeld, Germany on August 22, 1951, a daughter of the late Max A. and Luzie (Thiel) Kulhawy, she had been a resident of East Hartford since 1970.

Monika was a graduate of Hartford Public High School, class of 1969. Monika spent her entire working career in the insurance business as an Insurance Agent.

She started her career at Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company in Hartford where she worked 20 years and then continued her career at I.N.G. in Avon for several years.

Monika was a talented and avid bowler of both ten-pin and duckpin bowling, and she participated as a member in several area leagues. She enjoyed camping, gardening, and traveling. She traveled cross-country two times in the United States and throughout Europe.

She liked reading the newspaper daily and solving cross



Monika Kulhawy

word puzzles and was a loyal fan of the New York Yankees.

A generous individual, Monika supported various charities in her lifetime including the American Heart Association and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as well as many others.

Monika is survived by her three beloved sisters, Renate Bourque and her husband Pierre of Portland, Oregon, Marianne Greissle and her hus-

band Peter of East Hartford, Erika Ayers and her husband Aaron of Clarksville, Tennessee; several nieces, nephews, cousins, former co-workers, and dear friends.

In addition to her parents Monika was predeceased by a dear friend in October of 2013, Elizabeth Ann "Chicky" O'Keefe who was a lifelong friend, roommate and co-worker for over 20 years.

Funeral service will be Friday, March 28, 2025 at 11 am at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. Inurnment will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery Mausoleum, Burnside Avenue, East Hartford.

Monika's family will receive relatives and friends on Friday morning (March 28th) from 10-11 am at the funeral home chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Monika's name may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284.

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

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**D'Esopo-East Hartford
Memorial Chapel**
30 Carter Street
860-568-9420
Desopoe.com

History on display Sunday

From Page One

What we are planning on doing is having a collection of old newspapers (some as far back as 1880's) on display and you will be allowed to sit and gently turn the pages and hunt for items of your interest, and take a photo if you wish. We will also have a display of old books that might be of interest as well."

Some of the items belong to the Historical Society of East Hartford and some are from a private collection that is being 'aired out', with decisions to be made about what to keep and what to do with the remaining items.

"If you are interested to help with this assortment of books, we would very much like to have some talk on that matter," adds Brown.

Also on display will be the original town 1870 Census Record and an old map of East Hartford, a Dowd Grove Scrapbook of Events, Bio Book with

area names, some original deeds, as well as lost and found notations from the East Hartford Town Clerk in 1874 and 1904, and a collection of high school photos and much more from the 1980s in East Hartford.

Please come and visit, have a snack, and share stories and investigate the past!!

Chef grant

From Page One

the grant will be obtained through these group sessions.

East Hartford was one of five school districts statewide which received the funding. There had been 17 districts which submitted a grant request. The other districts were Vernon, Middletown, Windsor Locks and New Britain.

Already the East Hartford school district is advertising the position and hopes to have the chef on staff by the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.

Senator Chris Murphy rallies at Senior Center

From Page One

leases that it is seeking to cancel.

The offices are closing despite a new Social Security requirement that tighter identity-proofing measures will be put in place to prevent fraud. The steps will require recipients and applicants to visit agency field offices.

In East Hartford U.S. Sen. Murphy said his primary job is to represent Connecticut in the senate, but he also has a "very excellent staff."

If someone has a problem with Social Security, veteran's benefits, passport or immigration his staff is there to help.

Murphy said that federal workers "are under assault" and there are a lot of people who work in Social Security offices and VA offices "who have been portrayed very negatively and that is not right."

"There are dangerous things happening in Washington right now. The unelected billionaire

Elon Musk has called the Social Security system a Ponzi scheme and says he wants to get rid of. It isn't such a thing and it is not right. We put money away, and we deserve to receive a benefit."

The senator added that "the man who has been put in charge of this administration thinks that Social Security is a fraud or a scheme, and if you think that is not a problem, literally as we speak 8 or 9 DOGE people are at the SSA office and he wants to cut employees down from anywhere from 10% to 50%."

Murphy mentioned a lawsuit to try to stop Elon Musk "from getting access to our data. DOGE is trying to unwind the system.

"This government is intent on vengeance and revenge."

Murphy commented that DOGE is targeting anybody who has worked against Donald Trump, or organized against him "is in trouble. Any business that is represented by a law

firm that has gone against Donald Trump cannot get a federal contract."

"Nothing seems to be beyond what is possible. The only way we can stop it is for the people of this country to rise up."

Murphy agrees with East Hartford U.S. Rep. John Larson, and favors increasing Social Security rather than get rid of it.

John Presutti remarked about the zeal of our representatives in Connecticut.

"What makes Connecticut have that zeal, what about the other people in Congress?"

Murphy responded that he feels there is an increase in urgency from the Democrats, but not so much from his Republican colleagues as might be expected. He stated that a lot of Republicans in Congress have decided that they never want to have a Democrat in the Presidency ever again, so they don't want elections, not every Republican, but the majority of House Republicans.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ESTATE OF SEBASTIAN E. BELL (24-00571)
 The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **March 12, 2025**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
 Matthew E. Cella, Clerk
 The fiduciary is:
 Susan K. Stefurak
 c/o J. David Morrissey, Esquire; J. David Morrissey, 220 Main St., Farmington, CT 06032

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ESTATE OF DORIS L. DELLA ROCCA (25-00101)
 The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **March 17, 2025**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
 Matthew E. Cella, Clerk
 The fiduciary is:
 Robert Della Rocca
 c/o Brian J. Murphy, Esquire; Brian J. Murphy Law, LLC, 945 Main St., Ste 304, Manchester, CT 06040

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ESTATE OF MARTIN R. PECK (25-00095)
 The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **March 12, 2025**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
 Matthew E. Cella, Clerk
 The fiduciary is:
 Jennifer A. Slocum, 1 Cumberland Place, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ESTATE OF STANLEY A. NOGAS, AKA STANLEY AUGUSTINE NOGAS (24-00526)
 The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **March 12, 2025**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
 Matthew E. Cella, Clerk
 The fiduciary is:
 Robert G. Nogas
 c/o Kenneth Willis Barber, Esquire; Kenneth Barber and Associates, LLC, 29 West High St., PO Box 88, East Hampton, CT 06424

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

MARCH 20: "CONNECTICUT RACIAL PROFILING PROHIBITION PROJECT (CTRP3) FORUM at the Wickham Library, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. The CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project (CTRP3) is working to improve the relationship between the public and police. Join us at Wickham Library, 656 Burnside Avenue, for an open, honest discussion about racial profiling. Light fare served at 6. Sponsored by the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) and the CT Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparities. Free.

MARCH 23: CHILI COOKOFF at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., will try again for its annual Chili Cookoff Sunday, March 23 beginning at 11 a.m. All are invited to participate, and vote, for the winning crock of chili in this fun fundraiser. There will be at least 8 different chilis to sample with serving sizes from \$1-\$5. Open to all. FMI Lisa at cefe@southucc.org. or call 860-568-5150.

MARCH 29: WOMEN IN WORLD WAR II AND THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA - The World War II Legacy Foundation presents "The Courageous Women of World War II" at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29 at Warehouse Point Library in East Windsor. Find out how nearly 350,000 American women served in uniform to support the war effort. We will highlight several local and national female heroes who helped shape women's roles in American culture and society. To commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory at the Battle of Iwo Jima, "In the Shadow of Suribachi: Sammy's Story" will take place at 1:45 p.m. Sunday, March 30 at the South Windsor Library. Howie Bernstein will introduce and discuss this very moving documentary about his Dad, Iwo Jima Survivor, Sam Bernstein. Howie will bring his father's actual battle mementos for you to see. If questions contact Gary Roy, Co-Founder at (860) 810-8736.

SOCIAL DANCE TUESDAYS AT FIRST CHURCH: Gentlemen, It's Time to Become James Bond! Imagine walking into a room with confidence, charm and style - just like James Bond. What's his secret? Presence. Poise. And the ability to sweep a lady off her feet. Tuesday Nights, First Congregational Church, 837 Main, Lessons 7 and 8, dance 9 p.m.

APRIL 2, 9: MINI-COURSE: BABY BOOMS AND BABY BUSTS With economic prosperity, birth rates have fallen in a number of countries around the globe. Delve into the whys plus look at variables like healthcare, workforce engagement, educational levels, and economic prosperity. Wednesdays, April 2, 9; 10-11:30 a.m. **APRIL 3, 10, 17: U.S. POP MUSIC MINI-COURSE** Have you ever thought about how race and place have shaped the pop music you love? Delve into how the divergent geography, exceptional mixture of people, and even performance locales have birthed dozens of pop music genres in the 20th century. Thursdays, April 3, 10, 17; 3-4:30 p.m. One of many courses & lectures for adults at the Presidents' College Lifelong Learning Program

at the University of Hartford. Email pcollege@hartford.edu to be added to the mailing list.

APRIL 5: CELEBRATE SPRING with a stack of delicious hot pancakes at the Hillstown Grange starting at 8:30 a.m., 617 Hills St. The "Spring Break Pancake Breakfast" includes sausage, coffee, tea and juice for \$6; children under 14 \$3. Regular and special "kid-cakes" with chocolate chips. Featured pancake for April will be an "April Fools Surprise" pancake served until 11 a.m. Free garden and flower seeds will be offered upstairs. The Grange just received 800 packets of seeds from UConn's Master Gardeners.

APRIL 8 - TUESDAY NIGHT TUNES concert starting

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at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the East Hartford Community Cultural Center (EHCCC), 50 Chapman Place. **Hosmer Mountain Boys** brings rollicking Bluegrass music. Sponsored by Parks and Rec. FMI and weather alerts call 860-291-7160.

APRIL 9 - WICKHAM DAY QUILTERS of East Hartford from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Wickham Library meeting room at 656 Burnside Avenue in East Hartford. Like to sew? Interested in quilting? Not a fan of driving at night? Attend a meeting to see if you would like to join us. Any skill level welcome. We meet the second Wednesday of the month. Wickham Day Quilters is a chapter of the Greater Hartford Quilt Guild. Any questions? Email us at Wickhamdayquilters@gmail.com

TROOP 1'S CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE is Saturday, April 12 in the parking lot of First Congregational Church, 837 Main St., from 8 until 11 a.m. Proceeds support Scouting America Troop 1, the oldest troop in the land.

MAY 22: CONNECTIKIDS "BOTANICAL BALL" Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pond House in Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. Dinner, dancing and fun. Tickets \$100 at givebutter.com/CTKBall or contact

Kaleitha Brown at 860-522-8710 x12. FMI visit www.ct-kids.org

KNOW A WORLD WAR II VETERAN? State officials are seeking help from residents throughout the state in finding living World War II veterans, so that they can be recognized for their service on the 80th anniversary of the end of the war. Share the name, branch of service, age and town of residency within the state by filling out a form online. Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz will host a ceremony to recognize all living World War II veterans who served from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946. The ceremony will take place on Monday, May 19 at 11 a.m. at the State Armory, 360 Broad St., Hartford.

JUNE 7: AN EVENING OF WORSHIP, STORIES & SONGS WITH DAVE PETTIGREW at Burnside United Methodist Church, 16 Church St., 7

p.m. Free. An offering will be taken. A graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, with majors in music business and arranging, Dave uses music as a vehicle to speak on behalf of the poorest of the poor, each of his shows gives his audience the ability to sponsor a child and save a life. Join the "There Is Hope" movement. Share the music and be drawn closer to the source of all of our hope. For more info go to dave@davepettigrew.net

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HORSESHOE CLUB has moved to 50 Oakland St. (off Park Avenue). Interested in playing horseshoes indoors? E-mail debbiescully@comcast.net; or call 860-778-1057.

VETERANS COFFEE HOUR at the Senior Center, 15 Milbrook Dr., 10 a.m. third Tuesday of the month. For East Hartford residents only.

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

FOSTER FAMILIES needed for children in DCF care in every town in CT. FMI or to register for a meeting, contact Annie C Courtney Foundation at 475-235-2184. Annie C works with the Dept. of Children and Families to find foster parents for over 3,000 children. FMI see www.anniec.org

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.