Woodbridge Town News



Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

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CIRCULATION 3615

FRIDAY, DECENTRE 15, 2017



SCROG WORKS TO UPDATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

By Bettina Thiel – Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

The South Central Regional Council of Governments, SCROG, is working to update a regional hazard mitigation plan, and is looking for public input. The purpose of the plan is "to identify and assess natural hazard risks, such as flooding, winter storms and hurricanes and determine how to best minimize or manage those risks," said Warren Connors, public works director and Woodbridge liaison on the planning team. "We want to mitigate future risk rather than today's," he said.

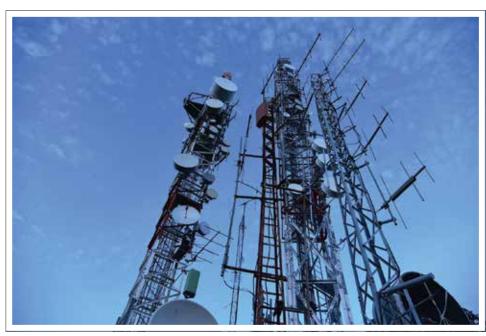
Natural hazards are events that threaten lives, property and other assets. The mission is to reduce or eliminate the risk to people and property. By adopting a long-term strategy the goal is to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. Once approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, the plan will be a prerequisite for the municipalities to receive pre-disaster grant funding.

The SCRCOG has formed an advisory committee to help lead the planning, consisting of representatives from all 14 participating municipalities and other stakeholders. Connors serves as the local representative to that committee. He offered a public outreach session in early December, but there was no response from the public.

Fortunately, Woodbridge is located in a rather protected part of the state. It is far enough from the coast and the risk of earthquakes or tsunamis is rather small. Yet Woodbridge is flood prone from waterways such as the West River and the Wepawaug; and from wetlands in general. Damaging storms can cause loss of life and property. Falling trees damage the electric grid and during drought periods the trees could potentially constitute a significant fire hazard. Heavy winds associated with tropical storms or hurricanes have up-

See "SCROG" continued on Page 2





RADIO COMMUNICATION UPGRADE TO GO FORWARD

By Bettina Thiel – Woodbridge Town News Correspondent

The boards of Selectmen and Finance last week unanimously approved funding for a \$2.1 million radio communication update. The project includes installation of a new dispatch console, several new antennas in different locations throughout town, also the software for the new system, site work where required, as well as radios for Public Works employees.

Fire Chief Sean Rowland and Police Chief Frank Capiello in their presentation explained the need for the new equipment, saying the current simulcast radio system leaves significant portions of the town without radio contact. In addition, communication between the

See "Radio" continued on Page 3







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Assisted Living & Memory Care

245 Indian River Road, Orange 203-795-3117 | MaplewoodAtOrange.com "SCROG" continued from Page 1

rooted trees or caused them to crack or split, and in some cases have left a large portion of the state without power. A good number of households now have generators, Connors said.

By removing the Pond Lily Dam at the Woodbridge/Westville town line and by replacing the Merritt Avenue Bridge, the town has already scored a successful hazard removal campaign. The prediction is that the removal of impediments will allow the West River to run free in the confines of the river bed without flooding homes and businesses in that area. However, that has yet to be tested in hazardous weather conditions, Connors said.

Residents are invited to take a survey

on the SCROG website either in English or in Spanish. The survey provides an opportunity for everyone in the planning area to share his or her opinions and participate in the mitigation planning process. The information provided will help the Advisory Committee to better understand local concerns and issues as expressed by citizens of the region, and can lead to mitigation activities. Questions range from regulatory approaches to personal hazard preparedness.

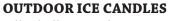
The survey can be accessed at http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTMitigation. Participating municipalities in addition to Woodbridge are Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford and West Haven.

OUTDOOR ICE CANDLES ADD HOLIDAY GLOW

Candles have been glowing this month on our advent wreath, on my husband's birthday cake and on our front porch to welcome guests who come by to share in holiday festivities. Different occasions, different meanings, but the candles are

universal. There's something about that small circle of light that has drawn people together through the ages. So no matter what you celebrate now and into the new year, light a candle and

let its gentle flicker draw you closer to the people and community you love. Here are my favorite candle crafts for delightful winter lights:



Fill a balloon with water until it is the size of a softball. Blow once into the balloon and tie a knot. Place in a plastic bowl or recycled deli container and set in the freezer for about 6 hours. Once a thick shell of ice has formed inside the balloon but you still hear water sloshing inside the shell, pop the balloon and discard properly. Pour the excess water out to leave a cavity in the middle, where

a votive candle will later be placed. Refreeze.

At sunset, remove from the freezer, place a votive candle in the cavity and light it outside. It will sparkle like crystal!

If you make the ice candles in an

area where the temperature will be above freezing the next day, store it in your freezer.

Indoor use:
Fill a decorative
bowl with snow
or chipped ice.
Set the ice candle

in the middle of the ice, and light for a centerpiece on a buffet table.

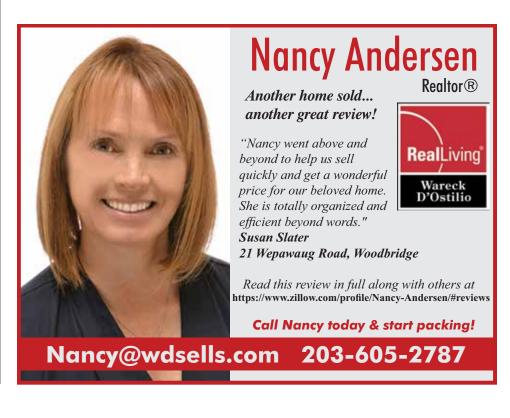
CANDLES IN A JAR

Pour 1 cup of sand into a clear, glass canning or jam jar and nestle a votive candle in the sand. Make several for an eye-catching display indoors or out.

FLOATING VOTIVES

Fill a tall, clear vase one-third full with fresh cranberries. Add water and a candle floating on top near the rim for a buffet or dining table centerpiece.

Safety note: An adult should always be present when burning candles.







"Radio" continued from Page 1

dispatcher and the first responders is frequently fraught with static. Chief Rowland reported to the fire commission recently that the dispatch console had dropped calls more than ten times during the first half of November, both for police and for fire department calls.

The equipment has reached the end of its useful life, said First Selectman Beth Heller in her opening statement at a special town meeting called for Tuesday, December 5, to approve the expenditure. Even though a postcard had been sent to all Woodbridge households, the turnout for the meeting was minimal, with about 25 in the audience, most of them town hall - or government related. Due to the lack of a quorum, the vote fell to the selectmen and the finance board members.

Heller said she had received several inquiries regarding the subject prior to the meeting, in particular related to the concern whether new phone towers may need to be constructed. That is not the case, she assured the audience, as the new antennas will be placed on existing structures.

Current towers are located at the police station, on Bradley Road and near the Transfer Station. This leaves large parts along the northern town line uncovered, as well as a wide swath along Peck Hill Road and an area east of Racebrook Road bordering the Merritt Parkway. An existing tower at Oak Lane Country Club is a receiver only.

The new system will go from three to six antennas to improve coverage throughout town. The plan is to abandon the transfer station site and instead hook onto a higher tower located in Seymour; also to add an antenna to a water company tank near the western town line; update the Oak Lane site to receive and transmit data; and hook onto the AT&T tower currently located off of Litchfield Turnpike, in addition to the police department site and the existing antenna on Bradley Road.

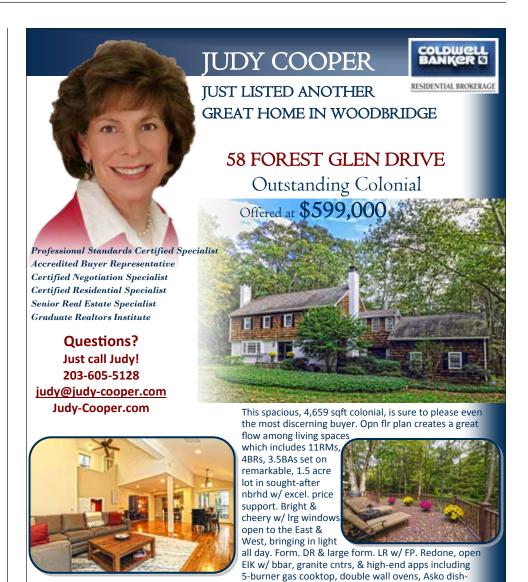
As for the hand-held radios, the current police radios and those of the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services are compatible with the new system and need not be replaced, the fire chief said. Public Works employees, however, communicate by low-band radios, said department head Warren Connors. The system dates from the 1970s, and allows no direct communication with the first responders, even when the truck drivers are out plowing or assisting in clearing the roads after a weather event. A new set of portable, hand-held radios as well as mobile stations on the trucks will bring the Public Works Department into the communication loop.

Heller thanked those who had been working on the project, in particular Chief Rowland and Chief Cappiello, as well as an ad-hoc subcommittee called by her predecessor in office, Ellen Scalettar. The subcommittee had been charged with assessing the public safety communication needs, in particular as it relates to the dispatch console that is located at the police station. It is outdated and needs to be replaced. The subcommittee had voted unanimously to recommend the upgrade to the town leaders.

The console, which carries a price tag of about \$500,000, is considered a priority, and will be ordered possibly this month. In fact, the town will use a state contract with the Motorola company to take advantage of a special incentive for this part of the project. The rest of the equipment and work will be bid out, said Finance Director Anthony Genovese. The funding will come from a bond issue.

In a presentation laying out the town's debt, Genovese showed that with some old debt having been paid off, the added debt for the radio system will not lead to spikes in municipal expenditures.

Heller said she will establish a project oversight committee that will report to the Board of Selectmen. "I can assure you the selectmen will remain on top of this project," she said.



washer, & Sub Zero, extra wide refrigerator. The kitchen

opens to separate dining area & large cath. ceiling FR

w/ 3 brilliant bay windows & French doors to the deck,

patio, & private back yard. A cozy den w/ FP is adjacent

to the FR. The upper IVI MBR ste, in its own private wing

BRs, a large study, & laundry room complete the 2nd

flr & a finished, walk-up 3rd flr offers an excel. bonus room & guest room. Azek deck & blue stone patio

overlooks exquisite lvl, wooded lot. Home enjoys many

updates & upgrades including newer furnace, windows,

freshly painted exterior, refinished main Ivl HW flrs &

so much more! Incredible value for the quality & space

connected by an open walkway balcony overlooking the FR, features a walk-in closet & lavish MBA. 3 generous



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WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



EDITORIAL CARTOONIST TO VISIT AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Bob Englehart, the award-winning editorial cartoonist, visited Amity Regional

High School on December 13, 2017, to offer a workshop to Amity's History, Journalism, and Art students. Mr. Englehart was the first full-time editorial cartoonist in the 251-year history of The Hartford Courant and worked for that newspaper for 35 years.

Mr. Englehart maintains a website (Bobenglehart.com) where he displays a collection of his cartoons, a blog, and his

memoir "Trackrat: Memoir of a Fan". He still draws 3 cartoons a week for the cartoon syndicate, Caglecartoons.

com. Mr. Englehart discussed his creative process and shared insights about

writing gags, drawing cartoons and caricatures, and the perils of the daily newspaper.

The event was hosted by Amity librarians, Robert Musco and Victoria Hulse, and made possible by the Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation. More information about the Foundation's mission and work can be found at jamiehulleyartsfund.org.

For more information contact Robert Musco

(robert.musco@reg5.k12.ct.us) or Victoria Hulse at (victoria.hulse@reg5.k12.ct.us).



Bob Englehart



Robert Gilbert (Superintendent), Maegan Genovese/ Photo Credit: Lifetouch National School Studios.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECEIVES BOARD OF DISTINCTION AWARD

The Woodbridge Board of Education was presented with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Level One Leadership Award during the annual CABE/CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Convention held at the Mystic Marriott on Friday, November 17 – Saturday, November 18.

CABE believes that Boards of Education and Superintendents which exhibit the most effective leadership are characterized by their ability to work together as "teams". The CABE Board Recognition Awards are designed to recognize Boards which work effectively in this manner. Level One includes 34 items and boards need to fulfill 22 of these with at least three completed in each of

the following areas: board leadership/ student achievement, board member professional development, policy, community relations, and related organizational leadership.

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) serves local and regional school districts in Connecticut and is dedicated to improving the quality of education throughout the state and the nation. CABE's membership includes 154 school districts. CABE is a leading advocate for public education at the State Capitol and in Washington D. C., and offers many types of support services to local boards of education including the Board Member Academy, a continuing education program for local board of education members.



The full delegation posed with principal of Amity Regional High School, Anna Mahon, in front of the school.



Left to right: Associate Dean, Muhang Huange; Superintendent of Amity Schools, Dr. Charles Dumais; and Director, Haiyan Zhang.



Amity Regional High School students (left to right) Jingjiang Liu, Jason Li and Ruqui Jiang, discuss lessons and educational approaches with members of the delegation.



Amity Regional High School Principal, Anna Mahon (2nd from right) andn Associate Principal, Monica Kreuzer (2nd from left) present copies of the 2017 Embers Yearbook: The Story Behind to the heads of the delegation.

VISITORS FROM CHINA AT AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Educators from the Guangdong Province of China visited Amity Regional High School on Monday, December 4, 2017 and spent 3 hours shadowing students and talking with administrators. Members of the delegation were led by the Associate Dean and the Director of the School of Professional Development

and Research on Primary and Secondary Education from Guangdong Province. Their goal was to observe teaching and learning in the comprehensive high school.

Approximately 14 students were shadowed by the 20 guests. Gifts were exchanged with the guests as well.





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



Below are the next three issue dates and deadlines of the Woodbridge Town News.

Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

<u>Upcoming Issue Deadline</u>	Upcoming Issue Dates
January 5th	New Year's Issue January 12th
February 2nd	Valentine's Day Issue February 9th
March 2nd	St. Patrick's Day Issue March 9th
Note: Copy due by 4:00p.m. Thank you.	

FROM OUR READERS

Solar Solidarity Project to Aid Hurricane Victims

My name is Arnaaz Khawaja, and I am a Woodbridge resident. I recently launched a new project called the Solar Solidarity Project.

It's called the Solar Solidarity Project and its aim is to get solar power to Puerto Rico and help them recover after the hurricanes. There is a great nonprofit organization that already has an initiative and group in Puerto Rico already installing solar panels and generators, and we want to support them. We're asking people to cut back on energy usage in their homes (helping with climate change/greenhouse gas emissions!) and when they lower their energy usage, their energy bill goes down. The hope is that people will donate their extra savings to the nonprofit organization. There's a lot more information and details on our website: https://www. elmenergyproject.org/solidarity-solarproject (and probably explains it a bit better, too). We would like to get people involved in the project and do outreach.

Arnaaz Khawaja

Town's Emergency Fuel & Food Fund Needs Your Donation

I invite your readers to join me in making a tax-deductible contribution to the town's emergency fuel and food fund. This dedicated fund provides vital aid to those in need. Through the fund, the Woodbridge Human Services Department is able to offer limited assistance to qualifying residents to pay for heating oil, electricity, natural gas, wood, or food.

Every year, some Woodbridge residents need the help that this fund offers. During my tenure as First Selectman, the fund allowed us to help several people in dire straits and others suffering significant difficulties. Please join me in making a check out to "Woodbridge Emergency Fuel/Food Fund", and send the check to Town Hall at 11 Meetinghouse Lane.

With thanks,

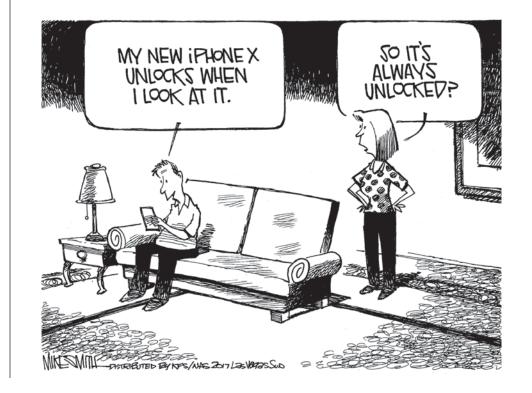
Amey Marrella



WTN Letters Policy

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

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





LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP

YANAGISAWA ELECTED CHAIR

To the National Otolaryngology **Board of Governors**

Ken Yanagisawa, MD, FACS was elected to serve as the next Chair of the Board of Governors, American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. The Board of Governors is the grassroots member network made up of local, state, regional and national Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery societies, which promotes programs and policies to assist practitioners and providers.

Dr. Yanagisawa continues to serve as Managing Partner for Southern New England Ear, Nose, Throat & Facial Plastic Surgery Group, LLP, and as Section Chief of Otolaryngology, Saint Raphael Campus, Yale New Haven Hospital. He remains active in legislative affairs in Connecticut and in Washington, DC, advocating for fairness and improvements in patient and physician concerns.

A.P.T. HEADED FOR 13TH YEAR IN PRACTICE

Amity Physical Therapy, Greater New Haven's award-winning physical therapy facility, will be celebrating its 13th year shortly. Founded by Michael Dow MSPT and CEO/Director, the practice has been voted "Best of New Haven", three years running, by a number of prominent local publications.

Dow, a long time area resident, set out to differentiate his practice from all other local facilities. Above all, he and his partner, Kyle Branday MSPT/CAP carefully chose the best therapists from a cadre of many qualified practitioners, most of whom have earned advanced degrees in physical therapy.

"This is a very 'hands-on' profession", Dow commented, "and a therapist's skills must be complemented by compassion. Our patients are cared for from the moment they walk through our doors. Their comfort is foremost, both physically and psychologically. Our offices reflect the most relaxed, informal atmosphere possible. No sterile white walls; rather, carefully selected works of art and serene color formats throughout to create a warm, healing environment."

From a single facility in Woodbridge, Amity Physical Therapy has grown to three flagship offices, adding Hamden and Branford to its complex. Each office has a staff of highly skilled therapists, most with Doctorate Degrees and all with experience in a wide variety of injuries and pain trauma. From chronic lower back pain, muscle or joint pain, neurological symptoms, imbalance,



Michael Dow MSPT

to post-surgical rehabilitation -- their therapy covers the age range from pediatrics to geriatrics. Amity Physical Therapy has also recently added the healing art of acupuncture to its arsenal of pain-killing therapy.

"There's no substitute for true caring and personal understanding of one's pain," Dow concluded. "We're not timebased, nor a turn-style facility. We're deeply committed to every patient, no matter how difficult or complex their problem may be. From a thorough diagnostic evaluation, to the final healing process, every physical therapy talent we $\,$ possess is directed toward returning our patients to normal physical activity as soon as possible."

Michael Dow MSPT and CEO/Clinical Director can be reached in the Woodbridge Office of Amity Physical Therapy at 203-389-4593, or visit amitypt.com.



WOODBRIDGE RESIDENTS!

Have an Upcoming Birth Announcement, Anniversary, Engagement or Wedding? Send it to us with a photo and we will publish it FREE. Woodbridge Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 Email: edit@woodbridgetownnews.com

COLDWELL BANKER PARTNERS WITH GUARANTEED RATE AFFINITY

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Connecticut, a leading residential real estate brokerage firm, announced that it has partnered with Guaranteed Rate Affinity, LLC to include an enhanced mortgage service offering for its affiliated sales agents and their customers. Through this business partnership, Guaranteed Rate Affinity will offer a wide array of mortgage products and origination services to agents' customers to provide them with a convenient, value-added advantage during the home buying process.

"We want to provide our customers with an exceptional home buying experience. Having this partnership with Guaranteed Rate Affinity enables us to provide them with a streamlined process that translates into outstanding customer service," said Joe Valvano, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Connecticut.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Connecticut estimates it represents thousands of buyers each year who are purchasing a property and who can benefit from this offering. With this partnership, a Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Connecticut affiliated agent can easily recommend a loan officer affiliated with Guaranteed Rate Affinity to offer personalized guidance from the mortgage loan application process through the home closing. Additionally, Guaranteed Rate Affinity provides seamless technology, new loan products and will introduce access to an innovative, digital mortgage platform that provides clients and their agents 24/7 access to mortgage documentation and resources.

"Our customers are our responsibility to serve from the start of the process when they begin their home search, to when they are handed the keys to their new home and beyond, and Guaranteed Rate Affinity is clearly the right partner to help us in that initiative," continued Valvano.

"We look forward to partnering with the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Connecticut affiliated agents by offering an innovative and streamlined mortgage process and powerful, innovative technology for their customers," said Guaranteed Rate Affinity Chairman Victor Ciardelli. "Mortgage financing is a critical component of the home purchasing process and I am confident that the Guaranteed Rate Affinity team will provide the world-class service that is expected and deserved in this everevolving industry."

Guaranteed Rate Affinity, LLC is a mortgage origination joint venture between Realogy Holdings Corp. (NYSE: RLGY), a global leader in residential real estate franchising and brokerage, and Guaranteed Rate, Inc. one of the largest retail mortgage companies in the United States.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, a leading residential real estate brokerage company in Connecticut, operates approximately 51 offices with more than 2,300 affiliated sales associates serving the communities of Connecticut. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is part of NRT LLC, the nation's largest residential real estate brokerage company. For more information, please visit Coldwell-BankerHomes.com.

2017 HOLIDAY SHIPPING **DEADLINES**

United States Postal Service as Dec. 23 for delivery by Dec. 24.

Coast to Coast: Drop first-class letters and cards in your mailbox by Dec. 19; Dec. 15 for parcel post.

Cutting it Close: Priority (1-3 day) service by Dec. 20; Express Overnight service by Dec. 22.

Where to take it: Your local post office or arrange for carrier pickup. Use usps.com to order supplies, print postage and access a host of other services.

Contact: www.usps.com

UPS

Coast to Coast: Dec. 14 (to be safe, remember that pre-Christmas delivery is Friday, Dec. 22)

Cutting it Close: Ship 2-Day Air by Dec. 20 or Next-Day Air as late

Where to take it: UPS Stores nationwide. Go to ups.com or call 800-789-4623 to find a location or schedule pickup.

Contact: www.ups.com; 1-800-PICK-UPS

FedEx

Coast to Coast: Dec. 15 for all FedEx Ground packages.

Cutting it Close: Overnight by Dec. 22; 2-Day Air by Dec. 20 for delivery Dec. 22; big spenders can get sameday Christmas Day delivery in some areas.

Where to take it: Any FedEx Office location or FedEx authorized shipper

Contact: www.fedex.com; 1-800-GO-FEDEX

WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP





Left to right: Ms. Anna Mahon, Amity Regional High School principal; Dr. Richard Dellinger, Amity Middle School Bethany principal, and Ms. Kathy Burke, Amity Middle School Orange principal.

AMITY DISTRICT 5 JOINS THE CT GREEN LEAF SCHOOLS PROGRAM

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

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

All three schools in Amity Regional School District No. 5 have signed on to the Green LEAF program. All participating schools are recognized for their accomplishments. Schools that show

substantial progress in greening their schools may be eligible for nomination for the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon honor. To date, 13 schools and one district across the State have earned federal Green Ribbon recognition.

The Connecticut Green LEAF School program supports Connecticut schools in providing effective environmental and sustainability education, improving the health and wellness of their students and staff and reducing their environmental impact and costs. LEAF stands for "Leading, Educating, Achieving and Fostering green, healthy schools for all". The program is a collaborative effort led by the Connecticut Departments of Administrative Services, Education, Energy and Environmental Protection and Public Health, along with other state educational and environmental organizations. The program celebrates and recognizes those Connecticut schools making progress toward sustainability. The Connecticut Green LEAF School program will also support the nomination of a select group of schools to the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon School program. For more infor mation, please visit www.ctgreenleaf.org.



Director of Mission Advancement/Campaign Director Debbie Camner (Hamden), Capital Cabinet members and current parents Nancy and Stephen LaPointe (Cheshire), and President Sr. Sheila O'Neill, ASCJ, Ph.D., '71 (Hamden) reviewing plans for the new school center.

EVER HIGHER

The Capital Campaign for Sacred Heart Academy

Sacred Heart Academy of Hamden recently launched Ever Higher - The Capital Campaign for Sacred Heart Academy at the Up, Up, and Away... Ever Higher kick-off event. "We plan to build a space that will allow us to keep pace with the changing academic climate of the 21st century, and that will enhance the sense of community that is central to our mission," offered Sister when speaking to the more than 250 attendees. Plans call for a new school center which will become an educational, social, and cultural hub - offering a new student commons, a gallery, and offices for the president, principal, alumnae relations, and admissions, as well as a new main office with enhanced security and safety. The new space will also feature a green roof - also known as a "living roof" - both functional and attractive, a green roof reduces storm water runoff, lowers cooling costs, and is a visible manifestation of Sacred Heart's commitment to stewardship of the Earth. The 7,500 square foot space was designed by David Thompson Architects (DTA) of New Haven. It has a projected cost of five million dollars and as of the launch - the Academy has \$4,380,000 toward the goal from generous donors in the Sacred Heart community and from funds that were saved and invested.



STUDENTINEWS

Achievements

Eastern Student Jessica Ahern Presents Psychology Research In Poster Session

Willimantic, CT -- Forty-three psychology students at Eastern Connecticut State University presented their research in a poster session on November 27 at the department's annual Psychological Science Afternoon. Jessica Ahern '19 of Woodbridge was one of the students who presented their research. Ahern majors in Psychology and was mentored by Psychology Professor Madeleine Fugere during the course of their re-

search. Ahern's research project is titled "Physical Attractiveness and Mate Selection". Student research projects are the culimination of preparation through two Psychology Research Methods courses. In Research Methods I students learn to develop hypotheses, understand a variety of research methodologies, conduct library and database research and properly read scholarly journal articles in preparation for conducting their own research. In Research Methods II, a continuation of Research Methods I, students carry out independent undergrad-



WOODBRIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



"Student News" continued from Page 8 uate-level research projects. As a result, students gain experience in correlational and experimental research, ethics, statistical analyses and the writing of research reports. Students who complete research are then required to present their final research project in a forum that is open to the university. "Research takes classroom experience and applies it to tangible, practical work," said Psychology Professor Carlos Escoto. "The opportunity to present research as an

undergraduate opens so many doors."

Alexander Tellides Traveling On Union College Mini Term

Schenectady, NY -- Alexander Tellides, of Woodbridge, Conn., is traveling during winter break on a Union College mini term. Tellides, a member of the Class of 2019 majoring in Political Science and Philosophy, is completing the India mini term, studying Indian politics, heritage, history and culture. Every year, the College offers a variety of mini-terms, three-week programs running during winter break since the school is on the trimester system.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF FRUITCAKE

"There is only one fruitcake in the entire world, and people keep passing it around." -- Johnny Carson

Love it or loathe it, fruitcake goes back a looong way. Legend has it that ancient Egyptians valued it enough to place their version on the tombs of their loved ones, while Roman soldiers carried a ring-shaped concoction of pomegranate seeds, pine nuts and barley mash to the battlefield. (Portable and durable—some things never change!) If that doesn't sound especially appetizing, by the Middle Ages, preserved fruit, spices and honey brought the dessert closer to what we serve today.

Of course, then as now cooks were prone to experiment. Medieval Italians liked their panforte (strong bread) dense and spicy-sweet. Buttery, sugar-coated German stollen dates to the 15th century. Then there's "black cake," a booze-soaked Caribbean favorite descended from British plum pudding. By the 18th and 19th centuries, fruitcakes were a popular feature at weddings and holidays (though how they acquired their association with Christmas is unclear), but not cheap to make. And would you believe that at one point they were actually outlawed in Europe for the crime of being "sinfully rich"? However, since their brand of decadence had become an important aspect of tea time (especially among the Brits), the law eventually was repealed.

So far, so good. Then how did this poor loaf become the Rodney Dangerfield of desserts, even a synonym for somebody who's not quite right in the head?

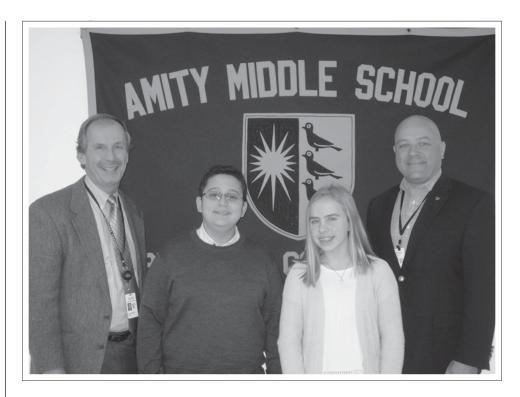
Some think it has to do with early 20th-century mass production and mail order. Others blame it on sugar -- cheap sugar, imported from the American colonies, that not only made the loaf's fruits brighter and more flavorful, but allowed previously unavailable varieties to be imported from around the world. More candied fruit equaled more cake. Ever heavier cake. Ever more garish-looking

Today's fruitcake recipes are almost as varied as the cooks who bake them, but most hold to one hallowed rule: that they be made a month (or even a year!) in advance to deepen the flavor. For additional zest, many "feed" the cake by splashing whiskey, brandy or rum over it.

But what if you'd frankly rather face a root canal than a forkful of this holiday treat? Consider a visit to the town of Manitou Springs, Colorado, where the good folks gather each January for the Annual Great Fruitcake Toss. Admission is cheap — a nonperishable canned good for a local food bank — and you'll have a blast hurling, tossing or launching any unlucky loaf you've been reluctantly gifted with. Heck, you may even win a trophy.

Closer to home, various suggested uses for unwanted fruitcakes range from foot rests to cat scratching posts. Use your imagination!

Just don't imagine that fruitcake's going away anytime soon.



Left to right: Dr. Richard Dellinger, Principal; Robert Farbman; Samantha Cantalupo; and Dr. Charles Dumais, Superintendent. [Photo by: Barbara Cassesse]

AMITY MIDDLE SCHOOL - BETHANY CAMPUS CAPSS AWARD 2017

Congratulations to eighth grade students, Robert Farbman and Samantha Cantalupo, who are the recipients of this year's Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendent (CAPSS) Award. The award is based on community service, academic achievement, and leadership. Superintendent, Dr. Charles Dumais, presented this award at a ceremony held at the Amity Board of Education meeting on November 13, 2017.

Robert Farbman is a responsible and enthusiastic student who continually exhibits maturity and determination in all of his academic classes. He is an insightful student who displays sensitivity towards his classmates. Robert acts as a role model for his peers, is helpful towards other students, and emerges as a leader both in and out of the classroom. He is an active member of various organizations including the Amity Middle School Bethany (AMSB) Debate Club, where he demonstrates an outstanding ability to reason and present an oral argument, and the Welcoming Committee, in which he helps new students feel comfortable at AMSB. Robert has volunteered as a peer tutor this year and has been very helpful in working with other students. His enthusiasm for learning and helping his peers is a tremendous asset. Furthermore, Robert has demonstrated his community service through his work with refugees in our area. Through both his academic achievement and community activism Robert exemplifies the values of Amity Middle School in Bethany.

Samantha Cantalupo continually exhibits her leadership in and out of the classroom. Samantha brilliantly displays the values that the Amity Middle School Bethany community strives to nourish: accountability, motivation, independence, trustworthiness, and being your best self. In school she consistently earns honors in both academics and citizenship. She motivates others with her positive attitude, encouragement, and delicate manner. Samantha is a member of the Welcoming Committee where she is well suited as an ambassador who eases new students into a new situation. Samantha also volunteered as a tour guide at our Back to School Night. She is also a highly sought after peer tutor where her patient and calm demeanor is valued by many of her classmates. Outside of school Samantha excels as well. She will soon become a second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and volunteers as an instructor teaching young students. Samantha's genuine positive energy, her enthusiasm, kindness, and diligence make her an outstanding representative of Amity Middle School in Bethany.

Attention Teachers!

We want to know what's going on in your classroom!

Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.

You can also send us your pictures.

(Parental consent required)

Orange Town News

 $\textbf{P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT~06477} \bullet \textbf{edit@OrangeTownNews.com}$

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES



Arlo is surrounded by well wishers; Woodbridge Animal Control Officer Ashley Sakelarakis, Hamden Police Officer Kelley Cushman, Hamden Police Chief Thomas Wydra and Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller.

"ARLO" INDUCTED AS HONORARY POLICE CANINE

Arlo, a dog adopted from the Branford Animal Shelter by Woodbridge Animal Control Officer Ashley Sakelarakis, has been inducted as an Honorary Member of the Hamden Police Department's Canine Unit. At a brief ceremony on November 20th, staff members of the Woodbridge Animal Control, Branford Animal Control and Hamden Police Department gathered to highlight the collaborative effort between these agencies that resulted in Arlo's rescue after he was abandoned due to a serious heart condition.

First Selectman Beth Heller was also on hand at the induction ceremony at Hamden Police Headquarters to present a certificate of recognition to Arlo. She thanked Ms. Sakelarakis for her dedication and praised the role that Animal Shelters play in our communities. "Arlo's story shows how we can work together to take care of all the animals who need

our help," Heller remarked. "In coming together at events like this, I hope to lay the ground work to explore shared services with our surrounding municipalities, and keep future costs down for taxpayers."

The Woodbridge Animal Control facility at 135 Bradley Road in Woodbridge is a shared service to the Towns of Bethany, Seymour and Woodbridge. Among its responsibilities, Animal Control is tasked with responding to calls regarding stray, roaming, abandoned, sick or injured animals. Woodbridge Animal Control officers also oversee the adoption process for animals in the shelter's care. A building renovation project is underway to improve the Woodbridge Animal Shelter and donations can be made to the non-profit One Big Dog Animal Respite Fund to support this project. For further details and to see additional photos, visit the Town Website WoodbridgeCT.org

THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SAYS TO EXPECT DELAYS ON ALL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM NORTH POLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NPX). NEWS ITEM REXBALINAME SAGRAMENT OR BEE

CLIMATE CHANGE TOPIC OF STATE CONFERENCE

The recent annual meeting of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions (CACIWC) in Cromwell saw a record number of attendants, with representation from almost all towns. The turnout was attributed to the highly relevant topic of "Preparations for a Changing Climate: Impacts on Connecticut Climate and Populations" and to the conference's prestigious keynote speakers.

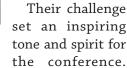
Maria C. Kayne of Woodbridge, a member of the Board of CACIWC, introduced the keynote speakers at the November 18 event, which was the association's 40th annual meeting. Kayne was a long-time member of the Woodbridge Conservation Commission and its chairman for six years. She is also a former member of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen.

Invited were members of all Conservation commissions and Inland Wetland commissions of the 169 Connecticut municipalities. There were also several key environmental organizations, members of the business community, legislators and exhibitors. Kayne said the conference rooms were filled with citizens who expressed concern about the effects of a changing climate upon the Connecticut landscape, agriculture, the quality of air and water and other natural resources, as well as wildlife and human health.

Keynote speakers featured. Robert Dubrow, MD PHD, professor of epidemiology (environmental health) and faculty director of the Yale Climate Change and Health Initiative; David Skelly, PHD, director of Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History; and Professor F. Oaster, an ecologist with the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Dr. Dubrow focused on climate change and human health and Dr. Skelly on the effects of climate change on the natural

world around us. Both speakers explained how decisions members of the conference and society make regarding all aspects of land use will virtually affect the health of the Earth and its people. "They emphasized that all things are connected and added a dire prediction if we do not act now," Kayne said.



The day was filled with workshops and presentations across a broad scope of interests and issues affecting local communities. There were numerous discussions about tools and remedies to aid and resolve impending impacts to our environment and climate.

"It was quite evident that, in spite of the current Federal policies and Connecticut's funding scenario, there exists a strong force even at the grassroots level committed to protecting and improving the environment to ensure a future of healthy, diverse ecological systems vital to human survival," Kayne said.



Maria C. Kayne





TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES



Christina Papa and Megan Kane of Surreybrook School present food to Cynthia Kruger of Woodbridge Youth Services for the Woodbridge Food Pantry.

Surreybrook School Donates Food To Woodbridge Food Pantry

Kathy Consoli and Cheryl Kane along with their staff at Surreybrook School collected food items from families of their students to brighten the holidays of local

families. Woodbridge Human Services gratefully accepts donations in order to offer food to families in need during the holidays and throughout the year.

Toys 4 Kids

Income eligible Woodbridge residents who need holiday toys for children 12 years of age and under should call Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 to set up an appointment to apply to TEAM, Inc. Application deadline is 12/15/17.

Toy Donations Needed As Holiday Approach

Collection boxes for the Toys 4 Kids program are located in the Woodbridge Library and the Woodbridge Center on the lower floor.

Please consider donating a toy for a child the holiday season.

Wanted: Woodbridge Teens Who Desire Work For Cash...

Need Holiday Money? Woodbridge teens, ages 13-18, interested in occasional paid jobs for Woodbridge residents should call Youth Services at 203-389-3429. Typical jobs include weeding, gardening, yard clean-up, raking, shoveling snow, babysitting, and animal care. Parent

permission required. The Job Bank conducts an interview, and matches residents with registered teens who gain experience and self-confidence while earning some money. It's a perfect opportunity for young people to learn responsibility with assistance from Youth Services.

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2018

(Subject to Change, Check with Town Clerk's Office, 203-389-3422)



Town Hall

	1/2	Police Commission	Police Dept. Center Building Town Hall
I	1/8	Library Commission	Library Town Hall
l	1/10	Boards of Selectmen6:00pm	Town Hall
l	1/11	Economic Development Comm7:00pm	Town Hall
l	1/16	CUPOP6:30pm	Town Hall
I	1/17	Inland/Wetlands Agency7:30pm	Town Hall
I	1/18	Board of Finance6:00pm	Town Hall
I	1/22	Fire Commission	Fire Station Beecher School South
I	1/23	Bds. Of Finance/Selectmen6:00pm	Town Hall
I		(Operating Budget Meeting) Government Access TV Commission 7:15pm	Town Hall
I	1/28	Bds. Of Finance/Selectmen6:00pm (Operating Budget Meeting)	Town Hall
	1/30	Bds. Of Finance/Selectmen6:00pm (Operating Budget Meeting)	Town Hall
1			





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FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN'S DESK

By Beth Heller



I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. As we pause at year's end to reflect, spend time with family and friends, and think about the coming year, I am reminded of how special our small town is. By continuing to work together and keeping the lines of communication open, I am hopeful that the coming year will be another good one for our Town.

Annual Budget Setting: Now that December has begun, our Town government's annual budget setting process is well underway for the next fiscal year (which will begin July 1st). As your First Selectman, I'd like to share some information about this process and ask you, as always, to continue providing me with your feedback and thoughts on these as well as other matters of concern to you.

Earlier this fall, I met with department heads to set out some guidelines, and encourage each of them to look for any cost-savings they might be able to suggest, as well as areas where we may be able to bring in additional revenue. We will consider all suggestions! It is, of course, critically important that we leave no stone unturned in our search for ways to save taxpayer money here in Woodbridge, especially as the State funding picture for next year remains uncertain.

As you read this, the Boards of Selectmen and Finance will have completed the initial consideration of Capital Budget requests that were presented at a pair of Joint meetings, November 30th and December 5th. Next, the Operating Budget requests will be presented in a similar set of meetings in January and February. I would like to encourage members of the public to tune-in to our cable access Channel 79, and learn more about how the budget is set -- please refer to the Town website for the schedule of our budget meetings and links to the video recordings of these and many other meetings that can be viewed online at WoodbridgeCT.org.

Community Input in Budgeting Process: Our Town's various Boards and Commissions play an important role in our budget development process that I would like to highlight for you. As you may know, in our Town of Woodbridge we rely on members of the community to volunteer their time serving on Boards and Commissions. This enables our Town government to receive guidance directly from residents who both receive and pay for the services our Town provides.

For example, members of our Human Services Commission focus their attention on the many initiatives and offerings the Town provides to ensure the availability of health and social service programs for the elderly, youth, and other vulnerable members of our community. The Human Services Department includes the Senior Center and Youth Services Bureau as well as programs such as the Food and Fuel Fund, and the Emergency Food Closet. Throughout the year, the Commission meets to review programs, assess, and evaluate community needs.

When it comes time to prepare the Department's annual Operating Budget request, members of the Commission ask probing questions and receive detailed explanations from the Department staff members who directly manage programs. In this way, the Commission's budget request is carefully vetted and the Department's needs are balanced with opportunities that can be pursued for potential external funding sources, such as grants and shared service opportunities.

Once each Board or Commission votes to approve a budget request, the Boards of Selectmen and Finance can be assured that a close examination has already taken place to determine what is needed, as well as what is top priority, given all possible available funding. This process results in a well-informed recommendation by both Commission and staff members who are the experts for what should be considered for inclusion in the Town's Operating Budget. At the Operating Budget meetings, staff members present and Commission members also attend, so both are available to answer any questions that may arise. The public is also welcome (and encouraged) to attend all budget meetings.

Budget Timeline: Once the Capital and Operating Budget requests are presented, the members of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance will conduct their own evaluation of the Town's funding priorities. Following review by the Board of Selectmen at a meeting (currently scheduled for February 20th), a Request for Appropriation will be transmitted to the Board of Finance no later than March 1st. The Board of Finance will then review this Request at its meeting on March 7th and they are set to act on the budget by April 1st.

The Board of Finance's recommendation is then sent to the Preliminary Budget Hearing, which will take place on April 23rd. At this meeting an overview presentation on the Recommended Budget will be made, and the public will have another opportunity to review and comment.

Our Annual Town Meeting will take place on Monday, May 21st to conclude the annual budget setting process with final approval. Residents are again invited and encouraged to join us.

I hope the information I have shared with you helps you to appreciate how much thought and hard work goes in to guiding the budget process each year. Much activity takes place in the many months that precede the Annual Town Meeting. I am particularly thankful to all the volunteers serving on our Boards and Commissions, as well as all our dedicated Town staff members, who devote their time and attention to this process. Working together, the process of setting our annual Town Budget both represents and serves the community of Woodbridge.

Beth Heller is Woodbridge First Selectman. She may be reached by phone at Town Hall, 203-389-3401, or by email to: bheller@woodbridgect.org.



DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

TIME FOR NEW YEAR'S FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Provided by Tad Smith, AAMS®, Edward Jones, 50 Broad Street, Milford

We've reached the end of another year – which means it's just about time for some New Year's resolutions. Would you like to study a new language, take up a musical instrument or visit the gym more often? All these are worthy goals, of course, but why not also add some financial resolutions? Here are some ideas to think about:

Increase contributions to your employer-sponsored retirement **plan.** For 2018, you can contribute up to \$18,500 (or \$24,500 if you're 50 or older) to your 401(k) or similar plan, such as a 403(b), for employees of public schools and some nonprofit groups, or a 457(b) plan, for employees of local governments. It's usually a good idea to contribute as much as you can afford to your employer's plan, as your contributions may lower your taxable income, while your earnings can grow tax deferred. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribution if one is offered.

Try to "max out" on your IRA. Even if you have a 401(k) or similar plan, you can probably still invest in an IRA. For 2018, you can contribute up to \$5,500 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$6,500 if you're 50 or older. (Income restrictions apply to Roth IRAs.) Contributions to a traditional IRA may be tax-deductible, depending on your income, and your earnings can grow tax-deferred. Roth IRA contributions are not deductible, but earnings can grow tax-free, provided you don't start taking withdrawals until you are 59½ and you've have had your account at least five years. You can put virtually any investment in an IRA, so it can expand your options beyond those

offered in your 401(k) or similar plan.

Build an emergency fund. Try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses with the money held in a lowrisk, liquid account. This fund can help you avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or a major car repair.

Control your debts. It's never easy, but do what you can to keep your debts under control. The less you have to spend on debt payments, the more you can invest for your future.

Don't overreact to changes in the financial markets. We've had a long run of rising stock prices – but it won't last forever. If we experience a sharp market downturn in 2018, don't overreact by taking a "time out" from investing. Market drops are a normal feature of the investment landscape, and you may ultimately gain an advantage by buying new shares when their prices are down.

Review your goals and risk toler**ance.** At least once in 2018, take some time to review your short- and long term financial goals and try to determine, possibly with the help of a financial professional, if your investment portfolio is still appropriate for these goals. At the same time, you'll want to re-evaluate your risk tolerance to ensure you're not taking too much risk - or possibly too little risk – with your investments. Do your best to stick with these resolutions throughout the coming year. At a minimum, they can help you improve your investment habits - and they may improve your financial picture far beyond 2018.



Did You Know?

Many Connecticut residents will be hurt, financially, by changes in the income eligibility rules for Medicare Savings Programs. The changes are effective starting January 1, 2018.

Medicare Savings Program help low income seniors pay for the cost of health care. Medicare Savings Programs go by the acronyms QMB (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary), SLMB (Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary), and ALMB (Additional Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary).

In all three programs, the State will pay your Medicare Part B premium (generally \$134.00/month in 2017). You also automatically qualify for Extra Help (also called Low-Income Subsidy) with the cost of prescription medication. If you are covered by QMB, the State also will pay your Medicare deductibles and co-insurance amounts. All of this can be an enormous help for an individual/family with limited income.

The changes in the income eligibility rules, effective as of January 1, 2018, were dramatic as you can see in this chart.

Program	2017 income limit Single Person	2018 income limit Single Person
QMB	\$2,120.00/month	\$1,025.00/month
SLMB	\$2,321.00/month	\$1,226.00/month
ALMB	\$2,472.00/month	\$1,377.00/month
Program	2017 income limit Couple	2018 income limit Couple
Program QMB		
, and the second	Couple	Couple

What can you do? If you divert your excess income to something called a PLAN Pooled Trust, you can maintain your eligibility. Although the money you divert to a PLAN Pooled Trust will be used to pay bills you previously paid from your own Bank account, the cost (\$1,050.00 Enrollment Fee and a modest monthly Service Fee) and inconvenience may not make this a good choice for you.

What else can you do? If you think the changes are unfair, contact your legislator. Many Connecticut residents already have done this and there is talk of a special session of the legislature being called to address this issue.

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

NOTE: ON DECEMBER 6, THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNOUNCED IT IS POSTPONING THE START DATE OF THE LOWER INCOME ELIGIBILITY AMOUNTS, PENDING FURTHER REVIEW AND STUDY.



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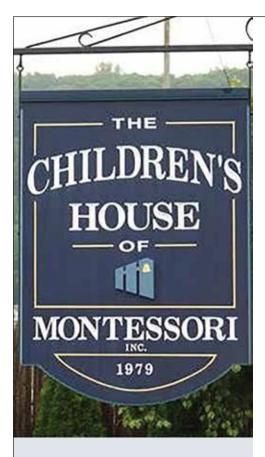
LOGAN, LAWMAKERS CONDUCT REVIEW OF PATIENT SAFETY

As Vice-Chair of the legislature's Public Health Committee, Sen. George S. Logan on November 13 joined with state lawmakers in questioning authorities from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services over concerns about the safety of patients at the Whiting Forensic Division of Connecticut Valley Hospital. The public hearing at the Legislative Office Building shined a light on the circumstances pertaining to multiple employee arrests and suspensions at Whiting – cases involving alleged patient abuse.

"One case of patient abuse is one too many," said Sen. Logan. "That is why it is imperative that as the leaders of the Public Health Committee, we must find where the system of oversight has broken down and put procedures in place to fix it."

There is an anonymous tip line at the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the public to report any issues of concern: the phone number is 877-277-9471.

Sen. Logan (www.SenatorGeorgeLogan.com) represents Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck and Woodbridge. He can be reached at George.Logan@cga.ct.gov and 800-842-1421.



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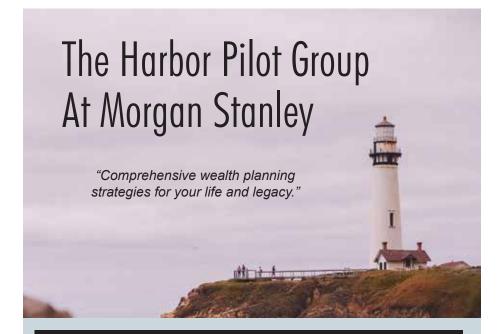
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SLOSSBERG NAMED CCM STATE LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM announced that State Senator Gayle Slossberg has been named State Legislator of the Year by CCM. Senator Slossberg was presented with the award at CCM's Annual Dinner Meeting held on November 28 at the Foxwoods Resort.

Senator Slossberg represents the 14th Senatorial District which includes the communities of Milford, Orange, and parts of West Haven and Woodbridge.

"Connecticut would not be the great state it is without healthy cities and towns. CCM has been a great partner and advocate for communities throughout Connecticut. I am grateful for this award, and for their commitment to our state. There's still much to be done, and I look forward to working alongside CCM in the coming legislative session," said Senator Gayle Slossberg.

An early 2017 decision by Connecticut's Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) on siting small cell antennas in municipalities across Connecticut now mandates -- thanks to Senator Slossberg's efforts -- that companies in this emerging field engage local governments in more advanced consultations and notification as they consider and propose sites in a community.

"Senator Gayle Slossberg is a dynamic leader who exemplifies a lifetime of community involvement," said Joe DeLong, CCM Executive Director. "And Senator Slossberg was a major actor in bringing this pro-municipal decision on the critical small cell-tower issue to the finish line. She addressed CCM's Legislative Committee on the issue early in the session, and as promised, remained a steadfast supporter of cities and towns throughout these proceedings. It should not go unnoticed that Senator Slossberg took up the fight on behalf of towns and cities during a time when other issues before the General Assembly were of much higher visibility."

The plan and process for siting small cell antennas and distributed antenna systems in public rights-of-way has been a hot button issue for towns and cities for over a year. The new process calls for greater participation by the municipality where such small cell canister antenna proposed to be sited.



Senator Gayle Slossberg

And given the uncertainty of the 2017 General Assembly session and the incredible lobbying force of the utility industry, this ruling was a big win for residents --because of Senator Slossberg's efforts.

First elected in 2004, Senator Slossberg was reelected in 2016 for her seventh term as State Senator. She is Senate Co-Chair of the General Assembly's Education and Housing committees and Vice Chair of the Government Administration & Elections Committee. She is also a member of the Appropriations and Regulation Review commit-

During her time in the legislature, Senator Slossberg has earned a reputation as a tireless advocate for job creation in Connecticut. She was responsible for developing the first tax incentive program in the state aimed at increasing job growth and enticing new businesses to move to Connecticut. Senator Slossberg's program became an essential part of landmark jobs legislation passed in 2011 and expanded upon in 2012. As part of this legislation, Connecticut created the highly successful Small Business Express Program. This program provides loans and grants to small business to spur business growth and promote job creation.

CCM's 35th Annual Convention is the largest gathering of municipal leaders in New England. Nearly 1,000 leaders from local and state government as well as the business community convened at Foxwoods for two-days of intensive education and networking on key statelocal-federal issues on November 28 and

VOLUNTEERS AGE 55 + NEEDED

The Agency on Aging of South Central CT has volunteer opportunities for adults age 55+. Volunteers can tutor young children in reading in East Haven, Hamden & New Haven schools and afterschool programs (training provided), help frail seniors organize their monthly bills, read with a child in a North Haven elementary school, or visit with a homebound senior or a veteran.

For more information, call Cherie at 203-785-8533 x2907 or email volunteer@aoascc.org. Also, visit www. aoascc.org.



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LUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



ANDERSON NAMED OCTOBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Amity High School senior, Harris Anderson was recently honored as Student of the Month for October. The Woodbridge Rotary Club and Woodbridge Social Restaurant have partnered to honor an Amity High School student on a monthly basis.

Harris Anderson has been described by his guidance counselor Brian LaRochelle who nominated him, as "a terrific student and involved musician during his time at Amity". In addition to a high GPA in a challenging course load comprised of many honors and Advanced Placement classes, Harris shares his piano, violin and trumpet skills in the school as well as his wider community.

He served as a piano accompanist for many of Amity's musical ensembles and directed music at his church. He has been active in the Neighborhood Music School and participated in state and regional ensembles where he has played his trumpet and violin. Presently, he is filing applications to conservatories and is looking forward to studying piano performance as an undergraduate.



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

RIZZO NAMED NOVEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

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

While she has placed an emphasis

on her academic success, Christina has also made tremendous personal growth through her extracurricular involvement. Christina's extracurricular activities involve her in both the school and community. In her sophomore year she joined JSA, Junior Statesmen of America. She has since become increasingly more involved in the club, attending conventions in New York City and Boston. Her passion for government and political science has grown as a result of her involvement in the club.

Christina is currently the President of Teen Teaching. In this club, students visit the J.S. Martinez School in New Haven where they are placed in a classroom to assist the teacher and make connections with students. Other activities include being a four-year member of the Field Hockey program and being a pianist.

NEW YEAR'S DAY CHILLY CHILI RUN IN ORANGE

Come on out to ring in the New Year in Orange at the 21st annual Chilly Chili Run, a 5K Road Race and 2 Mile Fitness Walk, followed by a hot chili brunch, to benefit the Amity Teen Center. The race begins at 10:30 a.m., Monday January 1st, at the High Plains Community Center at 525 Orange Center Road.

Our race is known as the "Showcase for 90 year-old legends who Run, Compete, Inspire...". We were the first 5K race in the country to have three 90+ year-olds participate and finish the 3.1 mile course. It has become a tradition on New Year's Day and this year we will continue to have 3 or 4 of these elite runners coming out to run.

You can register online at www.hitekracing.com until December 26. Applications are also available at the Orange Park and Recreation office. On Friday, December 29, we will have early packet pickup and late registration in person in the High Plains Community Center lobby from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. On January 1 we will begin the registration at 8:00 a.m. and continue until race time.

Our highlights are: Being the first 5K race of the New Year in Southern Connecticut, an award-winning long sleeve t-shirt for all of those pre-registered and the first 100 to register on the day of the race. Plus, we have the BEST post-race buffet ever!

Entry fees before December 16 are \$22.00 for runners, \$12.00 for runners 12 and under, \$12.00 for those doing the 2 Mile Fitness Walk. Entry fees after December 16 are \$27.00 for runners, \$15.00 for runners 12 and under and \$15.00 for those doing the 2 Mile Fitness Walk.

For more information email us at wssac-ct@juno.com or chillychilirun@ hotmail.com or cohen.lindad@gmail. com. You can also call Race Director Joe Riccio at 203 481-7453 or Jane Opper at 203 795-9351.

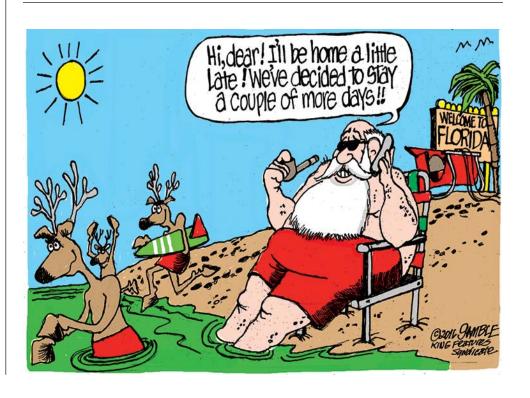
WOODBRIDGE HAPPINESS CLUB MEETING!

Join Dr. Bernie Siegel and Lionel Ketchian at the December 27th meeting of the Woodbridge Happiness Club. Our meeting will be a group discussion on How Happiness Can Benefit All Of Us. Come and take part in getting valuable tools and techniques for making your life the best it can be. Suffered enough? Do you really need to suffer anymore? Are you ready to learn to Be Happy? Being Happy will help you, suffer less and evolve spiritually. External events are difficult for us without the right tools to deal with the turbulence that we all experience in life. Master these strategies to lessen your suffering. Your happiness can empower you and keep you on track. Everyone is welcome;

meetings are free and no reservations are required. Meet some wonderful people using happiness in their lives. Learn to have the peace of mind you need and experience happiness now.

Lionel Ketchian is the co-host on "The Happiness Show," broadcast on TV by Cablevision of Connecticut. Lionel is also the co-host with Dr. Bernie Siegel on Mind Health Matters radio programs.

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 27th, 2017 from 6:00 to 7:45 PM. Place: The Woodbridge Town Library located at 10 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525. For further info, e-mail Print-LRK@aol.com, call 203-258-7777 or www.HappinessClub.com.





CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Girl Scout Troop 60164 comprised of 3rd and 4th graders presented holiday food baskets to Mary Ellen LaRocca, Director of Woodbridge Human Services and Nancy Pfund, Youth Services Director as part of the Human Services Adopt a Family Program. The girl scouts participated in this service project as a way "to keep their promise to help other people in the community" by brightening their holiday. Holiday baskets were distributed to Woodbridge families on December 14th. Human Services was truly grateful to the scouts for all that they contributed.



Recently, Woodbridge Rotary Club and the partners and employees of Bailey, Moore, Glazer, Schaefer and Proto joined together to brighten the Thanksgiving holiday for 48 families in Bethany, Woodbridge and Westville by providing gift cards and pumpkin pies. Pictured are members of the Woodbridge Rotary Club, partners and employees of Bailey, Moore, Glazer, Schaefer and Proto who helped deliver the holiday offerings.



GIRL SCOUTS OF CONNECTICUT LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

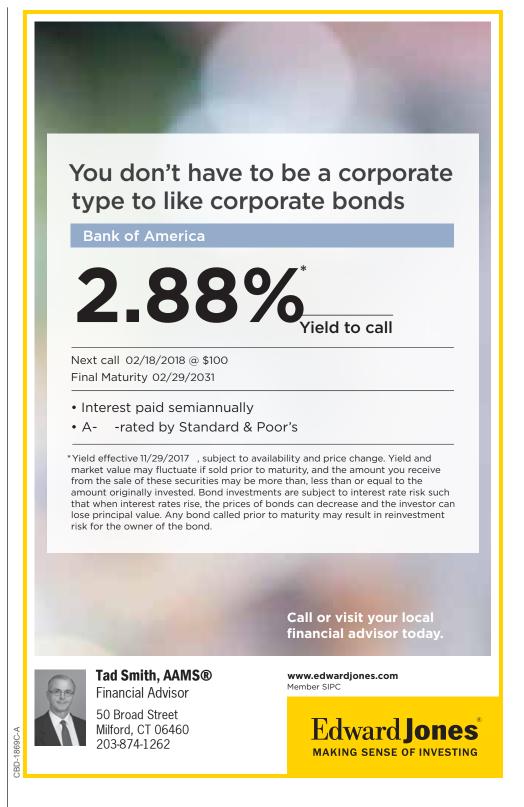
Your time is now! Girl Scouts of Connecticut is looking for volunteers across the state to help girls and young women in Connecticut shine. With your help, you can prepare girls in Connecticut for a lifetime of leadership and be the mentor she needs to succeed.

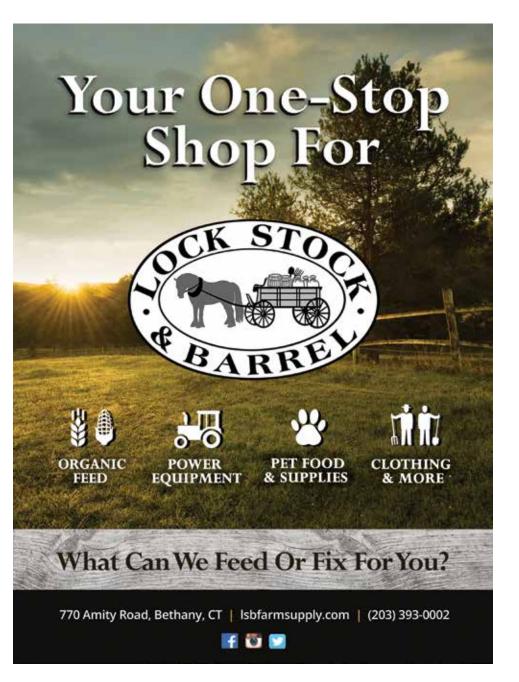
Did you know that there are hundreds of girls in Connecticut who want to be Girl Scouts, but can't due to a shortage of volunteers? As a volunteer, you'll introduce girls to new experiences that show them they're capable of more than they ever imagined. You get to choose what capacity and how much you want

to volunteer. Do you want to be a coleader in a troop or help at a program or event? The choice is yours, and Girl Scouts of Connecticut will help you every step of the way!

As a Girl Scout volunteer, you'll be a girl's cheerleader, guide, and mentor, helping her develop essential life skills and confidence that will last a lifetime. Imagine the excitement, the impact, the memories made—those are the moments you'll share at Girl Scouts.

Embark on an extraordinary journey of leadership! Learn more at www.gsofct. org/volunteer!











- "Save large platters that come with holiday trays to use when bringing cookies or baked goods to other parties. That way you don't have to bring home a platter, you can just leave it and pass it on." E.G. in Kansas
- "Schedule haircuts and nail appointments to coincide with holiday parties. Then you won't have to worry about doing your hair. It will still look nice from your beautician appointment." A.I. in Indiana
- "My uncle is really hard to buy for. He doesn't get out much, and he has everything he could ever need. I hit gold with gift mail-order memberships. We've done beer, cheese and fruit, and this year is meat! He gets a different one every month. You can find these services on the web. Thought I'd pass it along as a gift idea." -- W.L. in Arkansas
- "I find that the best conversation starter when visiting a large group of family or friends is a box or basket of photos. It is inexpensive to print copies, and I have all my old photos scanned anyway. Bringing them in a basket instead of an album works because we pass them around, and people can take photos home with them. Sometimes, a picture will inspire a story, and I might

write it down on the back of the photo to remember it and tuck it away. It's more than worth the \$10-\$15 it costs to print pictures." -- L.W. in Virginia

- Write return addresses on the back of holiday cards before disposing of the envelope. They can be tucked away for next year's holiday cards list.
- Create your own "on this day in history" calendar, just for your family. Purchase a large wall calendar each year dedicated to memories. Start with just listing birthdays. Then you can document things that happen throughout the year. Maybe someone bought a new car, or lost a tooth. Write down visitors to your home and vacations. Then at the end of the year, transfer them to a new calendar, noting what year something happened. As the years progress, you'll have a wonderful reminiscing calendar!
- "I keep my decorations organized using recycled household materials. I save tissue boxes to hold garland, and I wrap stringed lights around the core of a paper towel roll. Clean styrofoam takeout containers can hold ornaments, and material items, like tree skirts, stay folded but unmusty when kept in a net bag." H.R. in Washington

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Q: I've really gotten into **Sarah Jessica Parker's** comedy on HBO called "**Divorce.**" Can you tell me if it will be back for another season? -- Barb T., via email

A: The 10-episode second season of "Divorce" premieres Jan. 14 at 10 p.m. ET. If you're not familiar with the series, "Sarah Jessica Parker and **Thomas Haden Church** star in this biting comedy series from creator **Sharon Horgan** about the lows and lower lows of a very long divorce," as per HBO. Joining the cast this season are **Steven Pasquale** as a love interest for Sarah's Frances, and "**Ugly Betty**" star **Becki Newton** is coming aboard as Jackie, a successful realtor who will be a new squeeze for Thomas' Robert.

Q: For years I've been hearing that there is going to be a sequel to "**The Incredibles,**" but it's been so long, it feels like it might not be happening. Can you give me any info about that? -- Katie S., via email

A: It's been 13 years since "The Incredibles" captured the hearts of so many adults and children alike, and it's about to make its mark on a new generation. The computer-animated Pixar superhero film -- which starred the voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter and Samuel L. Jackson -- will be back with a follow-up, appropriately titled "Incredibles 2," which is due to hit theaters June 15.

Craig, Holly, Samuel, et al., are reprising their roles and, according to Pixar, the sequel picks up right where the first one left off, with the Parr family about to face off with The Underminer (voiced by Pixar favorite **John Ratzenberger**). "Incredibles 2" will focus on Helen Parr (Holly), also known as Elastigirl, while



Sarah Jessica Parker [HBO]

her husband Bob (Craig) remains at home to watch their children, Violet, Dash and Jack-Jack. The family struggles to maintain normal lives while they remain unaware of Jack-Jack's powers. However, they, along with Frozone (Samuel), soon will have to battle a new villain with a sinister plot.

Q: Can you tell me when the Golden Globes will air? I feel like it's coming up soon. -- Marc J., via Facebook

A: The "75th Annual Golden Globe Awards" is set to air live coast to coast on Sunday, Jan. 7, from 8-11 p.m. ET (5-8 p.m. PT) on NBC. Late-night host/comedian **Seth Meyers** will be the emcee of the annual gala, which has always been known as the more "fun" awards show, where almost anything can happen, with many viewing it as an indicator of who will be honored at the Academy Awards.

Robert Greenblatt, chairman of NBC Entertainment, said in a statement: "We are thrilled that Seth Meyers is going to be hosting the Golden Globes this year. As he does every night for us in late night, he will be taking a closer look at this year's best movies and television with his unique brand of wit, intelligence and mischievous humor."

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.



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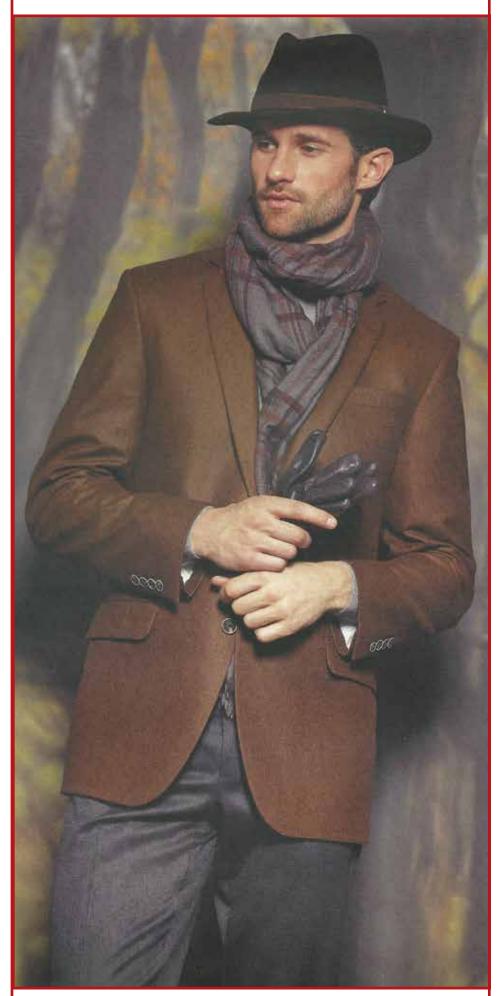
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LOCAL SPORTS



ZAKARAI & ABBY MEET HENRIK LUNDQVIST

When Zakarai Schneider (age 14) and Abby Malek (15) of the CT STORM special hockey team in Bridgeport CT were presented a possible opportunity to meet star and hero – NY Ranger Henrik Lundqvist – we all thought we must be dreaming??!!

Through the generosity of the Henrik Lunqvist Foundation and Chase Bank/ NY Rangers, these athletes were able to see a big dream come true and meet their favorite player/hero Henrik!

Throughout Abby and Zakarai's hockey careers, they have overcome many of life's challenges to be special needs hockey athletes with the CT STORM. For example, Zakarai was born with many intellectual and physical disabilities, including Apraxia (limited verbal ability), Down Syndrome/Mental Retardation, sensory deficiencies, low muscle tone, and has other profound communication disorders. At his early years, it was questionable if he would be able to walk – let alone skate. Zakarai's projected life expectancy is about that of

his peers. Despite these and other limitations, disabled players Zakarai and Abby have both demonstrated perseverance; beat the odds and through the love for hockey pushed themselves to be inspirational hockey team mates.

Mark Schneider, parent. "From the moment we walked into the Rangers facility, it was first class. Mr. Martella from the NYR personally greeted us, he coordinated it perfectly, sat with us and entertained us the entire time. Ms. Bialous from the Lundqvist Foundation was so amazing she kept in touch each step of the way and made sure our experience was fantastic. I must say after the event in the parking lot the mom's shed some tears of joy for the kids. We were all choked up. The CT STORM team players and coaches were all buzzing the next day looking for photos."

Henrik was so kind, friendly, patient, and charming, it was great – he is really a role model professional athlete in all aspects.



The Amity Pop Warner Junior Pee Wee Cheerleaders, coached by Head Coach Carol Mastersanti and Assistant Coach Sarah Mastersanti won fourth place at the National Cheer Championships in Walt Disney World on Tuesday, December 6. This was the team's first time going to the national competition. The athletes, ages 8-11 are from Bethany, Woodbridge and Orange.



Front Row: Anthony Tomasko, Audrey Chung, Katrine O'Leary; Second Row: Head Coach Dave Reilly, Katie O'Connor, Sophia Velleco, Jakub Czachor, *Kevin Yanagisawa; Third Row: Olivia Velleco, Caroline Krawec, *Sierra Cripps, Nicholas Robinson; Fourth Row: Jack Crocamo, *Thomas Minar, Arsenio Bustos, *Colin Roy; Missing from photo: *Kate Alvarado, Shiva Gowda, Paul Homorodean, Franco Lee, *Jenna Lu, Abby Maoz, Emma Savoie, Claire Yuan, David Zhao.

WAC CELEBRATES SUCCESSES AT SWIMMING AWARDS BANQUET

Congratulations to the Woodbridge Aquatic Club which placed 23 swimmers in the Connecticut Top 16 swimmers during the 2016-2017 short course season and the 2017 long course season. The 2017 Connecticut Swimming Annual Awards Banquet recently

took place at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT, recognizing the swimmers for their outstanding achievements.

Athletes who were also awarded Connecticut Scholar Athlete awards are indicated by an (*) before their names.

AMITY YOUTH WRESTLING

Amity Youth Wrestling has embarked on its fifth season and it's better then ever! We have all certified coaches, boys and girls from kindergarten through 8th grade. Learn strength and conditioning! And have a lot of fun! Call Mike Cala at (203) 974-9493 or email us at amityyouthwrestling@gmail.com.



Amity Pop Warner Varsity Cheerleaders won third place at the National Cheer Championships in Walt Disney World on Monday, December 4. Coached by Association Coordinator Alicia Soderquist, Head Coach Tina Zito and Assistant Coach Victoria Scheff, this is the team's fourth consecutive trip to the national competition. This year, the team competed in the small level three division. The win was bittersweet as eight of the 12 girls move on to high school next year and pass the torch to their younger team.





WOODBRIDGE RESIDENT SELECTED FOR USTA NEW ENGLAND AWARD

USTA (United States Tennis Association) New England is proud to announce it has selected Woodbridge resident Herb Mendelsohn as its 2017 Connecticut Volunteer of the Year. Mendelsohn, along with 30 other award winners, will be recognized at the annual Awards Ceremony to take place on January 20, 2018 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Marlborough, MA.

"Our award winners exemplify the very best of tennis in New England," said Scott Steinberg, USTA New England President and CEO. "Their remarkable efforts on and off the court have been instrumental in continuing to grow the game. We are delighted to have this opportunity to recognize and celebrate their accomplishments."

The Volunteer of the Year award is given annually to a member of the

tennis community in each of the seven USTA New England regions for his/her hard work and dedication to growing the sport of tennis. The ceremony will feature guest emcee Harvey Leonard, chief meteorologist for WCVB-TV Channel 5 in Boston. For more information, view the Awards Ceremony webpage.

USTA New England, one of 17 regional sections across the country that comprise the United States Tennis Association (USTA), is a not-for-profit organization committed to promoting and developing the growth of tennis and increasing participation in the sport in New England by offering quality recreational and competitive programs for people of all ages and abilities. For more information, visit usta.com/newengland.



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Merry Old Santa Claus" by Thomas Nast.

HOW WASHINGTON IRVING WON THE WAR ON CHRISTMAS

Back before there was cable TV, Washington Irving won the war on Christmas. The great early American writer had an outsized role in giving us Christmas as we know it.

A little background, according to "Christmas in America: a History," by Penne Restad. Back in merry old England, Christmastime in the 17th century was merry indeed, a raucous affair that incurred the displeasure of the Puritans.

When Oliver Cromwell took over, his Puritan parliament suppressed Christmas with a zeal that would have made the American Civil Liberties Union blush (you were looking for trouble if you decorated your church, or closed your shop, or preached on the birth of Jesus).

Puritan distaste for the holiday traveled over the Atlantic. John Winthrop of Massachusetts Bay had no use for Christmas. Other settlers in other colonies, depending on their origin and their religion, had differing attitudes, and the celebration was a motley affair for much of early American history. In some places, it wasn't celebrated at all.

Then, it steadily began to take hold, and Washington Irving, the literary genius who gave us "Rip van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," helped define it. Not only did Irving write about a pipe-smoking, wagonriding, gift-dispensing St. Nicholas, he delineated a Christmas celebration of irresistible charm and enduring appeal.

In the early 1820s, Irving published five enormously popular Christmas stories about his visit to Bracebridge Hall in England. They lament how "old games and customs" around the holiday have been lost, but they are preserved at Bracebridge. Through the haze of nostalgia, a recognizable Christmas shimmers through.

There's the rush of gift-laden travelers. Irving describes a stagecoach crowded with passengers who "seemed principally bound to the mansions of relations or friends to eat the Christmas dinner." The coach "was loaded also with

hampers of game, and baskets and boxes of delicacies; and hares hung dangling their long ears about the coachman's box -- presents from distant friends for the impending feast."

There's the anticipation of the kids. Irving delights in the "little rogues" who are "returning home for the holidays in high glee, and promising themselves a world of enjoyment."

There's the holiday revelry. Irving recounts "the old games of hoodman blind, shoe the wild mare, hot cockles, steal the white loaf, bob apple and snapdragon: the Yule log and Christmas candle were regularly burnt, and the mistletoe, with its white berries, hung up to the imminent peril of all the pretty housemaids."

There's the magic of Christmas Eve. That night Irving hears villagers playing music outside his room: "The sounds, as they receded, became more soft and aerial, and seemed to accord with quiet and moonlight. I listened and listened — they became more and more tender and remote, and, as they gradually died away, my head sank upon the pillow and I fell asleep."

There's the Christmas Day feast. Irving reports that "the table was literally loaded with good cheer, and presented an epitome of country abundance, in this season of overflowing larders."

Irving's is a Christmas of "tender and inspiring" church services and of the gathering of family members at home, "that rallying-place of the affections," where returning children "grow young and loving again among the endearing mementoes of childhood."

Of course, this is all achingly aspirational. Irving's Christmas never quite was and never quite will be, but it is a vision of what the holiday should be. "Of all the old festivals," he writes, "that of Christmas awakens the strongest and most heartfelt associations. There is a tone of solemn and sacred feeling that blends with our conviviality, and lifts the spirit to a state of hallowed and elevated enjoyment."

Merry Christmas.



NO MORE BORING ELVES

It's a simple story: A scout elf hangs around your home, gathering evidence for your child's spot on the naughty/ nice list and reports it back to Santa overnight. Like most elves, he enjoys shenanigans. From its humble 2005 beginnings as a self-published Christmas tale by Carol Aebersold and her daughter Chanda Bell, "The Elf on the Shelf" has become an epic Pinterest-fueled phenomenon of cheery parents creating Christmas magic for cherished tykes.

At its best, it's one more tool in the arsenal of Mom and Dad to reinforce good behavior while showing off their own creativity. At its worst, it's the source of shame or guilt provoked by Facebook posts or preschool comparisons. Even the most super of supermoms stalls sometimes. Never fear. Here are 20 tips to Elf on the Shelf like a pro, and a few ways to get out of a jam if you forget.

Involve the Other Toys:

- Have a boy Elf go on a classic date with Barbie. Perhaps a lovely picnic.
- Boys will be boys. Watch your Elf get captured by small soldiers.
- Game night is on when your Elf enjoys a board game with stuffed animals.
- Your Elf can stay in Santa's good book by reading to the baby dolls.
- Coloring a masterpiece with your art materials
- In the Kitchen:
- Nobody loves making cookies more than an Elf. Maybe he'll even spell out your initials in chocolate chips.
- Breakfast prep is a snap when your Elf gets involved. I'll bet it involves candy canes.
- You might find your Elf head first in the sugar bowl ...
- or holding a piece of rock candy in the freezer.
- On a cold night, he's sending a message when he preps a tray of hot chocolate (with marshmallows!)

Other Ways to Elf:

 Catch a Junior Buddy (from the movie "Elf") enjoying proper Elf nutrition by sticking to the four main Elf food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corn and syrup. Leave

- the movie out to watch together.
- Elves love to dress up as a characters from your favorite TV show.
- Your Elf could get acrobatic, up high walking the tightrope, like at the circus.
- Let your Elf channel his inner artgallery director by hanging the kids' crafts and drawings in the hallway, along with a few of his own.
- Your Elf might like to borrow Barbie's sunglasses and other accessories to get in some tanning time on a windowsill.

Gadgets and Such:

- True story: Elves need to limit their screen time. Catch yours passed out after playing video games all night.
- Books are cool, but so is reading on your kindle. Just make sure your Elf saves the page you were on ...
- Are there phones at the North Pole? Your Elf can't resist sending a few selfies and text messages (to family, of course) on your smartphone.
- It's popcorn time! There's nothing better than staying up late watching movies Christmas movies, that is!
- If you aren't practicing enough (with your sports equipment/musical instruments), maybe your Elf will take a turn.

IF THE ELF DIDN'T MOVE

- 1. Is he stuck? The cardinal rule of Elf on the Shelf is that you must not touch the Elf. If so, Mom or Dad may have to use tongs or other instruments to unstick the Elf.
- 2. Did your child misbehave? If so, he's probably doing them a favor by not reporting back to Santa. Just remind your child to be extra helpful and kind so that he'll have something good to report tonight.
- 3. Is he sick? We all feel run down sometimes. Give him the night off and let him get some rest.

IF YOU TOUCHED THE ELF

- 1. Write an apology letter. A remorseful heart will bring magic back in a flash.
- 2. He needs a dose of Vitamin C cinnamon, that is. Sprinkle some near him and let it do its work.
 - 3. Sing Christmas carols.



HELP OUR HEROES

Holiday Fundraiser

For the V.A. Medical Center (West Haven Campus)

We are Requesting donations of basic necessities for our local Veterans. The drive will take place through thanksgiving and Christmas. Please see attached list for desperately needed items

A special Thanks to the local businesses for allowing us access and to you for your generous donations!!!

Please Share!!!!!!

Local Drop-off Sites

Savin Rock Roasting Co. 305 Captain Thomas Blvd West Haven, CT

Contempo Square 200 Boston Post Road Orange, CT

The Branford Art Studio 483 East Main Street Branford, CT

The Borough Barber Shop 1372 New haven Avenue Woodmont, Ct

West Haven, CT Rainbow Garden

State Marshal Bryk 117 Broad Street 3074 Whitney Avenue Milford, CT Building 1, Floor 1 Hamden, CT

> VA Connecticut HCS Voluntary Service (135) 950 Campbell Avenue West Haven, CT 06516 (203) 937-3814

Stevie B's Bar and Grill

555 Campbell Avenue



Items Needed:

- Fixodent/Denture Cleaner
- Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Stop & Shop, etc.) Depends underwear (variety of sizes)
- Deodorant
- Cream/Lotion
- Toothbrushes
- Mouth Wash (no alcohol)
- Powder
- Bar Soap/Body Wash Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothbrushes
- Combs Brushes
- Nail clippers Nail files
- Crossword, Word Search puzzle books
- Chapstick
- Underwear (variety of sizes)
- T-shirts (variety of sizes)
- Feminine Hygiene Products (i.e.- pads, tampons)

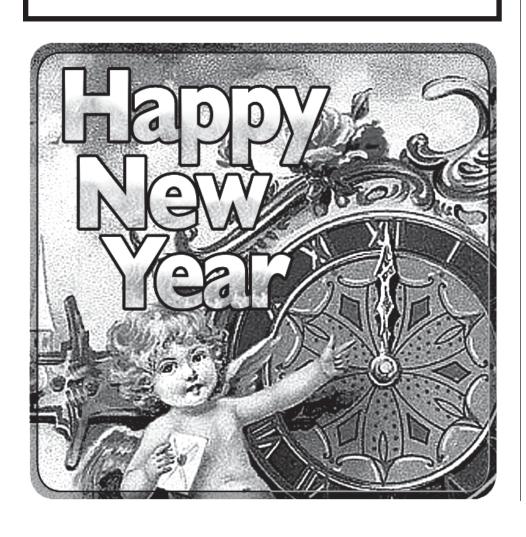
If possible can you please make sure that all of the products are for men and women. These items are needed by our Veterans and whatever you and your organization can do is very much appreciated.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you again,

Voluntary Service staff

The items dropped off at local sites will be picked up by Dani Wade, delivered directly to the VA Hospital where the VA will deliver them to local veterans in need.





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HOUSES OF WORSHIPEVENTS



Left to right, 2nd row: Rev. Peter Orfanakos (Greek Orthodox Church), Rabbi Michael Farbman (Temple Emanuel) 1st row: Rev. Suzanne Wagner (Orange Congregational Church), Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus (Congregation Or Shalom), Imam Bachir Djehiche (New Haven Islamic Center), Rev. Norman Brockett (Holy Infant Church) and Rev. Diana Rogers (Church of the Good Shepherd).

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE HOSTED

On Sunday evening, November 19th, it was Congregation Or Shalom's turn to host the annual Orange Thanksgiving service. Over 250 people of all faiths participated.

The service featured an interfaith children's choir, led by Bryan Campbell and Cindy Chandler of the Orange Congregation Church. Donations went to the Orange Food Pantry & Fuel Assistance Fund.

Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom said, "The wonderful feeling of unity we enjoy here tonight is sorely needed in our country... In fact, it's what America is all about!"

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

Sunday, December 17, is the third Sunday of Advent. The annual Christmas Pageant will be held during the 10 a.m. service. In the afternoon members of the congregation will go caroling at local senior facilities.

Sunday, December 24, is Christmas Eve and the fourth Sunday of Advent. In addition to our regular Sunday service at 10 a.m. we will have our traditional Candle Light Service at 7 p.m. in the Meetinghouse.

Sunday, December 31, A service of Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m.

Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., will continue to meet through Advent and the New Year in the Parish House. We study both Old and New Testament passages based on the Lectionary. Nursery care will be available for the Christmas Eve service in addition to the Sunday morning services.

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

Sunday Services – 10 a.m. including



The First Church of Christ

our Intergenerational Service the first Sunday of each month. Nursery care for small children is available during the Sunday services.

Church School – Sunday at 10 a.m. the second through fifth Sundays during the school year with lessons based on the life and teachings of Jesus.

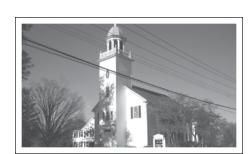
Confirmation Class for children in 7th – 9th grades meets the first Sunday of the month in the parish House.

Middle School Youth Group for 5th – 8th graders – The Youth group generally meets the 2nd Sunday of the month from 4 – 6 pm. The group gathers for fellowship, service, conversations, and fun in a faith based community.

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

ORANGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES

Orange Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation, located at 205 Meeting House Lane in Orange. On Sunday December 24th, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, there will be a 'Christmas Eve' morning service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary; our Crib Room will also be open for all birth to Pre-K children. Please note, there will be no regular coffee hour following the Christmas Eve morning service. Later in the day, there will be two 'Christmas Eve' evening services in our Sanctuary: a family service entitled, "The Message of St. Nicholas" will take place at 5 p.m. This service will include music from the Junior Choir. A traditional Candlelight service of Lessons and Carols will take



Orange Congregational Church

place at 10 p.m. with music from the Senior Choir. On New Year's Eve we will have regular Sunday morning worship services at 8 a.m. in the Chapel and 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, with fellowship hour and coffee following each. For more information or any questions, please call the church office at 203-795-9749.



Jackie Ashworth with her creation.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AT HOLY INFANT CHURCH

That is what Orange resident Jackie Ashworth calls her project. Jackie heard that homeless men in local shelters carry their belongings in plastic grocery bags. Being creative, she sat at her sewing machine and came up with a bag that folds into a pillow. She purchased flannel material and poly fill and presented her idea to the Holy Infant Church Women's Guild. Seven members volunteered to

help make the bags. The ladies worked factory style to cut, sew, and fill the bags. After 9 hours, 70 bags were made! They will be filled with cards and toiletries by Midnight Run volunteers and will be given to the homeless shelter the week before Christmas. What started out as just an idea from Jackie turned into so much more. The spirit of Christmas is visible right here at Holy Infant.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP EVENTS

At The Church of the Good Shepherd

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd welcomes the community to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Please join us for joyous music, fellowship, and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Children and adults throughout the area are invited to participate in the annual Christmas pageant. The pageant will be held on Sunday, December 17 at the 10 am service. A holiday wassail party will follow the service. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about the true meaning of Christmas. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, December 16 at 10 am. Interested families may call the office or simply show up to the rehearsal on December 16.

- Sunday, December 17th, No 8am worship. Christmas Pageant at 10am with Wassail Party following;
- Sunday, December 24th, Combined 9am service, 4:30pm Carols, 5pm Christmas Eve Service;
- Monday, December 25th, 10 am Christmas Day Service.

Advent: After "Thoughts and Prayers": Actions for Peace, What comes after "thoughts and prayers" are offered? continues in December. Please join St Andrew's Episcopal Church and the Church of the Good Shepherd on Friday nights in Advent for a prayer service that will serve as a springboard into action. As we prepare for Christ's coming, and seek to stem the flow of violence in our world, let us draw near to the God who calls us to this mission. This unique

prayer service combines the contemplative space needed to confront evil with practical steps that we can take to make the world a better place. The service will be held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 283 Bridgeport Avenue in Milford on December 8 and 22, and at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 680 Racebrook Road in Orange on December 15, all services start at 7pm. All are welcome to attend this contemplative service and then take action!

Blue Christmas: In the midst of joy and the anticipation of Christ's arrival, a Blue Christmas service sets aside a time to acknowledge the darkness of the loss and pain that are present in our lives. For some, the loss is new and immediate; for some, the loss is well-worn with time's passing. Come on December 17th at 7pm to this contemplative, peaceful service, creating a space for memories that may seem out of place this season. All are welcome at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 283 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd is located on 680 Racebrook Road, Orange, Connecticut. Sunday service times include Rite II Holy Eucharist without music at 8am and Rite II Holy Eucharist with music at 10am. Children's Christian Faith. For more information about The Church of the Good Shepherd's many other programs, please call the Parish Office at (203) 795-6577, email us at thegoodspheherd@optonline. net, visit our website at www.thegoodshepherdorangect.org, and, of course, check our Facebook page www.facebook. com/cgsorangect for frequent postings.



Attention Churches, Synagogues & Houses of Worship!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest.

We will publish them for free.

Woodbridge Town News - P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 edit@woodbridgetownnews.com



CHANUKAH AT TEMPLE EMANUEL OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Come join the fun and celebrate Shabbat Chanukah at Temple Emanuel. On Friday, December 15, we will welcome Shabbat with a music-filled service led by Rabbi Michael Farbman and the Temple Emanuel Band. We will fill the sanctuary with the light of our chanukiot and have a delicious dinner with family and friends. All are welcome to participate in this joyous annual event.

The service begins at 6pm. Please bring your voices, your favorite chanukiah and candles and, if you'd like to, some latkes to share as part of our family-style meal. Dinner reservations are required and can be made either on our new website, tegnh.org, or by calling the TE office: 203-397-3000. The suggested donation for dinner is \$10 per person or \$25 per family.

Not a member of TE? Come check us out.

For more information about services and celebrations at Temple Emanuel, please go to the TE website, tegnh.org. Temple Emanuel is located at 150 Derby Avenue in Orange.

CONGREGATION OR SHALOM EVENTS

Weekly Services

Minyan Services: Sunday 9:00 AM; Monday 7:30 AM; Thursday 7:30 AM Healing Circle: Wednesday 7:30 AM Shabbat Services: Friday 7:00 PM; Saturday 9:30 PM

Coffee and Learn with the Rabbi

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

Latkes & Magic!

Friday, December 15, 2017 - Join us for a fun-filled evening of Hanukah celebration! We'll light the menorah at 7 PM sharp, then gather for a very brief Friday evening service. Dreidles, chocolate gelt, and latkes will follow, along



Congregation Or Shalom

with an engaging magic show! All ages are warmly welcome!

ZUMBA GOLD At Or Shalom

Congregation Or Shalom announces the continuation of ZUMBA GOLD on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7 PM. ZUMBA GOLD is an easy to follow dance movement program that incorporates music from every decade to create an upbeat and fun exercise class. Burn lots of calories, meet new friends, and have a blast. No experience needed and classes are on a drop-in basis. Contact Robin at zumbarobin@gmail.com or call 203-314-8176 or temple office at 203-799-2341.

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com



ENTERTAINMENT

TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Coco (PG) animated

2. Justice League (PG-13) Ben Affleck, Gal Gadot

3. Wonder (PG)

Jacob Tremblay, Owen Wilson

4. Thor: Ragnarok (PG-13) Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston

5. Daddy's Home Two (PG-13)

Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg 6. Murder on the Orient

Express (PG-13) Kenneth Branagh, Penelope Cruz

7. The Star (PG)

animated 8. A Bad Moms Christmas (R)

Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell 9. Roman J. Israel, Esq. (PG-13)

Denzel Washington, Colin Farrell 10. Three Billboards Outside

Ebbing, Missouri (R) Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson

TOP 10 VOD

1. Atomic Blonde (R)

Charlize Theron, James McAvov

2. Wind River (R)

Kelsey Asbille, Jeremy Renner

3. Cars 3 (G) animated

4. The Emoji Movie (PG) animated

5. The Dark Tower (PG-13) Idris Elba

6. War for the Planet of the Apes (PG-13)

Andy Serkis

7. Kidnap (R) Halle Berry

8. Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature (PG) animated

9. The Glass Castle (PG-13)

Brie Larson

10. Wonder Womatn (PG-13)

Gal Gadot





Scene from "Despicable Me 3" [Universal Pictures]

EDITOR'S NOTE: DVDs reviewed in this column are available in stores the week of December 4, 2017.

PICKS OF THE WEEK

"Despicable Me 3" (PG) -- After Gru (Steve Carrell) and wife Lucy (Kristen Wiig) are sacked from the Anti-Villain League for failing to thwart a former child actor-turned-villain, the aptly named Balthazar Bratt (Trey Parker), the adoring minions hope for a return to villainy. Unfortunately for them, the family instead packs it up to visit a newfound relative -- long-lost twin brother Dru (also voiced by Carrell) -- in his native Freedonia. With a family history of wicked behavior, Gru and Dru battle for influence while Lucy manages the misadventures of their adorable girl gaggle. The gang doesn't necessarily raise the bar in this iteration, but they certainly don't drop it. Minions still rule. Banana.

"Better Watch Out" (R) -- It's a lovely Christmas holiday, and Ashley (Olivia DeJonge), like many other 17-yearolds, is picking up a little Christmas cash babysitting. Her charge, the precocious and angelic-faced 12-year-old Luke (Levi Miller), has other plans for his special night with Ashley; he cooks up a plot with his bestie to guarantee a closer relationship. But this is no peaceful silent night. Threats abound, and as events unfold, the decoration is more blood splatter than holly berries. It's surprisingly suspenseful and funny and disturbing, and it's the absolutely dead-black Christmas murder comedy you didn't know you wanted this year.

"Crash Pad" (R) -- Attractive mature woman Morgan (Christina Applegate) cheats on her neglectful husband (Thomas Hayden Church) with a younger, ginger-haired romantic named Stensland (Domnhall Gleeson). Instead of being the fulfillment of her dreams, it turns out he's a simply a tool in a revenge plot against her hubby. But when the Mister finds out, he confronts the younger man, and then abruptly decides to turn the tables on Morgan by moving in with Stensland and reliving his glory days. The pair of opposites' escapades make up the bulk of this underthe-radar bromedy. Gleeson remains incredibly adorable throughout, and Church's alpha-dog antics are giggleworthy indeed.

1. Who sang "Don't Say Nothin' Bad (About My

- Who wrote and released "Why Doesn't Somebody Get Him a Pepsi?" and when?
- Which song did Bob Dylan jokingly title "A Long-Haired Mule and a Porcupine Here"?
- 4. Who released the first version of "Tainted Love"?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "Lips as sweet as candy. Their taste stays on my mind. Girl, you keep me thirsty for another cup of wine."

 $q^{\wedge}.noit>ubortni\,"ngoO-ngoO$ with a cover in 1981. 5, "Hooked On a Feeling," by B.J. Thomas in 1968. The 1971 version by Blue Swede was famous for the "Ooga-Chakamusicians swapped instruments, leading to much merriment and parading around the studio. 4. Gloria Jones, in 1964. Soft Cell followed Sedaka. 2. Frank Zappa ... more than once. The title of the 1975 song changed to "The Torture Wever Stops" and appeared in various incarnations on his albunde on Blonde. "While recording the background, the I. The Cookies, in 1963. The group went on to decome the Raelettes and worked as backup singers for Ray Charles, Little Eva and Weil

SPORTS QUIZ

- 1. In 2016, Corey Seager, with 26 home runs, broke the Los Angeles Dodgers' franchise record for most homers by a shortstop. Who had held the record?
- 2. Name the last major-league team before the San Francisco Giants in 2016 to have at least four homers and four triples in the same game?
- 3. Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott set a record for most consecutive passes without an interception to start an NFL career (176). Who had held the mark?
- 4. When was the last time before the 2016-17 season that the Florida State men's basketball team finished a season undefeated at home?
- 5. Nashville's Pekka Rinne tied an NHL record in 2017 for most playoff wins by a Finnish-born goalie. Who else holds the record?
- 6. In 2017, Kyle Busch became the third NASCAR Cup driver to have back-to-back pole wins at Indianapolis. Name either of the other two.
- Who was the last unseeded tennis player to win the women's singles title at the French Open before Jelena Ostapenko in 2017?

and Ernie Irvan (1997-98). 7. England's Margaret Scriven, in 1933. passes in 2000-01. 4. It was the 1975-76 season. 5. Antti Niemi (2010-2016). 6. Jeff Gordon (1995-96) 1. Glenn Wright hit 22 home runs in 1930. 2. The New York Yankees, in 1998. 3. Tom Brady, with 162

Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

Sudoku answers on

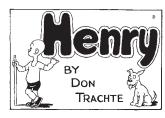




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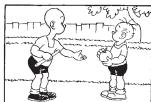


COMICS/CROSSWORD/HOLLYWOOD







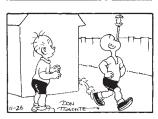


















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- 49 Letterman's employer

HOLLYWOOD

By Tony Rizzo

Leonardo DiCaprio is spending more time as a producer than as an actor. He is involved in producing no less than 33 films, executive producing seven and acting in at least four. Mark L. Smith, who wrote "The Revenant," for which Leonardo won an Oscar, has written "Conquest," which Leonardo has in preproduction. He's also preparing to play Theodore Roosevelt in "Roosevelt," take on the Sicilian Mafia in "The Black Hand" and star in "Killers of the Flower Moon." He's just completed producing "Robin Hood," with Taron Egerton, Jamie Foxx and Jamie Dornan, as well as the miniseries "Frontiersmen," about Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Lewis and Clark, and Andrew Jackson, no doubt inspired by "The Revenant."

Nicole Kidman celebrated her Emmy win for HBO's "Big Little Lies" by lining up films for 2018. First up is "The Upside," with Bryan Cranston and Kevin Hart, opening March 9; followed by "Boy Erased," with Russell Crowe and Lucas Hedges, arriving Sept. 28; and "Aquaman," with Jason Momoa in the title role, due Dec. 21, 2018. Kidman is currently starring in the BBC series "Top of the Lake," which is airing on The Sundance Channel in the U.S. Meanwhile, her "Big Little Lies" co-star Reese Witherspoon is co-producing a new series for Apple TV with Jennifer Aniston.

Jenna Elfman, who became a TV star in 119 episodes of "Dharma & Gregg" (1997-2002), has had less success with her series that followed: "Accidentally On Purpose" (18 episodes on CBS, 2009-2010), "1600 Penn" (13 episodes on NBC, 2012-2013) and "Imaginary Mary," (nine episodes on ABC, 2017). She'll now be a regular on "The Walking Dead" in its upcoming sixth season.



Leonardo DiCaprio [NASA/ Goddard/Rebecca Roth]

Sorry to report we lost "Magnum, P.I.'s" Higgins, John Hillerman, Nov. 9. I visited Tom Selleck several times on location in Hawaii, I was lucky to spend time with Hillerman as well. He was as funny and delightful as he was as Higgins. He received four Emmy nominations for "Magnum" (1980-88), and finally won in 1987. When his health declined, Hillerman decided to retire in 1999 and move back to his native Texas. Among his 24 films was 1972's "What's up Doc?" and two for Mel Brooks: "Blazing Saddles" (1974) and "The History of the World, Part 1" (1984). He was an original.

**'*

Get ready for another senior-citizen comedy. This one, "Just Getting Started," stars Oscar-winners Morgan Freeman and Tommy Lee Jones as golfing rivals at a Palm Springs senior resort who must put aside their differences to fend off a mob hit. Rene Russo, Jane Seymour, George Wallace, Joe Pantoliano, Glenne Hedly, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Elizabeth Ashley are along for laughs. It hits screens Dec. 8. It's not how you start, though, it's how you finish!







I PLANTED A NEW

WOT'RE YA GONNA DO?











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ACADEMIC TUTORING

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Email: ddubinsky.nva@gmail.com, or call David at: (203) 219-1698

PUBLIC NOTICES

A public notice is information informing citizens of government activities that may affect the citizens' everyday lives.

Public notices have been printed in local newspapers, the trusted sources for community information, for more than 200 years.

— **King** Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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— Weekly SUDOKU –

Answer

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PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD

Classified ads are \$20 for up to 20 words.

Each additional word is 50 cents.

All ads must be prepaid. All ads are subject to approval. Send a copy of your ad and check payment to:

Woodbridge Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477

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WANTED

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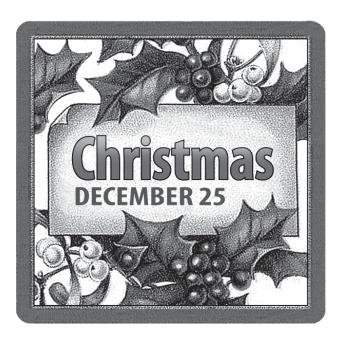
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AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Woodbridge Center members enjoy a wonderful holiday luncheon sponsored by the Woodbridge Rotary Club. This annual event featured a delicious meal served by Rotary Club members and with entertainment provided by Karyn Wagner.

January Lunch Menu

Lunch is served Tuesdays and Fridays at the Center Café at 12:15 pm. The cost is \$3 for dine-in meals and \$4 for take-out. Reservations are requested. Meals include bread, juice, coffee/tea and dessert. Menu items: 1/2 garlic chicken, rice and vegetable, 1/5 eggplant parmesan with pasta, 1/9 linguini with clam sauce, 1/12 kielbasa, cabbage and baked noodles, 1/16 roast beef, mashed potatoes and vegetable, 1/19 moussaka (eggplant casserole), 1/23 meatballs and manicotti, 1/26 assorted sandwiches and soup, 1/30 shrimp stir-fry.

"Coffee At 10:00" Lecture Series - A Bit Of Breakfast And A Bit Of Knowledge!

January 24: Marijuana as Medicine with Southern CT Wellness & Healing Center

February 28: Getting your House Ready for Sale with Realtors Pat Cardozo, Holli Shanbrom and Debbie Schlegel

March 28: Garden Club of Woodbridge - Join us in the Center lounge to whet your curiosity and your appetite, RSVP requested.

Special Programming

December 19 – 11 am- 12noon:

Gingerbread Cookie Decorating with New England Young at Heart

December 21 – 1 pm Healthy Holiday Cooking Demo with Courtney Huggins sponsored by ShopRite. No cost, RSVP required by 12/14.

December 25 – Closed Christmas Day

December 26 – Closed lunch
December 29 – New Year Celebra-

tion! Lunch program entertainment with John Paolillo at 12:30 pm. Lunch begins at 12:15 pm and reservations are requested.

January 9 – Lunch program entertainment with Jim Sheehan at 12:30 pm. Lunch begins at 12:15 pm, reservations are requested.

January 16 – 12:30 **Gait and Balance Program** with Family Care Visiting Nurse Home Care Agency. Lunch begins at 12:15 pm, reservations are preferred.

January 23 – Tea Party with New England Young at Heart, 1-2 pm in café. Join us for an informational program about the healthy benefits of organic teas. Scones and biscotti will be served. The class is \$2.00-please reserve your spot.

January 30 – Lunch program entertainment with Katie Devlin at 12:30 pm. Lunch begins at 12:15 pm, reservations are preferred.

February 6 – Volunteer Income



Woodbridge Rotary Club member Buddy DeGennaro serves local seniors during the Annual Woodbridge Center Holiday Luncheon. More than 20 Rotarians attended and served over 110 participants a delicious luncheon prepared by Center chef Elaine Marcucio.

Tax Assistance (VITA) program begins. VITA is a free tax preparation service available to low-income individuals, people who have a disability, and those who speak limited English. Appointments are made through Human Services and the Woodbridge Center and are available Tuesdays from 9-12 through April 11. Call for information on required documents.

To RSVP or for more information, call 203-389-3430 or email jglicksman@woodbridgect.org.

Ongoing Programming

Pickleball: Meets Fridays in the Center Gym for group play from 12:30-3:30 pm. Self-scheduled hours are available for those who have paid annual fee of \$20. Interested players can make arrangements with other players or use our Doodle scheduling tool and drop in daily from 12:30 pm –2:15 pm Monday thru Thursday.

Exercise with Laurie: Class resumes on January 2nd. Workout includes a combination of strength training, cardio, flexibility and balance. Bring your own weights if you have them. Class is at the Center Café, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 - 11 am. No need to sign up - just pay a drop in fee of \$2 and stay for a great workout!

Kripalu Chair Yoga with Julie Luciani: Wednesdays at 11 am in the

Center Gym. Classes include seated exercises, standing balance exercises and simple standing poses using a chair.

Book Club: The next meeting is December 19. This month's book is The Boat Rocker by Hajim. New members are always welcome-stop by the library to pick up your copy of the book at the Adult Services desk. The book club will meet on January 23 for a discussion of Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan.

Friday Movies: Following lunch in the Center lounge at approximately 1 pm: 12/15 Viceroy's House, 12/22 Dunkirk, 12/28 Elf!

Ask the Nurse – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month 11 am - 12:30 pm, blood pressure screenings, weight and conversation with a registered nurse from VNA Community Healthcare.

Duplicate Bridge: Mondays, 9:30 am, Center Café.

Bridge: The Center's Wednesday bridge group invites new members! Join the group for a friendly game of cards. No reservations necessary—just come down to the Center lounge at 1

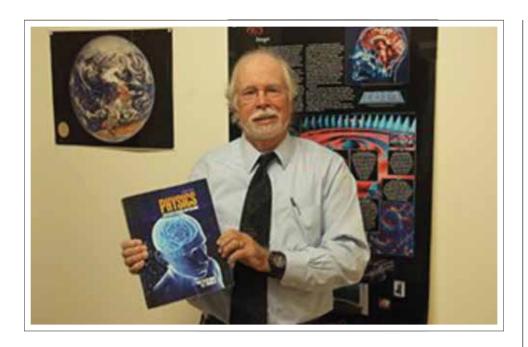
Pinochle: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 1-4 pm, Center lounge. The group is always looking for new players and is willing to bring rusty players up to speed!

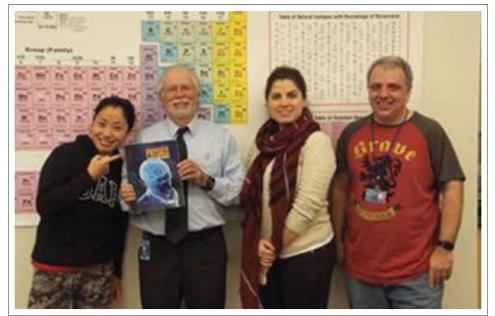
Mah-jong: Mondays and Fridays, 10 am, Center Building-room 11.





ARTS & LEISURE





'PHYSICS EVANGELIST' PROF PENS 'ACCESSIBLE' PHYSICS TEXTBOOK

R.E. Tremblay chairs the mathematics and science department at GCC, where he has taught for three decades. A holder of B.S., M.S. and sixth-year degrees from Southern Connecticut State University (where he also taught, from 1978 to 2014), Tremblay is the co-author of the textbook Physics with Health Science Applications, the second edition of which (ISBN 1524932418) was published by Kendall Hunt on August 18.

Gateway science professor R.E. (Rocky) Tremblay lives by a simple motto: "The Universe is knowable". To prove it, he's written a new physics textbook, by accident.

Unlike, say, taking out the trash or trimming the shrubbery surrounding the Woodbridge alpaca farm he shares with his wife, Cathy, one imagines researching, writing and editing a 512-page science textbook, Physics with Health Science Applications (2nd Ed., Kendall Hunt, 2017), to be an undertaking not quite for the faint of heart. But the project, which spanned more than ten years, didn't start out that way.

When Tremblay began teaching PHY 111, Physics for the Life Sciences, at Gateway in 1987 he chose Physics with Health Science Applications as principal text for the class. Then in its first edition (published in 1985 by Wiley) by Sacramento (Calif.) State University physics

and astronomy professor Paul Peter Urone, the volume was at the time a standard text for teaching algebra-based physics to applied-health and nursing students. "It was a great book," Tremblay recounts, "but I quickly realized that my students couldn't read the book with any degree of understanding. They were relying [instead] on what I presented in the classroom. So I started rewriting parts of the book to expand on [Urone's] examples. Instead of an example having one or two steps, maybe it would have five or six steps. I also added conceptual pieces to the book and created my own website [to supplement the text for students]. All I was trying to do was to make these topics more accessible to

"So over the years, on my own little island, I ended up with a pretty comprehensive second edition without that even being my purpose," Tremblay explains. "Serendipity, right?" That's how this August, with a new publisher (Kendall Hunt) and the imprimatur of its original author, a second edition of Physics with Health Science Applications (with Urone credited as co-author) became a reality. "This," Tremblay enthuses, "is so cool." (Tremblay is donating his share of royalties from sales of the book to GCC students to the college's General Fund.)

P.V. O'DONNELL COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN SESSIONT

Featuring Sarah & Chris Buteux

All-Ireland Champion fiddle player Sarah Buteux and her father Chris Buteux, on guitar, will join the P.V. O'Donnell Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann traditional music session Thursday, December 21, at St. Gabriel Parish Hall, 26 Broadway, Milford, 7:45 pm. Admission is Free. Musicians, dancers, singers and guests are welcomed. BYOB.

Sarah studied with renowned teacher Rose Flanagan at the Pearl River School of Irish Music in Rockland County, NY. Pearl River is a cultural epicenter of Irish music and dance led by a collection of dedicated arts activists who have taken responsibility for ensuring that the cultural traditions of Ireland stay alive and healthy.

For holiday giving, Chris will bring a variety of handmade soaps that can be purchased from Comfort and Joy, a company owned by his wife, Lisa.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann was founded in 1951 in Ireland to promote Irish traditional music, song, dance and language. Today there are 415 branches worldwide and over two million people attend Comhaltas functions each year. For information on the session, call 203-876-9973.



Chamber Singers pictured from left to right: Marin Korenaga, Rebecca Yi Hong, Grace Gianquinto, Ashley Dorais, Taylor Dillon, Madeleine Key, Kaitlyn Pryor, Maggie Liu, Calista Mack, Bronwyn Couch, Gabrielle Wincerhern, Emily Sax, Natalie Modiano, Elyse Rogers; Missing from photo: Cierra Davis, Alexandra Novitski

CHAMBER SINGERS PERFORM AT WOODBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER

On November 14th the Chamber Singers of Amity Middle School in Bethany embraced a unique performance opportunity. The students visited the Senior Center in Woodbridge with a geared up performance and a focus on the concept of mindfulness. Mindfulness is a district effort that focuses on being more present. In addition to a performance for the local seniors, the Chamber Singers also engaged in lunchtime conversations with the folks after a round of card games. It was a win, win for all those in attendance. The locals enjoyed their time with the students, and the students had a great time with their mindful discussions as well. The students enjoyed the stories that the seniors had to tell, and both sides enjoyed connecting their different life experiences over food and games. It was the first concert for the Chamber Singers this season. The performance included many solos and duets from a repertoire of music that was selected with the senior citizens in mind. The group had some great follow-up conversations in regard to the exercise in mindfulness, and they hope to revisit again in the spring.

The Chamber Singers were a part of the Winter Concert on December 7, 2017 at Amity Middle School in Bethany where they and the other choral ensemble presented a full program about mindfulness.

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BARK BYTES...

By Vicki & Richard Horowitz



THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING

Remember Our Four Legged Canines

The holidays are a busy time for many households. Friends and family come and go, deliveries are made to the door, delicious smells emanate from the kitchen, and a general happy hubbub means that something special is happening. Among those affected by these changes is the family dog.

Holiday festivities can interrupt a dog's routine and present a potentially unsafe situation. But by following a few common-sense tips, the holidays can be cheery for everyone.

While one dog may revel in the change of pace, another may find it a confusing, stressful time. Your normally placid dog may suddenly begin to exhibit unusual behaviors, such as stealing food, jumping up on people, or growling or snapping at visitors. As pack leader, you need to communicate and demonstrate to your dog that while his world may be different, you will continue to keep him

You can help ensure that everyone both two- and four-legged—has a fun and safe holiday season by considering the following:

- Most dogs get very excited when guests arrive. To help your dog be calmer, exercise him prior to the festivities. After 30 minutes of walking or playtime, your dog will more likely be relaxed or want
- As a general rule, don't allow the family dog to greet guests since unusual activities and commotion can cause him
- Prior to people arriving, consider putting him in his crate or in a quiet room with his doggie bed and favorite toy. Allow him to rejoin the festivities after all guests have arrived and are settled.
- Putting your dog on a leash when you bring him to greet the guests will help you maintain better control of him.
- For safety reasons, no one should ever approach the dog. The dog needs to come to the person.
- If your dog is the type that gets anxious when guests are over, consider leaving him in another part of the house or board him for the holiday. This will keep him safe and allow you to enjoy the holiday without worrying about your dog.

Dogs that live in a household with no children may not be comfortable when kids come to visit.

The chaos created by youngsters like grandchildren will inherently raise the energy level in the house, causing the dog to worry

- Always supervise kids (especially very young children) and dogs when they are alone together. This is when most dog bites to children occur.
- Parents must be vigilant and monitor their children's interactions with all
- Never allow a child to feed a dog.

Many holiday foods can be harmful to canines, causing symptoms as mild as an upset stomach or as severe as vomiting and diarrhea.

- Avoid giving your dog fatty or spicy foods, bread dough, fresh herbs, alcohol beverages, caffeine and sweets of all kinds—especially those with chocolate or xylitol, an artificial sweetener.
- Particularly dangerous are cooked poultry bones. Cooked bones easily

- splinter, and the bone shards can cause choking, get stuck in your dog's gums or possibly damage his intestines. Instead, treat your dog to "dog bones" specifically designed for him to chew.
- Be sensitive to where you place food or where it is served, so your dog can't
- Keep all trash out of the reach of your dog. Put it outside or in a secured area.

Those holiday decorations can be dan-

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

That Christmas Tree

- Anchor the tree to the ceiling or wall to prevent it from tipping over.
- Avoid putting tinsel on your tree. If ingested, tinsel can twist in your dog's intestines and be deadly.
- Hang non-breakable ornaments near the bottom of the tree.
- Don't let your dog drink the Christmas tree water. The water may contain preservative chemicals, which can trigger severe indigestion in dogs.
- Regularly sweep up fallen pine needles, as they can puncture holes in a dog's intestines if ingested.
- For a rambunctious dog, consider putting some type of boundary around the tree.

Should you give the dog a present? Absolutely, he is a member of the family.

- Help your dog stay busy and out of the holiday trimmings by giving him fun, safe dog-appropriate girts.
- There are a variety of indestructible toys as well as puzzle toys that reward your dog with treats and keep him well entertained.

Finally...A puppy or dog should not be given as a surprise gift!

A cute puppy or dog might seem like the perfect gift choice, but many of these holiday presents end up at animal shelters or just abandoned. Owning a dog takes a genuine commitment of time and responsibility and the "new" owners must be prepared to take on that responsibility and role. So you really want to make sure the "surprise" gift of a puppy or dog is going to be a welcome addition and at the right time.

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





ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make a start on that new workplace challenge. But get more information before you find yourself too deeply involved without knowing in which direction you should go.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might find things becoming tedious as your schedule slows down for the holidays. Use this time to get information about a possible post-New Year job change.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The creative Twin finds outlets for her or his ideas in the early part of the week. The practical Twin takes it a step further and rallies support to turn the ideas into reality.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's time to stop being intimidated by someone's negative behavior. Start taking positive steps on your own to help strengthen your position down the line.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Look closely at that so-called golden opportunity. Best to be a cautious Cat who approaches things slowly, than one who pounces without knowing where you'll land.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your apology can resolve that personal situation before it overshadows the holidays. You'll feel better, even if you're only partly to blame for what happened.

LIBRA (September 23 to October **22)** Avoid overtaxing yourself, even if your energy levels are high and you feel that you can do it all. Best to pace yourself so you won't run yourself down before the holidays.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November

21) Your sense of humor helps get you through a stressful period. Some of your quick quips can take the edge off any remaining negativity being aimed at you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to De**cember 21)** Your artistic talents not only help you express yourself these days, but they also set up a line of communication between you and someone very special.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to **January 19)** It's fine to appreciate the importance of "proper form" for doing things. But relax a bit in order to allow newcomers on the project to feel less intimidated by you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to Febru**ary 18)** Use your boundless reserve of optimism to persuade others to work with you to resolve a difficult workplace problem before it can ruin your holiday fun.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)

You brim over with self-confidence as you begin to tackle a new challenge. And, before you know it, you're not alone: Others have taken the plunge with you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a highly defined sense of commitment to others. You would make a fine social worker.

THE BEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE YOUR PET

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read your column about a person who did not vaccinate their house cats, and after one of them got out, lost all of them to feline leukemia. I can relate to this person. I only have one

cat, and I thought, for a while, that I could get away without vaccinating her. Fortunately, a friend convinced me otherwise.

It turns out that it doesn't take much to protect my baby when she depends on me to take

care of her. I've never gone without just to pay for "Racquel's" vaccinations, and in turn, she is a healthy cat who brings so much companionship to my life. Please tell your readers not to skip this important annual appointment. -- Donna in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

DEAR DONNA: You told them, and I thank you. Vaccinating indoor pets can seem like a pricey extravagance, but it pales in comparison to the cost of treating the diseases that they can contract if they're not vac-

To reduce the annual cost, check around for discounted shot clinics.

> These are usually held on specific dates and places -- pet supply stores, public buildings or participating veterinary clinics. However, these clinics often don't advertise extensively due to costs, so you may

need to search a bit. Contact your city or county government to see if any clinics are being held nearby, or stop in to major pet supply retailers like Petco, which often sponsor shot clinics. If not, their workers often know about pet health clinics nearby.

These clinics offer required vaccinations and licenses, and sometimes have microchipping and a basic health exam available at a low fixed price per pet.

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com.





"I love what you tried to do to your home."

BY RICARDO GALVÃO

THE CASHIER FOR WINII BOMB



Out on a Limb I MUST SAY, THE LAST GUY WE ATE TAGTED PRETTAY, PRET-TAY, PRET-TAY GOOD

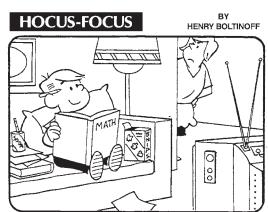
by Gary Kopervas LARRY DAVID IN "CURB YOUR CANNIBALISM" KERNS



Weather Terms

- 1. Scorcher
- 2. Cow-quaker
- 3. Moor-gallop
- 4. Northern nanny
- 5. Cat's nose
- 6. Ban-gull
- 7. Mizzle
- 8. Hurly-burley
- 9. Lumps of rain
- 10. Lambing storm

Source: BBC



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Long before holly was used for Christmas decoration, it was considered sacred to the Druids. While other plants wither away in cold weather, holly leaves remain green and strong, and the berries remain bright red even in the harshest of winters. The pagan Druids regarded this as potent magic against the destructive forces of nature, and adorned their surroundings with cuttings of the plant to benefit from its powers. Cutting down a holly tree was thought to bring very bad luck. - Brenda Weaver

Source: howstuffworks.com

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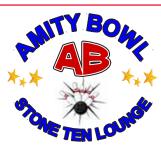


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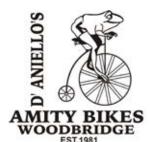
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