

The Orange Times

When there's better writing, there's better reading.

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December 13, 2018

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Orange's Stew Leonard Property To Become FedEx Hub

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Town Plan & Zoning Commission unanimously approved an application Nov. 20 to build a distribution and maintenance facility for what will become a FedEx distribution facility at the long-vacant "Stew Leonard" property, clearing the way for development to get underway.

The proposal includes a 47,178 square foot business-to-business distribution warehouse and a 9,680 square foot maintenance building at 161 Marsh Hill Rd.

Speculation over what company would be coming to town has been circulating for months, ever since developers submitted the proposal on behalf of an unnamed business-to-business shipping company.

Several sources confirmed to The Orange Times that FedEx would be occupying the space, including a contractor who had seen the plans and a town official familiar with the application who wished to remain anonymous because they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

FedEx spokesperson Shannon Davis said in a statement, "We are always looking to ensure our network is set up in a way that allows us to best serve our customers. Some of the factors we consider in choosing our service center locations are their ease to access major highways, proximity to customers and strong local community workforces."

Attorney John W. Knuff of the Milford firm Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff is representing the contract purchaser of the property, developer Scannell Properties LLC, and the owner, Stew Leonards Orange LLC.

Scannell Properties has built other FedEx distribution facilities around the country,



The former "Stew Leonard" property at 161 Marsh Hill Rd. in Orange will become a FedEx distribution center after plans for the facility received approval Nov. 20 from the Town Plan & Zoning Commission. Photo by Brandon T. Bisceglia.

including in Pflugerville, Texas, Pacoima, California and West Palm Beach, Florida.

Knuff first brought the proposal to the TPZC at its Nov. 7 meeting, but at that time the proposal was still awaiting final approval from the Inland Wetlands Commission. Since then, all the town departments had signed off on the plans.

Several residents spoke during the public hearing of their concerns about the truck traffic that would be generated by the development. But commission members pointed out that a previously approved office building that was never constructed on the site would have generated far more traffic.

The question about the eventual occupant of the site came up at the hearing, when Indian River Road resident George Finley questioned the reason for the secretiveness.

"Three Inland (Wetlands Commission) meetings. Now two zoning meetings. And still we, the public, who have asked you all, have not been told who the shipper is," he said.

Commissioner Ralph Aschettino responded that the name didn't matter to town agencies, as long as the applicant met all the regulations.

"It could be God's trucking company. If it doesn't comply with our regulations, we deny *Continued on page 11*

Orange Launches New Report Cards

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Kids in Orange's elementary schools will be coming home with newly-designed report cards this marking period that educators expect will give parents a better sense of how their children are faring on a variety of levels.

The new report cards, launched Nov. 29, are part of an effort to align grades more closely with educational standards.

Two years in the making, the report cards will grade on a proficiency scale, or p-scale, of 0.0 to 4.0 for math and language arts. The changes are being rolled out in phases, and other

Continued on page 4

Student Number: [Redacted]
Student Name: [Redacted]
Grade Level: KG
Teacher Name: [Redacted]

Attendance	T1	T2	T3
Days Absent	1		
Times Tardy	0		

Orange Public Schools Standards Aligned Report Card Grade KG

New

Updated Grading Scale: Proficiency Scale (P - Scale)

ND - No Data at this Time	2.0 - Success on part of the standard
0.0 - Success only during instructional event	2.5 - Partial success on 3.0 or 4.0 items
0.5 - Partial success on 1.0 items with help	3.0 - Success at standard
1.0 - Success when given help	3.5 - Partial success on 4.0 items
1.5 - Success with 2.0 and 3.0 items with help	4.0 - Success on items above standard

English Language Arts	T1	Mathematics	T1
Reading - Foundational Skills		Counting & Cardinality	
Print Awareness		Count to tell the number of objects	
Phonological Awareness		Geometry	
Speaking and Listening		Identify and describe shapes	
Discussion			

Not New

Grade Scale	
1 - Does Not Meet Grade-Level Standard	3 - Meeting Grade-Level Standard
2 - Progressing Towards Grade-Level Standard	4 - Exceeding Grade-Level Standard

Science	T1	Social Studies	T1
Demonstrates knowledge of grade-level concepts, content, and vocabulary		Demonstrates knowledge of grade-level themes, content, and vocabulary to promote understanding of our community, state, nation, and/or world	
Engages in the Scientific Process (questioning, investigating, analyzing, evaluating, communicating)			

A sample of the new standards-aligned report cards, which were launched Nov. 29 for Orange Public Schools.

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News & Events

Colonial Properties Brokers Industrial Lease

Orange-based Colonial Properties Vice President Kevin Weirsman recently represented the landlord in the leasing of approximately 32,000 square feet of industrial space at 420 Frontage Rd. in West Haven for a five-year base term. The landlord was 420 Frontage Road LLC, and Deluxe Wood Cabinetry, LLC leased the prime, high bay warehouse and distribution space for their wholesale kitchen cabinetry business. Delux Wood Cabinetry also does business as Hope Kitchens, with showrooms

in Bridgeport, Stamford and New Rochelle, New York.

“This first class high bay warehouse and distribution space is in high demand in today’s market,” said Michael Richetelli, president and designated broker of Colonial Properties. “This property is ideally situated off of I-95 and will serve the tenant’s needs well in their expansion into New Haven County.”

Colonial Properties is a full service commercial and residential real estate brokerage.

Town Of Orange Holiday Hours

In observance of Christmas and the New Year, the Town of Orange holiday hours are as follows with the noted exceptions for those departments providing emergency services:

Monday, Dec. 24: All town offices and the transfer station are closed.

Tuesday, Dec. 25: All town offices and the transfer station are closed.

Monday, Dec. 31: Town offices and the transfer station will close at 1 p.m. The Highway Department will close at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 1: All town offices are closed.

Orange Garden Club To Discuss Environmental Footprint

The Garden Club of Orange will present a program titled “Your Environmental Footprint” at its Jan. 8 meeting, held at the Case Memorial Library. Susan Quincy, environmental educator at the Kellogg Environmental Center, will help participants understand their environmental footprint

and how to reduce it. The program will begin at 1 p.m. Guests are welcome.

The Garden Club of Orange is a member of the FGCCT, the NEC and the NEG. For membership information, contact Joanne Friedrichs at 203-795-4266.

Church Of The Good Shepherd Holding Christmas Services



Stan Rutowicz, Tim Wilkins and Marvin Colins dressed as the Three Kings for the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd's Christmas Pageant. The church is looking for angels and shepherds for the pageant. Photo courtesy of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Orange is looking for angels and shepherds for its annual Christmas Pageant. Rehearsal is Saturday, Dec. 22, at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served.

Can't make rehearsal? Come on Sunday, Dec. 23 at 8:45 a.m. to be costumed and participate in this telling of the Christmas story. Angels and shepherds of all ages are encouraged to participate.

Contact Jennifer D'Inzeo at 203-645-8427

with questions.

The church will feature joyous music, fellowship, and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on Monday, Dec. 24 starting with carols at 3:30 p.m. followed by a Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m.

The church is located on 680 Racebrook Rd. For more information, call the Parish Office at 203-795-6577, email thegoodspeherd@optonline.net or thegoodshepherdorange.org.

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News & Events

The Orange Players Holiday Party



The Orange Players held a holiday party on Dec. 4 at Fireside Bar and Grill in Orange. Photo by Eddy Zheng.

Milford Garden Club Donates Wreaths



Every year the Milford Garden Club decorates and donates Christmas wreaths to spread the cheer of the holiday. When completed, the seven wreaths are delivered to local nonprofit and civic buildings: the Red Cross, Bridges Healthcare, the Milford Public Library, the Beth-El Shelter and Soup Kitchen and the Daughters of the American Republic buildings. The committee has a lot of fun and looks forward to it each year. This year's decorators, from left were: Joan Costello, Barry Dana, Janet Kuryla, Christine Griffin, Ruth Miller, June Bencivenga and Gwen Feher. Cindy Bevan hosted the event. Photo courtesy of the Milford Garden Club.

Wreaths Across America To Take Place In Milford

Milford Mayor Benjamin B. Blake and the Freelove Baldwin Stow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be hosting a "Wreaths Across America" event at noon on Saturday, Dec. 15 in King's Highway Cemetery at Veteran's Circle,

located at 270 Cherry St. Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies in memory of US veterans at more than 1,400 locations across the country, at sea and abroad.

Milford's St. Agnes Holding Christmas Concert

The Precious Blood Parish community of faith will host a retelling of the Christmas story through scripture and song on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. at St. Agnes Church in Milford.

The choir of St. Mary's Church will offer choral meditations and lead parishioners in favorite songs of the season. St. Agnes is located at 400 Merwin Ave.

Milford Sailor Carries Bush's Casket

A US Navy sailor from Milford named Allon C. Louisgene was part of the military honor guard that carried former President George H.W. Bush's flag-draped casket after the State Funeral at the National Cathedral

in Washington Dec. 5, according to a WTNH report. Louisgene joined the Navy after graduating from Platt Technical High School in 2017.

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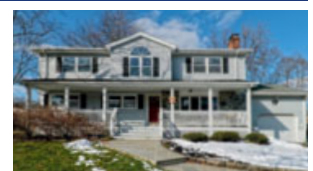
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Opinion & Editorial

Editorial: Help Those Who've Been Displaced

By **Brandon T. Bisceglia**

The holidays are a time to reflect on the past year, celebrate the joys of the present and look forward to making the future even brighter.

In the previous edition of this newspaper, we listed off some of the many things the residents of Milford and Orange can be thankful for simply by virtue of living where they do. Yet millions of people don't have any "place" to call their own in the world: no home, no town, no country.

The United Nations estimates there are currently 68.5 million people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes, the highest number on record. That's more than the entire population of the United Kingdom.

Of these, 25.4 million are refugees, and 10 million are "stateless," meaning they have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

We, who have homes, jobs and the amenities of living in one of the richest areas of the richest country on the planet, should do our parts to help the displaced millions however we can.

It's more than just a feel-good thing to do. It has direct consequences for our own lives.

People displaced by conflict and persecution migrate to other places. These large influxes of people disrupt politics, sow division and strain resources in host countries.

There are underlying reasons Central Americans are forming caravans to come to the US border. You don't see Canadians forming those kinds of lines.

European countries such as Germany have faced similar influxes of Middle Eastern immigrants in recent years. Even Peru and Columbia are dealing with their own immigration issues as Venezuelans flee their collapsing state.

Regardless of your position on immigration policy, we won't solve the problem by building a wall or pretending it doesn't exist.

It can only be solved if we all pitch in to

help people find a safe place to call home.

There are several agencies in Connecticut that assist in refugee resettlement and assistance, including Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services in New Haven and the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants in Bridgeport. There are other organizations around the state that assist and advocate for various immigrant groups. Many of them are looking for donations and volunteers to help with their missions.

There are numerous charities and agencies that work with displaced people worldwide. Take the time to find one and learn how you can help.

On Dec. 3, New Yorker staff writer Masha Gessen was awarded the Hitchens Prize, which is given annually to an author or journalist whose work reflects "a willingness to pursue the truth without regard to personal or professional consequence." In her remarks at the ceremony, Gessen lamented the dearth of substantial coverage about people fleeing persecution and privation.

She suggested journalists devote a day to writing nothing else but stories about immigration as a way to give readers a sense of the scale of the problem and to bring humanity to these stateless people.

Gessen argued it is the job of journalists to tell people about other people.

"It is not only being stateless that denies people the right to have rights – it is being invisible, which, of course, is an aspect of lacking citizenship," she said.

It might be too much to hope that media outlets worldwide will rally around Gessen's suggestion. But even if we all just do a little more to address the suffering of our fellow human beings, we can go a long way toward making the future as bright as it can be.

It is always heartening for me when Milford constituents take an active role in communicating their priorities and to know they are on the same page with me when it comes to environmental pollution and the devastating impact of single-use plastic bags.

Report Cards continued from page 1

subjects will continue to use the former scale until the district is ready to fully switch to the new system.

Director of Curriculum/Instruction & Personnel Dr. Evelyn Russo said the p-scales provide a much more accurate grading system than previous methods.

"It's clear-cut, consistent, more reliable with no grey areas," she said.

Russo explained that prior grading systems, such as the 100-point scale or the antiquated A-F system, mixed "process with product" in assessing students' work, leading to unclear or unfair grades.

Under the A-F system, for example, a student who struggles to understand the material at the beginning of the year but masters it by the end would still only get perhaps a C because everything is averaged together. Her grade would not properly reflect her progress.

"We want students to be able to take risks. We want them to be able to fail," Russo explained. "We don't want them to be afraid of failing."

English and language arts grades will be laid out in a series of "strands," each of which contains one or more "categories." Math grades will be broken into "domains," each of which has one or more "headings."

Not all of the standards that are being

graded will appear on the report cards. Instead, certain standards that are viewed as "priority" will be displayed, while others will be available in an accompanying resource. The definitions of the standards will also be available elsewhere.

Russo said these measures were taken to reduce confusion among parents.

"Standards in general are more difficult, and the definitions are written in educational jargon," she said. "A lot of time was being spent by teachers to create the report cards, and parents didn't see the value."

The district wanted to make sure that parents were as comfortable with the new system as possible, so it has provided multiple videos and slides on the Orange Public Schools website to walk people through the changes. Additionally, Russo, Superintendent Vince Scarpetti and the school principals held live information sessions for the public at each of the four elementary schools throughout November.

"It gave people an opportunity to look, to talk with each other and to ask questions," Russo said.

The next phase of the transition will focus on reporting standards for behavior and habits of mind. That phase is expected to be completed in the 2019-2020 school year. Phase 3 will then integrate the standards for

Milford, Orange Rotarians Honored



Carrie Reed and Richard Dumbrill were the awardees from Milford and Orange at the 33rd Norman Parcells Awards Luncheon for local Rotary clubs on Dec. 5 at Tashua Knolls Golf Course in Trumbull. Photo by Beth Stoller.

Nine Rotary Clubs met to honor one member from each club at the 33rd Norman Parcells Awards Luncheon was hosted by the Trumbull Rotary Club on Dec. 5 at Tashua Knolls Golf Course.

The Norman Parcells Award is presented annually to honor the memory and spirit of Norman Parcells, a dedicated Rotarian who served his community and Rotary, demonstrating the organization's ideal of "Service Above Self."

Although Fairfield was Parcells' "home" club, he often visited other clubs where he made lasting friendships. It was these clubs that joined to honor him with this annual award. Milford joined in 2003 and Orange in 2008, bringing the number of nearby clubs to nine. The other clubs are Bridgeport, Derby-Shelton, Devon, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull.

Carrie Reed was the awardee from Milford. She was born and raised in the city. Reed owns and operates a successful massage therapy practice in Milford. She graduated from the Connecticut Center of Massage Therapy in 2001 and is a licensed massage therapist. In 2006, she became a certified personal trainer.

Milford Rotary has been a major part of Reed's life since 2004, and she said she feels it is extremely rewarding to give back to the community that supported her in her early times of need as a single mother of two sons. Her sons, Tyler and Mitchell, are now married, and she has a 1-year-old grandson, Ethan.

Reed said it's important for people to gather, have fun and get to know each other at a deeper level. "When we all work as a team and we are tight and trusted friends, we do

much better in this world," she said. Milford Rotary has been her outlet for belonging to something much bigger than herself as well as bringing other together.

Orange's award winner, Richard Dumbrill, is a naturalized American. Dumbrill has the unique distinction of having lived on three continents. Born in London, he spent his formative years in Durban, South Africa. He earned his bachelor's in English and political science at the University of Natal. Dumbrill's business career took him to Arizona, New York and Massachusetts, where he and his wife, Jerre, raised two children, Danya and Byron, and where he earned his master's in business administration from Babson Graduate School of Business.

Over the past few years, Dumbrill spent his time and energy focused in two areas – the Orange Rotary and the Orange community at large. He has participated in a variety of projects on behalf of Rotary, including composing club roles and responsibilities, organizing functions and active participation with Rotary in service projects for the Downtown Soup Kitchen, delivering food to the homebound, the Amber Alert program, Mother's Day rose sales and the Orange Fire Department Carnival.

The past 10 recipients of this award from Milford are Tracy O'Brien, Terry Munk, Paul Mangels, Linda Bouvier, Sam Bergami, Mitchell Quintner, Robert Bogert, Eric Tashlein, Mark Sandillo and Shaileen Landsberg. The past 10 recipient from Orange are Trish Person, Donald Lewis, Glenn Pearson, Baxter Walsh, Edward Martin, Paul Grimmer, Lynda Hammond, Diane Eger and Robert Sigler.

such subjects as science, art and physical education. The final phase will tackle social studies and is expected to be complete by the last marking period of 2021.

Even with all the new information the report cards will provide, Russo pointed out that there are many other ways in which

faculty and staff communicate with parents about their children, from parent-teacher conferences to phone calls to progress reports.

"I hope parents always feel comfortable enough to call or email us," she said.

The Orange Times

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Cynthia V. Catapano, Local Wildlife	Annamarie Mastrangelo, Flooring	Raymond Spaziani, Wine
David Crow, Conversations	Marianne Miller, Lions Club	Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Probate
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News & Events

Coldwell Banker Supports Orange Community Center



A donation was recently made from Coldwell Banker Cares to support the efforts of the Orange Community Center during the holiday months. Pictured L to R: Erika Oliphant (Assistant Mgr Orange/Woodbridge), Joan Cretella (Director of Community Services), Aileen DeFeo (Branch Vice President Brokerage Manager - Orange/Woodbridge), and Mark Fagan (Realtor). Photo courtesy of Coldwell Banker.

Arts Council Opens Ansonia Gallery

The Valley Arts Council celebrated the grand opening of its Main Street Gallery of Fine Art and Photography in Ansonia with a ribbon cutting Dec. 11.

Ansonia's "Ansonia Recharged" initiative. It's located at 258 Main St., across the street from Ansonia City Hall.

The gallery was developed with the help of Mayor David Cassetti and the City of

The gallery will remain open till 8 p.m. as regularly scheduled.

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Applications Open For Milford Police Citizens Academy

The Milford Police Citizens Academy is looking for recruits for its 2019 sessions. The academy offers 30 hours of information and instruction designed to provide the public with knowledge and understanding of the police department's personnel, policies, and practices. The program is comprehensive, covering different areas of the police department services each week.

Officers and supervisors conduct each informational session. Topic areas include a general introduction; patrol procedures; criminal and drug investigations; CPR training; the criminal justice system; the DARE program; specialized units; crime prevention; firearm safety; and the ride-

along program. The sessions will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. starting Jan. 24 through April 25. Classes are at the police headquarters and Milford Police Training Facility at 59 Devonshire Rd. in Milford.

The academy is open to Milford residents, taxpayers and business owners age 21 and over. Applications must be US citizens; must be of good moral character and in good physical condition; and cannot have been convicted of a felony, class A or class B misdemeanor. The class is limited to 25 students.

The application deadline is Jan. 5. For more information, call 203-874-2366 or email CPU@ci.milford.ct.us.

Orange Congregational Church Celebrating Advent, Christmas

The Orange Congregational Church is holding worship events during the holiday season on Sundays at 8 a.m. in the chapel and at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. During each of the four Sundays in Advent, the church will light its Advent Wreath and listen to familiar Advent hymns and carols from the Senior Choir. On Monday, Dec. 24 there will be two Christmas Eve services. At 5 p.m. there will be a family service of lessons and carols with

music from the Junior Choir, and at 10 p.m. the church will have its traditional candlelight service with music from the Senior Choir. The Orange Congregational Church is located at 205 Meeting House Lane in Orange. For more information, call 203-795-9749.

Orange Recycle Tips



Recycle plastic bags, plastic wrap and film packaging. People are catching on to the importance of the proper recycling of plastic bags and the plastic film that so many products come wrapped in. We can help by recycling our plastic bags and film, but also by buying products with less packaging or that use recycled plastic. Set up a dedicated spot in your home to collect plastic and bring it to participating local retailers or the Orange Transfer Station. The collection shed is clearly marked on the left-hand side as you drive up to the hopper.

For more information, visit the Orange town website at orange-ct.gov/180/Recycling or visit the Orange Recycling Committee on Facebook at bit.ly/ORC-Facebook.

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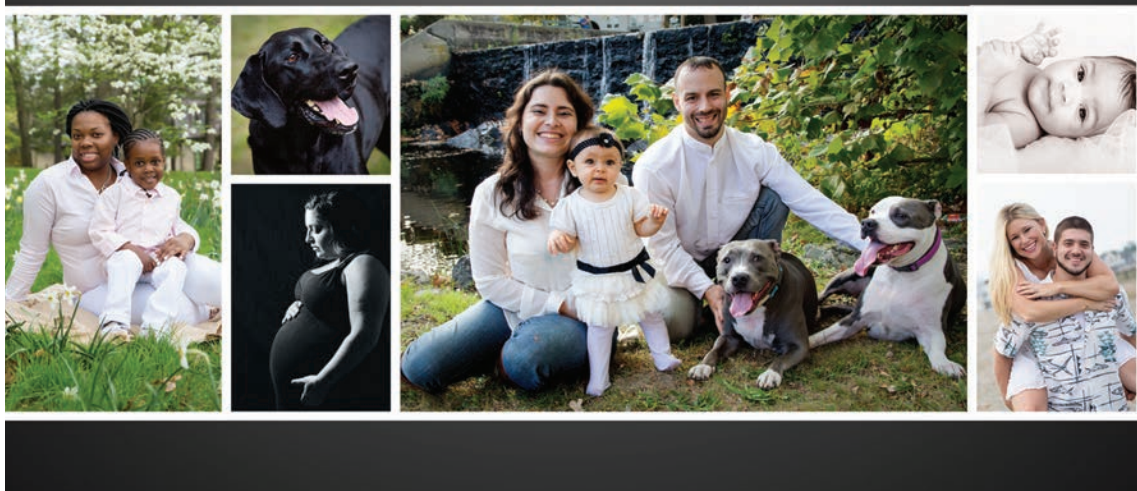
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Arts & Entertainment

Imagination is more important than knowledge. – Albert Einstein

by Patricia Miller

ORANGE ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL held its ninth annual youth concert Nov. 20 at the Milford Arts Council's Eastbound Theatre. The concert featured 11 performers from Orange, Milford, Shelton and New York City. Each year the concert is given to showcase young performers from the area. This year they included Jason Chen, Annie Driscoll, Marty Gnidula, Kyla Hackett, Jen Ju, Jay Maroney, Madelyn Paterna, Lily Querker, Hallie Syrop and Brynn Weirsmann. They ranged from third grade to college. Jen Ju and her son, Jay Maroney, were a mother-son piano duet team – a first for an OACC concert. There were students from Amity Creative Theatre, from Shelton's Center Stage Fall Cab, Milford's Pantomino Productions, Rose Studios, the Andrea Kennedy Studio and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. There were first rate pianists – Chen, a fourth grader, has won national and international piano competitions and has played at Carnegie Hall five times. Maroney, a sixth grader, just finished playing works of J. S. Bach to be featured in an upcoming Netflix movie. There were also singers who delivered songs from Broadway, Hollywood and the opera. Some of them have agents and have auditioned in New York. Some are active in high school drama programs as well as in summer musical theatre programs and performances.

NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (500 College St., New Haven) presents Handel's *Messiah* on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Woolsey Hall. It will also be performed at First Congregational Church in Madison on Saturday, Dec. 22. Handel's beloved oratorio, first known as an Easter work, has over the years evolved into a Christmas classic, especially in the UK and the US. It first received enthusiastic reception in Dublin in 1742, where management had asked ladies to wear dresses "without hoops" in order to make more "room for company." The ladies heeded the advice and the audience swelled to 700 attendees. Handel then took the work back to London, where it received a similar response. This oratorio, different from others he composed, focuses not only on the soloists, but also on the chorus, whose soaring contributions are memorable. Beethoven and Mozart gave Handel plaudits as a composer. Mozart, after re-orchestrating *Messiah*, said, "Any changes to Handel's score should not be regarded as an attempt to improve the music, and Handel knows better than any of us what will make an effect. When he chooses he can strike like a thunderbolt." Tickets can be purchased by calling 203-787-4282 or by going to newhavensymphony.org.

Edward Vogel, who grew up in Orange, will sing the baritone role in the performance of *Messiah* on Dec. 20. Vogel attended Orange public schools, holds a bachelor's degree from Notre Dame University in business administration and vocal performance, and is currently a candidate for a master's degree in music from Yale School of Music. Last summer he was a Boston Symphony Fellow at Tanglewood and serves as the assistant director of music at St. Thomas More Chapel and Center at Yale University. He has performed extensively throughout the area and beyond. He was a member of the Choir of Men and Boys at Trinity



Pictured L to R: Jason Chen, Jay Maroney, Jen Ju, Tymothee Harrell, Kyla Hackett, Madelyn Paterno, Annie Driscoll, Brynn Weirsmann, Hallie Syrop, Marty Gnidula, Talya Braverman, Lily Querker. Contributed photo.

Church on the Green for several years. He is the son of Peck Place teacher Betsy Vogel and the grandson of retired Orange teacher Nan Giovine.

ART IN THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) features the work of the students of Audrey Galer, founder of Art in the Library, for the month of December. Her cadre of students, many of whom have been taking instruction from her for several years, will present an array of watercolors of many different themes, subjects and techniques. The artists' reception will be held on Thursday, Dec. 13 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SHUBERT THEATRE (247 College St., New Haven) has a variety of offerings for the month of December. The New Haven Ballet will perform *The Nutcracker* Dec. 15 and 16, *The Wizard of Oz* Dec. 27 through 30, and on Dec. 31 *First Night of Funny* will be onstage. Shubert's ads say "it's hilarious, it's affordable – and you'll be home by midnight!" Tickets for any of these shows can be obtained online at shubert.com, by phone at 203-562-5666, or at the Shubert box office.

IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE (103 Main St., Essex) opens *Coney Island Christmas*, a new play by Pulitzer Prize winner Donald Margulies, from Dec. 13 through Dec. 23. Margulies has previously had productions at Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven. In *Coney Island Christmas*, Shirley Abramowitz entertains her great grand daughter with tales of her youth, this one going back to the time when, as a young girl, she was cast as Jesus in her school Christmas pageant. Her immigrant parents were understandably not pleased with this turn of events and showed their exasperation. Margulies vividly shows the many aspects of being an American during the holiday season. For tickets, call 860-787-7318 or go to ivorytonplayhouse.org.

THE BUSHNELL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (166 Capitol Ave., Hartford) presents *Hamilton*, the award-winning, groundbreaking musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Dec. 11 to Dec. 30. Tickets went on sale in September and were sold out in days, but the latest word is that a few may become available as the dates approach. This hip-hop musical has broken all theatrical records since it opened

in 2015 and continues to play sold-out shows in New York and other cities as the five road companies begin to tour. Recently the whole creative team was the recipient of the Kennedy Center Award: Lin-Manuel Miranda, author and star; Thomas Kai, director; Alec Lacamoure, music director; and Andy Blankenbuehler, choreographer. This is the first time a whole creative team has been honored. The event will be telecast on Wednesday, Dec. 26. Miranda has been active in Puerto Rico relief and recovery. He returns to Puerto Rico and to the title role in *Hamilton* for a month-long run in January. Kai and Miranda are currently working on a television series based on the lives of Bob Fosse and Gwen Verdon, artistic and marital partners.

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY (1 Elizabeth St., Hartford) presents "The Real World of Alexander Hamilton" for more on the colorful Founding Father. According to museum staff, it is a slightly light-hearted look at the life and times of the real historical figure, featuring Revolutionary War-era clothing, artwork and objects. The exhibit features a pair of dueling pistols similar to those used by Aaron Burr, a piece of the first American flag made by Betsy Ross, an engraving of the Boston Massacre by Paul Revere, a rare Loyalist red coat, a 1776 copy of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and even a lock of Hamilton's hair. With a backdrop of quotes and photos from *Hamilton*, you'll see more portraits, posters and objects relating to the real-life historical figures of the musical – letters written by George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, jewelry belonging to Theodosia Burr and an original broadside of Washington's Farewell Address that Hamilton helped write. Call 860-236-562 or go to chs.org for more information.

THE BOAR'S HEAD AND YULE LOG FESTIVAL (Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Ave., Hartford) is an annual spectacular pageant that is difficult to describe unless you see it with your own eyes. There are multiple performances from Jan. 4 to 6, featuring over 250 performers. There are live animals, including a camel, a llama and a gleaming black stallion. The 153-year-old church becomes the stage for the players, including in the aisle where dancers and jugglers cavort, the narrow tops of pews that sprites use for balance beams,

the front, the sides and the balcony. All become venues for music, dance, costumes – spectacle surrounds you. The 90-minute performance brings a constant flurry of activities in all three aisles all at once – elegantly costumed lords and ladies, knights, woodsmen, peasants, dancers and mimes, or even one of the exotic animals. The choir increases intensity and volume as a grand procession of human and beast culminate in colorful tableaux and a triumphant "Gloria" sounds. After each performance, there is a gala reception in Deck Hall, where the ferocious boar's head is displayed and holiday sweets are served. This is a culminating event for the holiday season, and because of its reputation, the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival tickets are in high demand. Each seat is reserved and there are 1,000 available. The church seats 250 people for each performance. For tickets, go to ahcc.org or call 860-525-5968.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM (1 State St., New Haven) is holding its "Christmas in Poland" holiday exhibit. This the 14th year that the museum has showcased the art and traditions of a world region as the focus of its holiday exhibition. There are more than 100 items displayed, some of them from the museum's own collection. Other come from the Glencairn Museum in Pennsylvania, the International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton in Ohio, the Loyola Museum of Art in Illinois, the Museum of International Folk Art in New Mexico, the Museo del Presepio de Roma/Italian Friends of the Crèche Association and private collectors. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and there is free admission and parking.

THE BUTTONWOOD CLUB (605 Main Street, Middletown) will feature jazz singer Deborah Davis and her quartet on Saturday, Dec. 29 at 8 p.m. Davis blends blues, gospel and soul with jazz, drawing the audience in with her own distinctive style and unmistakable stage presence. Based in New York, she tours internationally and has performed with such jazz legends as Lionel Hampton, Ray Brown and Defeaya Marsalis. For tickets go to buttonwood.org or call 860-347-4957.

LINCOLN CENTER THEATER (150 West 65th St. Manhattan) showcases *My Fair Lady* through Jan. 6. *New York Magazine* says, "Bartlett Sher's production is enthralling." It features Laura Benanti as Eliza. One of the world's most beloved musicals, this revival was awarded a Drama Desk Award, a Drama League Award and an Outer Critics Circle Award. The score still resonates, the costumes are stunning, the script is bright, the acting skillful. It's better than ever. Go to Telecharge for tickets.

CURTAIN CALL (1349 Newfield Ave., Stamford) will be holding auditions for the Sterling Farms Theatre Complex production of *Boeing Boeing*, directed by Stephen Emerick. Rehearsals begin Jan. 14 with performances from Feb. 28 through March 17 and a possible one-week extension. For more information, call 203-329-8207 x 11 or visit curtaincallinc.com.

Have an event, a comment or an idea? Send it to patmiller@sbcglobal.net.

one of the most remarkable young men in Taiwan and was believed destined for a place in General Chiang Kai-shek's exiled Republic of China (ROC) government. Chen's star was so brightly that universities in America turned their eye toward him and he was offered a fellowship at Northwestern University. He was called the most outstanding young man in the country," he said while sitting in the Case Memorial Library in Evanston, the town he has long called home.

Between the group's rotating list of doctors and a full-time support staff that the location was offered a fellowship at Northwestern University. He was called the most outstanding young man in the country," he said while sitting in the Case Memorial Library in Evanston, the town he has long called home.

the same. The ROC saw things differently. Neither much cared for dissent among the people. Most nations eventually adopted the One China Policy, a diplomatic solution of acknowledging the PRC's claim and the ROC's claim.

Eye Care cont. on page 18

Home Sales Rise

by Joseph Cole

editor@theorangetimes.com

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The Book Club:

High Noon In Bengal

Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide*, Penguin, 2004

Five rivers that traverse the Indian subcontinent merge southeast of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta). flowing into the Bay of Bengal. This river delta that straddles the border between Bangladesh and the Indian state of Bengal is known as the Sundarbans, as exotic a setting for a novel as one could imagine. It is a vast region of mangrove forested islands made fertile by the rivers' silt deposits and abundant in fish because of the shifting tides. Yet ferocious weather changes, hostile elements of nature and regional politics make life precarious for the millions who inhabit the region.



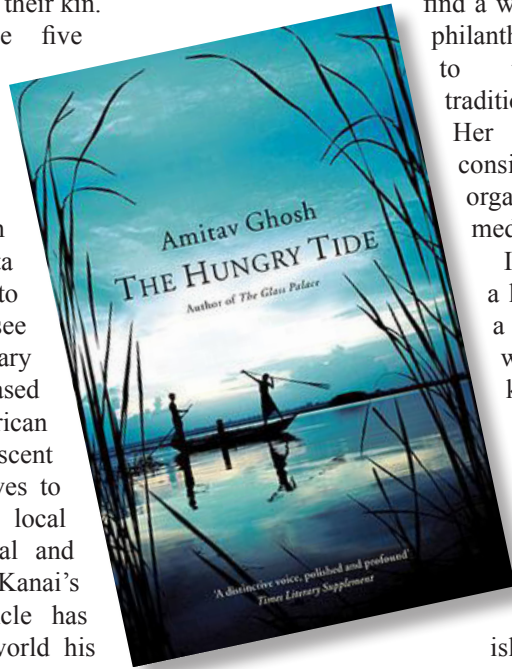
PETER HECHTMAN

The Hungry Tide does have characters with particular destinies and is not without a plot. But for drama, these elements play a very secondary role to the far more compelling battles of humans against nature. Indeed, the two most dramatic incidents are descriptions of two people attempting to survive a cyclone and a rather repulsive

taking of revenge by villagers on a man-eating tiger responsible for the deaths of their kin.

Four of the five leading characters are "outsiders." Kanai is a translator and businessman from Kolkata who travels to this region to see his aunt and collect a literary legacy from his deceased uncle. Piya is a young American woman of Bengali descent and a cetologist who arrives to undertake a survey of the local dolphin population. Nirmal and Nilima are, respectively, Kanai's uncle and aunt. The uncle has brought to this isolated world his devoutly Marxist-Leninist world view and, for that reason, has never, until near his demise, been able to find a

place for himself. Among the outsiders only Nilima has the patience and tenacity to find a way to adapt her philanthropic instincts to the region's tradition-bound ways. Her achievement consists of organizing a medical clinic.



If the novel has a hero it is Fokir, a local fisherman with a profound knowledge of the tides, the dangers, the gods and goddesses responsible for each island's destiny.

By accident, he becomes Piya's guide despite there being no shared language between them. This relationship blossoms

into love, but of a type that is expressed not by flowers and poetry but by his saving her life on numerous occasions.

Enter Kanai to complete the love triangle. The rivalry between the two men plays itself out in a fascinating manner which I prefer to allow readers to discover for themselves. Suffice it to say that it is a battle over "face."

Amitav Ghosh has incorporated into his fictional world an incident which occurred during the Pakistan-Bangladesh war of 1971. Refugees from Bangladesh streamed across the border, some occupying the Indian island of Morichjhāpi, which had been designated as a wild-life reserve. The issue became something of a national scandal because of the government's use of goon squads to massacre many of the refugees and evict the survivors.

Ghosh is best known for his trilogy of novels about the opium trade, including *Sea of Poppies*, *River of Smoke* and *Flood of Fire*.

Peter Hechtman is the founder and owner of The Book Maven. Peter can be reached at thebookmaven@sympatico.ca.

Turkey Trot



The Rotary Club of Orange held its sixth annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot on Nov. 22 at High Plains Community Center in Orange. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

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Lifestyle

On Your Mind:

Vaping, Jeweling, Ripping – Should Parents Be Worried?

As a former health educator, very little surprises me when it comes to teenagers. However, that has all changed with the news I'm getting about e-cigarettes or jewels or pods or whatever they're being called. I have treated several teens in the past few months to help them kick the habit, and hypnosis has been an effective and successful solution.



FERN TAUSIG

The reports, however, from these students indicate that it is very widespread and is done in school without detection because the smell and vapor from the devices are virtually unnoticeable. Those who I have treated reported to me that they did it all day. They felt very addicted and that feeling scared them. It is being done as young as middle school and is completely

out of control in high school. It has become the rage and is seen as being much less objectionable than cigarettes.

The scare tactics being used by the schools to dissuade kids from starting are having the unintended consequence of convincing many teens that this activity is so addictive that they cannot stop their use of these products once they start. The "pods" they purchase come in many different

flavors and the marketing is directed at kids. I was told by one parent that one of the flavors available is called "unicorn milk." How can anything associated with unicorns be bad? I cannot even imagine how the FDA permitted these devices to be allowed on the market since they are clearly a different

delivery system for putting things into the body that aren't food or nutrients — just chemicals. How harmful they are is yet to be determined; the current generation of users are the guinea pigs.

The question is: What can be done to help or dissuade kids from using these? The law clearly states that one must be 18 to purchase them, but the enforcement of those laws is unfeasible since they can be purchased online. These devices are far from harmless, although they are promoted to help people stop smoking cigarettes. In the end this is really simply replacing one vice with another.

Hypnosis can stop the smoking habit in the most effective, painless way but doctors who recommend it are still in the minority. I get many doctor referrals, but I hear most regularly that doctors offer Chantix or

nicotine patches and gum first. When those don't work, people resort to hypnosis.

Parents and adults who are concerned about teens and preteens need to be aware of what they are doing. The teens I helped told me they "did it all day." They had physical feelings from it that some found frightening, especially when they tried to stop.

Fortunately for those who chose it, hypnosis was effective in stopping the cravings and dependence on these devices. But the person has to want to quit.

Pay attention to what your kids are into and communicate with other parents to find support to help these kids make healthier choices.

Fern is a certified hypnotist, life coach and health educator. She can be reached at www.myhealinghypnosis.com.

Getting To Know You:

Our Kids Are Owed An Apology

I think we all have a similar policy when it comes to caring for other people's kids. Mine is that I always strive to return them to their parents in roughly the same condition they were in when the kids were entrusted to me.



DAVID CROW

To other parents that means we make sure their kids wear their seatbelts and we try to keep them from physical harm. In my case, Mr. Crow is going to feed the kids something yummy and they had better save room for dessert. When it comes to food, my mantra is "whatever you want and as much of that as you can stand."

If you don't believe me, ask my oldest son's friend, Rohan. No matter where in the tri-state area their travel baseball team from The Grind was playing, I would find a restaurant after the game that would stuff the boys full of hot, gooey, carbohydrate-laden food.

We also raise our children as a community.

One of the major factors that people with children weigh when choosing a place to live is the reputation of the community. Maybe schools are a part of it, but honestly parents are all looking for a community of people that is conducive to child rearing: safe, quiet and vigilant.

With all that as preamble, I have to say I was a little disappointed in our community lately. We owe an apology. I'll explain.

I watched the Amity School Board of Education meeting on Nov. 12 and saw all the kids reporting that antisemitic symbols and language were being used around Amity High School. Like most of the community, that meeting was the first I had heard of it. I'm sure we all saw kids we knew among those who testified that night: kids we had coached, taught and mentored; kids who had been to our houses and eaten our food; kids who were

friends of our own kids. We have watched all those kids grow up in our community, and all of them told us they did not feel safe. They did not feel safe in our community.

My first feeling was one of disgust. For a moment I wrestled with the fact that this kind of thing happened in our community, but that thought didn't last long as I am a student of history and know from many past examples that this kind of thing can happen anywhere. Then I thought that if anything of this nature had happened within my earshot I would have confronted it because I, like everyone else, would want children in my care to feel safe. Then I got to my final thought: if we had only known.

If we had only known.

That's when I got disappointed; it was just an excuse. I'm not a good gardener by any measure, but what I do know I learned from my grandmother, who told me, "Son, if you don't weed your garden, well then you'll have weeds in your garden."

The truth is we got complacent. We weren't looking out for this kind of thing. We got caught not paying attention, and something dangerous got near those kids. Now the weeds of fear and distrust have taken root in the garden and it's going to take some work by everyone to get them out.

To begin that work we, the community, owe those kids who spoke that night an apology.

Kids, we apologize that you were forced to endure that indignity and we hope it helps you to know that we, the community, are on the lookout. We'll do our part to try to prevent it from happening to you again.

Peace.

David Crow lives in Orange with his wife and three children. He practices law and he asks everyone to call him "Dave." Only his mother and his wife call him "David," and only when they're mad at him. You can contact Dave at Sit.a.Spell.and.Visit@gmail.com. He'll always find a half hour for a good chat.

Wine Talk:

To Oak Or Not To Oak. That Is The Question.

The Greeks and Mesopotamians used palm wood barrels for transporting wines up and down the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, according to the Greek historian Herodotus. The use of oak has been prevalent in winemaking for at least two millennia, first coming into widespread use during Roman times. Winemakers discovered in time that wine kept in oak barrels took on properties that improved the wine by making it softer and in some cases better tasting.



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

Robert Mondavi is credited with expanding the knowledge of winemakers in the United States about the different types of oak barrel styles through his experiments in the 1960s and 1970s.

The use of oak plays a significant role in winemaking and can have a profound effect on the resulting wine, affecting the color, flavor, tannin profile and texture of the wine. Oak can come in contact with wine in the form of a barrel during the fermentation process, the aging process or

both. It can be introduced in the form of free-floating oak chips or as wood staves or sticks added to wine in a stainless steel or glass fermentation vessel, which is what many of us home winemakers do.

It is difficult for home winemakers to produce wines that possess the intensity of the professional winemaker, as oak barrels impart other qualities to wine through the process of evaporation and low-level exposure to oxygen. Wines stored in oak are more intense because water and alcohol evaporate through the porous wood. Topping wines must be added daily.

An oak barrel will lose about 10 percent of its wine during a one-year period. Thus, a 59-gallon oak barrel will lose five-and-a-half to six-and-a-half gallons of wine during that time.

This process causes a concentration of flavor and aroma. Small amounts of oxygen pass through the wood and soften the tannins. The wood itself has an effect on the flavor and aroma of the wine. There are

chemicals in the wood referred to as phenols that interact with the wine and give that toasty vanilla flavor in the back end. These elements in the wood can help protect the wine from oxidation.

Wines can be fermented in oak or they can be placed in after fermentation for a period of aging or maturation. Wine that is matured in oak receives more oak flavors and properties than wine that is fermented in oak. This is because yeast cells interact with and "latch" onto the oak components. When the dead yeast cells are removed from the wine as lees, some of these oak properties go with them.

A characteristic of white wines fermented in oak include a pale color with an extra silky texture. White wines that are fermented in steel and then matured in oak will have a darker coloring due to the heavy phenol compounds that are still present. Flavor notes that are common for wines exposed to oak include caramel, cream, smoke, spice and vanilla. Chardonnay is a variety that has very distinct flavor profiles when fermented in oak that include coconut, cinnamon and cloves. The "toastiness" of the barrel can

bring out varying degrees of mocha and toffee in red wines.

Robert Modavi Private Selection makes a Cabernet that is aged in bourbon barrels. This is a limited-release wine that is currently available at Costco and is priced under \$14. The flavor and aromas are unique, and I think are wonderful. Go to Robertmodaviprivateselection.com to get some information on the wines. There is also an Australian group of wines called 19 Crimes that has some Cabernet aged in rum barrels.

During this holiday season try some wines with toasty oak flavors. You will be glad you did.

Ray Spaziani is the Chapter Director of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He teaches wine appreciation classes at Gateway Community College and for the Milford Board of Education Adult Ed Program, and is a member of the International Tasting Panel of Amenti Del Vino and Wine Maker Magazine. He is an award-winning home wine maker. Email Ray with your wine questions and wine events at Realestatepro1000@gmail.com

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Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

When Is It Time To Surrender Home Ownership?

The maintenance and responsibility that goes into owning a home is ongoing each day. Through stories about roofs, furnaces, landscaping and septic systems, we see that the costs of keeping up a property are never-ending. Each season has its rewards and setbacks, which brings us to the question: When is it time to downsize, to let someone else take care of the big items, while you sit back and take care of yourself? Whether you are married or single, consider the advantages of joining a community that offers all the levels



BARBARA LEHRER

of assisted living.

I recently attended a holiday party at the Maplewood senior living community in Orange. I knew many of the occupants, and each one had nothing but good things to say about the life they were now experiencing. I know it is hard to let go of the old homestead, but the reality is that when it becomes too much to take care of it is time to go.

I saw first-hand at that party what medicine socializing can be. It can be a great experience to dine with your old and new friends. I saw a cocktail hour hopping;

everyone looked comfortable and engaged in the night. Of course, conversations with me were about homes and town events, and I left in awe of the good spirit that was shared with me. Not only was there no remorse, it was like getting a new lease on life. Reasons to dress up and have one's hair done seemed to bring back years of life.

I listened to old tales about the days when some remodeled their homes and some days that they thought they would never move out. But for those people this new chapter is not only fun, but the weight of the work that it takes to keep a large home alive and well was behind each one of them.

Please take this to heart. If you are by

yourself and know that the items in your house that need repair are multiplying, then reach out. Check out a price for your home, get your realtor to help you catch up on the work needed and look at options to downsize. Sometimes bringing a friend along is a great source for a second opinion. I am appealing to mostly seniors here, but anyone who cannot maintain their place should reach out to discuss solutions. This is one of the main jobs of a real estate agent.

If you need more information on these issues, email Barbara.Lehrer@cbmoves.com.

Here's To Your Health:

In The Spirit Of Giving

This month is supposed to be "the season to be jolly." However, there are so many people who struggle emotionally once the holiday season begins. Depression is usually at its all-time high right about now, and loneliness is its best buddy.

I'm not a religious person but I do have a deep faith, so when the Christmas/holiday season arrives, I generally try not to get wrapped up in the hustle and bustle but rather spend time deepening my faith. I started to ponder on a scripture in the Bible. The King James version of John 3:16 reads "For God so loved the world, that he gave (emphasis mine) his only begotten Son."



MICHELE TENNEY

Well, first let me admit that I wouldn't give any one of my sons to you or anybody else. But I'm thoroughly impressed that *God gave, and he gave to all the world.* Imagine one day – just one of 365 – a day of peace on earth where we all just loved and gave all across the world.

To me that is not impossible or irrational thinking. We have national grandparents' day, national sock day, national overdose day. The list goes on. What if we were to have a national love and give day? We would open doors for each other, you'd let the car at the stop sign go before you, you'd buy someone you don't know a cup of

coffee and perhaps maybe you'd even invite someone who's offended you to dinner.

I could spend the rest of this article giving you ideas. There are people hurting, people without family, people who don't have enough money to buy their kids gifts. I was one of those people at one time in my life. It was by the kindness of others who took the time to look up, look around and do something that made all in the difference in what was under the tree for my children that year.

Doing good things for others helps improve your health. It's a win-win situation for both the giver and the receiver. Everyone's heart beats a little slower, endorphins kick in and your sleep will certainly be sweeter.

You've heard me say that you are a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body. We all

are. So why not improve your health by stretching out your arm to help or make someone's day brighter? In the midst of all the division, sadness and cruelty going on in the world, wouldn't it make you feel so much better to *be* the good that's still in it?

Many of you are already living this kind of lifestyle. In that case, step outside of your comfort zone and step it up a notch. There's always some more love to go around. I believe in you, friends. From my family to yours, may there be peace, joy and love in your lives – not just in this Christmas/holiday season, but all throughout the year.

Michele O'Brien-Tenney is a personal trainer and nutritionist. She can be reached at 203-668-2969

Travel Matters

River Cruising In Portugal

We returned last month from escorting a river cruise group on Portugal's Douro River. Leaving from the city of Porto, home of the top exporters of Port wine, we sailed down the "river of gold." It was named, as we would learn both historically and experientially, for the sloping vineyards which profited from the microclimate of the Douro valley, and reflected the sunshine that hit the slopes of vineyards climbing up from the river Douro.



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

leading Vinho Verde wine estate for a wine pairing dinner. We basked in the beauty of hillside villages like Castelo Rodrigo, also known as the "White Village" for the almond trees found surrounding the village. We walked the medieval streets and enjoyed a tasting of local produce including almonds, cheese, bread and wine.

Our Douro river cruise included a visit to the Mateus Palace and Gardens, complete with sixteenth to eighteenth-century furnishings and perfectly manicured topiaries. We heard the tale of Mateus Rose Wine – an iconic brand from the 70s for many of us baby boomers who remember the signature bottle that was perfect for a candlelight dinner.

The Douro is just a short ride from Salamanca, Spain, where we visited the university dating back to 1134 and enjoyed a Flamenco show and paella lunch at the five-star Alameda Palace Hotel. Dating back to 220 BC, Salamanca is considered one of the most spectacular Renaissance cities in Europe.

Throughout the centuries, the sandstone buildings have developed an exquisite golden glow that has given the city the nickname "La Ciudad Dorada" or "The Golden City."

Many rivers flow through Europe: the Danube, the Rhine, the Rhone, and the Seine and Gironde in France. The Douro River is second to none in its serene beauty and the wonderful culinary delights on its banks.

Arriving in Lisbon, we first explored the beautiful tiled squares of Portugal's capital, went on a gourmet walk of Lisbon at dusk, tasted the exquisite local Pastais de Belem – the Portuguese equivalent of Cafe du Monde beignets in New Orleans – and sipped the native sour cherry liquor called Ginjinha.

A highlight of our trip was a visit to Sintra, home of the Pena Palace, 25 years in the making by King Ferdinand II. It's a veritable powder puff castle of pastels with an equally colorful history. We then went on to Porto by high-speed train, where we boarded our beautiful river cruise ship, AmaWaterways' AmaVida, with an intimate capacity of 102 passengers, and took a spectacular illuminations cruise of this beautiful city.

What a fabulous river to explore. And explore we did, with substantial sailing time on this most placid scene of green vineyards dotted by Quintas (wine estates) perched among the vineyards sloping up from the Douro River, complete with ancient aqueduct bridges that punctuate the natural scenery.

We visited Quinta do Seixo, a Sandeman wine estate known for its three types of Port Wine (white, tawny, ruby) and explored the

Karen Quinn-Panzer is the owner of Dream Vacations Quinn Panzer Travel. She can be reached at kpanzer@dreamvacations.com

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Home & Garden

The Garden Spot:

Real Versus Artificial Greenery

As we put our gardens to bed for the winter, many of us like to decorate the inside and outside of our homes with greenery, be it a table centerpiece, a wreath or a Christmas tree. As we make decisions about the use of greenery, a question often arises regarding whether to use natural or manufactured products.



PAT DRAY

Artificial greenery seems to be less costly over time, and the newer products seem very lifelike. A six-foot live tree costs close to \$100, while the manufactured product of the same size may come pre-lit and cost less than \$300.

The difference becomes less clear from an environmental standpoint. Fresh, live greens and trees are typically farm-raised,

with Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Washington, New York, and Virginia the top Christmas tree producing states. Christmas tree production in the US uses 350,000 acres of land. You may be able to purchase your greenery from a local "cut your own" farm here in Connecticut. Since the trees are farm-raised, deforestation and its contribution to climate change are not issues. It takes typically about 10 years for a tree to grow to size and tree farmers will almost always plant one or more trees to replace those harvested for greenery. So purchasing a "natural tree" or greenery is environmentally sound.

Artificial greenery is typically

manufactured in China, which has less stringent environmental regulations than does the US. They are made using PVC plastic and metal. Although they are more fire resistant than a natural tree will be, they are not fireproof. In order for the PVC to be made into lifelike "needles," it's treated with one chemical or another, including arsenic and lead, which can then shed dust in your home. A typical artificial tree lasts six years, then ends up in a landfill. It will not decompose but will leach heavy metals into the landfill that further pollute the environment.

According to the Christmas Tree Association of New York, artificial tree production adds 100 pounds of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, where a natural tree absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during its 10 years of growth.

One of the other benefits of natural greenery is that it decomposes relatively quickly, even in a landfill. If you have wooded space on your property, you can leave the tree in the woods and it will provide shelter for birds and other wildlife during the winter months.

As you think about your environmental footprint, consider the true costs of using artificial materials. They may seem less costly from an initial purchase standpoint, but their total cost is high.

If you're looking for something locally grown, there are several places to shop in the area, including Treat Farm on Old Tavern Rd., Maple View on Orange Center Rd., Maple Tree Farms on Wheelers Farm Rd. and Lou's Christmas Trees on 532 New England Ln.

Pat Dray is a past president of the Orange Garden Club.

Room 911:

Storage For Easy Entertaining

How many times have you been in the midst of entertaining only to discover that you can't remember on what shelf, in what drawer, what pantry, which refrigerator or buffet that you put the turkey baster, the corkscrew, the potholders, the soup ladle or the toothpicks? Like a surgeon, you should have all the needed instruments set out before you prior to beginning your "operation."



TEDRA SCHNEIDER

Here are some suggestions to think about installing in your kitchen area to make your life easier not only for holiday entertaining but year-round.

Organization is paramount. As our mothers told us, "A place for everything

and everything in its place." If you have an alcove area in your kitchen, think of creating an area for all your wine needs. Put a waist-high cabinet in the alcove using a wipeable material for the countertop. Create two doors within the unit to hold various related items, such as a wine decanter or other beverage bottles. It would also be advantageous to have two drawers within the cabinet unit to hold corkscrews, bottle openers for beer, fancy toothpicks or drink stirrers.

Two and a half feet above the cabinet unit, you could install glass shelves that display your wine glasses (with glass doors to keep out the dust). Underneath this you

could install a wine glass hanging rack that holds the glasses upside down. Above these shelves you could install two shelves to store wine bottles lying on their sides. This is done to ensure that the cork stays moist. You could have one shelf for reds and one shelf for whites.

If you have nothing better to do with your money, you could install a pullout spice rack to fit in the dead space you may have between cabinets. Just be sure not to put the spices too close to your cooking area, because the heat can destroy the efficacy of the spices.

Wouldn't it be lovely to have a hardwood pullout cutting board to slice those bagels or French bread? My personal favorite is to have a tambour built in on the top of the kitchen cabinet which you pull up, like a roll top desk? It could house your coffee maker,

toaster oven, blender and similar items. Put the appliances back in the tambour area, roll it down when done and it disappears from your kitchen countertop.

Finally, who wouldn't like a mini fridge in a lower cabinet so you could grab a cold one? If not beer, then it could be filled with sodas, juices and, of course, champagne.

As it has been said, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." With the best of intentions, I thought I had organized everything down to the last demitasse spoon. Surprise, surprise – I finally found my large roasting pan on the top shelf of the coat closet. How it got there will remain one of the mysteries of the world.

Tedra Schneider can be reached at: restagebytedra@gmail.com

Just Floored:

Selecting A Carpet For Your Home

Hands down, the most popular choice for builders and contractors is wall-to-wall solid cut pile carpet. The term "cut pile" refers to the carpet's flat look, which is the product of looped fibers being cut to the same height to create an even surface. Cut pile also has a soft appearance, making it attractive to families with young children. You can use it in hallways, on stairs or on area rugs. The thickness of the pile varies from carpet to carpet, so you can opt for one that is very plush or one with a short pile. Since cut pile tends to be dense it provides a cushiony feel, while the lack of open loops makes it a good choice for homes with pets because there's nothing for paws and claws to get snagged on.



ANNAMARIE MASTRANGELO

Almost as popular as solid cut pile is the cut and loop carpet. This is a better choice for homeowners interested in subtle patterns. Cut and loop carpet achieves its sculptural look through varied levels of sheared top loops and uncut low loops. Often patterns appear to have been cut directly into it and made

with contrasting colors from the same palette. The slight variation in color helps camouflage everyday wear and tear as well as hide a variety of sins. This option is great for families with children who want a carpet with a little more interest. The cut and loop pile is drastically softer than solid cut pile. However, it is less durable. Due to the loops in this design, it is not ideal for families with pets.

The term "shag" refers to carpet that has extra-deep pile, resulting in a shaggy appearance. The shag, which was quite popular in the 1970s, was originally available only in earth tones such as harvest gold, avocado green, burnt orange and brown, which we have all seen in those homes built in the 1960s and 70s. These retro shags are usually the first to go during a remodel. However, since they were reintroduced in the early 2000s with more up-to-date colors, the shag has gone a little more mainstream again thanks to its plush and textural look.

Although not a smart choice for areas geared toward eating, such as dining

rooms, shag is ideal for private spaces like bedrooms, playrooms or as a small area rug in a reading space. Shag's thick texture hides flaws and is extra comfortable for lounging on, making it a great option for homes with kids and pets. In order to properly care for wall-to-wall shag, homeowners will need a heavy-duty vacuum because the thick fibers tend to shed a lot during the first month after installation and can quickly clog the filter on a standard vacuum.

When it comes to durability, carpet tiles may be the best possible choice for active families. Available in hundreds of colors, textures, patterns and design styles, these tiles are easy for DIYers to install. Should a tile become soiled, just take it up, rinse it clean in the sink, and replace the tile once it's dry. Should the tile become permanently damaged, you can replace it with a new piece. Something to consider before choosing modular carpet tiles is their lack of padding, often resulting in a less cushy surface underfoot. Using carpet tile in a rec room or basement is a great way to add some cushion and durability to a space that gets a lot of use.

Are you a homeowner with bold taste?

Are you looking for something to really wow your guests? If so, a carpet with a large geometric pattern is what you are looking for. It's used by designers to add high-energy impact to spaces lacking architectural detail or a real focal point. The boldness of large-scale geometric patterns can be played up or played down depending on contrast. This graphic carpet is best used in oversized rooms. The same goes for when you are making it into an area rug. You want to make sure that the area rug is large enough to support the pattern itself. If you still love the pattern but want something a little more subdued than large-scale geometrics, smaller patterns may be what you are looking for. Keep in mind that small-scale geometrics can look cluttered and busy. Usually this is a better choice for small areas such as landings, staircases, hallways and bedrooms.

No matter how many kids or dogs you may have, there is a carpet out there to fit your style.

Annamarie Mastrangelo is founder/owner of A.A.I. Flooring Specialist. She can be reached at amoreinteriorsllc@gmail.com.

Have A Tip? Send It To Us At editor@theorangetimes.com
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Conserving Connecticut's Native Bobcats

By Cynthia V. Catapano

Seeing a bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), Connecticut's only native wildcat species, lounging in my backyard was a surprising and fantastical encounter. Sightings of this illustrious cat in Orange are not as rare as you'd think. Bobcats are a common and well-populated species throughout Connecticut and have adapted to living in urbanized environments.

Bobcats have not always flourished in our state; like many fur-bearing mammals, they were hunted to near-extinction. In 1972, Connecticut issued a law to ban all hunting and trapping of this mammal.

Today, the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Furbearer Program is contributing toward bobcat conservation via their Bobcat Research Project, which aims to achieve an "understanding of how bobcats are using travel corridors in both urban and rural habitats," according to Furbearer technician and wildlife biologist Melissa Rusczyk.

"We are looking to see how these animals are using the environment in high and low housing densities," she said.

When the Bobcat Research Project began last fall, Rusczyk and fellow researchers trapped and handled around 70 bobcats from September 2017 to March 2018. She said that after a bobcat is humanely trapped and anesthetized for safe handling purposes, "we will get a weight, gender, hair, and DNA sample," in order to gain valuable biological information on these enigmatic mammals.

They pull a tooth for aging purposes, take morphological measurements, attach ear tags and decide if the bobcat is going to be collared, Rusczyk explains. The bobcat's weight is crucial if the individual is to be collared, as they must be over 15 pounds in order to support the weight of the collar. They may also choose not to deploy a GPS collar if there are bobcats that have already been collared in that area.

"We want to distribute collars across the

state and across different housing densities," Rusczyk said.

Rusczyk works hard maintaining 10 deployed traps spread across New Haven County.

However, she said, "this is a statewide study and there are traps deployed in every county."

Counterintuitively, bobcat sightings in Connecticut are more prevalent in heavily populated areas.

Despite their positive outlook, bobcat conservation is still vital. So what can we do?

"It's important to have undeveloped land and wooded travel corridors within even the most urban of landscapes," Rusczyk said.

Preservation of undeveloped land ensures suitable habitats are available for both predators and their prey. "Even the smallest patches of open land are used by wildlife in some way," she explained. Rusczyk also noted that avoiding the use of rodent poison is critical for bobcat conservation, as well as for other predatory species.

"Ingesting a rodent that has eaten poison can affect and possibly kill other wildlife," she said.

Rusczyk said DEEP receives many calls from the public regarding "nuisance" wildlife, including bobcats. There's a fear that bobcats will attack children and pets. While bobcats are crepuscular, it's normal to see them during the day.

"Bobcats, like most wildlife, want nothing to do with people," Rusczyk said, adding, "bobcat attacks on humans are extremely rare, and tend to only occur when the animal is sick."

There is always a huge risk letting your pets roam unsupervised outdoors, whether from wildlife or from man-made causes.

"Bobcats are an elusive and efficient predator on our landscape," Rusczyk said. "If you're fortunate enough to see one, enjoy the opportunity!"

For more information on the Bobcat Research Project and how you can help, visit ct.gov/deep/wildlife.

Two Factors Are Better Than One

If you have the option of using two-factor authentication with your email, social networking or banking, then turn it on.

Two-factor authentication goes beyond a traditional password by requiring an extra step to access your account, such as a text message or a fingerprint.

A customer of mine lost access to her Facebook account on Thanksgiving Day. This was very troubling for her. I spoke to her about it early the next morning and was able to spend several hours with her helping with



KEN OAKES

the tedious routine of dealing with customer support. It was a stressful twenty-four hours for her.

The criminal generally referred to as a "hacker" had used the two-factor authentication system against her as she had not turned it on herself. The irony of this type of situation is that the very mechanism meant to improve security gets flip-flopped and

makes it much more difficult to regain access. The case was exceptionally challenging to deal with because Facebook doesn't

have telephone support. It took maybe 15 or 20 interactions with their mostly robotic automated help system, going back and forth, to explain to them the full situation. She had to provide other forms of identification, including photographs of herself, her driver's license, passport or one of another 30 different forms of acceptable identification.

The good news is if you're with social networking services for a long time they keep track of your normal regular location. If a criminal trying to impersonate you is not in your town, it's much easier for Facebook to assume you are the one telling the truth. It's still a headache, though.

The whole situation could have been avoided just by having turned on the two-factor authentication before a cyber intruder did. But it happens to millions of people every day globally.

Ken Oakes is a computer technology consultant from New Haven County. He has lived in the area his whole life aside from eight years in the United States Army. He provides services for local businesses, residences and professionals. Contact Oakes at 203-444-3432.

FedEx continued from page 1

it," he said. "And if it's the devil's trucking company and it complies, we may have to approve it."

First Selectman Jim Zeoli appeared before the commission and agreed with that assessment. He said it was not the "sexiest" project, but that it complied with all the regulations and would be beneficial for the town.

He said he had told the developers from the start that he didn't like the way the project was designed and had requested some modifications, including trees to screen the buildings from the roadway.

Zeoli said they incorporated many of his suggestions. "I said, 'I can work with this'" he told the commission.

He said the town would have to look at more proposals of this kind as brick-and-mortar retailers give way to internet shopping.

TPZC chair Oscar Parente said the proposal was "very well put together" and clearly was

an allowed use for the light industrial zone in which the property sits. He ticked through an extensive list of the requirements the applicant had met and said he could not see any legitimate reason to deny the applicant on zoning grounds.

"This is a permitted use, which to me is in harmony with other similar uses existing or approved and pending in the neighborhood," he said.

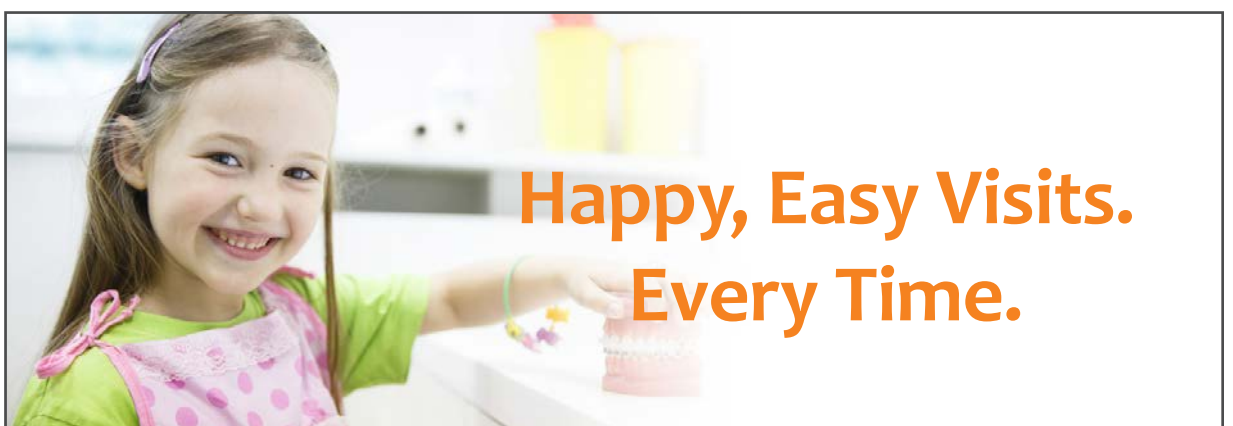
The land has been dormant for over 20 years. Stew Leonard Jr. had tried for 14 years to create a supermarket and petting zoo there before abandoning that project in 2010.

In a statement to

The Orange Times, Zeoli said, "The town is pleased that this key parcel has found an appropriate user. While many don't understand that Stew Leonard's had town approvals and that after court cases had finished, Stew's still had approval but chose not to amend wetland engineering requirements. Meetings between

the first selectman and Stew Leonard were unsuccessful for a return to Orange."

"The new use will generate equal tax dollars and less impact on emergency services," he added. "This use also will require less impact on traffic."



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Youth & Education

Test Prep:

Focus On The Right Areas

Admissions officers often say that from January of junior year on students should expect a full tilt toward college. That can seem incredibly daunting for many students and parents. Schedules are often already tight, so how are you expected to add even more things to your plate?

Finding the right areas to focus on in terms of the college application process is key here. Keep yourself focused on the tasks that make the biggest impact on choosing the right college and setting yourself up to have the strongest application you can. Here are some recommended areas of focus.

Campus visits: There are so many different benefits to campus visits. There's nothing like setting foot on campus to really give you a

feel for what a school is like. It can be hard to get your head around what things like total number of students or type of location mean until you experience the actual location. From an admissions perspective, college visits help to show "demonstrated interest," an evaluation criterion that can play a role in deciding which applicants receive admission offers.

Standardized tests: There are so many different things to keep track of during junior year, and some of them need to be done at specific times. Make sure to set up a test-taking calendar for the spring. Standardized tests are not



JAMES MARONEY

offered that frequently, so you want to make sure that you plan enough in advance to allow for taking the test multiple times. If you need to take any SAT IIs (the subject tests), then you need to account for even more test-taking weekends.

Choosing courses: Fall of your senior year will be the last course grades that will appear on your regular college applications. That means you want to be thinking ahead and choosing appropriately rigorous courses, even though it will be your senior year. Remember that at the end of the day, grades are consistently shown to be the most

important factor in admissions decisions. Set yourself up for success by pushing hard right up until the deadline.

Athletics: You should be thinking about how to best navigate your college athletics career. You will want to be reaching out to college coaches and choosing summer camps and programs. Take into account what season your sport is in. If you play a spring sport, your junior year will be the best time for college coaches to get to see you play.

James Maroney, is the owner of First Choice College, which has been helping local students prepare for college since 1999. James is also the former co-chair of the Financial Aid Working Group for the Connecticut State Planning Commission for Higher Education.

Amity Middle School Releases Honor Rolls

The following students at the Orange campus of Amity Regional Middle School were listed on the honor roll for the first marking period.

Grade 7: First Honors

Timothy Antalik, Alivia Appleby, Adwaya Bali, Jillian Barnes, Aditi Bhattamishra, Mia Bierowski, Elizabeth Bodie, Daniella Bondar, Erin Callahan, Grace Cavallaro, Luke Chang, Haseeb Chaudry, Gia Coppola, Thomas Denton, Luciana Dottori, Jacob Ebert, Hayden Einbinder, Kayleigh Fitzpatrick, Raegan French, Marissa Green-Angerame, Edward Han, Connor Hayes, Tiernan Hennessy, Kyle Iacomacci, Peter Ivanov, Jeslyn Jacob, Zhuoling Jiang, Joshua Kang, David Ke, Meghan Kirck, Ellen Ko, Selma Krehic, Avani Kulkarni, Oliver Kusiak, Grace Launder, Noelle Launder, Erec Leszczak, Jack Lewis, Angelina Li, Bridget Lowder, Anthony Lucibello, Reesa Malish, Erica Manandhar, Gianna Manuele, Devin Maroney, Mackenzie Martin, Matthew McLeod, Jaan Melville, Nathaniel Millea, Suhail Mohammed, Nate Monschein, Bridget Morrison, Zach Morrow, Alan Murray, Andie Napolitano, Oliver Nappi, Justin Palmer, Aarav Patel, Yana Patel, Anton Rathjens, Emily Russo, Samuel Sender, Anthony Stankye, Nicholas Tice, Caroline Tirollo, Leonardo Tregger, Lorenzo Tregger, Bowen Tullo, Ava Wooldridge, Annika Yun and Riley Zielinski.

Grade 7: Second Honors

Evelyn Alfaro, Samuel Bae, Alexa Bonato, Cynthia Burns, Timothy Cap, Caitlyn Carrier, Melanie Castillo Pacheco, Hayden Chetwynd, Lily DeMaio, Tyler DeRosa, Timothy Duro, Kenneth GaNun, Sarah Ginsberg, Lauren Heenie, Ava Holden, Cayla Jackel, Jenna Kaiser, Ryan Kelly, Dean Krehic, Joslynn Laird, Patrick Meng, William Mennillo, James Morrin, Lee Morton, Yade Mus, Christopher Nam, Frank Pena-Abosaid, Dillon Pozucek, Yasmin Santos, Katherine Stage and Sophia Vitello.

Grade 7: Citizenship Recognition

Alivia Appleby, Jillian Barnes, Aditi Bhattamishra, Caitlyn Carrier, Benjamin Del Franco, Thomas Denton, Luciana Dottori, Abigail Fitol, Tiernan Hennessy, Ava Holden, Cayla Jackel, Ellen Ko, Grace

Launder, Angelina Li, Anthony Lucibello, Erica Manandhar, Devin Maroney, Suhail Mohammed, Nate Monschein, Bridget Morrison, Samuel Sender, Maxwell Simons, Taylor Thomas, Lorenzo Tregger, Ava Wooldridge and Riley Zielinski.

Grade 8: First Honors

Faryal Akbar, Sedra Alasadi, Omar Almashi, Elizabeth Antalik, Sofia Appleby, Sri Arvapalli, Jayden Benichak, Giovanni Bonazzoli, Olivia Breving, Francis Cavallaro, Jenna Chizmadia, Marin Cunningham, Dahlia Deangelis, Ana Debassio, Mia Destival, Ijo Ejara, Merina Ferguson, Millicent Fuller, Leo Gao, Natalie Garcia, Sarah Granados, Simran Jain, Lucas Ketchian, Emma Kirck, Izabela Kurpios, Trevor Lavalley, Jennifer Li, Si Ru Liang, June Lin, Sophia Liu, Marco-Alessandro Lopez Rodriguez, Jennifer Lu, Adam Martire, Nicholas Massey, Zoe May, Declan O'Rourke, Harshil Parmar, Robert Pergolotti, Kiley Pickens, Aanchal Poddar, Troy Ramos, Caitlyn Richards, William Shaw, Kyra Shevis, Katherine Sim, Spencer Stratford, Sreenidhi Tadepalli, Eric Wang and Athanasia Zikos.

Grade 8: Second Honors

Alana Abrams, Colin Aronin, Emily Barretta, Kayla Barry, Hailey Black, Jessa Bohan, Ryan Burns, Jason Byun, Katherine Cesare, Clara Cortright, Brandon Cysner, Nicholas Digiovanni, Emilia Dottori, Brock Goodwin, Yazeed Hasan, Jack Hawes, Brandon Hutchison, Lillian Kaempffer, Daniel Kim, Dylan Lyons, Ryan Magri, Grace Mahon, Matia Malish, Kathryn Marquis, Sally Morbidelli, Michaela Nunez, Savannah Obymachow, Sophia Page, Cameran Palermo, Jesse Palermo, Sean Pivovar, Sarah Pultz, Anna Saccente, Isabella Salvatore, Luca Santin, Marisa Scotti, Caitlyn Smith, Cassidy Smith, Chance Starrett, Holly Thorndike, Abigail Tirollo, Gabriel Tufano, Peter Turner, Marc Vanschaick and Craig Wezenski.

Grade 8: Citizenship Recognition

Giovanni Bonazzoli, Olivia Breving, Francis Cavallaro, Ana Debassio, Claudia Garcia Munoz, Jack Hawes, Simran Jain, Emma Kirck, Izabela Kurpios, Jennifer Luo, Dylan Lyons, Grace Mahon, Nicholas Massey, Zoe May, Maggie McDonald, Zshonna Singleton and Cassidy Smith.

Turkey Hill Students Help Those In Need



The student council at Turkey Hill School in Orange collected food and monetary donations in November for two local charities. From left: Erik Jiang, Principal Denise Arterbery, Ava Storz, Caryn Kim, Timothy Chang, Nadav Chetrit, Sarah Gonzalez Stevens and Sydney Delpo. Photo by Pam Lemere.

The student council at Turkey Hill School in Orange has been busy helping those in need, hosting two events in November to benefit the Orange Food Bank and the Columbus House Homeless Shelter in New Haven.

The student council hosted a food drive for the Orange Food Bank, with donations collected from Nov. 12 through Nov. 16. Council members in grades three to six planned and coordinated the food drive. They created flyers and made posters to advertise the event. They worked to collect the

donations each morning and categorize them for delivery. THS collected enough canned and boxed food items to fill a whole car. The donations were picked up Nov. 19 from THS in time to fill Thanksgiving food baskets.

The student council hosted a pajama day on Nov. 16 for students and staff. All who participated made a donation to the Columbus House Homeless Shelter in New Haven. In total, the school raised \$710, which the Columbus House used to buy gift cards to fast food restaurants for those in need.

Children's Dentistry Opens In Orange

Orange Children's Dentistry, a newly-opened dental practice, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Dec. 11 to celebrate its grand opening. The practice is geared toward children and will serve as a hub for all children dentistry needs.

"Children experience dental visits differently than adults do, and certain parts of their care will stay planted in their memories forever," said Dr. Paula C. Cerqueira, pediatric dentist and founder of Orange Children's Dentistry. "Whether your child has preventative, restorative, or special dentistry needs, we make sure that they are treated like a family member and that they understand they are in a safe environment."

Cerqueira has lived and worked in Connecticut for more than 10 years. She earned her Doctor of Dental Medicine at Tufts University, and her bachelor's degree

in anthropology from New York University. Her attention to individual care and ability to make personal connections with children landed her in the "top dentists" ranking by *Westport Magazine* in 2017 and 2018.

When Cerqueira decided to open her own dental practice, she set out to ensure that children would receive better care than she received when she was a child. She said she is confident the environment she has helped create will be welcoming and inviting to children, and should reinforce the idea that the practice was "built from the ground up with children in mind."

A tour of the practice followed the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Orange Children's Dentistry is located at 518 Boston Post Rd., Suite 4-5 in Orange. To learn more, visit orangechildrensdentistry.com.

Visit *The Orange Times* website for photos.

Have A Tip? Send It To Us At
editor@theorangetimes.com

Amity Releases Action Plan Against Discrimination

After an emotional Board of Education meeting Nov. 12 at which numerous students voiced apprehensions over rising anti-Semitism at Amity High School, the district has formulated what it calls a comprehensive plan to address the concerns regarding intolerant and anti-Semitic behaviors.

The plan was developed in conjunction with students, faculty, members of the community and the Anti-Defamation League.

The plan was shared with the middle school principals and other Amity administration and several of the action steps will also be taken at the middle schools.

“We will continue to work closely with students, faculty, community groups and parents as we move forward and work to make ARHS a safe, supportive and inclusive school community for all students,” said ARHS principal Anna Mahon in a press release accompanying the action plan.

The outline of the action plan is as follows:

- Students:**
- Large group reconvene on Nov. 20 to discuss previous week’s progress and share the draft plan to solicit feedback.
 - Spirit Day change – Tuesday is “Stronger than Hate” day with student government supporting with pins; DECA supporting through stickers and t-shirts.
 - Ask Club Council to take on a “be kind” initiative to support the idea of using kind language and recognizing the power of words; clubs support clubs.
 - Story Corps idea for students to document their experiences and our school’s journey.
 - Social justice programs for students (Southern Connecticut State University program next week, Exploring Justice, etc.).
 - Student representatives work with

committees to help with (whole-school) communication.

Faculty/Administration:

- Email or in-person follow-up from administrator after a complaint is made and is being/has been addressed.
 - Publish the plan to the district.
 - Follow up at December Board of Education specifically regarding anti-Semitic behavior.
 - ARHS art teacher will partner with AMS-Bethany Climate Committee to do an art installation.
 - Administrators work with the ADL to organize program for high school students to become mentors on citizenship for middle and elementary school students which can be delivered before the end of this school year.
 - ADL partners with the history and English department to review our existing Holocaust education and include a speaker (Holocaust survivor?) to include in this year’s programming.
 - ADL programming for “Becoming an Ally” for student training.
 - Explore opportunities for cultural sensitivity training for faculty (specifically counselors and administrators).
 - Restorative justice training for administration.
 - Explore the ADL-piloted program “No Place for Hate” school climate initiative.
- Community Outreach—Send Amity representation to:**
- Participate in ADL community program “Strengthening the Bonds of Our Community.”
 - Work with community organizers to discuss progress, programming and community concerns.

Hair House Celebrates 10 Years



The Hair House Salon held a ribbon cutting Nov. 25 to celebrate its tenth anniversary and new owner, Paula Phelan. The business is located at 57 Bridgeport Ave. in Milford. Photo by Yesenia Rosado of Jessra Photography.

Milford’s TrinityPoint Wealth Holds Ribbon Cutting



TrinityPoint Wealth held a ribbon cutting Dec. 4 at its Milford location. TrinityPoint Wealth is an independent investment advisory firm that serves individuals, families and organizations of many types by providing custom solutions and services with proactive management and oversight. The business is located at 612 Wheelers Farm Rd. in Milford. From left: Jana L’Etoile, Mayor Ben Blake, Dana McLaughlin, Lise Robinson and Matt Gallagher. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Milford Home Décor Boutique Holds Ribbon Cutting



Photo by Joseph Weathered

Home and gift boutique Inside Living Style recently held a ribbon cutting at its Milford location. The owner, Ximena Cardentey, started off her company over 20 years ago in the window treatment and upholstery business. Always looking to grow, she expanded her workroom into a gift

shop which also offers home décor services. Their “custom everything” approach invites clients to be artistic, where anything envisioned can be created to fit their taste and budget. Inside Living Style is located at 80 Broad St. in Milford.

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In 1958, Lung-chu Chen was considered one of the most remarkable young men in Taiwan and was believed destined for a place in General Chiang Kai-shek's exiled Republic of China (ROC) government. Chen's star shown so brightly that he was offered a fellowship at Northwestern University in the United States. In Taiwan, in fairness, the Chinese and Taiwanese seemed to be having trouble with it as well.

Mainland China's Communist People's Republic of China (PRC), insisted on the One China Principle, Republic of China (ROC) government. Neither much cared for dissent among the people. Most nations eventually adopted

we're taking the time to move in and get everything set up." Dr. Peter Branden said. He will be one of several doctors working out of the 10,000 square foot space. He estimates between the group's rotating list of doctors and part and full-time support staff that the location

Home Sales Rise

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Planning Ahead

3 Questions To Discover Your True Goals

A good financial planner will always start out your relationship by asking you about your life goals and values. Solid financial planning is driven by your individual needs and objectives, not by a one-size-fits-all saving and investment strategy.

A well-known advisor named George Kinder has developed an approach called Life Planning that is designed to help clients and their financial planners reach a deeper understanding of these important issues. Kinder, founder of the Kinder Institute and author of several books on Life Planning, created George Kinder's Three Questions as an aid for clients and advisors to dig deeper.

The first of the Three Questions is designed to start you thinking about ways to gain fulfillment in your life, while the second and third questions get you to think about your priorities. All three are designed to elicit more meaningful answers than simply asking about your goals and values,

although they are about the same issues. Spend some time seriously thinking about the answers to the Three Questions.

Question One: I want you to imagine that you are financially secure, that you have enough money to take care of your needs, now and in the future. The question is, how would you live your life? What would you do with the money? Would you change anything? Let yourself go. Don't hold back your dreams. Describe a life that is complete, that is richly yours.

Question Two: This time, you visit your doctor who tells you that you have five to 10 years left to live. The good part is that you won't ever feel sick. The bad news is that you will have no notice of the moment of your death. What will you do in the time



ERIC TASHLEIN

you have remaining to live? Will you change your life, and how will you do it?

Question Three: This time, your doctor shocks you with the news that you have only one day left to live. Notice what feelings arise as you confront your very real mortality. Ask yourself: What dreams will be left unfulfilled? What do I wish I had finished or had been? What do I wish I had done? What did I miss?

If you are asking yourself what this has to do with saving and investing your money, think about it this way: If you and your advisor can learn what really drives you, this knowledge will also drive your financial plan and your retirement planning efforts. And if those two items are in sync – your inner self and your financial plan – then you're more likely to follow your plan, and

your plan is more likely to lead to satisfaction and fulfillment in your future.

Eric Tashlein is a Certified Financial Planner professional™ and founding Principal of Connecticut Capital Management Group, LLC, 2 Schooner Lane, Suite 1-12, in Milford. He can be reached at 203-877-1520 or through connecticutcapital.com. This is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as personalized investment advice or legal/tax advice. Please consult your advisor/attorney/tax advisor. Registered Representative, Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisor Representative, Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., A Registered Investment Advisor. Cambridge Investment Research Inc., and Connecticut Capital Management Group, LLC are not affiliated.



Profiles

Those Who Give:

Fifth Grader Is Experienced Volunteer

As the youngest child in the service-oriented Meade family, Joey Meade, known affectionately in the community as "Joey Nickels," follows the example set by his parents, Joe and Soledad, as well as his two older sisters, Isabela and Soledad. His commitment to not only volunteering but taking the lead with service is an inspiration to those around him.

The charismatic fifth grader first had the opportunity to gain volunteer experience at the age of 6 when he began to help his father with the Hoops for the Troops basketball clinic, a fundraiser benefitting United for the Troops. This organization provides care packages filled with necessities for deployed US service members.

"At first I cheered players on at the clinic, giving them support. But as I got to know basketball better, I could help out more," explained Meade.

As Meade got older, he decided to create his own initiative. He knew that one of his parents' friends, Tami Jackson, is the executive director of the Literacy Volunteers of Southern Connecticut, so he set out to learn more about that organization.

"They help people who live here learn English," said Meade, "and I realized how important that is."

Meade began his own fundraising initiative to collect bottles and cans, redeeming them for cash and donating a large portion of the proceeds to the Literacy Volunteers. That's how he got his nickname: most bottles and cans are worth five cents.

"I love it!" he said of the moniker.

He relies on word of mouth and social media to spread his message and encourages people to donate their bottles and cans to his cause. His Facebook page is facebook.com/jmeade711. It can also be found by searching for "Joey Nickels."

In addition to volunteering at Hoops for the Troops and running his own program, Meade has helped with car washes at his family's parish, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Milford, to raise funds to support



SHAILEEN LANDSBERG

the church's vibrant youth programming.

"I love volunteering with the youth group – everyone is willing to teach, and learn," he said.

Meade has also assisted the youth group in helping Christian Community Action, Inc. to create packages of ingredients to provide Thanksgiving meals to around 1,200 needy families.

Meade was eager to share his philosophy of volunteering.

"It can really keep you going, helps you become a hard worker and a better person.

It's about living the Golden Rule, and not just saying something kind but doing something that can make a difference," he said.



Joey "Nickels" Meade. Photo by Shaileen Kelly Landsberg.



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Senior Living

Insuring Your Future:

Medicare Enrollment – It Isn't Over Till It's Over

Tired of hearing all the ads on TV? Wish the mailbox wasn't so full of cards inviting you to a presentation? Are you being "stalked" on the internet by insurance carriers while shopping online?



TRISH PEARSON

If you thought that this would end by Dec. 7, you were wrong. This year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services created a new "shopping period" called the open enrollment period, not to be confused with the annual enrollment period that ended on Dec. 7.

What is OEP? It is the time when a Medicare beneficiary can make one change in their Medicare Advantage coverage. The OEP runs from Jan. 1 to March 31. During this time, you can switch Medicare

Advantage plans from one plan to another in the same company or to a different carrier, or switch to original Medicare and a supplemental and/or prescription drug plan.

When should you consider making a switch? First, you should consider it if something has changed in your medical or prescription needs or you didn't have time to consider other options and your plan automatically renewed. This is the opportunity to take a second look.

Unfortunately, this is also giving insurance carriers an opportunity to tempt you with their programs. During this period, salespeople are not allowed to market to you directly, but you will probably receive

many "educational pieces" citing such offers as "New Haven County residents are being offered Medicare Advantage plans" and "time sensitive material."

If you are happy with the plan you are in for 2019, put all such mail in the recycle bin. Just as with the annual enrollment period, it is wise to get advice from a professional who can help you decide if a switch to another plan is warranted. The plans that are being offered are the same plans that were available during the annual enrollment period.

If you do decide to switch, remember that any deductible will begin the month your new plan is effective and any deductible that was applied to your old plan will not count toward the new amount. Also, check to make sure your doctors accept the plan and that prescriptions are covered and will cost the same or less in the new plan.

Finally, a note about the "added benefits" that many plans are offering this year: Most Medicare Advantage plans now include Silver Sneakers, and the number of gyms in the greater New Haven area have increased as well. There is no excuse for not getting in shape. Many plans are also offering dental, eye wear and hearing aid benefits. Make sure you know how to collect on those benefits. Some require that you see a specific provider and some are on a reimbursement basis. If you are not sure how to collect the benefits, call the member services number on the back of your card or call your agent and they should be able to assist you.

Here's to a happy and healthy 2019.

Trish Pearson is a licensed independent insurance agent and certified long term care specialist. Contact her at 203-640-5969 or trishpearson281@gmail.com.

Retired and Rejuvenated:

Paying It Forward And Giving Back

I'm not sure about you, but I often feel inadequate and frustrated at not being able to influence solutions to the world's problems. Yes, we can use our voice in voting booths and in conversations with our friends, neighbors, elected officials, people who style our hair or do our nails, deliver our newspapers or cut our lawns. But it never seems enough to make a difference. It is overwhelming



JOANNE BYRNE

to think of positively changing the world we live in.

But perhaps we can think of simple ways that we can make a difference in smaller ways, by paying it forward or giving back. There are so many times in our lives when we have been the gracious recipients of someone's kindness. Let's think of ways we can pay those "mitzvahs" forward. Rather than living a series of strict tit-for-

tit transactions where you pay me and I pay you back, paying it forward can add a tremendous sense of meaning to our lives. It feels good to give to others, whether we get back or not.

We just celebrated Thanksgiving, a time of year when we concentrate on all for which we are grateful. The list is long, including our health, friends, families, teachers and all those who have – and continue to – positively influenced our lives. In December, we think about gift-giving and celebrations. A gift doesn't have to be something you wrap. It can be a gift of words, a gift of a gesture or a gift of a shared experience.

What will be our gift to others or to future generations this holiday season and into the new year? Perhaps we can give a gift to our environment by bringing our own bags to the grocery store, using recyclable water bottles and not buying so many products wrapped in polystyrene. Reading books from the library or buying used books helps to protect our forests. Turning off lights when we leave a room and wearing a sweater instead of turning the heat way up in our homes are other small ways to protect and preserve our environment. Advocating for better forms of transportation that will cut down on our use of fossil fuels can help.

How about sharing your love of literature by reading to your grandchildren or volunteering to read in a school? Hospices, hospitals and nursing homes are always

looking for volunteers to visit with those who are lonely or lack friendships. I have friends who visit a program for new unwed mothers once a week to hold the babies for a few hours while the mothers are out looking for jobs.

Perhaps we have a skill such as drawing, painting, gardening, sewing or quilting that we could teach to younger children so they, too, can grow up with a fulfilling hobby. Teaching a sport to a younger person is another way of giving back. We see far too many young people spending time on their cell phones and with video games. Giving them the gift of a new skill could be life-changing.

As we celebrate this holiday season, let's be aware of the many small ways we can pay it forward with simple gestures, such as a smile to those waiting in line at the grocery store, allowing an opening in traffic to let another person merge, opening a door for someone, baking cookies for a busy neighbor, saying "thank you" and "excuse me" when appropriate or sending a hand-written note when someone has done something for us. Pay it forward with free compliments. We can make a difference in our world if each of us does these simple things.

Joanne Byrne served as Senior Services Coordinator for the Town of Orange. She is now actively and happily retired. Email her at joannebyrne41@gmail.com to share your thoughts on retirement.

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News & Events

Orange Tree Lighting



Photo by Lexi Crocco



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Obituaries

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Sales Rise
 by Joseph Cole

Eye Care cont. on page 18

Home sale values in Orange are outpacing
 neighboring communities, according to

editor@theorangetimes.com

In 1958, Lung-chu Chen was considered one of the most remarkable young men in Taiwan and was believed destined for a place in General Chiang Kai-shek's exiled Republic of China (ROC) government. Chen's star shined so brightly that universities in America turned their eye toward him. He was offered a fellowship at Northwestern in 1960.

Very shortly, everything changed for Chen. "They once called me the most outstanding young man in the country," he said while sitting in the Case Memorial Library in Taiwan. In fairness, the Chinese and Taiwanese seemed to be having trouble with it as well.

Mainland China had for years, under the Communist People's Republic of China (PRC), been claiming that Taiwan was not the same. The ROC saw things differently. Neither much cared for diplomatic solutions of acknowledging the PRC's claim and generally cutting off direct diplomacy with Taiwan in favor of international stability. In many cases, such as the United States,

we're taking the time to move in and get everything set up," Dr. Peter Branden said. He will be one of several doctors working out of the 10,000 square foot space. He estimates between the group's rotating list of doctors and full-time support staff that the location

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2016 TOP 100 AGENCY HomeCare Elite

Full obituaries and pictures (if provided) of the deceased are on our website at www.theorangetimes.com and are published at no cost to residents of Milford and Orange.

- George Pericles Anastasion**, 94, of Orange passed away on Nov. 20, 2018.
- Antoinette Mattioli Blazek**, 98, of Milford, passed away peacefully at her home on December 3, 2018.
- Lois Berndtson Boxwell**, 92, of Milford, died December 1, 2018.
- Eileen E. Borys**, 91, of Milford, passed away on November 19, 2018.
- Carolina M. Braeu**, age 87, of Milford, died on Wednesday, December 5th, 2018.
- Donald A. Brown**, age 89, resident of Orange, passed away peacefully, on Thursday, November 29, 2018.
- Kenneth A. Burton**, 73, of Milford, entered into eternal life peacefully on Wednesday, November 21, 2018.
- Raffaelina Centore**, age 85, of Milford passed away on November 29, 2018.
- Helen M. Conley**, 79, of Milford, entered into the arms of our Lord on November 19, 2018.
- Augusto "Gus" Correia, Sr.**, 82, of Milford, passed away on November 28, 2018.
- DaMary Luz (Montes) Hurley**, age 66, of Milford, passed away on Saturday, November 24, 2018.
- Joseph H. Kasperek, Jr.**, 89, formerly of Milford, CT, passed away peacefully on November 17, 2018.
- Flora Lloyd Main**, age 96, of Milford, passed away on November 30, 2018.
- Joe Metcalfe**, 80, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 18, 2018.
- Andrew V. Pace** was born December 6, 1944 in Waterbury, CT.
- Vincent J. Pisano, Jr.**, age 66, of Orange passed away suddenly on November 25, 2018.
- Mrs. Elaine M. Rohrig (Urbanowicz)**, 81, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Nov. 23, 2018.
- Anna Stashenko**, 96, of Milford, entered into eternal life peacefully on Sunday, November 25, 2018.
- Joann (Ioanna) Stavrides**, 71, fell asleep in the Lord on December 4, 2018.
- Joseph P. Straub**, age 75, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 25, 2018.
- Richard Eugene Strovers**, age 68, of Milford, passed away on November 25, 2018.
- Michael F. Torello**, of Steamboat Springs, CO, formally of Orange, CT passed away suddenly at home Nov. 29, 2018.

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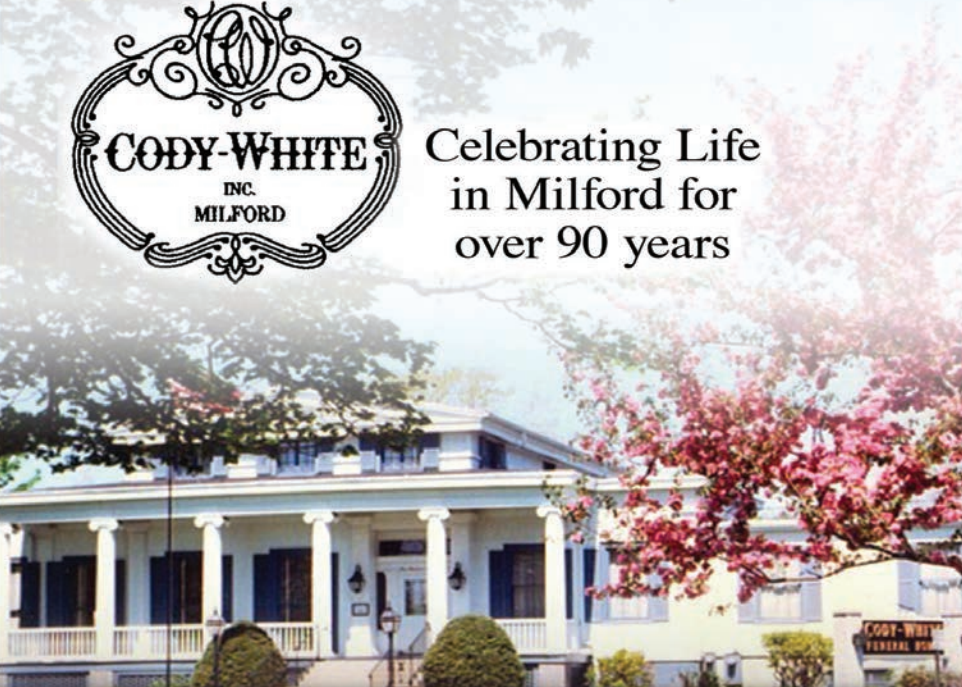


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