



Milford-Orange Times

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July 25, 2024

Sand Sculptures Take Shape At Walnut Beach



The Milford Arts Council held its 47th Annual Sand Sculpture Contest on July 13 at Walnut Beach in Milford. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Radio Flashback Plays In Orange



Bass player Paul Blomstrom of Radio Flashback played at the High Plains Community Center fairgrounds in Orange on July 10 for a musical showcase. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Milford Adopts Ordinance To Combat Street Takeovers

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Milford Board of Alderman at their July 1 meeting passed an ordinance aimed at combating so-called “street takeovers” by banning many of the vehicles used during such events from city streets.

The proposed ordinance was crafted by Mayor Tony Giannattasio with the support of Police Chief Kieth Mello.

Street takeovers are coordinated actions

in which dozens – sometimes hundreds – of people gather and perform tricks using recreational vehicles such as ATVs and dirt bikes. These congregations often shut down large sections of public roads, and the riders’ movements through the community can lead to dangerous interactions with other drivers.

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The Value Of Orange’s Open Spaces

By Isabel Birge

Fields of ferns thriving under the shade of a dense forest of oak, maple and pine trees. Mushrooms that have popped up overnight in the moist earth after a heavy rain. Lush beds of moss adorning rocks and boulders. A babbling brook cascading downhill toward the Housatonic River below the cliffs.

Orange’s Housatonic Overlook and Tucker’s Ridge is a far cry from the bustling traffic of the Boston Post Road. Located just off Wheeler’s Farm Road, Tucker’s Ridge is one of many parcels of land designated as “open space” in town. Orange contains over 1,000 acres of open space (the town consists of around 11,000 acres total) and around 18 miles of hiking

trails.

Conventional zoning assigns a residential, commercial or industrial designation to pieces of land and essentially serves as a blueprint for development. Open space zoning, on the other hand, prevents the development of these areas. In comparison to the planned sprawl of conventional zoning, setting aside land as open space acts to preserve the environmental integrity of these parcels while allowing people to enjoy the scenery and wildlife in them.

There are two main types of open space. “Active” open space refers to any open space that permits human activities such as fishing or athletics. Examples of active

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Barry Lee Cohen New Orange Chamber Of Commerce Executive Director



Cohen

The Orange Chamber of Commerce has appointed Barry Lee Cohen as its newest executive director. Cohen has been responsible for the day-to-day operations of the chamber since July 1, including management of programs, membership engagement, business advocacy and strategic marketing initiatives.

Ted Novicki, Orange Chamber of Commerce president and director of regulatory affairs for Avangrid, said, “On behalf of the entire Board, we are extremely excited to welcome Barry Lee Cohen to our team. I am confident that Barry will utilize his decades of marketing expertise and business success to build upon the foundation left behind by former Executive Director Liam Ohlmann.”

“I consider us incredibly lucky to have someone with Barry’s experience,

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Milford Chamber Awards ‘Best Of’ In Area

By Brandon T. Bisceglia


The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce honored businesses in the area with its annual “Best of the Milford Region” awards at a July 15 celebration at Stonebridge restaurant in Milford.

The annual awards are given out based on votes from members of the communities in which the chamber operates – primarily Milford and West Haven. They honor local businesses for their quality in a variety of categories, including eating and drinking,

services, health and fitness and shopping.


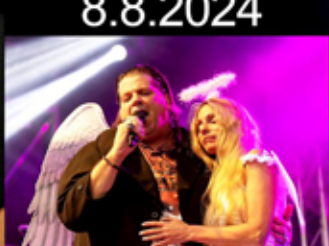

“Your achievements are a source of pride for the entire community,” the chamber wrote to businesses that were invited to the celebration. “By striving for excellence, you have not only enhanced your own business but have also contributed to the vibrant and dynamic environment that makes Milford and West

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ALL REVVED UP
The Ultimate Meatloaf Tribute!
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FREE CONCERT
AT THE
ORANGE FAIRGROUNDS
~ CONCERT STARTS AT 7:30 ~

Camper Discovers Artifact In Milford



The Milford Marine Institute has announced the discovery of an ancient lithic gouge at their annual archaeology/native culture camp in July. The gouge, which was used in making dugout canoes, was found by camper Quinn May on Friday, July 12, along the "River of Lost Name," the Marine Institute's name for the Indian or East River in Milford. Also found the same week by the campers was an 18th century complete pewter button, translucent hide scraper, complete felsite knife and several projectiles. Photo courtesy of the Milford Marine Institute.

Orange Foundation Distributes Community Grants

The Orange Foundation recently awarded \$35,000 in community grants that benefit a wide range of groups in Orange. These awards include the full funding of the refurbishing of the sidewalk between Town Hall and High Plains Community Center out of the O'Sullivan fund. Other grants went toward the Hop the Bus free transportation from HPCC to New Haven Symphony performances; the Afghan Ladies at the Orange Senior Center; additional work to be done at the new playground; support of the next performance of the Orange Players community theater performance; partial funding of the Amity Teen Center's used medical equipment distribution program; renovations being

performed by the Orange Historical Society; partial funding of the Fourth of July fireworks; renovations at Camp Cedarcrest; support of the Orange Community Women's next children's performance; and plaques for the Memorial Day Parade ceremony.

The Orange Foundation also awarded a total of \$28,000 in scholarships to seven Orange students: Joshua Kang, Luciana Dottori, Danielle D'Avignon, Anna Saccente, Caden Prokop, Lydia Bissenden and Caroline Tirollo. A scholarship also awarded \$20,000 to Michael Szewcyk of Derby.

The Orange Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 1976 to distribute scholarships or grants.

Kiwanis Holding Golf Tourney

The Kiwanis Club of Milford Connecticut Foundation is hosting its 32nd annual golf tournament on Sept. 9 at the Orange Hill Golf Club.

The tournament is the club's largest fundraiser of the year and honor past member Jim Wayne. It features 18 holes of golf with golf cart and goody-bag, quality golfer feat awards (for longest drive, closest to pin four holes, lowest score), foursome photos, quality raffle prizes, breakfast at 8 a.m., lunch at the 10th hole, a raw bar at 3 p.m. and a dinner/raffle/golfer awards at 4 p.m.

Interested golfers and sponsors may register online with a credit card at <https://birdease.com/27658> or by mailed player paper application from Milfordkiwanis.org with check at \$225.00 per golfer. The

registration must be received by Sept. 2 to tee-off. There are no exceptions.

The event begins at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.

Proceeds from the event will be used to fulfill the Kiwanis International mission of serving the children of the world with special emphasis on helping children lead healthy lives, attaining full educational potential plus life, leadership, sports skills; needy families with children and support of other community based programs with complementary goals.

For more information, contact Paul Wypychoski at 203-410-8822 or paulw@rapsplumbing.com, or Walter Sawicki at 203-710-3300 or waltersawicki@optonline.net.

Portia Wins Orange Dog Raffle



Portia, a 9-year-old German shepherd, owned by Rebecca Homiski, had her name drawn July 1 to win a basket full of dog treats and toys free of charge from the Orange town clerk's office. All Orange residents who obtained a dog license in June were automatically entered into the drawing. The clerk's office issued about 600 tags in June. Photo courtesy of the Orange Town Clerk.



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For Nature's Sake

Three Reasons Dogs Are Not Allowed On Beaches

Like many communities along Connecticut's shoreline, Milford does not allow dogs on its beaches, influenced at least partly by state rules for protecting public health and wildlife.

In discussions of dogs and beaches in Connecticut and elsewhere, at least themes stand out.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Disturbances

Milford's picturesque shoreline is also a living landscape. To protect that quality, beach associations and governments work to create spaces that are kind to wildlife, plants and water quality.

It doesn't matter if the dog is large or small, timid or gregarious. Whether shepherd or Shih Tzu, dogs are perceived by wildlife, according to research, as predators.

and cease their routine activities, which can also lead to nesting failures, habitat abandonment and more. Dogs also leave a scent behind, which causes wildlife to continue to avoid the area and change behavior long after the dog has gone.

Ken Ekins, director of the Connecticut Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point, described in a recent interview efforts at the Milford site to educate the public and monitor nesting areas of such threatened and endangered birds as piping plovers, least terns and oystercatchers.

"Milford Point last summer was the most successful nesting site for piping plovers in the state of Connecticut," he said.

When asked if he could give a specific example of dogs affecting birdlife, Elkins described an incident involving a single off-leash dog.

"Last year in early July, for a variety of reasons, our colony of least terns got up to around 300 adults," he said. "So we were getting excited about this colony and then a few weeks later there was a dog on the weekend that was off leash and went



PATRICIA HOUSER

through the string fencing area. This species is so sensitive to disturbance they all up and left. We had four babies fledge after having 300 adults here establishing nests."

Finally, people may not know that encouraging a dog to have fun by chasing birds is not harmless. On their website, the American Kennel Club explains: "It may be slightly entertaining to watch your dog chase a flock of birds on the beach. But these encounters can cause a serious stress response in native animals...Migrating shorebirds will use unnecessary energy to avoid dogs. These birds could better use this energy for scavenging or traveling."

Public Health

The problem of negligent or incomplete fecal waste removal on beaches where dogs are allowed creates an increased risk of zoonotic diseases. Organizations like the Centers for Disease Control verify the potential for organisms like hookworm, frequently present in dog waste, to infect humans.

Both state and local ordinances reflect public health concerns about dogs on beaches and playgrounds. Connecticut state

public health law related to swimming areas includes the rule that "Domestic animals shall be prohibited in the water and on the immediate shoreline associated with the water of a public swimming area." Milford's city ordinance #16-2 includes a prohibition against bringing dogs onto beaches and "any athletic facility" or "play area."

Public Safety and Well-Being

Other explanations for limiting the presence of dogs on beaches include the varying comfort levels that people have around dogs, plus noise and other disruptions and the chance of even one negligent dog owner whose animal creates problems.

Daniel Worrell, Jr., chairman of Milford's Park, Beach and Recreation Commission, emphasized that many of the decisions about public spaces he's seen over the years have evolved to prioritize safety.

"Safety issues are always the major consideration," he explained.

After all that, for those of us still planning a few beach walks where it is legal, usually in the off-season, and hopefully less impactful, the "Dogster" website offers a 2024 guide to top dog-friendly beaches in Connecticut.

Patricia Houser, PhD, AICP is a freelance writer and researcher focused on environment and sustainability.

Advertise In The Milford-Orange Times. Call us at 799-7500.

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY advertisement featuring multiple real estate listings with photos, agent portraits, and contact information. Listings include Orange 911 Rainbow Trail, Milford 295 Post Road, Orange 920 Green Circle, Milford 20 Berkeley Terrace, West Haven 90 Meloy Road, Ansonia 3 Dempsey Court, West Haven 270 Richmond Ave, Orange 149 New Haven Avenue, West Haven 330 Savin Avenue #9, Milford 130 Branca Court, Orange 15 Red Cedar Road #15, and West Haven 57 North Street.

On Our Land

Trees And The Dog Days Of Summer

During these muggy dog days of summer, my wife and I often go for an early evening walk around the track and buildings at Orange's High Plains Community Center. The somewhat higher elevation there and the limited number of trees around the fairgrounds and power lines mean we can usually count on a light breeze and lower humidity to take the edge off the afternoon heat.

We live adjacent to Turkey Hill Preserve in Orange, and our house is surrounded by mature 100-foot-tall oak and tulip trees. We enjoy the scenery and shade they provide, but they block most wind and host too many gnats and mosquitoes for a pleasant evening walk near the house. So it's off to the "Plains" if we want to exercise outside.

Dog days are a seasonal period characterized by the particularly hot and humid weather of mid-summer. The term itself perhaps brings to mind the image of a panting dog trying to cool off in summer's heat. Ancient Romans named them as this is the time in northern hemisphere summers when the star Sirius rises and sets in conjunction with the Sun. Sirius is the brightest feature in the Canis Major constellation, which translates as "greater dog."

As defined by these stars, the dog days this year extend from July 3 to Aug. 11.

This sub-season is connected with sometimes-unbearable heat and humidity, and sudden thunderstorms with hail that can wreak havoc to crops. In the absence of air conditioning, the weather induces lethargy and irritability in animals and people, and can be unhealthy as well as unpleasant. It is life threatening at times for some.

High humidity draws the most complaints during the dog days. Water vapor is a greenhouse gas; thus the outside air does not cool much overnight either. Indoor air conditioners work by both cooling and dehumidifying room air. However, one question that might come to mind is how all this humidity originates.

Some of it arrives in the regional air masses that sweep out of the Gulf of Mexico and flow across the eastern half of the US into the Northeast. The recent track of Hurricane Beryl illustrates this movement direction as it tapered off over land into a tropical storm and then a trop-



DAN
MAY

ical depression. However, much of the water vapor is released by trees and other plants during the height of the growing season.

The New Haven region receives about 44 inches of precipitation annually. Some of this runs off in streams and rivers, especially in heavier rainfall events, but most soaks into the soil and groundwater system. It is temporarily stored there until it is extracted by the roots of trees and other plants during their growing season.

About 30 inches of the total precipitation is pumped out of the ground by this process – called transpiration – and back into the atmosphere.

Seasonally, the ground acts as a large sponge, slowly accumulating water once the growing season ends in October and then releasing it via transpiration as the growing season resumes in April. Ponds, rivers and groundwater level are all at their highest in the spring and drop until photosynthesis and transpiration end with autumn's leaf falls.

The water moving through a tree is an es-

ential component of photosynthesis, but also needed to transport mineral nutrients from soil to leaves, and to help cool the leaves. On a hot summer day, each of the big oaks surrounding my home withdraws hundreds of gallons of water from the ground, in large part to stay cool. This adds lots of weight to big limbs up in the canopy, and it is not uncommon for mature healthy oaks to have large limbs break off on still, hot summer days from the added weight. I clearly recall the near tears of a colleague when we heard a violent crack and subsequent whump, only to view the aftermath of a major oak limb that had crashed onto the new car he had parked in its shade.

Forest floors are shady and cooler, but the amount of water coming out of the vegetation makes them more humid than open meadows or plains. Since most of our house lot is occupied by mature hardwood forest, on a still midsummer day it can feel like we are living and perspiring in the middle of a terrarium. It is no wonder we prefer to walk at High Plains and park the cars in the garage.

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Losing History For Development

By Marilyn May

Okay, condo developers: you win. But you are winning much too often?

Yes, it's true there's a lot more money in it for you in building multi-family condos on plots just barely big enough to meet zoning regulations, with just barely enough spaces for parked cars.

I am guessing that you have maps showing every inch of downtown Milford where another condo could just barely fit, especially if you buy up one or two adjacent properties.



Progress means this house on the Milford Green was destroyed. Photo by Marilyn May.

Remember to keep an eye on the obituary pages for promising opportunities to get someone to buy up properties for you. Someone who might just tell the heirs something like, "Oh yes, I love the house." Weeks later that new owner sells it to someone – or some entity.

Yes, developers have every right to buy land, build on it as desired, and make money before selling the whole thing to out-of-state buyers. But if developers cared and looked at that map of Milford for the big picture they would see many acres beyond downtown where they could build.

Tearing down 19th century houses is like pulling out teeth that just needed cleaning. We are making areas that don't "smile" anymore.

To all those who talk about how beautiful Milford once was and write on various Milford history sites about your happy memories of growing up here, have you ever noticed the large, elegant white house (recently an attorney's office) at 147 Broad St. on North Broadway? It's gone. It was marked with a neon orange X for demolition and turned into a pile of splinters.

Many years ago, I heard a developer say, "You have no idea what (we) have planned for Milford center."

Milford, please wake up.

Have you ever noticed this trick? In some cases, developers will seek approval, for example, for 45 condo units. Outraged neighbors speak against the plan, and the condo proposal gets tabled to a future meeting.



Beauty and history gone within a single day. Photo by Marilyn May.

Then the contrite, disappointed developers say they will go back and try their very best to redesign their plan, only to come back a month later with a plan for 30 units (which is really all they wanted in the first place). Neighbors do not realize that another vote by the board is going to be taken at the next meeting and – surprise – a 30-unit condo gets approved.

No one showed up at the second meeting to speak against this project, the thinking goes.

Does the zoning board represent the citizens, or someone else? Is it time to review and

strengthen zoning regulations? Do we care?

Progress does not mean plundering property.

It's like the old story: They put condos on the west side of town, and I said nothing. Then they put condos on the east side, and I said nothing. Then they wanted to put condos right beside my house, and they got approval to do it.

Marilyn May is a lifelong resident of Milford and is on the board of the Milford Historical Society.

Orange Gets Over \$100K From Six Months Of Pot Sales

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Orange will get \$108,035.67 in tax revenue from the first six months of operation of the town's only marijuana dispensary.

That total is more than double what the town made in the first three months after Southern Connecticut Wellness & Healing's RISE dispensary, which sells both medicinal and recreational marijuana, opened in late 2023.

Under state law, municipalities that host a dispensary within their borders are allowed to take 3 percent of all recreational sales. Medicinal sales are not taxed.

RISE's recreational sales during its first six months came to \$3,601,189.39, according to

the state Department of Revenue Services. The dispensary made above \$650,000 each month in March, April and May, more than in any of the three prior months.

According to state law, the taxes Orange receives can only be used for certain purposes, including neighborhood improvements; education or youth employment and training programs; services for those recently released from Department of Corrections custody, probation or parole; mental health and addiction services; youth service bureaus and municipal juvenile review boards; and civic engagement efforts.

Milford-Orange Times

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Taking Steps Toward Unity



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

While attending the BAPS Charities “Joy of Others” walk/run in Milford, I was moved by their participation, action and positive message. BAPS is a Hindu organization known worldwide for providing resources associated with education, public health, the environment and empowering communities.

What moved me most was the words they shared on the common core values of unity, service and love. When we unite for a central cause, we can serve those in need. And when we serve those in need, the end result will be love. Between these words and the large public support, it was a memorable event that brought together a diverse set of ideas, backgrounds and cultures for the centralized goal of supporting our neighbors locally and abroad.

One day prior, our country was shaken by the news out of Butler, Pennsylvania when a gunman shot our former president, injured many and killed former Fire Chief Corey Comperatore.

As a mother, elected official and citizen, I had no words to describe what I felt. However, one question remained: where can we turn to find the same values I just celebrated with BAPS?

The answer: you and me. As an American who isn't foreign to witnessing political violence in my lifetime, one underlying fact in our culture is that no matter what threat exists, we are programmed to persist. Whether it was a political figure being shot, or even experiencing the events on Sept. 11, 2001, Americans have successfully found ways to replace fear, confusion and anger with the essential values of unity, service and love.

Our method to overcoming this recent episode of political violence requires us to look beyond political ideology, background and culture to recognize the truth that we are all Americans. For instance, I was raised Roman Catholic in a predominantly strict Italian household, yet the words and actions of BAPS, a Hindu-based charity, were what soothed me in that moment of confusion and inspired me to share my thoughts today.

So where do we go from here? First, we need to collectively condemn all violence, political or not, that plagues our nation and falsely defines who we are. Second, it's our responsibility to comfort all those affected by this tragedy and respect our political process despite how much we may not like our options. Last, we must embody unity, service and love in our thoughts, words and actions, as demonstrated by the BAPS organization and countless other groups.

Republican or Democrat, political or apolitical, this historic event is a wakeup call to employ the same system described above: unite to serve and serve to love. As state representative of Milford and Orange, I understand that my role in national politics is limited, but I am hopeful that we can take steps towards restoring these critical values, starting right here at home, just by walking for a good cause.

Although the legislative session is adjourned, please never hesitate to contact me with your questions, ideas and concerns at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or at 860-240-8700. Don't forget to follow me on Facebook and subscribe to my brief email updates at RepKennedy.com.

Slow Going



STATE REP. (D-114)
MARY WELANDER

We have seen a major uptick in accidents, unsafe driving and reports of injured pedestrians, cyclists and riders over the past few years.

In 2020, when there were dramatically fewer drivers on the road, a National Safety Council report found a 42 percent increase in roadway fatalities in Connecticut. The number of deaths has risen each year since. According to a US Department of Transportation report, in 2019 there were 249 roadway fatalities; in 2022, that number jumped to 359. The number of serious injuries has also grown from 1,344 in 2019, to 1,505 in 2022. Preliminary data from 2023 and 2024 show a continued rise.

Speeding and distracted driving incidents have also increased. At the end of June Andrew DiDomenico, a state Department of Transportation employee, was struck and killed at 9 a.m. while working alongside I-91. The driver was later found to be under the influence. Andrew was only 26. Just a month earlier, Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier was struck and killed during a traffic stop on I-84. That driver was also found to be under the influence. Pelletier was 34, married with two young children.

In June alone, the Orange Police Department responded to 78 traffic accidents. Social media sites regularly have posts about roads being closed due to accidents, or about unsafe driving behavior or near misses.

One story that sticks with me was from a local mom sharing that her son had been riding his bike and been hit by a distracted driver. Thankfully the child was not seriously hurt, but it could have been tragic had a few factors, like speed, been different.

It's easy to get caught up in busy schedules and go faster than we should (I know I have), but let's look at the math of a popular route. On Dogwood Road in Orange, the distance from the traffic light at Route 34 to Target on the Post Road is roughly two miles of very winding, narrow street. That trip should take you about 4 minutes and 45 seconds if you obey the 25 mile-per-hour speed limit. At 45 miles per hour – almost double the limit but slower than many go – the trip becomes about three minutes. At 45 miles per hour with many blind curves, your reaction time is extremely limited. There are no sidewalks or shoulders, so kids riding bikes or people walking dogs are incredibly vulnerable.

Pedestrian impact is another important factor. AAA reported in 2011 that at 45 miles per hour the average risk of severe injury is 90 percent, and the average risk of death is close to 60 percent. This was based on impact by a car or light truck. Larger vehicles, like many of us drive today, would be even more deadly.

If we all take a moment to consider possible outcomes, we know that getting to wherever we are going a few seconds faster just isn't worth it. Too many families in Connecticut have already found this out.

We all use these roads, and we need to share the responsibility of keeping them safe. Let's all slow down.

Opinion & Editorial Manufacturing Making A Workplace Comeback

By Jean Arnold-Barry and Bobbi Brown

Chances are if you're of a certain age, you or your parents were part of the majority in Connecticut who worked in manufacturing. In fact, manufacturing drove the local economy and supported family progress and life throughout the state during the First and Second World Wars. Connecticut manufacturers armed US and allied forces.

Connecticut manufacturers continue to lead in the areas of aerospace, sustainable energy and production innovation. The world continues to depend on Sikorsky Aircraft, Pratt & Whitney and Stanley Black and Decker.

At the same time, high school graduates are finding the high costs of college unattainable, reaching an average cost of \$38,270 per student per year, according to the Education Data Initiative. According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center in November 2023, 49 percent of respondents said it's less important to have a four-year college degree today to get a well-paying job than it was 20 years ago. Coupled with insurmountable student debt, young adults are looking for other career options that do not require a college degree.

We may be in the midst of a shift back to manufacturing in Connecticut. The percentage of manufacturing jobs in the state outpaces the national average, with about 10 percent of the workforce working in manufacturing, compared to the national average of 8.4 percent, according to the Connecticut Department of Labor. Opportunities for manufacturing jobs far outweigh available workers. Supply and demand dictates that an average salary of \$82,000 per year is better than what workers are making in retail and many other popular industries.

For Treasure Nadwairski, the shift to a career in manufacturing was a stark contrast to her previous careers in massage therapy, sales and real estate. After the move to remote work in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she found it difficult to sell properties. Her son, who has worked in manufacturing for years, told his mother that she should try making a career switch to the manufacturing industry. At almost 60 years old, she wasn't sure she could do it.

In the recent past students were guided away from manufacturing because parents wanted cleaner, more professional opportunities that a college education afforded. But more and more college graduates are disappointed with the available jobs and wages available to them. As many end up living with their parents for more years than they expected while paying off thousands of dollars in student debt, delaying the ability to start their independent lives, the stigma of manufacturing is wavering in the eyes of parents and future workers.

These new manufacturing opportunities look more enticing to handy people looking for jobs that have a better return on training investment, or even to the college engineering graduate. To feed this new movement for young students and people looking to switch careers, many new accessible paths for these manufacturing pioneers have been created out of necessity. Enrollment in vocational-focused

community colleges rose 16 percent last year to its highest level since the National Student Clearinghouse started tracking this data in 2018.

While Nadwairski was looking for programs to gain the necessary training for her career switch, she came across the Skill Up for Manufacturing Program, a five-to-seven-week course preparing workers for entry level jobs in manufacturing, run by the South Central Connecticut Workforce Alliance. Nadwairski said the “program was perfect,” as it was easier for her to commit to a seven-week course rather than a seven-month course offered by other schools that she initially came across in her search.

Graduates of the Skill Up for Manufacturing program gain the introductory skills manufacturing employers are looking for, such as how to read blueprints, use calipers and micrometers and shop math. They also receive Six Sigma certification, an OSHA 10 safety card, and a cash stipend. The most ambitious participants are quickly placed with local companies upon completion of the program. The classes feature students with various backgrounds and age groups, from students like Nadwairski looking for a career switch to younger students looking to enter into the workforce for the first time. The collaborative nature of the class enables students to help one another as they learn new skills.

Nadwairski said she was a little intimidated at first, but the instructors made her and everyone else in the class feel comfortable and gain confidence in their skills. One of the first questions her first employer asked her was, “Are you familiar with blueprints?” Thanks to the program, Nadwairski could confidently say “yes.”

Three years after her graduation, she is now working in inspection at Pratt & Whitney.

“You can't go wrong going into manufacturing. When I see young people when I'm out and about, I think ‘What are you going to do with your life, look into your future.’ Manufacturing offers plenty of opportunity and job security,” she said.

The program is accepting applications for the next class starting on July 15 at Middlesex Community College and Vinal Technical High School in Middletown, which will offer two weeks of additional training in plastics. If not plastics, applicants can ask about other sessions in September or throughout 2025.

Students or parents looking to help their children find opportunities into real well-paying jobs can go to workforcealliance.biz/skillup/ or call 203-867-4030 x 227.

Manufacturing industry representatives believe that their industry provides the same opportunities to the grandchildren of the people who once used manufacturing jobs to support people, families and dreams of quality living and generational success.

Jean Arnold-Barry is the Skill Up Coordinator. Bobbi Brown is Director of Communications & Development for Workforce Alliance, a job training center in New Haven.

New Girl Scouts Troop Starting In Milford

A new Girl Scouts troop will be opening in Milford this fall. The new troop will be partnered with the boy troop under the title of Troop 1, which has a long history in Milford.

Jessica Zamachaj of Orange will be scoutmaster and said she is looking forward to the start of the troop. As a veteran educator and scoutmaster since 2020 she has experience in

leading youth.

There will be an open house on Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Margeret S. Egan Center, located at 35 Mathew St. in Milford. Visitors will be able to talk with Zamachaj, see how a troop works, engage in activities and ask questions.

Email Zamachajscoutmastergirltroop1@gmail.com with any questions.

Recycling Tip: Avoiding Food Waste

By Susan Wineland

The USDA Economic Research Service estimates that 30 to 40 percent of all food in the US gets thrown away. Wasted food isn't just a social or humanitarian concern – it's an environmental one as well. When we waste food, we also waste all the energy and water it takes to grow, harvest, transport and package it. And if food goes to the landfill and rots, it produces methane, a primary contributor to the formation of ground-level ozone, a hazardous air pollutant.

So how to avoid so much food waste? Check your pantry, refrigerator and freezer before shopping and buy only what you need. Cut up only as much of large items like melons and cabbage as you will use soon. Chopping increases the surface area that gets exposed to the air and lessens shelf life.

Note that "use by" and "best by" dates don't mean you have to throw items away. They simply show when the product will be at its peak of freshness. Many food items have a much longer shelf or refrigerator life. Hard cheese with a bit of mold is fine to eat

as long as you cut away about an inch around the spot. The same goes for firmer veggies like cabbage or bell peppers with small mold spots. Roasting wrinkled veggies like bell peppers and tomatoes is fine. Perk up wilted greens like lettuce by soaking them in ice water.

Repurpose foods whenever possible. Keep a bag of veggie leaves, stalks and stems of beets, carrots or celery in the freezer for broth and soup making. Shrimp shells and broth of cooked shellfish make delicious seafood stock. All these foods that might get tossed out can be easily and effectively repurposed.

Because berries can spoil quickly, store them in a covered dish with a layer of paper towel on the bottom. Don't wash berries before storing them in the fridge because the added moisture can encourage mold.

For those who want to have foods at the ready for weekday lunches and dinners, Melissa Clark, a columnist at New York Times Cooking and cookbook author, recommends spending time on weekends prepping food for healthy and easier weeknight meals. First wash all the salad and other greens (spinach,

kale, chard), spin dry, roll them into clean dish towels and store them (with the towel) in plastic or mesh produce bags in the fridge. They'll last at least a week, so you can turn them into salads with dressings. Wash and cut any fruits and vegetables for the coming week. Washing them not only helps remove dirt, bacteria and stubborn garden pests, but it also helps remove residual pesticides.

For quick cooking during the week, Clark recommends washing, cutting and storing any sturdy vegetables (asparagus, carrots, squash, zucchini, broccoli, cauliflower, mushrooms, radishes, turnips). Even alliums like scallions, leeks and onions will last in the fridge, sliced or diced, for three or four days. Just avoid pre-chopping avocados, potatoes, eggplant or tomatoes as they don't hold up as well. These prepped vegetables will be ready for simple dishes. Stock up on cooked rice, home cooked or canned beans, sauces, marinades, and salad dressings.

To clean fruits and vegetables, put two or more cups of cold water in a large bowl. Add a teaspoon of baking soda for every two cups of cold water. Place fragile berries like rasp-

berries and blackberries in a mesh strainer and then lower them into the bowl. Any other produce goes directly into the bowl. Swish the produce around in the water or push it down to make sure all sides are cleaned. Leave berries and veggies in the bowl for 20 minutes. Then empty the water and rinse. For firmer produce, you can scrub the surface with a soft-bristled brush.

If you still find that you have leftovers, consider a home compost pile or bin where all the veggies, fruits and berries can go. Or take any food scraps, including seafood, dairy products, shells and more to the Orange Transfer Station. Green compost bins are located at the top of the hill between the Goodwill trailer and the Bay State clothing and textiles collection bin.

No matter how you do it, compost. It's the best for all those food waste products that can be so beneficial to soil. It keeps waste out of landfills as well as reducing the tonnage of municipal solid waste, which taxpayers foot the bill for. Recycle and compost and you'll absolutely notice how much lighter your weekly trash will be.

Orange Board of Finance

State Finances Growing, But Competitiveness Needs Work

Connecticut has seen proven results within state finances over the past six years under the direction and leadership of Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont.

The governor's plan to put Connecticut on the path to fiscal sustainability has had bipartisan support from Democrats and Republicans within the state legislature, which has led to paying down nearly \$8 billion in unfunded pension liabilities and will save taxpayers nearly \$700 million per year over the next 25 years. This has happened simultaneously while growing Connecticut's budget reserve to 15 percent this past year. It is expected to grow even further to 18 percent by next year.

The latest projections on the fiscal year ending 2024 is for continued growth, with revenues outperforming expenditures, leading to a projected \$225 million surplus. The 2025 enacted budget is 3.5 percent higher than the 2024 appropriations. However, there were updates on the 2025 spending requirement for which reflect less than a 1 percent increase in appropriations over the original adopted budget. The 1 percent increase would represent a modest \$199.5 million net

increase in appropriations.

Some of the key components of the current services growth appropriation growth are \$106.8 million in Medicare spending; \$81.2 million in pension contributions; and \$15 million for operational costs within the Department of Corrections.

Although Connecticut has seen great results on the financials, the greatest challenge the state faces is its competitiveness in attracting new businesses and residents based on the current tax burden. The state is near the bottom when compared with others across the country. The Tax Foundation, a Washington, DC-based think tank, ranked Connecticut 47th overall on an index that analyzes how well states fare against each other in four major tax categories: the corporate tax, the individual income tax, the sales taxes and property taxes.

Only California, New York and New Jersey ranked lower. Connecticut's northern neighbor, Massachusetts, didn't fare much better, coming in at 46th.



KEVIN MCNABOLA

Property taxes and the individual income tax are the most problematic for Connecticut, and have been discussed at length by the state legislature. The individual income tax comes in at 46th among all states, while property taxes are ranked dead last.

Connecticut took action to reduce the individual income tax last year for the first time since the 1990s. The state recently implemented tax cuts, adjusting the tax rates to 3 percent on the first \$10,000 earned by single filers. The first \$20,000 by joint filers dropped to 2 percent.

Connecticut has started to address the lowest brackets, which led to a decrease on the tax burden for low-income individuals. However, the challenge going forward is how to retain current high-income individuals since there has been a mass migration to states with lower tax burdens.

Despite Connecticut's high tax burden, it is often viewed as attractive place to live because of its quality of life, good schools and outdoor recreation. Certainly taxes may not

be the most important factor for all people, especially those who are relatively low-income individuals or even medium-income households. But the high-income individual are relocating to low-income-tax states. When you factor in taxes at both the state and local levels, Connecticut ranks second in the country. The median value for the state-local tax burden is 10.2 percent nationwide and the average is 11.6 percent. Connecticut is at 15.4 percent, just slightly better than New York's 15.9 percent.

One bright spot in Connecticut's tax structure is its sales tax, which ranked in the middle of all states, at 23rd. The sales tax is 6.35 percent on most retail sales. I am sure the governor and legislature will continue to consider future options in addressing Connecticut's high tax burden in the next session.

Kevin McNabola is the chief financial officer for the city of Meriden and a member of the Orange Board of Finance.

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The Garden Spot

Creating A New Perennial Border

A garden club member recently asked me to recommend some native perennial plants that would do well on her sloped, woodland border. She wants to eliminate the pachysandra that's growing there and replace it with natives.

I love this question, since it leads us to what I call the first principle of successful gardening: "right plant in the right place."

The first issue is how to eliminate pachysandra, a non-native. And why? It does have some good characteristics since it is deer resistant, low growing for erosion protection and grows in poor soil and deep shade. It's also invasive and aggressive, overtaking native plants and supporting very few pollinators. Unfortunately, since it spreads via underground roots it's difficult to eliminate, so you should be prepared to hand dig it out.

Dispose of the plants and roots properly. Don't put them in your compost pile unless you want a new bed of invasives. You'll need to do close monitoring of the area to be sure new plants don't pop up from a missed root or two.

Now onto right plant for the right place. We need to think about light, water and soil requirements. Since this is for a woodland border, we know that full sun plants will not do well – we need to look for partial and full shade lovers. The new plants will be on a sloped area, and because water falling on sloped land runs off more quickly and infiltrates less, we will want plants that can handle a bit of "dry feet." We also



PAT DRAY

know that this woodland border has had leaf debris falling and decomposing for many years, so that we have some compost rich soil which may be slightly acidic. You can do a quick soil test for pH to confirm this.

Now we know that we want a partial/full shade native perennial that doesn't require too much water and likes rich, slightly acidic soil. Let the search begin.

Two readily available perennials that would do well in this woodland border are Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) and columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). The ferns have beautiful, deer resistant foliage that will be attractive all year, providing some winter interest. Just

keep an eye on the weather, and if it's been a week without any rain and they look a little droopy you'll need to water them. The columbine is a very versatile wildflower that will thrive in the shade and likes well drained soil like that on a slope. It produces small gold and red flowers to give a little pop of color in the border.

If you have a plant question, stop by the Master Gardener Plant Clinics in Milford on Saturday mornings between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (except for Aug. 17) at Wasson Field, or Thursday afternoons between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Walnut Beach Rotary Pavilion.

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

Your Health

Tips For Staying Cool During Extreme Heat

As global temperatures continue to rise, extreme heat waves are becoming more common. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can lead to serious health risks, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke. It's crucial to take measures to stay cool and safe during these periods of intense heat.

Here are some practical tips to help you beat the heat:

It is important to stay hydrated. Water is your best friend during a heat wave. Avoid beverages that can dehydrate you, such as alcohol, caffeine and sugary drinks. It is also important to adjust your diet. Focus on light, hydrating foods such as fruits and vegetables. Avoid heavy, hot meals that can

increase your body's internal heat.

By wearing appropriate clothing that is lightweight, loose-fitting and light-colored you can help keep you cool by allowing your body to breathe and reflect, rather than absorb, the sun's rays. When outdoors, apply sunscreen and wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.

Limit your outdoor activities, especially during the hottest parts of the day, typically between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you need to be outside, seek shaded areas or create your own shade with umbrellas or canopies.

During the heatwave don't forget to check



DR. AMIR MOHAMMAD

on your elderly friends, relatives, neighbors, young children and people with chronic illnesses, as they are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses.

It is important to learn and recognize the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea and headache. Heat stroke is more severe and can include confusion, high body temperature and unconsciousness. Seek medical attention immediately if you or someone else shows signs of heat stroke.

Stay updated on the weather forecast and heat alerts in your area. Follow advice from local authorities on how to stay safe during heat waves. Staying cool during extreme heat is essential for your health and well-being. By taking these precautions and being mindful of your activities, you can reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses and enjoy the summer safely.

Remember, prevention is key, so plan and stay prepared to beat the heat.

Dr. Amir Mohammad is the Director of Public Health for the town of Orange.



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Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Compensation For Realtors

The distinguished and unique profession of real estate is an intricate and ever-changing process. The relationship between the realtor and the client is now highlighting representation compensation, and this is an opportunity to remind the community of the work that is done to complete a real estate transaction. Exceptional real estate agents make market knowledge part of their daily lifestyle. How many professions can say that?



BARBARA LEHRER

Soon the compensation for buyer agents will not be on the multiple listing service. The fee will become an addendum to the contract in most cases. In other words, each transaction will need to negotiate the cost to have representation. Commissions were always negotiated, though there was transparency lacking in some parts of the country. We have had a buyer broker representation obligation in Connecticut since 1997. A buyer has been obligated to pay for his or her agent.

Until now, buyer agent compensation was stated on the marketing information from each individual listing on the multiple listing service. Now the buyer views a home, creates an offer with a complete package of costs needed. Here is where your agent creates the process to move forward with each individual contract. This fee could be paid through the transaction from the seller's realtor. In this case the buyers give the sellers the money and the sellers accept a price knowing the real estate fee and how they will be paying it out.

This will not be the case in all deals moving forward. Each individual sale will require contract transparency up front.

In a market where prices are high and rates are high, a seller can incentivize a buyer by offering to continue to cover the buyer broker commission. Removing that incentive shrinks the buyer pool by making the seller's home more expensive.

A buyer may choose to offer less when the seller's incentives are not offered.

There have always been "for sale by owners" and discount brokers where we, as realtors, created the individual transaction to satisfy both buyer and seller. We rise to the top as professional agents assisting creative ways to help clients successfully buy or sell. Realtors can no longer bring buyers into a home without a written agreement regarding representation, except for open houses, where it must clearly be stated that the host agent works for the seller. There are a variety of buyer broker commission forms available for compensation which serve to assure both agent and client that there will be no surprises.

Hiring a professional can net a seller more. Hasn't that always been the goal? Contact a professional realtor as a buyer or seller to see how to structure a contract that helps you reach your goal of buying or selling.

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

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Here's To Your Health

A Little Self-Care Goes A Long Way

I wrote a column a while back about the back injury I suffered and what I was doing to build myself back from "broken." I am a "why" person. I need to know "why" to truly digest things and to help things make sense to me. Perhaps that's why I was never really good at math. The answer was always just because that's the way it is.

In desperation to discover the why of how this injury occurred without a fall, without an accident and being a fit and healthy person, I discovered the one and only legitimate answer. Lack of self-care. Our grandson was in the ICU for eight weeks, during six of which he was on a ventilator. We were taking care of his sister while he was there. That's what families do. We love each other so we dive in, support each other and get what needs to be done.

Of course, overuse was a part of it, because taking care of a 2-year-old can wear one down. However, I was still not being intentional about self-care. By the grace of God and some amazing doctors, our grand-

son came home after eight long weeks. The first time I picked him up and was able to hold and kiss him was an emotional moment.

Before you know it, life starts to move on. A week later I wound up "broken." I feel like most women go through stress by pushing through. Then all of a sudden, when we're not stressed anymore, we realize how stressed we actually were.

Stress does horrible things to our bodies. It causes major inflammation, wrecks our sleep, adds weight to our bodies and so much more. Yet we just accept it rather than doing something intentional about it.

A couple months ago I got invited to a Facebook group encouraging one another to get in 10,000 steps a day. I joined this group at the later end of my recovery and found it to be fun, supportive, motivating and helpful in accepting the days I just didn't make the



MICHELE TENNEY

10,000 steps.

Last week a questionnaire went out to the group asking what our favorite nine types of rest are. Time away, connection to art and nature, solitude to recharge...however, number six stumped me – a break from responsibility. I'm thinking "oh no, I could never do that." So I mentioned I would feel guilty.

I got a response that gave me the "why." I don't need to feel guilty prioritizing myself when possible.

For example, if my family is out, I can lay down and read rather than do the dishes or housework. Yes, sometimes I do that. But perhaps maybe not enough. I do prioritize my workouts as me time, and that falls under the break from responsibility category too.

Self-care is crucial to our mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health. I have now determined to take at least 15 minutes per day to do some self-care. Breathing

exercises, praying, listening to the birds or crickets, something. I know many feel like massage therapy is a luxury or a treat, but I would encourage you to invest in it. Your body is an investment. Why save for retirement if you're not going to be well enough to enjoy it?

We all have a story. We all have stress. We all are going through something. So reach out, take coffee time with a friend, a buddy walk on the beach, start a gratitude journal. Let's support one another. Here's to your health. You got this. I believe in you and support you.

Michele Tenney is a Certified Personal Trainer and Nutritionist & Wellness Coach. She is a member of the Orange Board of Health. Her website is www.elevatePTW.com. She can be reached at 203-668-2969 or email at Hmgbrd3@gmail.com.

Travel Matters

36 Hours In Nashville

Nashville is one of those places that I always wanted to visit. We just had the opportunity to attend a travel industry conference in "Music City," and I was not disappointed by what I discovered about this number one bachelorette party destination.

Nashville's Broadway is the counterpart to New Orleans' Bourbon Street, just as fun and maybe even more musical. For starters, there are dozens of country music stars who own their own bar/restaurant/entertainment venues on the main drag downtown. Dolly Parton, Blake Shelton, Miranda Lambert, Jason Aldean and even Justin Timberlake (they have more than just country music here) are a few of the celebrities with two- and three-story venues with rooftop bars and live bands playing around the clock.

Printers Alley is the district for jazz and blues. We enjoyed the Sinatra Club, where a very talented young gentleman croons

Old Blue Eyes' ballads into a 1940s-style microphone.

Breakfast venues like The Frothy Monkey Coffeehouse provide yummy Southern fare like gouda cheese grits with your eggs and coffee – including vegan dishes – in a hip space. Excellent restaurants are plentiful, both on Broadway and off. We had dinner at Ella's by Christian Petroni, located in the Hyatt Centric, and another delicious dinner at Southern Steak & Oyster.

We enjoyed taking the backstage tour of Grand Ole Opry and discovered that there are 50 women of country music out of a total of 238 members since the inception of this historic radio show and performance space back in 1925. We posed for our moment of fame by the microphone on the famous "cir-



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

cle" that was moved from the Ryman to the present day Grand Old Opry in 1974.

The Country Music Hall of Fame has a museum that features many interesting artifacts for music fans, including Gibson guitars owned by country music luminaries. The hall has been called the "Smithsonian of Country Music." The Ryman Auditorium is the original home of the Grand Ole Opry and ranks as one of the best performance halls in the world,

so it's a great idea to catch a show at either the Ryman or the Grand Old Opry when in town.

We stayed at the Sheraton Grand, a good central location only five blocks from Broadway. Skye, a live music venue on the 28th floor, offers the best view of Nashville in

town. Around the corner from there was the Hermitage Hotel, where Tennessee cast the deciding ballot for women's suffrage. The Bobby Hotel is the perfect place to stay in the Printers Alley district.

A bit outside of Nashville is Belle Meade, a historic mansion built in 1807 with 30 acres of grounds and a winery that offers wine tastings and special events. Cheekwood Estate and Gardens, with a 55-acre botanical garden, is located only eight miles from downtown Nashville.

A three-day visit to Nashville offers both music and a bit of history.

Karen Quinn-Panzer is the owner of Dream Vacations Quinn Panzer Travel. She can be reached at kpanzer@dreamvacations.com or 203-647-3107.

Insuring Your Future

The Insurance Plight Of The Small Business Owner

The backbone of Connecticut's business economy is the small employer. Benefits are important in attracting quality employees. Those with 30 or fewer employees have limited options when it comes to providing health insurance to their employees. Many insurance carriers have opted not to offer products in the small group market, and those who do have limited and expensive plans with high deductibles.

The minimum cost share between the employer and employee is 50 percent, which only includes the employee and not dependents. Although the choices are limited, there

is an option that some companies find attractive: "level funded plans."

Level funded plans are no Affordable Care Act compliant, which means they can consider medical history and conditions as well as age in determining insurability and premium. They also do not cover all services, such as infertility. The difference between these plans and traditional group plans is that the premium includes an amount that is "set aside" to



TRISH PEARSON

cover claims up to a specific amount. The other portion goes to covering losses that may occur above the expected estimated costs.

The benefit of this type of plan is that the premiums are often lower, as everyone pays the same premium regardless of age and not all care is subject to the deductible. This plan works well in companies where the employees are generally healthy but may skew to the older side. When the

total cost is shared among the enrolling employees, the cost per person is less.

These plans were initially met with skepticism in the insurance industry. However, it has worked out well in some cases. The risk is that if the group has some unexpected health events resulting in higher than estimated costs, the renewal premium will increase dramatically. If, on the other hand, the usage is less than expected, the employer will receive a rebate against the renewal premium.

There are a limited number of companies in Connecticut that offer this type of plan, but it is worth investigating to see if it might be a good fit. Consult with a broker to find out more.

An alternative option is to have individual employees purchase plans through the Access Health CT, the health exchange. The employer can reimburse them for a certain amount of the premium. There are a few plans available on the exchange, and the employer can choose one plan or offer a few choices. Depending on household income, the employee can sometimes qualify for an advanced premium tax credit which will reduce their individual premium. The tax credit is based on the household income, which includes all household members, not just the employee.

This approach is best if there are fewer than five employees who will enroll. There are also group plans offered on the exchange, but depending on the income of all employees the employer might be eligible for a tax credit which is applied at the end of the tax year. If cash flow is an issue, this might not be the best option as the total premium has to be paid over the course of the year before any credit.

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

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Party Alignment Is About Values

Election season comes about every year. In odd years we focus on local town positions up for election. In even years, we have state and national elections. All members of the US House of Representatives (Rosa DeLauro, for example) are up for election every two years, as are our state senators and state representatives. Our state delegation (governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer and comptroller) are also up every four years, just like the president. US Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy are elected every six years, but both are never up for reelection the same year.

In many cases, we have a two-party system – Democrats and Republicans. There are other parties such as the Independent Party, Working Families Party and Libertarian Party. Someone who doesn't register with a particular party is unaffiliated (not independent, as that is a party).

When we register with a party, we are

aligning ourselves with the same ideals as that party. When you go to vote, you are voting for a person, but you are also voting for your ideals and which team best aligns with your ideals, not just the person. It is a rare situation that someone would agree 100 percent with a candidate running for office. We rarely agree 100 percent of the time with family, never mind candidates.

Another way to look at elections is whose team most aligns with your beliefs and morals. From workers' rights to protecting the environment, equal pay to fighting special interests, Democrats believe we can and should make life better for families across our nation. We fight for fairness, justice and equality for all by standing up for all middle-class Americans and those struggling to get there.

There is always a lot of rhetoric during



JODY DIETCH

elections, yet accurate information is out there if you want it. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation. I encourage you to do your own research. Fact-check the information you are reading or hearing. Don't rely on what your acquaintances post on social media. There are many nonpartisan news sources. The five most unbiased news sources, as rated by PureVPN, are: 1. The Associated Press; 2. Reuters; 3. NPR; 4. BBC; and 5. PBS New-

sHour.

As we move beyond the rhetoric, listen to what the two parties are offering for your future and your family's future. What they say, or don't say, is telling. Whose team and ideals most align with what you want to see for the future? No one works in a vacuum, and the team around the candidates is as important as the candidate themselves.

The Orange Democratic Town Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at High Plains Community Center. If you are interested in joining us, reach out to ODTCC Chair Jody Dietch at JLDOrange@yahoo.com.

This column was written prior to the shooting of former president Donald Trump. There is no place for violence in politics or anywhere else in our society. We denounce the shooting at the Trump rally and offer our thoughts and prayers for the dead and injured. We must remember, as President Joe Biden said, "while we may disagree, we are not enemies. We're neighbors. We're friends, coworkers, citizens. And, most importantly, we are fellow Americans. And we must stand together."

Jody Dietch is the chair of the Orange Democratic Town Committee.

Ordinance

(Continued From 1)

"This isn't a panacea. Nothing is," Mello told the board. "I think it has more of a deterrent value than anything else. Hopefully people will think twice about coming to Milford. Right now they're not. We have seven exits on and off of the I-95 corridor. We have Route 1. We have a lot of shopping – we have a lot of parking lots. We're dealing with this every Saturday."

Mello said the department has had some success in arresting people by identifying them via video, but that those arrests mostly come after the fact.

The ordinance will make it illegal for ATVs, dirt bikes, minibikes, mini cycles

and a number of other "off-road" vehicles to be used on any Milford street or public property in the city. The users may be subject to a \$2,000 fine. The ordinance also allows police to confiscate the vehicle until the fine is paid.

The aldermen were concerned with making it clear that certain vehicles, such as e-bikes, are not subject to the ban – something that several residents had also brought up during the public hearing portion of the meeting. Alderwoman Jennifer Federico asked that e-bikes be explicitly exempted in the ordinance.

"Everyone involved in this has said this does not include e-bikes," she said, "and yet we have some law-abiding, nervous residents who are reaching out and saying,

'I want to make sure that I can ride my e-bike to work,' because for some people that's how they get around. And they're looking at this statute, and they're getting nervous, and they're saying, 'I don't know if I can.' So if the intention is to not include e-bikes in this ordinance, then I don't see any reason not to call it out."

Although several aldermen disagreed with singling e-bikes out for an exemption, the majority voted to add the clarifying language. Mello also noted that an e-bike found to have been involved in a street takeover could still be subject to enforcement.

One section of the ordinance was removed by the board that would have required that gas stations post signage

saying that unregistered vehicles could not be driven up to the pumps to be gassed.

"I think it might be a little dangerous to put the onus on a gas station attendant to confront somebody who shouldn't be gassing," alderman Matt Arciuolo said. "And most gas stations in Milford are self-serve, so they'll have to patrol that."

Mello said that he thought the signage would be a useful deterrent, but that he agreed gas station workers shouldn't be putting themselves in harm's way. He also conceded that the police department would be unlikely to enforce the rule unless a particular gas station was found to be encouraging people to bring their banned vehicles to them. He added that he was not aware of any such stations in the city.

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Orange Republican Town Committee

Political Opponents Are People, Too

For this issue’s column, I initially planned to delve into the history of the Fourth of July and its significance for Republicans. However, the shocking events of July 13 have necessitated a change in focus.

Donald John Trump is a name recognized worldwide. He is a figure who evokes strong emotions, ranging from fervent support and admiration to intense frustration and anger. My relationship with Trump is different from most people’s. Beyond my involvement in local and state politics, I have come to know Trump personally since he left the White House in 2021 and serve on his finance committee for his 2024 presidential campaign.

Given this personal connection, you can imagine the sheer terror and fear I felt when I witnessed the gunshots aimed at the former president on that Saturday. Watching him drop to the floor, rise with blood on his face, and be quickly ushered off the stage, not knowing whether he was gravely injured, was one of the most harrowing experiences of my life. By the grace of God he is recovering, with only a bandage on his ear and a renewed lease on life. This incident has

prompted profound reflection.

It is evident to everyone across the political spectrum that the rhetoric in this country has become dangerously polarizing. Both Democrats and Republicans, including leaders like Joe Biden and Donald Trump, bear responsibility for this divisive climate. The bipartisan call for unity following this assassination attempt is encouraging, but history suggests that as elections approach, the divisive rhetoric will likely return.

To genuinely reduce the tension in our political discourse, the change must begin at the grassroots level.

Local politics is the best place to start addressing the polarization in American politics because our political opponents are also our neighbors. Several of my friends in town are Democrats. While we may disagree on some issues, our friendships are never at risk because of our political preferences.

Orange has always been a model of political cooperation, demonstrating that we can



DOMINICK LOMBARDI

transcend party lines to achieve common goals. Since joining the Republican Town Committee, we have maintained a standard of decorum and respect for our Democratic counterparts.

One of my favorite events was a unity kickball game between the RTC and the DTC to raise money for the food bank. Despite being on different teams, we competed hard, had fun, supported a great cause and ended the game with handshakes and a group photo. This spirit of cooperation is what American politics should be about, not the extreme partisanship that dominates the news cycles. (The media shares much of the blame for our current divisions.)

As the election season approaches, it appears we are heading for a rematch of the deeply divided 2020 election. I encourage everyone, whether Republican, Democrat or unaffiliated to support your preferred candidate proudly and patriotically – as I intend to do. In America, we have the unique privilege

of voicing our support or opposition to our candidates. However, we must remember that those on the other side are people too. They are spouses, parents and grandparents. We can disagree passionately, but fear-mongering and demonizing opponents as “threats to democracy” or “dictators” is not the way to persuade the American public.

As a political leader, I understand that words have consequences. We must debate the issues vigorously but show the public that we can disagree without resorting to the kind of violence we saw recently directed at Trump.

In this spirit, I leave you with a quote from Democratic former President John F. Kennedy, who was also a victim of political violence: “Let us not seek the Republican answer, or the Democrat answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.”

Dominick Lombardi is the chair of the Orange Republican Town Committee.

Best Of

(Continued From 1)

Haven such wonderful places to live and work.”

The Milford-Orange Times was among the awardees, winning first place in the newspaper category.

The overall top vote getter this year was physical rehabilitation company YouTherapy, which won in the physical therapy subcategory and received 4,492 votes overall.

Other notable winners who received

special mention during the celebration included Bin 100 restaurant in the eating and drinking category; Bohemian High in the gift shop category; Renee & Associates in the real estate agent category; and Chaz and AJ of WPLR in the local radio personality category.

Several businesses helmed by Milford-Orange Times contributors also won awards, including Always Best Care Senior Services and SM Cooper Photography.

The full list of awards is available on the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce website at milfordct.com/best-of-milford/.

Past Orange Fire Captain Dies



Mitchell

Kenneth Mitchell, 71, a past captain and active member of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department, died June 25 after suffering a medical emergency while driving his car on Route 1 in Orange. He was recently honored for 50 years of service to the department.

Mitchell was sworn into the OVFD on Oct. 11, 1973. He served as chair of the Carnival Committee and as a training officer. As a member of the apparatus specification committee, Mitchell helped build and welcome the department’s first ladder truck in 1996.

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The Arts

Wrap Up Your Summer With The Arts

Before the summer season comes to an end, take the opportunity to participate in some unique family-friendly and outdoor arts and multicultural festivities sure to be some of your most memorable moments of the season. Take in the many different art-and-food fusion outdoor walks and fairs, children's and teens cultural and artistic activities, spectacular performances and local artisans. The offerings are so diverse, there is something for everyone.

Tired of being too hot outdoors? Take a journey through a newly established visual artists collective, see a variety of original plays performed by your local community theater or listen to the sounds of smooth jazz. It is a great time to support and enjoy local artists of all genres and cultures with an impressive array of arts and culture.

Orange Players presents **"Acting Up! 2024"** on Friday, Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 24 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at High Plains Community Center, located at 525 Orange Center Rd. in Orange. "Acting Up!" is a performance of 10, 10-minute original, unpublished one-act plays by local, out-of-state and international playwrights. This collaborative effort features 10 playwrights, 10 directors, 30 cast members and an experienced production team to bring these works to life on the stage. This production has a variety of comedies and dramas that will make you think, feel, laugh and cry. Performances are cabaret-style seating, so you can bring your own beverages, food and friends and enjoy this annual tradition, now in its ninth season. Pre-show entertainment will be provided, as well as drawings for prizes and more. Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased online by visiting orangeplayers.net or orangeplayers.ludus.com, and at the door with cash or check. For more information, email TheOrangePlayers@gmail.com or call 475-227-7547.

The Klein presents **"Gerald Albright in Concert,"** a nine-time Grammy award-nominated jazz artist and his band on Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at The Klein Memorial Auditorium, located at 910 Fairfield Ave. in Bridgeport. Born and raised Los Angeles, Albright is an accomplished saxophonist and bass player. He has been nominated for Grammy awards for his solo albums and for his collaboration on two huge hits, "24/7" with guitarist Norman Brown, and "Summer Hours" by Dave Koz and Friends. Tickets are \$24-\$59 and can be purchased at theklein.org.

The Warner Theatre presents **The Righteous Brothers** on Aug. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Oneglia Auditorium, located at 68 Main St. in Torrington. Hailing from California, The Righteous Brothers produced some of the

most indelible songs of the 1960s, including "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'," "Unchained Melody" and "Ebb Tide." Tickets start at \$66 and are available at warnertheatre.org.

"CT Arts & Eats – A Day of Artisan Wares and Fares" is coming on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Southbury Town Hall, located at 501 Main St. South in Southbury. The event will feature a wide array of local artisan vendors, food trucks, live music and children's activities. Shop local from over 50 talented artisans from Connecticut. There will be something for everyone, including fine art, home wares, woodworking, ceramics, gourmet food, apparel and accessories, fresh flowers and everything in between. Southbury Women's Club will host their own booth of handmade items made by club members and a 50/50 raffle. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy live music throughout the day. Lawn games and children's activities will be available to keep the whole family entertained. Admission is free and open to the public. Parking is free and will be available via adjoining lots at the Town Hall, Southbury Senior Center/Parks and Recreation Center and Pomperaug Elementary School. Handicapped parking and drop-off parking is available at Town Hall. For more information, email CTArtsEats@gmail.com.

The Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce presents the 66th annual **Mystic Outdoor Art Festival** on Aug. 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. located for two miles in downtown Mystic. This two-day festival is the oldest juried art show in the Northeast and is a showcase for over 200 artists from around the country, offering more than two miles of fine art and crafts including oils, watercolors, photography, textiles, sculpture, woodwork, acrylics and more in a beautiful setting. This family-friendly event is free to the public and features activities and artwork for all ages, including a Children's Art Park, Children's Art Installation and a Performing Arts Stage located at the Mystic Seaport Museum, featuring local and regional performers in dance, music and theater. For more information, visit mysticchamber.org.

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation presents **"Schemitzun: Feast Of Green Corn And Dance"** on Aug. 24 and 25 at Foxwoods Resort, located at 350 Trolley Line Blvd. in Ledyard. All are welcome to join this annual family-friendly celebration of the Pequot Tribe to usher in the 2024 harvest season and give thanks to their creator for their rich heritage while honoring their ancestors,



CYNDI
CONSOLI

Pequot cultural practices including fire-pit cooking, wampum and fish net making, loom beadwork and basketry. Sample authentic Native American cuisine including hearty chowders, local fish, wild game and seasonal fruit beverages along with contemporary fare including Indian tacos, burgers, fry bread and unique desserts. Tickets range from \$8 to \$15 and can be purchased by visiting schemitzun.com and at the event.

The Ridgefield Guild of Artists presents **2024 Art Walk Ridgefield CT**. Join in the magic when the streets of downtown Ridgefield turn into a strolling art gallery from Aug. 23 to Sept. 8 at 400 Main St. in Ridgefield. Opening weekend festivities begin on Friday, Aug. 23 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. with artist meet and greets outside the stores. The activities continue on Saturday, Aug. 24 from noon to 4 p.m. with an artist's day with demonstrations outside the storefronts. The exhibits continue through Sept. 8. All artwork is for sale and a portion of the sales goes to the Ridgefield Guild of Artists to help support their programming. For more information visit rgoa.org or email artwalkridgefield@gmail.com.

Arts in CT presents the **International Cultural Arts and Food Fusion Festival** on Aug. 24 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Edgewood Park on Edgewood Ave. in New Haven. Experience the world in one day. Get ready to tantalize your tastebuds, feast your eyes on stunning art exhibits, groove to the rhythm of live performances, and immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of international cultures that call Connecticut their home. Indulge in the flavors of the world with Connecticut's top 20 international restaurants serving up mouthwatering delicacies that will transport your tastebuds to distant lands. Delve into the diverse heritage of our community with 20 immersive cultural exhibits showcasing traditions, artifacts and stories from around the globe. See 20 live performances featuring talented artists and musicians from diverse backgrounds. Engage in international games, participate in raffles and giveaways, unleash your inner dancer on the interactive dance floor and discover treasures at the vendor booths offering unique crafts and goods from around the

world. This is more than just an event – it's a celebration of unity, diversity and the power of art to bring us together. For more information visit artsinct.org/intlfest, email info@artsinct.org or call 203-936-8567.

The **2024 Madison Summer Craft Fair** will take place on Aug. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Madison On The Common, located at 25 Meeting House Ln. in Madison. The talented and diverse crafters will be showcasing and selling their products. You will find a unique assortment of country crafts, gel candles, floral arrangements, dolls and bears, painted clothing for adults and children, jewelry, woodcrafts and more. For more information visit fairsandfestivals.net.

Wallingford Community Theatre presents **"School of Rock the Musical"** based on the Paramount movie by Mike White with book by Julian Fellowes, lyrics by Glenn Slater and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The show features a live local children's band accompaniment provided by Pat Russo Studio. This musical play follows Dewey Finn, a failed wannabe rock star. When he tries to earn an extra bit of cash by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school, he discovers his students' musical talent, and turns a class of straight-A pupils into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band. But can he get them to the Battle of the Bands without their parents and the school's headmistress finding out? Performances are Aug. 1 to Aug. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Lyman Hall High School, located at 70 Pond Hill Rd. in Wallingford. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 children and seniors. They are available for purchase at Wallingford Town Hall in the Mayor's Office, at Gallagher's Travel Shoppe, at schoolofrock.brownpapertickets.com or at the door. For more information contact wallingfordcenterforthearts.org.

Shoreline Artist Collective of West Haven is a newly founded group of visual artists dedicated to bringing to light the talents of visual artists in the West Haven community. They are currently featuring works by founding members Louise Cadoux, Bill Enck, Jenna Gonzalez and Pietro Spagnulo. The show is open Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Aug. 18 at 14 Gilbert St. #M208 in West Haven. For more information visit [@shorelineartistcollective](https://www.instagram.com/shorelineartistcollective).

Cyndi Consoli is an actor/director in her seventh term as President and Producer for Orange Players. She can be reached at TheOrangePlayers@gmail.com and 475-227-7547.

Book Reviews

The Rom-Comers By Katherine Center

Katherine Center is the unabashed Queen of Romantic Comedies. Her books are warm, wonderful and chock-full of laughter, joy and love. Her protagonists initially have trouble connecting with each other, but eventually they do. They face a mountain of challenges on the road to love, but they successfully conquer them. It's a beautiful thing when the protagonists realize their feelings and face the future with hope, joy and love. Center's books are all about the process of falling in love and are not graphic in any way.

This recent work of hers is a shining example of how skillfully and wonderfully she gets her reading audience to care about the characters, always with the hope of a happily after ever.

Emma's dream has always been to be a successful romantic comedy screen writer.

Caring for her partially disabled father doesn't leave her much time to pursue her dreams. She is positively gobsmacked when her manager Logan calls her with a potential assignment: rewriting an absolutely terrible screenplay written by her idol Charlie Yates. While reading the screenplay, Emma agrees with Logan's assessment that the screenplay is truly terrible.

There are several obstacles, the first being that Emma will not receive any writing credit for her work. The second (and probably more important) is that she won't get paid. The worst thing? The rewrite needs to be done in at least six weeks, if not longer – and in Los Angeles.



CARMELA
DEVITO

Emma comes up with a list of reasons why she can't accept the assignment, notably the absence of a caretaker who can give her dad his medications on time and adhere to a major schedule. After much debate in a family meeting, Emma reluctantly agrees to let her younger sister Sylvie take over caretaking responsibilities temporarily. To show her commitment, Sylvie willingly gives up a prestigious summer internship to care for their dad. Somewhat reluctantly, Emma makes the trip to Los Angeles.

There are certain requisite mechanisms inherent in any good romantic comedy: girl and boy meet and don't like each other; girl and boy broker a truce; once that's done the

potential for romance blossoms. Based on his past experiences, it takes Charlie quite a while to lower his emotional guard and begin to see the possibility that love really does exist and he is capable of receiving and giving love. At long last, Emma and Charlie get their happily ever after.

Webster's Dictionary does not have enough words to describe how much I love Center's books. I am not by nature a romantic comedy reader, but I will preorder her book once I know a new one is being released. I have read them all and loved each one of them. If this is the first Katherine Center book you read, she will convert you to that genre.

Carmela DeVito, a voracious reader, is a retired social worker and a member of the Friends of the Milford Library.

Foodie Foursome

Breaking Bread In A True Family Restaurant

It is great to dine with friends at a restaurant recommended to me in the 10 to 15-mile drive from the Milford/Orange area. Cindy and I were joined by friends Cathy and Steve for an enjoyable night out at Lorenzo's Ristorante Italiano, located in West Haven toward the end of Elm Street just minutes off Campbell Avenue.

The restaurant is nicely designed with the formality of cloth napkins, while keeping that comfortable feel you get when family is involved in all aspects of running the show. The staff is just as friendly and service-oriented. The restaurant was founded by Lorenzo Coletta over 15 years ago, and has had a loyal following of patrons ever since. He and his brother/business partner, Luciano, are the chefs while their mother helps with prep and creating the various fresh pastas. Joining them in running the front of house and catering are their two sisters. This really is a family restaurant.

The restaurant was recently renovated and features wonderful table spacing in the dining area and plentiful seating in the bar area. There is also a separate banquet room in the back that holds 100 for family or business gatherings. The room can also be divided to support smaller groups. If you prefer an al fresco dining experience, their new patio is also available, featuring a wood-fired pizza oven. Lorenzo's features traditional Italian flavors as well as house-made pasta and pizza.

Our evening started with a variety of appetizers recommended by our server. Watching her "work the room" was impressive. Each

table was greeted with a smile and personal attention throughout the evening.

The nice thing about being out with friends is our "family style" approach to the meal, sharing each app, salad, entrée and dessert to create a wonderful tasting. If going out with friends, you may want to try it as you get to let your palate experience a number of different dishes during the dinner.

As a culinary photographer, I instantly noticed the chef's attention to detail and the beautifully presented and impeccably prepared food.

We started out with an Italian antipasto combination of olives, eggplant, cheese, peppers and prosciutto. The design of the presentation board featured each fresh and tasty aspect of the combo, from the fresh mozzarella to the thin-sliced prosciutto and roasted red pepper.

Our next apps were the clams casino and shrimp cocktail. The clams casino was delicate: slightly charred clams on the half shell baked with bacon and herb butter. This was one of the finest we have had in the area.

The juicy, chilled jumbo shrimp was served with Lorenzo's own house-made cocktail sauce. The last starter was their unique fried calamari. The lightly fried calamari, served with cocktail and marinara sauce, had a crispy exterior that held the dipped sauce in every crevice as you tasted the tender calamari.

The next course was the house salad that



STEVE COOPER

comes with most entrées. The blend of crisp fresh lettuce, shredded carrot, cucumber and tomatoes was served with a house-made viscous garlic dressing so good that I wish I had brought a pint home. We also shared the chopped salad made with iceberg lettuce, chopped and tossed, with bacon, scallions, tomato, red onion, parmigiana and gorgonzola in a light citrus dressing.

The kitchen and wait staff were very "in sync." There was plenty of time between selections and courses so as to not feel rushed. Yet they seemed prepared on cue with our next courses freshly prepared from scratch.

First up was the Siciliana. This featured three large, tender slices of eggplant perfectly rolled and stuffed with ham and ricotta and topped with mozzarella and marinara.

Next up was the veal parmigiana, lightly breaded and covered with tomato sauce and mozzarella. Throughout my adult life, with very few exceptions, whenever I try a new Italian restaurant my go-to for comparison is the veal. Lorenzo passed that test with no problem. The style was not a "pounded thin" veal steak but a thicker and breaded version, pan fried and topped with plenty of marinara and mozzarella. As a side with the veal, we had the house-made cavatelli in a smooth vodka cream sauce. It was cooked to a pleasant al dente.

Our last two entrees were the chicken imperiale and chicken Lorenzo. The chicken

imperiale featured thin slices of white chicken served with eggplant rollatini provolone, pignoli nuts and sautéed in a light champagne sauce. The textures of the chicken and eggplant played against the luscious sauce. The chicken Lorenzo is a signature dish sautéed with oil, garlic, mushrooms, artichoke hearts and pignoli nuts in a succulent cream sauce.

We finished the evening with a cup of Lavazza Italian coffee and wonderful array of arranged desserts. The first two confectionary delights were the tartufo, a creamy ball of ice cream encased in dark chocolate and served with fresh whipped cream. The second was a creamy slice of Oreo cheesecake. The last was an artfully prepared cake and pie. The chocolate mousse cake was two incredibly fluffy layers of cake filled with a thick layer of decadent mousse. The banoffi pie was a brilliant combination of Oreos layered with bananas, caramel and whipped cream that tasted as good as it sounds.

If you are looking for a new culinary experience with friends or family, take that short drive to West Haven to check out Lorenzo's. If you need catering or a room for a special occasion, they can help with that, too. They are open daily for lunch and dinner. For reservations, call 203-932-5846. They are located at 39 Elm St.

Steve Cooper is a local, national and international award-winning photographer, culinary influencer and executive director of the Milford Performance Center. Contact him at 203-723-3672.

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Mental Health

Considerations For The Use Of AI In Mental Health

Artificial intelligence has become increasingly more present in our lives over the last decade. We likely encounter it in our day-to-day while in grocery stores, restaurants, accessing customer service or using a trending AI writing tool. The world of AI is complex and evolving at an accelerated pace, and some would argue that it is replacing human work in a number of vocations.

Despite some of the concerns surrounding the responsible and ethical use of AI, there have been a number of studies highlighting developments that can potentially support how we deliver and manage health care, including mental health.

There are many arguments for the use of AI in mental health that include the need to more efficiently diagnose and treat mental health issues given the rapidly growing demand for affordable treatment options and adequate access. One study published by the Lancet Psychiatry in 2022 showed a 48 percent increase in the diagnoses of 12 mental disorders from 1990-2019 across 204 countries, underscoring a need that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and behavioral health workforce shortage after

2020.

The concept of using AI powered chatbots through mobile applications to provide screenings and support for mental health issues is gaining traction as a way to engage, collect and analyze responses around stress, mood, energy levels and other symptoms. Chatbots use machine learning and natural language processing technologies that allow for tailored responses based on an individual's needs through the simulation of human conversation. They can recommend and provide different types of treatment based on responses, engage in talk therapy and provide alerts when there are changes in moods that might require human intervention.

While opening up more affordable access to mental health treatment is one intent of chatbots, there are limitations and ethical concerns related to the use of this technology.

First, chatbots are not human and they don't have the ability to respond empathetically or process human emotions in the ways



JENNIFER FIORILLO

necessary to deliver the most effective and appropriate mental health treatment.

Second, individuals with more complex and chronic mental health conditions require higher-level intervention and support that chatbots are not necessarily equipped to provide for the most successful recovery.

There have also been concerns raised around bias in the development of the algorithms that are used to program chatbots that could lead to harmful advice and treatment.

Researchers have been looking at natural language processing to help analyze how text-based human facilitated mental health counseling impacts patient satisfaction and clinical outcomes. One study published in January by the JAMA Network Open analyzed more than 20 million text counseling sessions from the mobile therapy application Talkspace to predict clinical outcomes, consumer satisfaction and engagement. This study found that there was a correlation be-

tween consumer satisfaction and clinical outcomes with the use of empathy and supportive counseling in treatment. The study illustrates the use of AI in analyzing these therapy sessions in a scalable fashion, which traditionally is a more labor-intensive process using observation and coding systems by evaluators to assess quality of treatment.

The above examples of the use of AI in mental health only scratch the surface of how it has been deployed to provide or support behavioral health treatment. While the delivery of mental health services using AI versus a live person can raise many questions and concerns around efficacy and bias, there might be room to further explore how it can enhance and aide in the delivery of care by reducing administrative burdens, analyzing trends and helping to advance treatment that supports human practitioners.

Jennifer Fiorillo, MBA, MPH is the president and CEO of Bridges Healthcare in Milford, and may be reached at Jfiorillo@bridgesmilford.org.

Cohen

(Continued From 1)

knowledge of the community, and knowledge of the chamber; and that is why I believe our chamber business members will be the beneficiaries of Barry's leadership," Novicki added.

Cohen said, "I am honored to be executive director as the chamber enters an era of growth with new offerings that will create value for our members and

the region. Over the coming weeks, I will be closely collaborating with our board of directors, listening to, and supporting chamber businesses, and engaging local leaders and organizations."

Cohen is a former global corporate executive, current business owner and community leader; he has worked on multiple municipal boards, industry and nonprofit associations. Since 2016, Cohen has been the president and managing director of Launch Communications, a

strategic marketing, communications, branding and public relations firm primarily focused on business-to-business manufacturing and technology companies serving the industrial, automotive, aerospace, plumbing/hardware and electronics industries.

A former city councilman in West Haven, Cohen has organized or sponsored a diversity of business and association events, corporate functions and community volunteer initiatives.

"Public service, which includes serving our dynamic and vibrant business community, is a blessing that I will never take for granted," Cohen said.

Cohen is a member of both the Connecticut Business and Industry Association and the Connecticut Economic Development Association. He earned his MBA in marketing from the University of New Haven and a bachelor's degree in English literature from Hofstra University.

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Wine Talk

Wonderful Wines Of South Africa

The spice route from Europe to Asia was of great economic importance to the Europeans. In the 1600s it was a great way to get spices and silks and market European products. The problem was it was a treacherous journey. Somewhere around the horn of Africa, most ships' stores were depleted.

To help alleviate this issue, the Dutch East India Company in 1652 established a supply station in an area that is now Cape Town, South Africa. Jan van Riebeeck was established as the manager, and his largest assignment was to plant grapes and make wines to ward off scurvy among the sailors making spice route journeys to India and the Far East. Van Riebeeck's successor as governor, Simon van der Stel, established the Constantia wine estate just outside of the Cape of Good Hope. After the death of van der Stel, the area fell apart and no significant production occurred until the property was purchased by Hendrik Cloete in 1778. He set out to revive the wine production of the area.

By the early 1900s, 80 million vines had been replanted and South Africa became a sea of wines. Unsaleable wines were thrown into rivers and streams as the oversupply depressed prices. The South African government established the KWV, a winemakers' union, to set policy and prices for the wine industry. They tried to defeat the wine glut by restricting yields and they encouraged the production of brandy and fortified wines.

During much of the 20th century the South African wine industry received very little international attention. There were boycotts caused by the country's system of apartheid. When apartheid was ended, the export market started to develop. It wasn't until the 1980s and 90s that South African wines became available and popular in the US. The export market opened and the wine



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

producers developed their wine-making technology to make quality wines.

European varieties, such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, have become popular as well as Shiraz, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Zinfandel. The most widely grown grape is Chenin Blanc. This is a terrific white wine that I predict will become the next wildly popular wine in the country. It is just fantastic. Ten years ago, no one had heard of Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand. Now it is very popular; you can't walk into a liquor store without seeing rows and rows of Sauvignon Blanc. Chenin Blanc is the next white to be discovered.

Another unique wine from South Africa is called Pinotage. They were trying to grow more Pinot Noir in South Africa, which is a difficult grape to grow. They grafted some

Hermitage (Cinsault), which is a very hearty grape, onto the root stock of Pinot Noir. They found they produced an entirely new grape, and it made terrific red wine.

Try some of the wonderful wines from South Africa. You will be glad you did. Their wines have only been available here for a relatively short time, but they are a country with a long wine history.

Ray Spaziani is the former chapter director for 25 years of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He is a certified wine educator who worked for the American Wine Society, Amete de Vino and Winemaker Magazine judging wines and conducting wine judging. He is an award-winning home wine maker and has written wine articles for newspapers and magazines for the past 20 years. Spaziani teaches wine classes for the Milford Board of Education at Citrus Restaurant in Milford. Email Ray with wine questions and anything wine at realestatepro1000@gmail.com.

Time Short For Paying Orange Tax Bills

As the July tax season winds to a close, there is still time to successfully pay your town taxes to if you still haven't paid them. The tax office will close for taking payments at the window at 4 p.m. on Aug. 1. The drop-off express mail slot in the office also closes at 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 1. Online credit and debit cards must be placed by 11:45 p.m. on the same day.

You can access the new tax office website via orange-ct.gov, by selecting "pay tax online (there are fees for this service). You may also use the interactive voice response system by calling 203-902-0387 (there are fees for this service). Alternatively, you can go to orange-

ctmybill.com for direct connection to the payment site. Do not try to use the old website, as it will not work.

Electronic checks on savings accounts must be permitted by your agreement with your bank. E-check processing times are determined by the bank. This processing time may be at least a day before the end of the grace period.

USPS window-stamped payments of Aug. 1 or prior will be accepted when received as timely payment. Office machines and computer generated stamps are received as of the day they are delivered to the tax office. Express service deliveries must be shipped with

the carrier by a method that guarantees delivery by Aug. 1 at the latest in order to be considered timely.

Late payments will be subject to a 3 percent additional interest penalty for late payment in August.

For the first time Orange will be offering limited same-day motor vehicle releases on delinquent motor vehicle tax bills. The fee is \$20 fee for same-day release. This service is limited to cash payments made at the tax office window. In addition, office staff must have the available time to process the request, the state DMV website must be up and running and the internet must be running to access this

service.

Other fees have been updated as well. Fees are posted in the tax office. Payment by credit or debit card or personal check or e-check hold times have been reduced to five business days after payment for releases.

During July and January the tax office is not able to answer your call when received. Leave your contact information on the town phone message system at 203-891-4736 and someone will get back to you as soon as they are able. Calls concerning motor vehicle sales, transfers, and so forth need to be directed to the assessor's office at 203-891-4724.



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How Creativity Enhances Life In Later Adulthood

The myth that learning slows with age persists, but it is not entirely true. Our brains do process information differently as we mature, but our capacity for growth never truly fades. In fact, there are unique advantages to learning later in life, such as having more available time to pursue interests.

Think about childhood: we are encouraged to be playful and explore, building a foundation of knowledge through creativity. But why should older adulthood be a time to abandon these pursuits? Instead, the "third act" of life can be a time of learning fueled by the very creativity that defined our youth. Maybe standing on a 50-foot-tall scaffold to paint a mural is no longer possible or, for that matter, plausible (for anyone at any age). There are plenty of other creative options.

Engaging in creative activities is not just a pleasant pastime for older adults; it is backed by research. Studies show that creativity offers a multitude of benefits, positively impacting cognition, mental well-being, sense of purpose and even physical health.

A 2023 study published in BMC Geriatrics challenges the stereotype of declining creativity with age. The research suggests that creative potential remains relatively stable throughout life, with some aspects even

showing potential for improvement. Engaging in creative activities can stimulate the brain in older adults both with and without cognitive impairments with the potential to lead to sharper memory and improved focus.

The emotional benefits of creativity in older adults are equally significant. Engaging in creative pursuits can help older adults cope with loss, loneliness and depression. Social prescribing art is a relatively new concept in the US which seeks to support the mental well-being of individuals through the use of creative pursuits dosed on a weekly or monthly basis, according to Bloomberg Philanthropies.

A sense of purpose is another crucial benefit. In one study from 2023 consisting of Finnish women subjects, there is an emphasis on the importance of the creative process itself and not just the final product. Learning a new skill or participating in a creative activity fosters a sense of accomplishment, allowing older adults to feel engaged and increase social well-being.

Although one may not immediately think of the physical benefits of creative pursuits,



LEONORA RODRIGUEZ

in a groundbreaking study by geriatric psychologist Gene Cohen from 2006, it was determined that older adults who engage in culturally enriching programs have improved physical health and social functioning.

The power of creative learning is not just theoretical. I recently witnessed it firsthand at the Orange Players' open auditions for short plays organized by Orange Players member and fellow Milford-Orange Times columnist Cyndi Consoli. Roughly 60 percent of the participants were older adults. It was exciting to see the range of talent, from seasoned actors to those embarking on a new experience. Their energy and enthusiasm were contagious.

Similarly, the Milford Senior Center vibrates with creative energy. From the soul-stirring songs of the MSC Gospel Choir to the Milford Senior Center Symphony Band, a lively artistic spirit is infused throughout the halls. Art classes under Gale Caro's guidance, the intricate beading and crafting classes, and the beautiful ceram-

ic creations are all activities showcasing a thirst for exploration and self-expression.

So why limit the learning process to merely a short period of our lives? We should instead embrace the unlimited possibilities that creative exploration offers throughout life. The traditional, linear view of creativity and aging needs an overhaul. The "third act" can be a time of profound growth, fueled by the very same creativity that ignited our passions as youth.

Rewriting the narrative around aging is our responsibility, for ourselves and future generations. It is not a time to withdraw, but an opportunity to rediscover the joys of learning, of unleashing our creative potential. Whether it's joining a community theater group, taking up painting, or learning a new hobby, there is a world of creative possibilities waiting to be explored.

Pablo Picasso is credited with saying, "It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child." It is time for your encore. Are you ready?

Leonora C. Rodriguez is executive director of the Milford Senior Center. The center can be reached at milfordctseniorcenter.com or 203-877-5131.

Two Local Women Sworn In As OVFD Trustees

Two local women, already active in Orange, have joined the Orange Volunteer Fire Association as trustees.

Polly Demirjian and Donna Wesolowski were sworn in at the July business meeting of the association, which operates the fire department. Trustees are charged with offering counsel and assisting the department with its business affairs and management of its property. They are

appointed to their positions. The pair joins a panel of six trustees.

Wesolowski has worked at Yale University for 40 years in research. An active member of the Orange Community Women and Holy Infant Women's Guild, she serves on the Orange Country Fair Committee and the Orange Conservation Commission.

"I love this town," she said. "This is a new way to give back to the town of Orange."

Demirjian is also an active member of the Orange Community Women. She was a member of the Orange Bicentennial Committee and co-chaired the Bicentennial Family Picnic. She is a partner in the law firm of Letizia, Ambrose and Falls in New Haven.

"My interest is in fundraising," she said. "I want to help with that."

Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas welcomed the

two to the department. The current group of trustees is made up of three retired members of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department and three community members.

"This diverse group of guardians improves the guidance we receive and empowers our department to operate in a way that keeps us proactive and more responsive to community interests," said Dumas.

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Open Space (Continued From 1)

open spaces in Orange include the Orange Country Fairgrounds and Old Tavern Road Park.

“Passive” open space comes with a more restricted set of activities; they tend to be more heavily wooded and dogs must be leashed.

Spearheading the movement towards the acquisition and preservation of open space in town is the Orange Land Trust, a nonprofit organization that operates independently from, but works collaboratively with, the town. The trust relies entirely on donations and fundraisers to support their work. According to the trust’s website, the organization’s purpose is “the acquisition, preservation, and protection of natural areas, including plants and wildlife and the unique habitats they require, within the Town of Orange, for the benefit of its citizens through passive use.”

Dr. Lawrence Messina, president of the Orange Land Trust, describes this mission as trying to achieve a “balance of concrete and grass” within the town. While the amenities along the Boston Post Road cater to every imaginable need, one necessity is left unfilled: the need to immerse oneself in green, natural space.

Messina, a longtime resident of Orange, also says it is important to try to understand how people used to live before cars and cellphones – especially as we continue to undergo an era of rapid climate change.

Orange is a community with a rich agricultural heritage, and these roots run deep. The town is home to one of the oldest farms in the US. Field View Farm, located off Route 34, is a dairy farm established in 1639 by Thomas Hine and has remained in the family for 12 generations.

First Selectman Jim Zeoli is an Orange native and comes from a proud agricultural background. He cites his upbringing as his initial exigence for running for office. He said that the general public tends to lack an understanding of both the difficulties and value of local farms.

“People forget where the food comes

from,” he said, “but they shouldn’t.”

In a world where obtaining affordable, fresh food and produce is as easy as driving to Trader Joe’s or Costco, it can be difficult to appreciate the work that goes into making this food appear on supermarket shelves.

According to Zeoli, this is one of the many reasons why open space is important. Consistently supporting local farms through patronage may not be financially realistic for all, but visiting these open spaces allows anyone and everyone to engage with the cultural heritage of the town.

There are few more involved in the land of Orange than Zeoli, who personally considers every parcel of land up for acquisition by the town. Echoing Messina’s sentiment regarding the need to maintain a balance of both developed and undeveloped land, Zeoli evaluates each parcel according to its historical, economic and social value. While more open space tends to equate to higher taxes for residents, some can actually be economically productive.

Race Brook Country Club is the only open space parcel that is actively paying the town back. In 2021, Orange purchased the club for \$8.6 million. While the country club operates independently and does all its own maintenance, it is currently leasing the space back from the town, which eventually will offset the initial purchase price.

Zeoli explained that land acquisitions for the town are a balance of investment and preservation. Additionally, he emphasized that in terms of acquiring open space parcels, he strives to “connect” existing parcels. This effort is likely to promote the well-being of the natural environment while cutting down on the habitat fragmentation that is rampant in suburban areas.

Orange is not alone in trying to preserve open space. Connecticut had set an ambitious goal to designate 21 percent of the state’s land as open space by 2023. Although the state fell short on this goal, efforts continue to set more space aside. It’s a goal that many leaders in Orange are fighting for – Messina and Zeoli among them.

Jazz, Soul Singer To Perform At Case Memorial

The Friends of Case Memorial Library will host soul and jazz singer Rhonda Denét on Aug. 3 at 2 p.m. Denét sings soul in many forms: classic, contemporary and original.

In this concert Denét will be celebrating the “Ladies of Motown” with a collection of hits by the female singing groups, solo artists and songwriters who helped to introduce the world to the Motown sound. These include classic hits from the 1960s and 70s sung by The Supremes, The Marvelettes, Martha & The Vandellas,

Mary Wells, Kim Weston and Tammi Terrell.

Denét’s talents emerged when she was a child and followed her into young adulthood. Her family and mentors encouraged her to pursue her dreams into higher education. First, Denét received a bachelor of music in vocal performance from New York University, and then a master’s in arts administration from Florida State University’s School of Music.

To register, call 203-891-2170 or visit casememoriallibrary.org.

Orange Bag Recycling Shed Painted



The new bag shed supplied by The Home Depot with assistance from the Orange Rotary Club recently got its final coat of paint from Recycling Committee members. The new shed will be used for residents to drop off clean and acceptable plastic bags and wraps at the Orange Transfer Station and Recycling Center. This plastic is then brought by committee volunteers to The Home Depot, which adds it to their plastic recycling program with Trex. The success of the program depends on residents dropping only thin plastic bags and wrap, which does not include any mulch, fertilizer, pet food or snack bags and wrappers, nor any black plastic bags. Such items will be rejected and contaminate the entire load. From left: Mitch Goldblatt, Lora Wu and Patrick Legault. Mark Moyher and Ilene Moyher (not pictured) also assisted in the work. Photo courtesy of the Orange Recycling Committee.

NEW Holds Gala For 45th Anniversary

The Network of Executive Women recently celebrated their 45th anniversary by hosting a gala to commemorate more than four decades of women helping women.

“We are very appreciative of everyone that helped make this event such a huge success, from the sponsors and attendees to the raffle and silent auction donors,” said Clementina Yazdani, co-fundraising chair for NEW. “Tyde at Walnut Beach was the perfect venue to celebrate such a momentous occasion. The amazing service, food and breathtaking view made it one to

remember.”

NEW was founded in 1979 by Phyllis Holt to address the common interests of businesswomen in the community and help them grow and prosper. For more than 20 years, NEW has provided monetary support to adult women who would not ordinarily be able to afford educational programs.

“The hard work of our amazing co-chairs has set NEW up for success as we move into a new year for the organization and will allow our remarkable group to continue to support local women in the community,” said Nandita Ruchandani, NEW president.

Notice of Primary Registration Session

On Friday, July 26, 2024, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Milford Registrars of Voters will conduct a mandatory enrollment session for the purpose of registration and/or enrollment of electors entitled to vote in the Republican primary. At such time, the Registrars will hear requests for adding names to the registry list by persons removed. The session will be held in the Registrars of Voters office, Parsons Municipal Office, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT.

Registrars of Voters
Kerri Rowland
Debra Fellenbaum

Notice of Republican Primary

A Primary of the Republican Party will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at High Plains Community Center in the Gymnasium, 6am – 8pm for the nomination to the following office:

United States Senator
Gerry Smith, 163 Laskey Road, Beacon Falls, CT 06403
Matthew M. Corey, 181 Center Street, Manchester, CT 06040

- Absentee ballots and applications are available through the Town Clerk’s office, located in the Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Rd, first floor (203) 891-4730.
- Early Voting available Monday, August 5 – Sunday, August 11 at Town Hall, second floor. For more information, please contact the Registrar of Voter’s office (203) 891-4767.

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Obituaries

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

James "Jimmy" A. Cataldo, 77, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Sharon Cataldo, passed away peacefully on June 28, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



William Henry Estrada Sr., 97, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Ruth Lorraine Estrada, passed away peacefully on July 6, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Terrence "Terry" Guth, 80, of Milford, beloved husband of Silvia Guth, passed away on June 17, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Eleanor Russo Benefico, passed away peacefully on Thursday July 4, 2024 with her beloved husband of 54 years, Joseph A. Benefico by her side. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Rondi D'Agostino, age 78, of Orange, beloved wife of Michael Bellas, passed away on June 18, 2024. Rondi was born and raised in CA. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Joseph James Fitzpatrick Jr., 84, of Milford, beloved husband of Mary Ann Fitzpatrick, passed away on July 10, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Richard Hardt Sr., 69, of Milford, husband of the late Deborah "LeCclair" Hardt, passed away on June 19, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Scott "Scotty" Brennan, 60, of Milford, beloved husband of Mary Brennan, passed away on July 5, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Yolanda DiLeone, of Orange, passed away July 17th at the Orange Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. (Iovanne Funeral Home)



John George Franze passed away peacefully at home on June 28, 2024 surrounded by his loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Mary Ann Kiska Hegedus, 82, of Milford, beloved wife of the late James Hegedus, passed away on July 16, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



John Richard Bruder of Milford, Connecticut, husband of the late Geraldine (Kettles) Bruder, passed away peacefully on July 3, 2024, at the age of 85. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Gloria Duran, accomplished writer, painter and educator, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on July 1, 2024. She was at home in Orange.



Frank Thomas Gennarini passed away peacefully in Milford, Connecticut on Saturday, June 22, 2024. (Abriola Parkview Funeral Home)



Sandra "Sandy" Elizabeth Librandi, 63, of Milford, beloved wife of Christopher Librandi, passed away on June 28, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

David H. McKeand, 86, of Orange, Connecticut, passed away on July 17, 2024. (West Haven Funeral Home)



George Newell, a pillar of love and devotion, has peacefully departed, leaving behind a legacy of cherished memories.



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our beloved **Joan ("Josi") Russell**, 97. Born in Chicago in 1927, she married Joseph ("Joey") Russell in 1944. (Robert E. Shure Funeral Home)



Sharon C. Spaziani, age 75, of West Haven, passed away on July 13, 2024. For 35 years, she was the loving wife of Robert Spaziani. (West Haven Funeral Home)



William C. "Bill" Meade Jr., age 62, of Orange, passed away on July 14, 2024 at Yale New Haven Hospital. (Cyril F. Mullins Funeral Home)



Roberta Peck of Orange, CT passed away unexpectedly on July 4, 2024. She lived her life to the fullest despite having suffered from Parkinson's disease for the last 20 years.



Alice "Angie" Salanto, age 75, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Alexander Salanto, entered peaceful rest on June 25, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Amanda Stonebank, 53, of Milford, passed away on June 30, 2024 after a courageous battle with addiction. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



John Edward Moore Jr., perhaps the funniest man in Milford or maybe even CT, suddenly and sadly left us all on July 12, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Rose Marie (Galletta) Piselli, 86, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Cesidio "Jesse" Piselli, whom she married on August 5, 1961. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Marie Carmelia Cusano Santa Barbara, 99, formerly of Orange, died peacefully at the Milford Campus of Yale-New Haven Hospital on July 9, 2024. (West Haven Funeral Home)



Anna M. Waddell, 90, of Milford, beloved wife of Charles Waddell, passed away on July 10, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Joseph (Joey) Louis Nacca passed away peacefully in West Haven, after a two-year, ten-month courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. (West Haven Funeral Home)



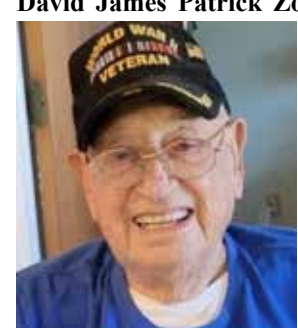
Stephen Pincus, age 64, of Milford CT, passed away on July 8, 2024 from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



James Edward Smalley, 59, passed away on June 14, 2024. Born on July 13, 1964 in Milford, he was the son of the late Edward Clarence Smalley and Joyce Elaine (Pool-ey) Woike. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



David James Patrick Zotti, 98, of Cape Coral Florida and formerly of West Haven, CT, peacefully passed at Gulf Coast Village. (Jenkins King & Malerba Funeral Home)



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2024 RAFFLE PRIZES

**1ST PRIZE - \$10,000 CASH • 2ND PRIZE - \$5,000 CASH • 3RD PRIZE - \$3,000 CASH
4TH PRIZE - \$1,000 CASH**

5TH PRIZE - \$600 OCULUS QUEST 2 ALL-IN-ONE VR HEADSET, 128GB

6TH PRIZE - \$500 GIFT CARD - THE ORANGE ALE HOUSE, 517 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE, CT

7TH PRIZE - \$500 GIFT CARD - THE ORANGE ALE HOUSE, 517 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE, CT

8TH PRIZE - \$400 GIFT CARD - SHOPRITE, 935 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE, CT

9TH PRIZE - \$300 GIFT CARD - HOME DEPOT, 440 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE, CT

10TH PRIZE - \$260 ROUND OF GOLF - ORANGE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, 389 RACEBROOK ROAD, ORANGE, CT

11TH PRIZE - \$250 GIFT CARD - KNIGHTS, INC., 286 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE, CT

12TH PRIZE - \$150 GIFT CARD - OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE, 132 MARSH HILL ROAD, ORANGE, CT

Drawing to be held on Sunday, August 4th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. at the Orange Fairgrounds, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT.
Ticket holders need not be present to win.

LOCATIONS TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS

PEOPLE'S BANK
653 ORANGE CENTER ROAD,
ORANGE, CT

FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE
ORANGE TOWN HALL
M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

KNIGHT'S POWER EQUIPMENT
286 BOSTON POST ROAD
M-F 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM;
SATURDAY 8:30 AM - 12 NOON

CHIP'S FAMILY RESTAURANT
321 BOSTON POST ROAD
7 DAYS A WEEK, 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

ORANGE FIREMENS CARNIVAL
ORANGE FAIRGROUNDS
DURING CARNIVAL HOURS



IT'S AT THE ORANGE FAIRGROUNDS

525 ORANGE CENTER ROAD, ORANGE, CT 06477

ONLINE TICKET SALES AT WWW.ORANGEVFD.ORG

