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The Orange Times When there's better writing, there's better reading.

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#### Amity Budget Referendum Approved

Tri-town residents of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge approved the Amity Board of Education's budget request at a referendum earlier this month by a margin of 715-380.

Specifically in Orange, residents approved the budget request by a 275-166 vote.

Orange's share to fund the Amity school board's budget is increasing from \$21.6 million to \$21.75 million, which represents a \$155,461 or 0.72 percent increase.

The overall budget increase is a 3.50 percent increase. The towns of Bethany and Woodbridge are paying a larger increase than Orange next year because their enrollment is increasing more than Orange's.

Amity Superintendent of Schools Charles Dumais said approval is a result of the "amount of trust" the district has built over the years with residents. He gave the credit to former Superintendent of Schools John Brady, who was routinely praised for producing fiscally responsible budgets. Over the past five years, Brady's budgets averaged less than a 1.5 percent increase.

"I commend Dr. Brady for developing the relationships with the towns," Dumais said.

Dumais began his tenure at Amity on March 1.

Dumais said he was also impressed by the overwhelming support of Amity's budget.

"It really demonstrates that we have a community that clearly cares about education and trusts us to run the school district," Dumais said.

He said the district will continue to look for efficiencies to save taxpayers money.

"A lot of areas have already been squeezed," Dumais said. "We are always looking."

# **Paugussett Tribe Rekindles Claims**

by Brian McCready

ORANGE – In 2004 the courts rejected the Golden Hill Paugussett Indian Nation's land claims against 99 Orange property owners, who reside in the northwest corner of town.

But like a cruel nightmare, the topic of land claims has been resurrected almost ten years later.

The reason for renewed concern is the Bureau of Indian Affairs has issued a "discussion draft" that might pave the way for the Golden Hill Paugussett's to refile land claims against the nearly 100 Orange property owners.

A meeting was held at Woodbridge Town Hall last month and U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-3, Assistant State's Attorney General Mark Kohler and First Selectman James Zeoli attended. More than 30 concerned Orange age for a casino," Lenz said. residents also attended the meeting.

Board of Selectman member Kenneth Lenz, who is an affected resident, said neighbors are worried that if the group becomes a recognized tribe by the Bureau of Indian Affairs then it could lead to renewed land claims.

Lenz said he personally believes the Paugussett's are using the threat of land claims to force the government to allow them to construct another casino in Connecticut.

Lenz added it's no coincidence that the BIA has changed its opinion on the Paugussett's. In 2004 the BIA ruled against the Paugussett's.

Now Kevin Washburn is the assistant secretary of the BIA and supports Native American casinos, local officials said,.

"The liens against us would provide lever-

He said while the tribe may not really want Orange resident's land, the damage is still done. Back in the late 1990s and early 2000s, residents could not sell or refinance their houses while the tribe's legal action was pending.

"It really is unfair and unconstitutional," Lenz said.

Kohler, in an interview with The Orange Times, said residents' nightmare appeared to end for good in 2004 when the court dismissed the Paugussett's final appeal.

"One would think that is the end of the story," Kohler said.

But not so fast. The BIA may change the regulations allowing a previously denied petitioner to repetition for tribal status. If that

TRIBE continued on page 3

# **Earth Day** Made Fun

by Brian McCready

ORANGE - Energy efficiency is good for the wallet and it's also made fun in the town of Orange.

More than 500 families attended Earth Day festivities held at the SmartLiving<sup>™</sup> Center at 297 Boston Post Road on April 26. The event is held by United Illuminating Co., Southern Connecticut Gas, and Connecticut Natural Gas. The center is funded by ratepayers.

Marissa Westbrook, who is manager of residential energy services for the program, said the center is a great community resource for energy residential programs.

"Our Earth Day activities are for residents to learn about energy efficiency and environmental awareness," Westbrook said.

She said numerous activities were held to engage families including workshops, face painting, clowns, prizes and fun activities for youths.

Photos by LEXI CROCCO The Cohen and Wolf Cinco de Miles road race in Orange, held on May 4. The overall first place winner of the 5K Road race was Douglas Scarth, 55, with a time of 30:56. In second place was Troy Romanowski, 35, of Orange with a time of 32:52. The top female finisher was Ashley Bascetta, 26, of Granby, with a time of 36:59. For those who walked Miguel Rocca finished first amongst the men and Don Lewis, of Orange, finished second. Joan Zorena of Orange, finished first amongst women who walked and Carla Hall, of Orange, finished second



# Festive Road Race



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ORANGE - Race Brook Elementary School Principal Michael Gray can easily rattle off his favorite memory on the job. On April 2, Gray was informed he was named Connecticut's elementary school principal of the year

"I walked out of my office and I told my staff," Gray said. "The

kids came out in the hallway and congratulated me."

"There was a big pep rally in the gym," added Gray. "The students wrote reflective pieces and created a red carpet for me and a crown to wear. I was completely taken off guard. To hear and see the pride on their faces and their school spirit was one of the best

days of my career."

Now Gray, 43, of Derby, is aiming to be crowned the nation's top elementary school principal.He will be travelling to Washington, D.C. in October, and surmised accurately that his chances of winning are 1 in 50.

"I have no expectation going into this," Gray said in a re-

cent interview with The Orange Times.

Gray did say he's looking forward to meeting and getting some ideas from the other nominees.

"I'll steal some of their ideas," Gray quipped.

Race Brook PTA submitted Gray's name for nomination, GRAY continued on page 23



EARTH continued on page 3

### News & Events

#### **Memorial Tree Planted**



Photo by LANA HO

Left to right: Maryellen Bespuda, President of Garden Club of Orange; Bruce Lindsay, Tree Committee and his children Burke and Fletcher; Gail Nixon, Garden Club and Tree Committee; James Zeoli, First Selectman; Phil Grande. Tree Committee Chair: and Don Clark.

On May 1 an Okame Cherry Tree was planted behind Town Hall in memory of Maureen Clark, a long-time member of The Garden Club of Orange.

The tree was a gift of The Garden Club of Orange. A beautiful planting ceremony was held and the presentation of the Tribute Tree Certificate of Honor was given to Don Clark.

### Memorial Day More Than A Parade

#### by Brian McCready

ORANGE – Memorial Day is a lot more than a parade filled with floats.

It's a day to honor the war dead, who have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today, said Kevin Gilbert, who is a Memorial Day parade organizer.

Each year the annual parade attracts hundreds if not thousands of people to cheer on their neighbor or child who is a part of the festivities.

This year will be no different, except members of the 17-member parade committee would appreciate it if residents would attend the ceremonies both before and after the parade, Gilbert said.

Parade ceremonies begin 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 25 at the High Plains Community Center Parade Grounds at the Gazebo.

The parade will step off immediately following the ceremony down Orange Center Road past the reviewing stand with services following at the Orange Center Cemetery.

Gilbert said veterans hope residents attend the ceremonies in addition to the parade.

Ceremony

During the ceremony the parade recipients will be announced.

Laurence P. Czajkowski has been chosen Grand Marshal. He is a U.S. Army veteran who entered the service in 1968 and retired as a Major in 1998. He served during the Vietnam era as well as the Cold and Gulf War eras.

Peter J. MacDonald will be the Honorary Chief of Staff. He is a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran serving from 1965 to 1978. His overseas assignments included serving in Okinawa from 1965–1967, in Vietnam from 1967– 1968, in Germany from 1974–1977, and in the Marshall Islands in 1978.

Former long-time Board of Selectmen member Joseph F. Blake will be this year's Honored Veteran. He is a Korean War veteran who served with the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 attaining the rank of Corporal.

The keynote speaker will be Philip Grande, Sr. He is a U.S. Army Vietnam era veteran who attained the rank of Sergeant first class. After active service, he spent 16 years in the National Guard.

Robert Mirto, Town Meeting moderator,

#### MEMORIAL continued on page 22

### **Grand List Growth Counters Budget Gains**

#### by Brian McCready

ORANGE – Typically, a 3 percent spending increase in a town budget means hun-

dreds of dollars in additional tax payments for residents.

But not this year in Orange. Yes, the proposed town budget of \$63.28 million for

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fiscal 2014-15 includes a 3.05 spending increase, but the real effect on taxpayers is about a 1 percent increase.

How is this possible? The town's grand list is increasing by a whopping 1.04 percent, which in and of itself generates an additional \$600,000 in revenue for the town.

Additionally, a sizeable tax increase is avoided because the supplemental motor vehicle tax increased by an additional \$300,000 and the town received an additional \$240,000 in state aid.

All of the above helped minimize the tax burden on residents next year.

"This is a very unusual year. We had a 3 percent increase in spending but there is only less than a 1 percent increase on the tax rate," said James Leahy, who is a Board of Finance member.

Finance Director Al Chiarenzelli has said residents on average can expect to pay an additional \$69 in property taxes next year. The average house has a market value of \$328,800, which translates into an assessed value of \$230,160, which represents 70 percent of the market value.

The median taxes for the average house

of debt service and capital projects.

Amity Superintendent of Schools Charles "Chip" Dumais presented Amity's budget, while Orange Superintendent of Schools Lynn McMullin presented the elementary school budget.

Leahy and Board of Finance Chairman Kevin Houlihan presented the town budget.

Reaction to the budget proposal appeared positive. Amity Board of Education vice Chairwoman Sue Cohen said she was pleased to see an investment being made in the Orange elementary school system. She said it's vital to put funds into upgrading the infrastructure there.

Board of Selectman member Mitchell Goldblatt said the budgets are all "commendable."

"I support them all," Goldblatt said.

First Selectman James Zeoli said the Finance Board did a "really good job" putting the town budget together.

"It's a very fair budget," Zeoli said.

#### Orange elementary budget

The Orange elementary school budget is being driven by an additional \$200,000 needed to overhaul its language arts curric-

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for 2014-15 will be \$7,099.

Residents will vote on the Orange budget referendum noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 20 at the High Plains Community Center.

For a breakdown on next year's budget proposal, the town side operations are increasing by 5.32 percent from \$21.5 million to \$22.63 million. Orange's share to fund the Amity Regional School District is increasing by \$155,465 or 0.72 percent to \$21.76 million, and the Orange Board of Education budget is increasing by \$571,853 or 3.13 percent to \$18.82 million.

The town side operations are increasing by 5.32 percent largely because its debt service payment is increasing by \$353,096, and the town is funding an additional \$370,950 for capital projects. Of the \$1.14 million increase on the town side, \$723,000 is a result ulum.

McMullin said the budget is "not caviar and champagne, it's just the butter, milk and eggs we need to put in front of our children." She said students continue to excel on standardized tests.

She said the proposed budget allows the district to maintain small class size, implement a new language arts program, expand the instructional technology, upgrade the facilities and meet contractual obligations.

#### Town side of operations

Houlihan praised town department heads for keeping their budget requests to on average a 1.51 percent increase.

"The town department heads do a fantastic job year after year," Houlihan said. "They are used to doing more with less."

### www.TheOrangeTimes.com

## News & Events

### EARTH continued from page 1

There was also the "Bash the Trash" program where people can utilize recyclable materials to make musical instruments. Several energy efficient vendors were present.

Westbrook said energy efficiency can save residents so much money.

"One of the biggest electricity users in a home is lighting," Westbrook said. "If you switch to LED lighting you can use up to 80 percent less energy. It's also very high quality lighting and great energy efficiency."

She said the center has a Home Energy Solutions program where residents can sign up for a consultation to have their house assessed for energy inefficiencies.

"This assessment identifies air leaks and seals up the leaks," Westbrook said.

Mary Tesla, who is with the Girl

Scouts, said several girls attended because a lot of badges are related to ecology.

"This exposes girls to recycling and keeping the earth good," Tesla said. "One of our laws is to protect our natural resources."

Noreen Adams, who attended the center with her granddaughter, Megan Marianno, 3, said she was eager to learn about energy efficiency programs for her house.

"I also wanted to take advantage of the wonderful things happening here for the children," Adams said.

Linda Peck spent the afternoon entertaining children holding balloons and spinning plates on her hand.

Sara Mastropole said she drove by and stopped at the center after seeing the volunteer Orange Fire Department truck parked outside.

"I'm looking for ways to im-

prove our energy bill," Mastropole said. "This is also a perfect way to keep a toddler entertained. Our energy bill was off the charts this year."

She said she learned that solar power is not an option for her house, but geo-thermal is a possibility.

Lisa Kaplan, who is a spokeswoman for the Fire Department, said Earth Day is a great event, and it is always fun to engage the public, especially children.

"This is what we do," Kaplan said. "Children get all excited to see the fire truck."

She said firefighters wear their gear and explain to children that they are friendly and that they shouldn't fear them in the case of an emergency.

"We want them to know we're there for them," Kaplan said.

Matthew McLeod of Orange is wearing a green balloon hat at the recent Earth Day festivities

#### **TRIBE** continued from page 1

happens then it's possible for the Paugussetts to refile their land claims, Kohler said.

If the BIA changes its regulations, the U.S. Department of the Interior would still have to approve the move, Kohler said.

"We filed comments urging against adopting of the BIA discussion draft," Kohler said. "Our view is that the reservation doesn't prove anything about whether they

existed as a community where political authority was exercised and that's the key."

Kohler said it's impossible to know what will happen, but he'd "never say anything is impossible," including the tribe winning its land claims against residents.

He said it's unfortunate that residents are being traumatized again. Kohler said there is no timetable for when a final decision will be

made by the Interior Department. First Selectman James Zeoli

said the "town of Orange takes this threat very seriously and we are reviewing the proposal before the BIA." "We drafted our own opinion

and have sent it to Chief Washburn," Zeoli said.

Zeoli said he too questions why this issue has surfaced now. "This whole thing is question-

able," Zeoli said. "We're trying to find out why this has come to light again. It's unfair to the residents to do this. This is nothing more than threatening and leverage by others."

DeLauro in a written statement to The Orange Times said, "I had a very productive discussion with affected residents about the changes proposed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to criteria for American Indian tribe recognition."

"Connecticut should not have to be re-litigating this issue, which we have been dealing with since 1992. I have been in touch with the administration since the April meeting and the opinions I heard from my constituents will help inform further efforts as this process continues," DeLauro said.

Photos by Lexi Crocco







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# **Opinion & Editorial**

#### From Where I Sit:

### **Addressing Matters From April Selectmen Meeting**

The feedback from my first ar- heard he's a terrific school leader, ticle about the Board of Selectmen meetings overwhelmingly was positive, and I have been asked to continue this column. Our April 9 meeting had a few matters that I would like to take note of.

Page 4

The first was Selectman John Carangelo's announcement that

Mike Gray, Race Brook School's principal, was selected as Connecticut Association of School's principal of the year. Although I've not had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Gray yet, from all that I've



Selectman KEN LENZ

I believe the Board of Finance has been working tirelessly on formulating next year's proposed budget,

Community Center.

Another item was an

which the First Selectman and his Finance Director have reviewed. When the Board of Finance

meeting took place, only a small number of residents attended and

most of the meeting was dominated by lengthy presentations by the Amity and Orange school superintendents.

The chair and vice-chairman of the Board of Finance gave general comments about the proposed budget and a couple of members of the public asked a question.

The town recycling committee presented a proposal to have leftover household paint turned in at the Transfer Station, so it won't be taken to the regional hazardous waste collection.

There's also a day set up for residents to turn in pharmaceutical waste, so the chemicals don't get into the water table by being flushed down toilets.

Tom George from the committee said the amount of recycling going into the blue bins at the curbs has increased substantially. Given that this is a free service to every town resident, I hope the few holdouts (you know who you are) will start using your blue recycling bins along with your traditional trash barrels to save our environment and on the cost of trash processing. It really is the right thing to do!

There was an announcement that there will be a great deal of road work and repairs to the elementary school buildings starting this summer throughout Orange. Much of this is being paid for from the

bonds that residents approved two years ago, and in my opinion it's being put to good use.

Finally the Board of Selectmen was asked to approve a bundle of contracts and budget documents relating to our Silverbrook senior housing building, where there are 45 affordable senior apartments. These are funded by reasonable rents and State funds. While there are three current vacancies awaiting refurbishments, the administrator was confident they would soon be rented as there were 89 applications in the lottery for vacant apartments

That's how I see it from where I sit



Make sure that your recycling bin is facing the street the correct way. The arrow on top of the bin must be pointing toward the street. The metal grab bar will be facing the street. The truck runs with a mechanical arm. Only items INSIDE the bin can be picked up by the automatic pickup "arms" on the side of the truck. Do not leave items outside of the bin or in any other container.

# The Orange Times

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Recent

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### We Address **Bullying**

STATE SEN. GAYLE

SLOSSBERG

schools. Too often we focus on punishing the antagonist, and ignore the very real social and emotional needs of the victim. We need a change in focus that ensures we maximize our support for the victims of bullying.

Bullying is a long-term, negative process that can have far-reaching consequences. The best way we can respond to the needs of victims is to engage in early intervention and offer sustainable social supports.

This year I led Senate passage of a bill that allows schools to offer curricula on social-emotional learning, self-awareness, and self-regulation. School's strategies for maintaining safe climates can include early intervention like referrals to a school counselor, psychologist, or other social and mental health services.

#### **Set To Benefit Veterans** Ι want

to spotlight some by House

STATE REP. THEMIS

**KLARIDES** 

will benefit our servicemen and women.

One measure defines the crime of falsely representing oneself as a veteran in order to fraudulently obtain money, property or any other goods or services. The policy will penalize false representations such as unauthorized use of military medals, badges, decorations or armed forces uniforms.

There are many charities, local services and state programs that help our veterans who sacrificed to protect our nation, and abuse of those benefits is despicable.

Through this legislation an offender would face a fine ranging from \$500 to \$1,000; up to six months in prison, or both. Military decorations are hard earned symbols of extraordinary bravery and honor, and fraudulent use of them is repugnant.

#### **Placing The Priority On Our** Children



places high priority on our children and education, I am proud the centerpiece of this session focused on the establishment of a new Office of Early Childhood (OEC), an increase in available spaces for school readiness, and a plan to reach underserved areas with new preschool programs.

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In all cases, funding to cover these programs was included in the budget along with additional funding for other educational programs, which will go to local school districts.

The OEC is the result of a true bipartisan effort over a three year period. The bill includes a new program addressing dyslexia intervention.

The agency will be responsible



Developing a manufacturing workforce with the knowledge and skills needed for techno-



MARONEY the logically advanced industries of tomorrow is an indispensable com-

ponent of Connecticut's economic health. However, there is a significant gap between the need for highly trained manufacturing workers and the number of people qualified to do the work.

According to a state report 64 percent of companies are having difficulty finding qualified workers. The problem is exacerbated when you factor in many skilled and experienced baby boomers poised to retire. It is widely believed that there are currently more than 1,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs in Connecticut.

The state recognizes the need for a qualified manufacturing work-

valuable legislation recently approved the of Representatives that

Patricia Miller ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR PATMILLER605@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Lexi Crocco Staff Photographer

Steve Cooper Staff Photographer

Joseph Cole **GRAPHIC ARTIST** 

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This doesn't put additional burdens on schools as the bill allows funding for this intervention to come from public, private, federal, or philanthropic sources. With the rise in young people acting out, we need to teach students how to adequately address their social and emotional well-being.

Teenagers spend so much time focused on their phones or computers and this has resulted in relationships based on non-emotional contact.

This bill helps us make sure parents know what is going on in their children's' schools, and makes sure these schools are engaged in providing sustainable supports for students.

Another policy I voted for will help veterans transition back into the workforce by waiving or granting certain licenses, registrations, examinations, training or credits for veterans with appropriate military qualifications and experience. The policy allows any veteran within two years of discharge to submit an application for military training evaluation to the Department of Labor for certification that the applicant's training is equivalent and transferrable for a specific trade.

I hope this measure will help get veterans the recognition they greatly deserve for the valuable skills and training acquired during service.

for all services for young children. Organizing an agency in such manner will permit more effective and efficient operations thus improving programs for children.

The budget itself is balanced and under the spending cap as required by our Constitution. It increases funding to our municipalities for education by \$47 million and adds another \$33 million in funding for other municipal programs.

It reinstates tax exemptions for nonprescription drugs, extends tax credits for angel investors to help stimulate economic growth, reopens the tax relief program for the elderly and disabled, and does not include any new taxes.

In general this is a modest budget which focuses on our economic recovery, education, support for our municipalities, and maintaining a safety net for those most in need.

force, and has developed several programs. Examples of school programs geared toward high-tech manufacturing include Computer-Aided Drafting and Design and Manufacturing Technology programs at Platt Technical High School. The Southwestern Connecticut Advanced Manufacturing Center, established at Housatonic Community College, is part of a statewide initiative to provide skilled employees for the growing manufacturing industry.

In touring many manufacturing plants in Milford and Orange, I have seen the importance of this industry to our communities. Representative Paul Davis and I helped form a working group that brings together various state agencies and local stakeholders to focus on improving the business climate for manufacturing and helping to develop the manufacturing workforce.

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Mr. Mambe is head of the Jewelry Department of Jewelry Liquidation Consultants, a major "Trade-Only" auction house based in Philadelphia with offices in New York. He has 35 years experience in the jewelry industry.

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### **Orange Police Department Welcomes 3 New Officers**

The Orange Police Department recently welcomed three new officers to the force.

Matthew Crainich and Jeffery Fernandes both completed the field training process last month, and are presently working in the patrol division. Willie Roberts graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy on March 24, and is currently in the field training process.

Matthew Crainich - Born in Bridgeport and raised in Trumbull. Graduated from Trumbull High School, and then from Western Connecticut State University. He was formerly employed at Cartus Inc. performing I.T. work.

Jeffery Fernandes - Born and raised in Waterbury. Graduated from John F. Kennedy High School, and then from the University of Connecticut. He was a former driver for Campion Ambulance Services.

Willie Roberts Jr. - Born and raised in Waterbury. Graduated from Wilby High School, and then



Clockwise from Top: Officer Willie Roberts Jr. and Police Commissioner Christopher Carveth. Police Commission Chairman Donald Lewis, Police Chaplain Father Robert Deming, and Officer Jeffery Fernandes. Police Commission Chairman Donald Lewis, Police Chaplain Father Robert Deming, and Officer Matthew Crainich

from UCONN. He was formerly employed as a substitute teacher, a

school bus driver, and was a pharmacy technician at CVS.





### **Orange Fire Department Offers Spring Safety Tips**

As the warm weather approaches, families are turning their attention to indoor cleaning and outdoor projects. This is the ideal time to tour the house and yard for dangerous materials and unsafe conditions and to correct problem areas. The Orange Fire Marshal's Office suggests these important fire safety guidelines to help ensure a pleasant season.

Please remember: OPEN **BURNING IS NOT PERMITTED** IN THE TOWN OF ORANGE as there are numerous fire and safety concerns such as smoke, flying embers and the possibility of the fire spreading out of control. In addition, open burning is a violation of the Connecticut Clean Air

Act. Our office understands that this may be an inconvenience and appreciates your cooperation.

USE GAS AND CHARCOAL GRILLS OUTDOORS ONLY. They pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation, if used indoors or in any enclosed space. Position the

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accordance with the manufacturers suggestion to protect against failure, as older models may be less reliable. If an alarm "chirps" to indicate a low battery, immediately replace the batteries. The Fire Marshal's Office will provide and/or install free smoke and COalarms to Orange residents. The smoke alarms have ten year batteries which never need replacing.

It is important to have and practice a HOME ESCAPE PLAN. Know two ways out of every room and make sure doors and windows can be opened easily. Designate a place for family members to meet outside. Call 911 after exiting the home.

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### **Girls Lacrosse + Volunteerism = Bill McNeil**

Volunteerism often evolves out of need. For Bill Mc-Neil, it was his own daughter's desire to play lacrosse and the community's need for a league that has driven and continues to drive him.



Dietch

Bill fondly recalls a conversation his

daughter, Amy, had with him after the Orange girls' softball team competed in the Softball World Series nine years ago in Oregon

"She said right after the World Series that she wanted to play lacrosse. I knew nothing about it so we got a book and together began learning the sport," Bill explained.

Running a league was not a foreign idea for Bill. He served on the Orange Little League Board and the Orange Soccer Association for the years Amy and son, Brett, both played.

He also served on the Southern Connecticut Hockey Board for 15 years. Along with being a board member, Bill coached in all of these leagues.

"There were times both kids were playing three sports and we were juggling nine games," Bill smirked.

His passion for lacrosse grew with his daughter's. Bill said he formed a league so his daughter could play because there wasn't anything, especially for girls.

As Amy got older, Bill realized there was not a group for the younger kids to play. "My goal is to make it more like little league so you can have a travel team and local teams to play. Right now we are combined

stop

roses;

is too short,

live now;

count your

blessings.

The reality

life

#### with Bethany and Woodbridge. Some day, maybe we can have teams in Bethany and Woodbridge and Orange so we can all play each other," he said.

In his third official year of Amity Girls Lacrosse he is proud to say they have two divisions with four teams each in the seventh and eighth grade and fourth, fifth and sixth grade divisions.

One of the biggest hurdles for the growth of lacrosse is field time.

"Park and Rec does a great job to try and fit us in but there are only so many fields," Bill said, adding "I would love to develop part of Fred Wolfe Park as lacrosse headquarters some day. Right now, we have about 400 players between boys and girls."

Bill began a kindergarten and first grade program this year. They put out the word and 21 girls signed up.

"This group will graduate in 2026. It will be interesting to see where they take it," he said

The great part of the younger girls is that parents stay and are involved. Bill has been running all facets of the program himself.

"We are working to develop a board. It is a lot of work for one person. You can't do it perfectly when you wear 20 different hats," he added.

"We are working with the girls not to just teach them lacrosse but to make them athletes. Our coaches are all from the Amity High School program (Bill himself coaches junior varsity girls lacrosse at Amity), so we do the same workouts the girls will do when they get to Amity," he said.

Bill explained that this couldn't work without the Amity staff as well as many of the high school players who volunteer their time to help.



Bill McNeil with Sydney, Peyton and Sophie

Photo By JODY DIETCH

"The parents don't know the sport. Having the current and former Amity players come help is what makes this work.'

So why does Bill continue to put in the many hours it requires to run the league? "Because you can make a difference. I think back to my years as an athlete and the coaches who were my mentors. They have an impact. There were coaches who didn't have kids playing but they did it because of their dedication," he said.

The proof is in the success at the high school level and beyond.

Amity's freshmen lacrosse team recently beat Hand of Madison for the first time.

Amity never had a lacrosse feeder program and the fruits of Bill McNeil's labor are showing in the success of the players he has coached and mentored, including Amy, a junior at Assumption College, who just happens to have broken scoring records while playing there.

"My goal is to have all of these girls have the opportunity to play in college if they want to," he said.

Interested in learning more? Visit their website at Amitygirlsyouthlacrosse.org.

Jody Dietch is vice chair of the Orange Board of Education.

#### **Probate Talk:**



JUDGE BEVERLY STREIT-KEFALAS

however is much more difficult it seems. We have jobs and family responsibilities that keep us busy and moving on our "treadmill" of life. It is great to say – take time for yourself. Eat right. Exercise. But when you are one of those infamous dual caregivers, it is much easier said than done. I know. That's my life. For the many years that I have served as a probate judge, I have felt the heartache and seen the tears of family disagreements. I have witnessed the incredible love and support a daughter gives a father in his time of need, sometimes while also battling siblings on what is the best course of care.

The Life Of A Caregiver For Your Parents We all the truly understand what that kind of know life is all about. Many know that I sayings \_ am from a large family. and smell the

Seven siblings - all with different personalities and different lifestyles. All playing a role in mom and dad's care. We each have a different role. Some of us give a lot. Some of us give only a little. There is dysfunction. There is disagreement. And there is support and love too. Not as much support and teamwork as we saw on The Brady Bunch as kids. But more than enough to be sure mom and dad receive the care they deserve after loving and raising eight children. We all at least agree on the goal – to have the best care possible for both mom and dad and to keep them in their own place. We may each take a different path to get there. We may not always like each other's decisions. We may even resent that one gives more than another or another could do more and talk less. But in the end, do those disagreements even matter? Not really. Resentments about who does more, gives less, talks a lot but is really absent – all of those feelings can destroy a family if you let it. As a probate judge, I have seen as much family destruction over past resentments as I have seen families working together. I have also learned that those two kinds of families are not really different. It is just that the "successful" family has embodied the AA mantra "let go"

as I have now learned, you cannot and truly forgave whichever family member stepped on their toes or said words the wrong way.

The morals to be gained from family conflicts are to let go, forgive, and take care of yourself.

Beverly Streit-Kefalas is a probate judge for the Milford-Orange probate cout.



And I truly thought I understood and empathized with those family caregivers. After all, I saw it every day in my court. I was concerned for their challenges; I offered guidance in navigating legal systems and financial obstacles. I gave my attention, concern and appreciation for their sacrifices.

And yet, until you have lived the life of a caregiver for your parent,





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# Health & Wellness

**Locally Running:** 

### **Boston Is Back Better Than Ever**

**One Mind** 



BRADLEY

Boston Is Back Better Than Ever

Well it was an exciting time in Boston!!!!! We had great weather and it was a bit too hot actually for running.

The security was

high and the spirit of Boston was higher. The streets were lined with a million spectators. I met people who had no one running from out of town that just felt the need to be there to show support and "no fear" of last year's events. Of course the Bostonians were out lining every street four to five deep cheering and thanking run-

ners for taking back Boston.

Services across Easter weekend and the end of Passover were amazing. I attended an interfaith service where a flame was lit and each denomination took a lantern lit from the flame back to their church, temple, synagogue, or mosque. It was held at the finish line.

It was the beginning of the healing for Boston. Easter Sunday I attended service at the Old South Church of Boston. The service was a traditional Easter service but finished with a presentation and blessing of the runners. A procession of bagpipes led a group of parishioners carrying scarfs to surround the runners.

The scarfs were knit by people from 49 states and 13 countries. The scarfs were all different and done in Boston colors. The scarfs were part of a project, "A year of remembrance and hope," Marathon scarf Project 2014.

It had a message on each scarf that read "This scarf is interwoven with love and courage." It also had the name of the person who knitted the scarf and their home town. They were wrapped around each runner by a parishioner. All the goodness and spirit of spring, Easter and Boston was felt throughout the weekend by runners and spectators alike.

I want to thank the number of people who sent me emails and encouragement. It was recognition that bad people cannot overtake good things. We cannot let them win or dampen our spirit

Now for those of you who participated in Cinco de Mayo, a big congratulations. I

am sorry I missed it as last year I was able to place. (After all, it is about the shirt and sometimes the trophy). But it is always about the sense of accomplishment.

I was in Washington, DC doing a 40 mile walk for breast cancer awareness. It is a cause dear to me for many reasons. It is my fifth year and I have a team from around the country that walk to raise money. So if any runners or walkers are up to 39 miles next year, feel free to join.

Next year the walk is in San Francisco in July. It is two days, 26.2 day one and 13.1 miles day two. Many woman camp out ... I am of the hotel and room service crowd.

The weather is with us now so let's get out there and enjoy the weather. The price is right ... no greens fees ... no club fees ... no price of entry .... NO EXCUSES!

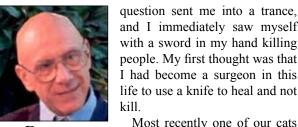
#### **The Color Orange:**

I was recently reading a book by my friend, Dr. Larry Dossey entitled "One Mind." I loved it because it shared many of my beliefs about consciousness. I had a near death experience, past life experience, had my inner guide from a meditation seen standing next to me while I lectured, had messages from the dead delivered by a mystic friend, heard voices speaking to me, and what

they said made a meaningful difference in my life.

One evening I felt like someone else was giving my lecture and I was simply verbalizing it for them. A woman came up to me and said, "Standing in front of you for the entire lecture was a man and I drew his picture for you." She drew exactly the face and features of my inner guide. I still have the picture hanging in our home.

My next experience came when I was telling a friend about how busy I was and she said, "Why are you living this life?" Her intention was to get me to slow down but her



Bernie SIEGEL. M.D.

and I immediately saw myself with a sword in my hand killing people. My first thought was that I had become a surgeon in this life to use a knife to heal and not kill.

Most recently one of our cats disappeared when a door was left open. After several weeks with no sign of her, I was sure she was killed by a predator. A

friend and animal intuitive, who lives in Los Angeles, Amelia Kinkade, has never been to our house or near it. I pestered her to tell me where the cat was. She told me in an email, without even sending her a picture of the cat, "The cat is alive because I can see through its eyes." It detailed the house, yard, other animals and people who were involved in the cat's life. The next day I went out and found the cat exactly where Amelia said it was hiding.

If that doesn't make me a believer about the collective consciousness nothing will. I totally believe that consciousness is non-local and not limited to the body. I also have experienced this through the drawings and dreams of patients I have cared for, which I share in my new book "The Art of Healing" to help open people's minds and helps patients know their diagnosis, what is their best treatment option and what the future holds for them.

As Jung said, "The future is unconsciously prepared long in advance and therefore can be guessed by clairvoyants."

Carl Jung diagnosed a brain tumor from a dream. Doctors are never told that while in training. I have had and know of many similar cases where people awaken from a dream and know they have cancer or other diseases. One last story: after I finished writing a book, "Buddy's Candle," and while walking our dog, Furphy, a voice told me to go to the animal shelter.

I listened to the voice. When I walked into the shelter there was a dog sitting there. "What's his name?" Of course it was Buddy and I took him home. On the way home, when I stopped for gas, he jumped out of the car and I had a very difficult time getting him

back into the car. When we got home I asked him in my mind why he did that. He said, "I belonged to an alcoholic man who locked me in the car and abused me when he was drinking.

I promised him I would never do that to him. Two weeks later I come out of Stop & Shop to find the minivan door wide open due to my hitting the button as I put the keys in my pocket. There sat Buddy in the open van while my consciousness told me Furphy, our other dog, was in Stop & Shop looking for me. And he was.

Love Peace, & Healing, Bernie Siegel, MD

We currently have a mind, heart and health matters support group for those in need and for caregivers who need support the first Wednesday evening of every month and a cancer support group the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of the month at Coachman's Square at 21 Bradley Road, Woodbridge. If interested contact Lucille Ranciato at lranciato1@yahoo.com 203.288.2839; or myself bugsyssiegel@sbcglobal.net for details.

#### **On Your Mind:**

Happiness has been the subject of many studies, and



awful things happening in the world. How-

Sometimes it seems selfish to think about meaningful life. The list is endless. People our own happiness when there are so many speak about happiness in future terms: "I will be happy when ... or I can't be happy

**In Pursuit Of Happiness** 

because happiness is the byproduct of a meaningful life."

Ask yourself, "How can I serve others?"

the results are in. According to "The Greater Good" at The University of California at Berkeley, people who are happy are less likely to get sick, are more likely to be success-



Fern TAUSIG

ful, have more friends, are more likely to get married and are more productive at work.

The most obvious question then becomes "How can I find happiness?" Happiness can seem elusive until you realize that happiness has no real definition, so you can actually choose to define it any way you want.

ever, life is so short that we should strive to be as happy as possible, as often as possible, for as long as possible.

Bad things happen, but we have a choice as to how we allow it to affect us. We can focus on those bad things and feel miserable, or we can choose to be grateful for the positive things in our lives and feel happy.

My mother once shared a quote with me that always reminded me of that choice. "I cried because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet." Sometimes a little perspective can make a big difference.

Things that make you happy can be divided into categories: an event, an accomplishment, something pleasurable, a healthy,



until ...

What if you decided that what you are now is happy, and if something good happens you can be happier? How would your life be different if you believed you are happy now? A belief is only a thought that gets repeated over and over again.

#### There are 5 keys to happiness:

You must believe you deserve to be happy. You must expect to be happy.

You have to be able to imagine or visualize being happy.

You need to learn how to control your thoughts.

You need to be able to recognize when you are happy.

Abraham Lincoln said, 'Folks are usually about as happy as they make their minds up to be.' So, what if you chose to be happy, how do you find it?

#### Here are a few helpful hints:

Find a purpose. Viktor Frankl said, "The pursuit of happiness is a meaningless search

Learn an "attitude of gratitude" and count your blessings

Examine your rules. Albert Ellis said that we make rules for ourselves and we become slaves to them. What rules have you made that are getting in the way of your happiness? You made the rules, change them!

Focus on what you have, not what you don't have.

Don't compare yourself to anyone. Comparison is often at the root of unhappiness.

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you can't find happiness. Sometimes we need someone to help us eliminate guilt and fear so we can be open and feel deserving of happiness. Hypnosis is the fastest, most effective way to eliminate negative, old, unwanted feelings. Please visit my website for upcoming workshops on hypnosis.

Fern is a certified hypnotist, life coach and health educator. She can be reached at 203.283.4567, www.myhealinghypnosis. com.

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# **Amity Softball Team Focused On Goals**

#### by Brian McCready

Page 10

ORANGE – The Amity girls' softball team is hoping to achieve several goals this year including winning the state tournament, its head coach Loren Purcell said.

The team is off to a strong start with a 6-1 record.

"I am extremely pleased with the performance of all my athletes, thus far," Purcell said. "They all worked hard during our preseason, which begins in February with weightlifting and conditioning. The attendance and attitude of each girl was outstanding."

"As the season opened the girls begin to focus on the goals ahead of us. First goal, win our Housatonic division, second, qualify and win the Southern Connecticut Conference tournament, third qualify and win the state tournament," Purcell added. "Our girls are determined to succeed. Although, we are a young team this season, each girl knows their role and works hard daily to achieve the goals set forth by the team."

#### Amity's softball team

Starting on the mound is sophomore starting pitcher Kate Koshes (4-0 record).

"Kate is an outstanding pitcher but also provides the team with an offensive punch when in the batter's box," Purcell said. "While on the mound, Kate's dynamic duo is with her catcher, Janaya Young, junior catcher."

Janaya is a team leader behind the plate. She controls the game with authority and presents a challenge each time she steps in the batter's box, her coach said.

Amity's infield consists of mainly upper classman. At third base is Krista Reynolds, senior captain. Krista is the team's leadoff batter.

"She is a great leader on and off the field," Purcell said.

At shortstop, Heather Watt, senior captain controls the middle infield.

"Heather worked very hard this year and it shows in her game day performances. Heather has contributed to the Spartans success with her explosive bat and game saving



#### Heather Watt of Amity is at the plate in a recent game

defensive plays," Purcell said.

Second base was earned by senior, Mary Kozan.

"Mary came out this season with a determination to secure her spot at second base. Her offensive power has added tremendous strength to our lineup," Purcell said.

At first base is Jill DeMaio, a junior.

"Jill is a true third baseman, which we moved over to first. She has done an outstanding job at that position," Purcell said. "Jill has made several defensive plays that saved us from going into extra innings on more than one occasion. Lucky for us, Jill Photo by LOREN PURCELL

also provides the team with a talented and consistent bat. She is one of our power hitters and has been a nice addition to our lineup."

#### Amity's outfielders

Amity's outfielders are Jenna DiLorenzo, junior, Teresa Marchitto, sophomore, and Haley Kober, a junior.

Jenna is a three year starter. She has explosive speed in centerfield, her coach said. Jenna is one of Amity's offensive weapons, her coach said.

"Her presence in the box alarms most

teams and creates fear when we have runners on base," Purcell said.

Teresa Marchitto is in right field. Teresa, also a catcher for the Spartans, has provided the team with her offensive power this season, her coach said. The first five games, Teresa dominated at the plate with a batting average of .615. She has tremendous power and is a well-rounded athlete. Haley Kober earned her spot in left field with hard work and an offensive pop, Purcell said.

"Her bat has improved and she now presents a threat while in the box. All of my outfielders contribute to our team success not only with their defensive abilities but also with their explosive offensive talents," Purcell said.

#### Pitchers

Others to watch out for include sophomore pitcher, Morgan Perry. In her first two varsity starts, Morgan threw a one hitter and a no hitter.

"Morgan has just started getting her feet wet at the varsity level. She will be an athlete to watch out for," Purcell said.

The senior captain, Heather Ferranti, is a pitcher. Heather is currently injured but has maintained her role as captain.

"She has not missed a practice, is extremely supportive, and takes control of her team while aiding with the coaching staff during games. Heather is a true captain that every team should have," Purcell said.

#### Outlook

"This year's team may be young but our core is strong," Purcell said. "We have great leadership from our captains and our team plays well together. For most coaches, that's the struggle. These girls are all talented athletes but sometimes their ability to play well with others presents the biggest problem on the field. I am pleased this is not a concern for the Spartans this season. My girls enjoy playing ball and they all get along, which makes our lives as coaches much easier. We can focus on the game and not the petty stuff that affects most teams. I am looking forward to a successful season."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Amity Head Tennis Coach Chris Raffone with Captain Jake Noyes.

### **Amity Tennis Team Undefeated**

#### by Brian McCready

ORANGE — The Amity boys' tennis team is a perfect 4-0 this season and Head Coach Chris Raffone said he hopes the team can keep up its dominating ways.

Amity's tennis team has a history of success under Raffone's tutelage. He's been the coach for eight years and has compiled a career record of 131 wins and 19 loses. Amity has won the Southern Connecticut Conference Championship three times including 2007, 2011 and 2012. Amity finished runner up in the SCC tournament in 2008, 2009 and 2013. So far this season the team's number one player Junior Jason Seidman is undefeated and the defending Class LL state champion. "The team is looking forward to big matches later in season against Hand and Staples and has aspirations of winning its first state championship since 2004," Raffone said.

"The team is a great group this season winning every match 7-0 in all the matches. I hope the undefeated season continues with tough matches ahead with Daniel Hand of Madison and Staples of Westport," Raffone added.

Seidman and Max Einbinder have been Amity's top players this

season at singles. Captain Jake Noyes is leading the team on and off the court and is also undefeated in doubles, the coach said.

Key players coming back from injuries are Ethan Bershtein and Phil Hochman, and with them back in lineup the future is bright, Raffone predicted.

"My favorite part of coaching is seeing the friendships that develop amongst the kids and watching grow into fine young adults. I take great pride in keeping in touch with graduated players and seeing what great things they're doing with their lives," Raffone said.

#### The Orange Times



# **Slow Start For Amity Boys' Volleyball**

#### by Brian McCready

ORANGE- The Amity boys' volleyball team has gotten off to a slow start this season with a record of two wins and five losses.

Head Coach Michael Cofrancesco said Amity started off with a 2-3 record before losing a "hard fought game" 3-2 to Lewis Mills and to Oxford. His squad did defeat Hand recently 3-0 at home.

Amity lost its season opener 3-1 at Lewis Mills. Amity's home opener was a 3-0 loss to Shelton. Amity got its first win 3-0 at Kolbe Cathedral. That was followed by a 3-0 loss at Xavier.

Cofrancesco, who is in his fourth season as coach, said participation levels have made coaching a challenge.

With a plethora of spring sports and the increased popularity of lacrosse over the past decade, as well as the creation of ultimate frisbee and rugby, the number of athletes available for volleyball has dwindled making it difficult to remain competitive," Cofrancesco said.

Other challenges with boys volleyball include the fact that boys don't play it growing up the way that they play baseball, basketball or many other sports, the coach said. "Another issue I have faced is the amount of activities that students participate in during the spring is extensive. Between proms and SATs and college visits the kids have a hard time fitting in volleyball even though it is a short season," Cofrancesco said. He said on the court the team's biggest strength has been its blocking. Amity has multiple players taller than 6'4" which has helped that.

"If we had improved the consistency of our passing and serving we can make great strides as a team," Cofrancesco said.

"The captains Tyler Barwise



#### #21 is Amity junior Matt Sacco setting to senior Captain Tyler Barwise

Nick Bottone have been our leaders in kills in the early season," the coach said. "Our biggest problem has been a lack of consistent passing." "During our 3 games over vacation week we were missing one or two starters from each game.

This has certainly contributed to our inconsistency. We were never forced to try a freshman in varsity at a new position to cover for missing players. I am hopeful with all players back we can start to play more consistently and confidently," Cofrancesco added.

The main players in the squad's line-up includes; Middle hitters, Tyler Barwise and Joe Ferraiolo, Outside hitters, Nick Bottone and Brett Southworth, Setter, Matt Sacco, and Right side hitter Ethan Photo By LEXI CROCCO

Smith. Ethan splits time on the court with Steven Prussin. Freshman Conor Leary Watson has seen some action during vacation week due to the absence of players and did a "solid job" for a player just learning the game, the coach said.

### A Great Year For Amity Dance Team

#### by Brian McCready

ORANGE — The Amity High School varsity dance team placed second in kick line and fourth in the pom division at the CT State Dance Tournament.

A pom dance involves a team incorporating required dance elements while creating visual effects with pon-poms in their hands, said coach Kendra Luth. Kick-line dancing involves bringing in dance elements with a large number and variety of high kicks.

"I was extremely pleased with them. There were a lot of good teams at the competition," Luth

#### said.

Amity also finished runner up in the Pom Division amongst six top teams from Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts at the New England Dance Team Championships.

"It's extremely satisfying," Luth said. "Although our routine wasn't as complex as some of the others the Amity girls performed a clean, sharp and high energy routine. That's what gave us an edge. It gave us higher points."

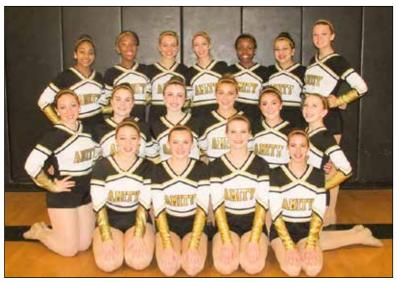
Luth said everyone on the squad was extremely coachable. It's a long seven month season but everyone worked hard to get better, Luth said.

"For these competitions they did everything they were coached to do," Luth said. "I am most proud because everything they had worked so hard on came together for them".

She said all the entire 17 members deserve praise for having such a successful season.

The dance team performs at all home football and boys' basketball game, and attends any senior nights for any fall/winter teams that request them.

"We do community service by participating in the "pink games," we have a Relay for Life team and make food for the Midnight Run at Holy Infant Church," Luth said.



#### Photo By KENDRA LUTH

Front Row L-R: Sammy Richetelli, Alina Lisowitch, Stephanie Sutton, Sophia Cuozzo, Middle Row L-R: Rosie Richetelli, Julia Healey, Rebecca Slossberg, Stephanie Laugeni, Emma Tucker, Gianna Iannotti. Back Row L-R: Alekhya Vankayala, Tia Gardner, Sedona Trellevik, Sarina Cuozzo, Kurtisy Darden, Alyssa Benedetto, Megan Steigleder

# Home & Garden

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

### View Your Home As If You Are Its New Owner!

Hopefully, soon it will be warm and heat will fill our homes with natural fuel! Knowing we can now linger outside, it is time to check the exterior of your building for any damage from the winter.

For example, many windows show signs of seepage on the inside, clean and caulk the seams, check the sills for rotting wood.

We could talk all day about water leaks, from basements to attics. Bruce Schaefer, from Marvin Schaefer Home Inspections, tells me he is always looking for new water stains on patched areas on walls

and ceilings. He further reminds my clients the air conditioning equipment lasts longer if it is serviced, filters changed and leveled on its base outside.

Cleaning gutters and the chimney will put

you ahead of the game for next season. It never hurts to keep an eve open for any mud tunnels as any home could develop termites. Termites love firewood, never store it in your garage where the sills could be compromised and then the whole house will need to be treated if the garage is attached to the house. Home inspectors probably find

termites in the garage 50 percent of the time whether you put wood in there

or not When I spoke to Bruce we chuckled about attics because this area of the home is probably the most neglected. You can reinsulate because insulation over years deteriorates and you can floor it also, but always have a safe access (if you are using it), a lot of light and most importantly ventilation.

Fans with temperature control will keep

with certain sizes or cus-

tom made with unique

patterns, colors and exact

My favorite manufac-

These rugs may be

turer of area rugs is Kara-

stan Rugs & Stanton.

dimensions.

moisture out. Vent screens are also important, check the attic for leaks around the chimney.

A client, who is considering selling, recently had a question regarding findings during an inspection; "If you have an old furnace or septic system, can you purchase an insurance policy to cover these items or give a credit to the new buyers?"

You can buy a Home Warrantee from your realtor's company, most are offering them. They can relieve some of the cost down the line. An example is if you sell your home and the furnace dies and the new owner now has a warrantee in place, then he can call the company and they will contribute towards the cost of a new system.

The reimbursement has a limit on it, probably one-third the cost of the furnace. Usually the sellers opt to give a lower price for the sale as long as the furnace is working, just as they would for the septic.

If the furnace or septic are not working at the time of the sale, then it is the seller's responsibility to make everything working at closing. The only way this would not be so is if the new buyer was buying for cash. The lenders know when there needs to be "credits" and they do not allow money to be given back to the buyers anymore.

We called this "escrow" funds at one time, but the government has cracked down on the closing costs, and limits the amount a seller can contribute to a buyer. This limited fund at closing is called "non-recurring" closing cost and that is another article!

If you are at all concerned about any area in your home then get an inspection, you don't have to be on the market to have a home inspection.

If you need more information on these issues email <u>Barbara.Lehrer@cbmoves.com</u>.

### **Area Rugs Work On Any Type Of Flooring**

Long before the term "wall-to-wall" was invented, area rugs graced the floors of human dwellings. The original area rugs may have been lion skins — and they may have done double duty as beds, but it was an area rug, just the same.

**Just Floored:** 



ANNAMARIE

more expensive than oth-Amore er brands, but they have

a much longer shelf life. Today's area rugs can be premade Area rugs are tremendously ver-

satile. With the appropriate pad, area rugs work on any type of flooring and in any room. The results are magical. Area rugs offer unlimited combinations of color, texture, pattern and placement.

They are the only flooring product that you can easily install, then pick up and move!

Today's area rugs are most often machine-made with sophisticated design patterns on computerized looms that can imitate the more intricate handmade rugs — but at greatly reduced costs.

They are generally made out of wool, silk, (or a blend of wool/silk), olefin (polypropylene), or nylon occasionally cotton, and even bamboo.

Wool and silk antique and modern area rugs rule the high end market. More moderately priced rugs are manufactured from heat-set olefin,

which looks like wool and cleans easily.

Are you looking for an investment, a family heirloom, a practical room addition or a fun accessory? Whatever your need or intention, you simply can't go wrong with an area rug.

Annamarie Amore is founder/owner of A.A.I. Flooring Specialsits. She can be rached at amoreinteriors@ yahoo.com.





BARBARA LEHRER

Page 12

# 1-800-DRVEWAY drivewaysealingcallfrank.com

### Home & Garden

#### **Room 911:**

### A Place For Everything And Everything In Its Place (Part II)

#### Recap

Willow and Jeremy, a young married couple, who are first-time home owners in Orange, were compatible in every way.

But behind closed doors, she accused him of trying to destroy her decorating endeavors and he accused her of making the house into a showcase worthy of a four page spread in Architectural Digest. (Please check the April 24 issue of The Orange Times for details)

Act III (continued)

Jeremy admitted that he often spent so much time looking for his house keys, his wallet, his work assignments and his laptop computer.

He really spread everything around so he could be more organized. Crazy as that may sound, for Jeremy being able to see everything was easier than trying to remember what pile he was to put things in.

This sounded like his coping mechanism

#### The Gardening Spot:



Tedra wanted the house tidy and she liked **S**CHNEIDER

to hear their positive feedback. Both her mother and father ran

low.

for possible Attention Deficit Dis-

order. The bottom line was to find

solutions for both Jeremy and Wil-

Willow mentioned how import-

ant it was for her to see everything

in an orderly fashion. It made her

feel calm and serene. She also

a tight ship and she and her siblings were expected to have everything in order. She had to have all the wine glasses in the breakfront in descending order by height. She checked and rechecked that all her carpeted rooms had to have the vacuum marks going in the same direction in the same row.

Okay, so maybe you're thinking she has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Can a possible ADD person who loves a possible OCD person find a harmonious living situation?

Everyone needs a surface to put things down

on when they walk into their house. There needs to be a temporary place to unload all of our items. Willow put things in their proper place within the hour, while Jeremy meant to go back to his mess, but he only compounded it by adding more stuff to the table surfaces.

Finale

This couple was fortunate to have a mud room. I set it up as a "staging" area.

A long narrow table with drawers was purchased from a second hand store. This was to be primarily Jeremy's space but also used for mail.

Next to it, we placed a waste paper basket, an open mesh umbrella stand, four corkboards along the walls, a key ring holder, and two open canvas containers.

Some of the basic rules were as follows: all mail was to be handled at once, all junk mail was to go into the waste paper basket, and all bills and notices were to be put on the desk in the kitchen.

Next, the open wire mesh umbrella stand

was to hold unusual shaped items, such as rolled blue prints or sales charts that would not fit in a conventional desk.

The long table had two drawers that were labeled "Work Reports/Financial," and "Miscellaneous."

Each corkboard had a banner across the top in a specific color. Red: all sporting and entertainment notices and tickets. Yellow: Groupons, coupons, etc. Purple: for appointment slips, notifications, etc. Green: and it read "Things I Don't Know What To Do With Yet But They Look Interesting."

Well, did our couple ride off into the sunset? Not exactly, but there was a big improvement, a better understanding and tolerance of one another's personality traits. My last piece of advice for them was to find local professionals who can further help in this type of organization.

Tedra Schneider can be reached through her website at www.restagebytedra.com.

### Have You Thought About A Fig Tree?

I was the happy recipient of a lovely potted dwarf fig tree (Thank you daughter) I say happy because if I am successful, in time, I may be rewarded with a tree bearing some juicy sweet figs.

Fresh figs, if you have purchased some recently, are not inexpensive. One of the reasons I'm sure is that the growing process can be tricky. I can remember my father-in-law many years ago was

quite successful in caring for his fig trees. In late fall, he diligently wrapped them in blankets and linoleum to protect them from the winter cold. And each spring, after some pruning and plenty of warm cious morsels.

So a fig tree can be a challenge – but that's the fun of it. A dwarf fig tree grown in a pot might be a good alternative to the large in-ground variety. A reputable nursery is a good source from which to purchase a fig tree. Additionally the inter-

Potted fig trees can be placed in a

the spring, place them in a warm sunny location, sheltered from the wind.

You may not get fruit the first season, but hopefully the following year your tree will bear fruit. They like even moisture and average indoor humidity levels. More watering is necessary in the summer.

As long as the potting soil is loose and has good drainage (be sure your pot has a drainage hole) it is hard to overwater potted fig trees. Fertilize with a slow-organic fertilizer, one that is formulated for fruits and vegetables.

Once summer is over they will go dormant. So before the freezing weather arrives, place the fig tree in an unheated garage or basement. No need for wrapping.

Fig trees are members of the Genus group of trees known as Ficus. There are inedible and edible varieties – the Caprifig produces inedible fruit. There are three main types which produce edible fruits – the Smyrna, the San Pedro and the Common figs.

Fig leaves have a smoky green color and the potted variety will grow to about three to four feet. My tree will hopefully bear a fruit called an "Italian Honey Fig," one of the Common variety. It will have yellow-green skin and a sweet amber flesh. Now that sounds delicious already!

Marion Rizzo is a past president, The Garden Club of Orange.

### egal Notices

#### NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Orange, Connecticut.

Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on: Thursday, May 22, at 8 p.m., at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT to endorse a candidate for Registrar of Voters.

Dated at Orange, Connecticut, on May 15, 2014

Democratic Town Committee of Orange. Patricia Pearson

"YES." Those voters opposing the question shall vote "NO."

The polls will be open during the hours between 12:00 NOON and 8:00 p.m. (E.D.T.)

Voters will cast their votes at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT

for review in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Orange Charter and the votes will be cast and

canvassed and the results determined and certified as nearly as may be in accordance with the laws governing the election of Town officers. Dated at Orange, CT this 2nd day of May

2014

Patrick B. O'Sullivan, Town Clerk





Rizzo

summer sun, his trees rewarded his hard work with many deli-

net will offer some choices.

south-facing window while the weather is still cool. When the weather moderates in

Absentee ballots shall be available as pro-

vided by law at the Office of the Town Clerk. Copies of the Proposed Budget are available

The voting will take place pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.6(c) of the Town of

Chairperson

#### **TOWN OF ORANGE LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF REFERENDUM**

Pursuant to Section 2.6(c) of the Town Charter of the Town of Orange, notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the Town of Orange who are qualified to vote in Town Meetings, that a referendum will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. (E.D.T.) at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange CT for the purpose of voting on the following question:

SHALL THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF ORANGE FOR THE FIS-CAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014 AS PROPOSED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 63,277,311 BE AD-OPTED? YES or NO

557 Boston Post Rd., Orange · 203 298-4697 **INCLUDES STANDARD DELIVERY** shorelinehottubs.com helo GREAT LAKE OWN THIS TUB: The Area's Leading Spa Chemical Expert! The Sale Of the Year All Chemicals Is Going On Now! With Coupon. Not Combinable. Exp. 6/5/14

Voters approving the question shall vote

# Arts & Entertainment Arts Matters

#### "Whoever neglects the arts in youth has lost the past and is dead to the future"- Sophocles

#### by Patricia Miller

landscapes to exotic animals. To display his images, Angersola employs creative measures, from metal prints to images fired on ce-

sponsored by the Orange Congregational Church (on the Green, Orange) will host The Shoreline Ringers on Sunday, May 18 at 4

ily four-pack. Student rush tickets are available at the door for \$5 and patron tickets that include a wine and dessert reception at the John

courtesy of the Eli Whitney Museum. Filled with magic, mania and more, the work is a site-specific spectacle. This company is introducing the community to unusual performance venues.

They will bring the first rock show to the Institute Library's Reading Room on Saturday, May 17. The room will seat about 60 people, making for an intimate performance. For tickets and more information, call 203.823.7988 or go to abrokenumbrella.com

"THE WIZARD OF OZ" will be presented on Sunday, May 18 at 2 p.m. by the JCC Youth Theater (JCC, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge). This theatrical classic is fun for all ages. For information, contact Alison Lurie at 203.387.2522 x313 or at alison@ jccnh.org

SENIOR CHOREOGRAPHY will be onstage at ACES Educational Center for the Arts (55 Audubon Street, New Haven) on Wednesday, May 28, and Thursday, May 29 at 7 p.m. This performance is the year's culminating work of the ECA Dance Department.

YALE CENTER FOR BRIT-ISH ART (1080 Chapel Street, New Haven) opens "Of Green Leaf, Bird and Flower - Artists? Books and the Natural World" on May 15, running until August 10. The exhibition highlights scientific pursuits of artists in the 18th and 19th century that resulted in the collection and cataloguing of the natural world. The exhibition also investigates the work of self-taught artists of the Victorian era, many of whom were women, collectors and drawers of specimens of butterflies, ferns, grass, feathers, shells and seaweed that were preserved in albums. These contemporary artists reveal a shared inspiration to record, interpret and celebrate nature, as did their predecessors. The exhibit features traditional bound books, drawings and prints, as well as a range of more experimental media featuring cut paper, wood, stone, natural specimens, sound video and interactive multimedia. Historic works from the Bienecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library are part of the display as are examples of early microscopes used by naturalists in the 18th and 19th centuries, from the collection at the Peabody Museum. Have an event, an idea, or a comment? Send to <u>patmiller605(a)</u> sbcglobal.net

HOP ON THE BUS is sponsored by the Orange Arts and Culture Council and The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation to the NHSO concert, "Rachmaninoff Fantastique" on Thursday, May 15. Led by Music Director William Boughton, the orchestra will perform two colossal works: Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18", and Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantistique." The Rachmaninoff Concerto features pianist Ilya Yakashev, who marries musical subtlety with piano pyrotechnics. Berlioz's "Fantastique" Symphony was inspired by the composer's obsession with an Irish actress and runs the gamut from tenderness to tantrums, from visions of suicide to ecstasy. For seats on the bus, call Pat Miller at 203.397.8915. For symphony tickets call 203.865.0831 or go to newhavensymphony.org. The free bus leaves High Plains Community Center at 6:45 p.m. and returns at approximately 10:20 p.m.

**ORANGE PLAYERS** presents "Kick Out of Cole" on Thursday, May 15, Friday, May 16, Saturday, May 17, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 18 at 3 p.m. at High Plains Community Center. The musical revue features the music of Cole Porter, and is directed by Leo Meyer, with musical direction by Angela Jackson. Cast members include: Gary Harger, Raye Riccitelli MacClellan, Linda Martin, Rich Moran, and Paul Templeton from Orange. Other cast members include: long time Orange Players, Ralph Buonocore of Madison, Christine Gill of New Haven, Barbara Stolarik of Litchfield, and Suzanne Powers of East Haven; as well as newcomers Sarah Golley of Norwalk and Valerie Torphy of Shelton. Seating is cabaret style; patrons are encouraged to bring their own beverages and snacks. Tickets are \$20 and can be ordered online at theorangeplayers. net or by calling the box office at 203.988.5335.

THE ORANGE ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL is sponsoring a photo contest for young people —"Picture This!" The competition is open for photographers in Grades 4-12. There is a Junior Division - Grades 4-8, and a Senior Division - Grades 9-12. Deadline for submission of photographs is June 1. The winning photographs, one for each division, will be displayed at the OACC Build a Better Bird House booth at the Agricultural Fair. More information can be obtained by calling 203.795.5133 or 203.795.3314.



Ralph Buonocore, Valerie Torphy, Christine Gill, Linda Martin, Sarah Golley, Raye MacClellan, Paul Templeton & Gary Harger at the paino (R to L) photo by Celebrate spring with the Orange Players in their cabaret performance of Cole Porter's timeless tunes! Performance dates are May 15-17 at 8 pm, with a matinee performance May 18 at 3 pm. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased via Paypal, on the Orange Players website (www.orangeplayers.net), by calling the box office at 203-988-5335

ramic tiles. Through his work he shares his love of nature while enjoying the creative process. In the Main Gallery, Mark Dittmar's realistic colored pencil drawings are displayed in his exhibition, "Eye of the Beholder." His work is remarkable in its detail and depicts many local scenes that will be familiar to many. Both artists' work will be on exhibit through the month of May. Some of Kyle Green's work from a previous exhibition, "Things," remains in the East Gallery. The Davis Gallery is affiliated with Videolab of Orange and is located in the Videolab facility.

#### ART IN THE LIBRARY **CALL TO ARTISTS FOR 2015-**

2016 EXHIBITS is issued. The Art in the Library Committee sponsors the exhibits in the Case Memorial Library (176 Tyler City Road, Orange). Registration is Thursday, June 12 from 5-7 p.m. in the conference room on the second floor of the library. Works can also be submitted online at agwaterworks@optonline.net. Artists are requested to enter three works of

art. Oils, watercolors, mixed media, collages, sculptures, drawings, photographs, monoprints, woodcuts, creative jewelry, paper crafts, metals, cloth hangings, batiks original objects that can be hung, displayed on pedestals, or displayed in a lighted glass cabinet are sought. There is a \$10 entrance fee. Decisions on works to be exhibited in the monthly shows will be made by the Art in the Library Selection Committee. Artists are to pick up their work on Saturday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. There are kitchen facilities for use in setting up opening receptions, as well as hanging assistance and guidance from assigned liaisons for each artist. The exhibition space is a beautiful gallery in an active library. For more information, call Audrey Galer at 203.795.3695

p.m. This Southeastern Handbell ensemble will perform their spring touring concert under the direction of Jane Nolan.

THE MILFORD FINE ARTS **COUNCIL** announces a receiving date for artwork for "Waterscapes" on Friday, May 16, Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18, from 12-4 p.m. at the Firehouse Gallery (81 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford). The opening reception for the exhibition is Thursday, May 29 from 6-8 p.m. The gallery hours are Friday-Sunday from 12-4 p.m. For more information, go to fhgallery@optonline.net or www.milfordart.org.

JUKE JOINT JAZZ is sponsored by the Milford Fine Arts Council (40 North Railroad Avenue, Milford) on Friday, May 30. Hard-driving and melodic arrangements of the classic jazz repertoire, with influences ranging from Miles Davis to The Grateful Dead, will be played. Their music is an eclectic mix of international composers pheus — Bossa to Latin — Bob to Boogie. Musicians include Perry Friedman on piano, Michael Levene on guitar, David Kesola on saxophone, Jon Oltman on bass, and Chris Hamlen on drums. Tickets are \$25 (\$20 for seniors).

Davenport Restaurant at the Omni Hotel, are \$100. Call 203.777.4690 or go to orchestranewengland.org.

THE YALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA concludes this academic year's season with a Commencement Concert on Friday, May 16 at Battell Chapel (400 College Street, New Haven) featuring a wide range program of many shorter works as well as movements from longer works intended to showcase soloists from the graduating class of 2014. Representative works of Vivaldi, Brahms, Faure, Mozart, Krommer, Straus, Elgar, Popper and Remage will be performed. This concert is free.

YALE GLEE CLUB will present a Commencement Concert at Sprague Hall (470 College Street) on Saturday, May 17 at 8 p.m. at Sprague Hall. This concert is free.

"JAZZ ATTACK," with three jazz artists reputed to be the hottest players in jazz today --

Peter White, Rick Bran and - music from A Train to Black Or- Euge Groom - will entertain at the John Lyman Center at Southern Connecticut State University (501 Crescent Street, New Haven) on Friday, May 30 at 8 p.m. These incredible musicians will present a special concert that is sure to be a super jazz jam! For tickets call 203.392.6154 or go to ticket.southernct.edu.

THE DAVIS GALLERY (200 Boston Post Road, Orange) houses a photography exhibit, "All the World's a Stage," featuring the work of James Angersola more than 100 works ranging from scenes of nature and rural

MUSIC ON THE GREEN,

ORCHESTRA NEW EN-GLAND announces a date change for Silent Movie Night to Saturday, May 17 at 8 p.m. This event, a night of silent movies and music, will be held at The High School of Arts and Humanities (corner of College and Crown streets, New Haven). Movies include classic films such as Buster Keaton's "Cops," Harold Lloyd's "Haunted Spooks," and Charlie Chaplin's "The Rink." The Orchestra New England will supply the musical accompaniment. Tickets are \$35 for general admission, \$99 for fam-

A BROKEN UMBRELLA THEATER presents "Gilbert the Great" May 28-June 8 at Erector Square (315 Peck Street, New Haven). "Gilbert" celebrates the extraordinary life of A. C. Gilbert, inventor of the famous Erector Set. Gilbert was an interesting figure who paid his Yale tuition by performing magic tricks and selling magic books. The work explores his legacy in New Haven and his personal drive. Some of his memorable inventions will be displayed,

#### **Race Brook Rockin'** Road Race

The kid's Fun Run is 9 a.m. and 5K Race and 2 mile fitness walk begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 7.

The 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run will be held at Race Brook Elementary School, 107 Grannis Road.

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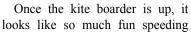
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#### Page 16 Senior Living **Retired and Rejuvenated:**

### Things You Should Strike From Your Bucket List

We just came back from a wonderful week in Aruba. This island is basically a dessert island with lots of wind. The wind makes it a great place for kite surfing or kite boarding, as it is sometimes called. Kite boarding is a surface water sport combining aspects of wakeboarding, windsurfing, surfing, paragliding, and gymnastics. The kite surfer harnesses the wind with a large controllable kite, which propels a person across the water on a board with or without foot-straps or bindings.



water, bouncing up off the waves, using the windpower to move along while JOANNE periodically changing di-Byrne rections, and hopefully

avoiding all the other kite surfers on the water. I realized that even with all the emphasis on positive aging this is one sport that I will never be able to do in my remaining lifetime.

You can see this in their faces. A

I thought of other sports and activities that are beyond our reach as we grow older. Bungee jumping is one, a sport that involves jumping from a tall structure while connected to a large elastic cord. The thrill comes from free-falling and the rebound. When the person jumps, the cord stretches and the jumper flies upwards again as the cord recoils, and continues to oscillate up and down until all the kinetic energy is dissipated.

Hiking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon was once on my bucket list. I have made it half way down two times, but I think my time and abil-

ity is limited for making it all the way to the bottom.

Recently, I was with a group of older women and I asked what activities they could think of that should no longer be on our bucket lists. They suggested sky diving, climbing the Alps, skate boarding, deep sea diving, and rock climbing. One woman was happy to add housecleaning to the list.

Bucket lists do serve a purpose. They keep us moving forward and dreaming about a few more things we want to do or accomplish in our lives. But after watching those speeding kite boarders in Aruba, I

realized there are just some activities that you will not find on my bucket list no matter how exhilarating it looked. I realized that you reach a point in life where you can appreciate the athleticism and mastery of these extreme skills without feeling compelled to join in. In fact, maybe our role is to be enthusiastic spectators and cheer the next generation on.

Joanne Byrne served as Senior Services Coordinator for the Town of Orange. Email her at joannebyrne41@gmail.com to share your thoughts on retirement.

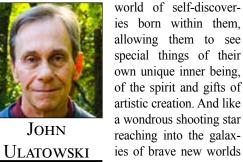
### **Room 911:** Galleries Of Art, Gifts Of Magic In The Reach Of A Child

Youth Services, the Art in the Licance. brary Committee, Board of Educa-

tion administrators, and teachers have come together to provide a special art endeavor.

Called the K-6 Children of Orange Art in the Library Exhibit, it provides an opportunity for Orange youths to create art, go to a special reception, and see their masterpieces hung.

It fills the child with a sense of wonder of their own creativity, their own special uniqueness and signifi-



special things of their own unique inner being, of the spirit and gifts of artistic creation. And like a wondrous shooting star reaching into the galaxies of brave new worlds

... they begin to understand. And then, they proudly smile at themselves.

Behold the child ... who stands amazed in galaxies of wonder abiding in the lands of discovery;

Behold the eyes of the child ... searching at the speed of light encompassing every nook and cranny of blasts of vibrant colors and smooth-sailing designs of great wonder:

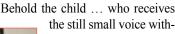
Behold the mind the child ... where they themselves inherit the gift within the creations they now see, and hereafter flow as drifting spirits in the realms of who they really are;

Behold the ears of the child ... that catch faint echoes of Monet and Renoir, melodious hints of Lloyd Wright, symphonic nods of delight from Picasso, and crescendos of a second look from Rembrandt;

Behold the child's tender reach ... arms outstretched toward gifts of magic that travel like blinks of an eve at the work of art created by their very own hands; Behold the child's

brave new world set before them ... bestowed

gifts of self-discovery to come, all in the star-dusted expanse of their own creative universe; inner workings coming to rest within the endowment of pure grace set gently upon their souls;

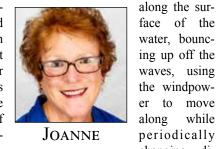


in, the gentle whispers of things beautiful, the sweet murmurs of bestowed gifts to be cherished, the blessing of humility, the necessity to see things differently, and as in a ceiling painting of long ago ...

to reach out and touched the tips of the fingers that endow within them a masterpiece.

John Ulatowski is the Youth Services Coordinator for the Town of Orange.





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### Business

#### **Financial Insights:**

### What Is A bond?



SHANLEY

happens with a bond

of this se-

basics of a

bond. Now

we'll re-

view what

after its issuance, when the bond can be sold by the initial buyer and actively traded in what is called the "secondary market".

We left off with a discussion of credit ratings, which are assessments of the perceived risk that an issuer may not be able to meet the terms of an offering, including timely payment of interest and repayment of the loan.

Credit ratings are not constant for most bonds. For example, consider a hypothetical 30-year bond originally issued by a corporation with an A rating. Fifteen years later, the company is now in severe financial trouble, like the U.S. auto industry experienced several years ago.

The agency rating the company continuously evaluates the rating and can "downgrade" or lower the rating if it perceives there is increased risk of the company

Part II "defaulting" or failing to meet the terms of the bond. the first in-Conversely, an issuer company stallment

can come to market with non-investment grade bonds but during ries, I went the life of the bond make signifithrough the cant improvements to its corporate earnings and profitability and find its bond ratings improving as well.

> Changes in credit ratings can positively (in the case of an upgrade) or negatively (in the case of a downgrade) impact the price someone is willing to pay for a bond in the secondary market. Credit rating downgrades need to be watched carefully because they may be signs that a company is in trouble.

> Outside of U.S. Government bonds and certain insured bonds, issuers can default on their bonds, meaning they return less or none of the full value of the bond.

In addition to credit risk, bonds are subject to interest rate risk. If interest rates fall lower than they were when the bond was issued, the price of the bond in the secondary market typically increases, resulting in a premium above its par value. If interest rates rise, the price of the bond will decrease below its par value. It is this last scenario that has made bonds a hot topic in the news lately.

The Federal Reserve Bank has kept interest rates low to help stimulate the economy. The Fed has indicated that it will begin to move away from this policy as signs that the economy is strengthening start to appear.

Since bond prices move in the opposite direction from interest rates, these signals from the Fed have already negatively affected the prices of some bonds and the funds that hold them. This is not to say that, if the economy continues to improve, one should move out of his or her bond holdings. Bonds are an important component of most portfolios. What a shift in the direction of interest rates does say is that it's perhaps a good time to take a look at one's fixed income holdings with an investment professional.

Editor's Note: Part I is available online at www.TheOrangeTimes. com

This article was prepared by Patrick Shanley and is not intended as legal, tax, accounting or financial advice. Patrick Shanley is a Financial Services Representative with MetLife. The opinions provided above are not necessarily those of MetLife, Inc. The opinions provided are for general information purposes only.

### **Dual Grand Opening**



Photo By STEVE COOPER

Jeff Chandler of Julias's Bakery. First Selectman James Zeoli and Jared Krinsky of Anvtime Firness help celebrate the official grand opening of Anytime Fitness and Julia's Bakery at their new location in the Trader Joe's shopping center at 560 Boston Post Road.

### **Property Transfers**

Sunrise Hill Ciricle, 124 \$585.562. Sunrise Hill Estates to Lvnne B. Franford on April 25

721 North Greenbrier Drive, \$317,500, Rae Ann Kingsley to Faisal Nawaz on April 28

714 Orange Center Road, \$327,500, John R. Rossi to Boris Brunski on April 29

493 Wolcott Lane, \$397,000, Joanne E. Maida to David L. Celozzi on April 30

625 Ridge Road, \$320,800, Rosemarie Manager-Tinley to Nan Shan Wu on May 1

669 Orange Center Road, \$249.500. Patricia H. Pellerin TR to Geoffrey M. Keenan on May 1

408 Lambert Road, \$357,000, W&H LLC to Jian Peng on May 1 642 Racebrook Road, \$650,000,

Hudson City Savings Bank to Mansi V. Patel on May 2





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# Youth & Education

**Superintendent's Corner:** 

### **The Importance Of Science**



SUBMITTED PHOTO Peck students visited Yale School of Nursing, their neighbors at Yale, to learn about the functions of the eye.

A smallish white Styrofoam box with 'gizmos' and 'doohickeys' sits on a classroom counter at Mary L. Tracy kindergarten and is exactly what it promises to be – a somewhat magical contraption from which life will

eventually show itself as most of the dozen white eggs hatch into chicks. As our youngest students await the anticipated hatch day their excitement grows.

I love the way Orange is teaching science today. Of course we're not perfect, and our Grade 5 Connecticut Mastery Test science scores left room for improvement; but it's

excellent instruction that we so often help our kids do things with science, not just spout back to us what they know.

It's terrific that our students experience the chick hatchery, the Invention Convention, *BrainPop*, robotics camp, butterflies, composters and gardens. How fabulous that our Peck students took advantage of the opportunity to walk across the bridge at Yale to the Yale School of Nursing. How rewarding that our kids engage in science labs, experiment, and talk to each other about the results.

In the 60's, I was a *great* science student – I studied my heart out and got an A on every science test I took; and yet, amazingly, I never really understood a single thing!

In fourth or fifth grade, I built an A+ solar system out of painted papier-mâché covered balls, coat hangers, and string. Their sizes and distances from each other were more a function of what my mother could find at Woolworth's Five-and-Dime than any application of scientific principle. I knew that the sun was a star, only closer, and stars were 'masses of burning gasses' held tightly together by gravity. Uh-hunh!? is First LEGO League Robotics Camp being offered for four weeks this summer. It's a program that combines hands-on experimentation with science, technology, engineering, and math.

This is the third year the camp has run out of MLT, and students can come for one week or they can come for all four.

In FLL Camp, students will have the hands-on opportunity of programming robots and working together to solve contemporary social challenges.

This year themes will be building a Green City and a mission to Mars. Most of the students will continue

on with the First LEGO League competitive teams from September to December. We're hoping to someday soon get a NAO robot (with programmable face recognition and very human-like movements) which the three elementary schools can share.

It's absolutely imperative that science has evolved into this inquiry-based experience that heavily relies on students observing, collecting evidence, and explaining in their own words what has happened.

The grade 2 butterfly unit lets them observe and record metamorphosis and then return their butterflies to their school's butterfly habitat. It's fabulous that technology can allow students to clear trees from a *virtual* habitat, place their houses and a school along a river, and then see what happens when a heavy rain comes and their river floods its banks. I read about erosion in the 60's;

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Line.

Lynn McMullin

I could explain it, define it, name it, circle the right bubble, and color the right area of the body (cell, plant, system, etc.) with the right colored pencil. But, I never really understood a thing.

And, I don't remember doing anything resembling our kindergarteners going down to the chick hatchery to *view* the incubator and *record* in their science journals what they see, hear, and smell.

Even though their observations are simple – "I see the eggs have O's on them," "I hear the fan whirring," "I smell nothing!" – they are watching for changes and asking questions about what they see.

The kindergarteners also had real weathermen from Channel 8 visit recently. At the same time, our older students joined with students in the Yale School of Nursing to study and examine dissections of the eye. They used real instruments to look deep into the eye and learned about the eye's function.

One very inviting and worthwhile program

they can harmlessly *cause it* in a virtual world.

The way we teach science should reflect the way that science actually

exists in our real world – we observe, question, theorize, and conclude. An inquiry-based science unit depends on the students

guiding their own learning versus their teachers tell-

ing them how it is.

It depends on them talking with each other, listening to other's theories, replicating each other's trials, and collaborating on their final reports. *Lynn McMullin is the Orange elementary school superintendent.* 



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# Houses of Worship

#### **Church Of The Good Shepherd**

#### Weekly Services

#### Wednesday

7 p.m. Midweek Contemplative Eucharist with Discussion and Healing Prayer

#### Sunday

7:45 a.m. Traditional Eucharist - no music 9:00 a.m. Church Alive, Eucharist with the worship band

#### 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist

#### Join Us

Spring Rummage Sale: Friday, May 16, 2-6 p.m. and Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. to noon.

Clothing, shoes, pocket books, accessories, games, puzzles, toys, books, DVDs, lin-

#### ens, kitchen and household goods. Shepherd's Café

Church of the Good Shepherd has opened The Shepherd's Café. The Shepherd Café will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday and will be serving coffee, light snacks and a tasty and nutritious lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This meal will be available to seniors or to anyone that needs or would like to share a meal and some companionship.

Bingo and other activities will take place from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Church services are available at 12:30 p.m. for those who would like to attend. There will be menu choices each week with soup and selected sandwiches always available. While there is no cost

for the meal, donations are always appreciated.

This is a new ministry of the Church of the Good Shepherd, and a partnership between the church and Community Services. The Church is located at 680 Racebrook Road, and there is ample parking. While reservations are not needed, they would be appreciated. To make a reservation, volunteer, or to help in any way, please call the church at 203.795.6577. Community Services will provide transportation from the High Plains Community Center to and from the Shepherd Café. Please call Kim at 203.891.4788 at least a day ahead to reserve a ride.

#### **Or Shalom Upcoming Events**

Martinis & Mah Jong, Thursday, May 23, 7 pm - 9 pm: Or Shalom's Sisterhood hosts this annual event. Bring your own group, or join one. New to Mah Jong? We will have someone to teach you. \$5 is due with your reservation. Contact: Robin Ben-Eli 203-799-0014 or ben-eli@sbcglobal.net.

Annual Golf & Tennis Tournament, Wednesday, June 5: Join us for a fun-filled afternoon at Traditions at Oak Lane. In the evening we all come together - golfers, tennis players and dinner guests - for a wonderful dinner and evening of raffles and fun. Visit our website for more information.

#### **Orange Junior Legion Baseball Tryouts**

The Orange American Legion Post 127 is holding tryouts for its Junior Legion Baseball team, on Friday, May 23, 5:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Old Tavern Baseball complex on Old Tavern Road, Orange. Players living in Orange, Woodbridge or Bethany are eligible to play.

Any players attaining the ages of 14-17 as of December 31 are eligible to try out. Returning players must bring last year's uniform to the tryout if they did not turn it in previously. The season, including practices, runs from June through early August. The cost is \$600.

Call David Wirkus 203.848.9674 or Robert Mirto 203.687.8299 or Joe Pisano 203.623-5620 for questions.

### **Obituraries**

#### **REID. ROBERT JOST**

Robert (BOB) Reid, 87, died on Monday, May 5 at Milford Hospital. He was the husband of Marian (Mickey) Reid for 64 years; father of Laura (Peach) Reid, Nancy (James) Nastri, and Heather Reid, and the late Cynthia Reid Mihalik. Grandfather of Shaun Fettes and Casev Fettes: Anthony (Danielle) Nastri, Christina Nastri and Jennifer Nastri; John (April Knight) Mihalik and the late Joseph Smith. He was great-grandfather to Olivia Nastri and Jordan Knight.

Bob was born in Brighton, MA. He served in the MA National Guard, and was an Army Sergeant in World War II. Bob had an illustrious career in the communications field.

Bob and his family moved to Orange in

1961. Among the movies he made were many sports training films for Yale, and "Orange 150" which was a feature-length film he donated to the Orange Historical Society.

Bob served with the Orange Volunteer Fire Department and worked at their annual carnival. He also worked the Orange Country Fair. Bob was an active member of the Church of the Good Shepherd and served in various capacities through the years. He was on the Board of Directors of the Orange Chamber of Commerce, where he was awarded Director of the Year.

#### SAWYER, DOROTHY MARIE

Dorothy Marie Sawyer, 93, died at home with her husband of 71 years, George, by her side on April 26. Dorothy had a wonderful career of 20 plus years at Wayside Furniture. Dorothy, or Dot as most knew her, was also a lifetime member of the Orange Garden Club. Her love of life and people carried over into abundant community services such as knitting afghans with the senior center for children in need, as well as donating to the battered women's shelter.

In addition to her husband, George, she is survived by her sister, Mildred Schultz of Orange; three children, Linda and Craig Sawyer of West Haven and Robert Sawyer and his wife Susan of Madison; three grandchildren, Caitlyn of Portland, OR, Nicole of Salt Lake City, UT and Josh of West Haven; and one great-grandchild.

#### Something For All At Food Truck Festival

Friday • May 16th • 4

Orange Fairgrounds

You see them everywhere these days – and Fryborg will be topping French fries from gourmet cupcakes to lobster rolls – with a variety of delicacies. Lunch Box 23 food trucks are where it's Food Truck F at!

More than a dozen will be rolling into town for Race Brook School's Food Truck Festival on Friday, May 16, from 4-8 p.m. at the Orange Fairgrounds. The event will be held as a fundraiser for RBS and vendors will be offering everything from gourmet grilled cheese by **RBS** Caseus to baked potatoes

from Spuds Your Way followed with a fresh cannoli from Meriano's Cannoli Truck and a cupcake from Sugar. Cowabunga will be serving burgers and soft-serve ice cream, Firedog will be selling a variety of hot dogs aol.c

a

will feature sliders made from farm-to-table local ingredients.

DJ Jen also will be playing music and entertaining the kids with games and contests. Grab some lawn chairs or a blanket, leave the cooking to someone else and bring the family out for a fun evening!

For more information about the festival and

what entertainment and food options will be available visit the event Facebook page at FoodTruckFestivalRBS or contact Melissa Nicefaro at 203-389-8994 or MNicefaro@





### Football **Fundrasier**

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Orange, CT

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\* Mail in pre-registration forms must be received by May 11th

\* 5K Race - \$25 pre-registration (\$35 Race Day)

#### \$10 students

\* Online registration available until Midnight, May 16th at www.hitekracing.com

#### **Race Highlights:**

**Entry information:** 

- \* 6:30 a.m. day of race registration starts
- \* 8:30 a.m. Start of Race/Walk
- \* 10:00 a.m. Awards Ceremony
- \* Computerized timing and results by HI-TEK Racing, LLC.
- \* 5K certified course
- \* T-shirts for all pre-registered participants and first come first serve on Race Day
- \* Raffle prizes

For more information, please contact Jamie Beaudette jbeaud@yahoo.com

# News & Events

**Dining Out:** 

### **ID Brazil: Traditional Brazilian Food**

ID Brazil Churrascaria & Restaurant lo- served: for a fixed price, food is brought concated in West Haven on the corner of Elm tinuously to the table until the customer is

Street and Washington Avenue, is the first restaurant to offer traditional Brazilian food and service in New Haven County. Ricardo Maia, from Brazil, owns the restaurant, which opened in December 2012.

ID Brazil offers beer, wine, and cocktails from Brazil and other South American countries. The Churrascaria is what is called a Brazilian Steakhouse, and is a

#### Hair's To You!:



GUYS

satisfied.

High quality meats are prepared by a team of cooks. The excellent cooks also cook up delicious side dishes.

For \$19.99 you can sample from the 30 items on the all-youcan-eat buffet menu. Selections include slow roasted pork leg with orange and pineapple, sliced pork loin with Madira sauce. chicken lasagna fried plantains,

traditional way to prepare eats throughout turkey breast wrapped in bacon, and Codiro Brazil. Rodizio is the style in which you are (lamb), black beans with pork sausage and

bacon and many varieties of salads.

The Rodizio costs a little more at \$24.95, but includes the full buffet and your choice of meats.

This was our choice and what a filling experience it was. We were given a meat traffic light, which has three colors painted on a wooded spindle, red, vellow, and green. When the red part is displayed no meat would be served. This gives you time to enjoy all the terrific foods at the buffet. When the green is displayed it was time to be served.

When the light was yellow it meant it was time for dessert and the bill. When we displayed the color green the waitress kept

coming over with towers of meat such as sirloin steak, beef ribs, chicken, ham, turkey, and pork sausage.

Of course we had to try them all. The meats were cooked to perfection and tasted great.

We can certainly say we partied and ate the Brazilian way until our bellies were filled. Their décor is very comfortable and rustic with Brazilian artifacts enhancing the mint green walls and wooden floors. We both finished with a very large Tartuffe. This certainly was an eating experience that we will not forget.

Two Guy's are Vincent Farricelli and Robert Modena. Both reside in Orange.

### How To Gain A Competitive Edge

Many of my clients have had to make drastic changes in their lifestyles due to the loss of their jobs.

Although it's not an easy thing to overcome, things do work out over time. The biggest concern I hear from them is their age is playing a factor in securing a new job. I ask them, is it your age or is it the image that you are conveying? What I tell them is they need a competitive edge, a makeover.

Some people age gracefully, while others don't. The first thing I do is assess the client's individual needs. Is their hairstyle out of date? Is their hair line receding? Are they prematurely gray? Does their skin and complexion make them look older than their years?

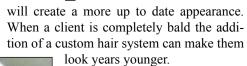
Many men have elected to use home hair

color remedies. Sometime that works in reverse. If the color is too dark it looks fake. Many times hair preparations turn red after

time. A professional stylist is trained to keep these problems in check and adjust the color when needed. Trust me professional hair coloring is money well spent.

Haircuts are tricky, men in particular get very attached to their hair style. Getting them to accept change is a job in itself. When they see the end result they can't believe how good they look.

Changes don't have to be drastic, sometimes just by tweaking their style a little bit



Some clients will give me complete control of the makeover, while others move at a more cautious pace. A good stylist should never impose their own personal likes on a client but select and work with the comfort level the client feels secure with.

The way our skin looks is very important to our image. Skin that lacks moisture appears aged and

tired making us look older than our years. Once a male client has had a professional facial they can now relate to what women

have known for years, it's great to be pampered.

For the man, who feels self-conscious about getting a facial in the salon, I send them home with an anti-aging facial mask they can apply in the privacy of their home, just five applications gives outstanding results.

All of the services I have mentioned, are designed to bolster your self-image and to make you look and feel your very best as you go out into the job market. This is a competitive edge.

Michael Raccio is a licensed Master Barber, Hairdresser and Cosmotologist, and Hair Replacement Specialist. Email him at mfollicle@yahoo.com



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### *Letters to the Editor* The Math Doesn't Add Up

#### To the Editor:

As a parent of both an Amity student and Amity graduate, as well as an alumnus myself, I feel I must write to bring to light the issues with Mr. Jim Leahy's presentation during the Board of Finance meeting on the town budget in April.

Year after year, those few of us in attendance must sit through the Leahy "dog and pony show" where he tries to dazzle us with what I call "Leahy's math" and quite frankly, it doesn't add up. He manipulates the information to try to scare a certain demographic into voting against the Amity budget. This has been a constant issue under the Zeoli administration.

At this meeting, Mr. Leahy started with a comment while Amity Superintendent Dumais was speaking. Mr. Dumais noted that Orange's percentage of the Amity budget was declining due to lower enrollment while Bethany's was increasing due to their increase in enrollment. Mr. Leahy's comment to that was 'let them all go to Bethany.' Apparently Mr. Leahy does not want families moving into Orange, only out.

Then came the math where he tried to scare people into thinking that our declining enrollment will increase our taxes at Amity in the future. He took figures and tried to show how enrollment will decline over the next 10 years. Funny thing about predictions...

So let's go back in history in Orange. When I attended elementary school here, we had five elementary schools. Years later, there was a decline in enrollment so one (High Plains) was closed and another (Mary L Tracy) was converted to strictly a town-wide kindergarten. Years later, there was overcrowding in our schools so we had to add on to Peck Place and Race Brook Schools. Today, we are seeing a decline, but for how long? Based on birth rates, the Board of Education expected a decline in kindergarten enrollment but this year it proved that you cannot predict the future, as the kindergarten numbers are up, surprising everyone.

to use his version of math and stand before the intelligent community of Orange to purport a doomsday attitude on Amity. Amity is not only one of the top high schools in the state, it is one of the top high schools in the country. And that is what keeps our property values up. Ask most people you meet from Orange why they moved here. Whether they are 30, 40 or 80, it is the schools that bring families here and I say "welcome!"

> Jody Dietch Orange

It is irresponsible for Mr. Leahy

### **Preventing Teenage Drinking**

#### **Dear Editor:**

Prom and graduation season means a lot of milestones for high schoolers and their parents. With talk of celebrations and excitement in the air, now is a window of opportunity to talk to your teen about making safe, smart decisions about alcohol.

Parents play an important role in helping teens make smart decisions

when it comes to alcohol. In fact, the GfK Roper Youth Report reaffirms that parents continue to be the strongest influence on youth decisions about drinking and have been for more than twenty years.

Parents who want to take advantage of this chance to positively influence their teens can start by downloading a free copy of the Anheuser-Busch *Family Talk About*  *Drinking* parent guide at <u>www.</u> <u>Facebook.com/ABFamilyTalk</u>. The guide and other available resources aim to help prevent underage drinking by encouraging parents to start and have ongoing conversations about alcohol with their children.

We at Dichello Distributors, Inc. would like to thank the parents, educators, law enforcement and many others who are making progress in reducing underage drinking. Let's continue this positive trend by talking with our teens this prom and graduation season.

Sincerely, Tony Lota Alcohol Awareness Coordinator Dichello Distributors, Inc. Orange CT.

### Time for Stew

To the Editor:

The first 2 pages of the April 24 edition features the budget increase leading to property tax hikes and the Board of Education increases. When will the citizens of Orange allow Stew Leonard's to move in?

We just lost Stop & Shop so those jobs and income are gone. We have an elementary school to fix. We have allowed the UI offices to move in which created more traffic.

Why not allow Stew's? Think of the jobs! The tax income!

Sincerely, Greg Cooper

# **CT Pension Fund One Of Worst In Nation**

#### To the Editor:

Last week, citing declining revenue projections, Governor Malloy announced that he was abandoning his \$55 rebate plan and would also not make a scheduled \$100 million payment to the state employees' pension fund. The latter decision is a canary in a coal mine portending a future disaster for state employees and the state as a whole. Connecticut's pension fund is one of the worst run in the nation. Continued mis-management by Democratic State Treasurer Denise Nappier (who has been in office for 16 years) and the Democratic controlled state legislature has left the fund with only \$9.7 billion in assets to cover \$23 billion in accumulated obligations. Younger and future state employees will not get the pensions they have been promised. Like Detroit's pensioners today, they will get pennies on the dollar. The severity of the problem can partially be grasped by realizing that even if the state contributes \$100 million every year, it would take 133 years to plug the funding gap, even if obligations don't rise a dime! Wake up Connecticut!

Pam Staneski Milford CT



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Milford's Best Kept Secret

Orange

**Student Joins** 

Phi Kappa Phi

Stefanie Lynne Crocco has been named a member of The Honor So-

ciety of Phi Kappa Phi at The Uni-

Crocco will graduate from UT

in 2014 with a degree in writing.

Crocco graduated from Amity Re-

gional High School in 2010 and is

Crocco is a writer/reporter for

the Minaret, The University of

Tampa's student-run newspaper

and a blogger for Sorority Stylista.

oldest, largest, and most selective

collegiate honor society for all aca-

Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's

the daughter of Diane Crocco.

versity of Tampa.

### News & Events

famous

Betta

### **Rescue Me**



We have an adoption for you this week that has a bit of urgency. Josie has been at Woodbridge Animal Control far longer than she deserves. She works well with the kennel routine and is comfortable there but it's time to find her a good home. She is a 45 pound, adult, Boxer/Terrier mix in a dark brindle with a super friendly personality.

Josie enjoys humans and is a quick and willing learner. She knows the basic commands, is eager to please and will become a devoted companion for a family or individual. Come on down to Woodbridge Animal Control.

Josie is available for adoption at the Woodbridge Animal Control. The shelter is located at 135 Bradley Road and can be reached by phone at 203.389.5991.

### **Clydesdale's Visit Orange**



### **MEMORIAL** continued from page 2

will serve as master of ceremonies

Frederick O'Brien, will serve as parade announcer.

During the ceremony there will be the reading of all of the Orange veterans names who have died over the past year.

"We're attempting to honor the war dead," Gilbert said. "We don't want people crying or sad. We just want people to be respectful of what we're doing."

There will also be selected readings, and elementary students will be reciting poem. It is rains the festivities will be held inside the High Plains Community Center. Parade

The parade begins immediately after the opening ceremonies and lasts about three quarters of a mile. It begins with the Orange Police Department Honor Guard, police cars and local dignitaries. Members of the American Legion, the Amity High School senior band, Boy and Girls scouts, Cub and Daisy troops, and nine other marching bands are all part of the festivities

There are numerous floats,

youth groups and sports teams, the Orange Volunteer Fire Department, and members of the Orange Country Fair that all partake in the parade.

Gilbert called the parade a family, fun event.

"Most of the people are townspeople who watch their kids and groups and cheer everyone on," Gilbert said. "There's a lot of fun and music."

Orange First Selectman James Zeoli said the Memorial Day parade has been a tradition long before he was born.

#### "I've attended it every years since I was a child," Zeoli said. "It's important to remember those who went before us so we can sit here in comfort. People are still struggling today."

#### **Closing ceremony**

demic disciplines.

The finale happens at the Orange Center Cemetery. Wreaths are placed on the graves of the soldiers. Prayers are said, and there is also a firing squad, songs are sung, and taps are prayed

"We're proud of what we've accomplished and we're proud of who we honor," Gilbert said.





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### News & Events

#### **GRAY** continued from page 1

which included a 70-page binder including testimonial letters.

"When I found out I won the state award it was shock honestly," Gray said. "I didn't expect to be chosen. I was shocked and honored to be chosen to not only represent Race Brook School but the entire town. It's great recognition for our town."

Gray is married to his wife, Linda, and they have three children.

#### The people's principal

Gray said he believes he was recognized because of his close relationships with students, families and his staff.

Concerning the students, Gray said he eats lunch with them daily, visits every classroom for at least 10 minutes, and checks in on their work.

"I save the administrator work for early or later in the day, so I can be engaged with students and staff," Gray said. "It's made a huge different with school climate. Being visible is a strength of mine."

He said his favorite memory from the rally was when one boy called him the best prince-a-pal.

"That sums up my relationship with the students. I am someone to talk with if they have an issue. I love it when students share their work with me."

Gray is a big believer in a collaborative shared leadership model.

"It's not principal down leadership," Gray said. "I really value the staffs leadership. It's a collaborative effort, not a Mike Gray effort." He said he encourages members of his staff to share their ideas that can improve the schools.

Concerning the community, Gray said there are a lot of service projects, including an annual Veteran's Day assembly that attracts 40 veterans.

#### Programs

The program Gray is most proud of is called, "Positive Behavior and Interventions and Support Schools Climate."

"It's really done a lot in a way to make our school the way it should be," Gray said. "It recognizes children for their good works and for what they do."

He said students are expected to respect one another, be responsible and always put safety first.

Students are given tickets for acts of kindness and good behavior. At the end of the week, students who have the most tickets can win a prize such as a free art class with the art teacher.

"It's positive reinforcement for good behavior," Gray said.

#### What others think?

Gray began his educational career at Stratford Academy as a fifth and sixth grade teacher and he moved on to become an assistant principal there.

"Mike Gray has made Race Brook a place where everyone feels safe, motivated, and capable every day," said Gray's boss, Lynn McMullin, who is superintendent of schools. "He sets very high expectations, which are only achievable because he is the kind of person who engenders trust and loyalty. He makes everyone want to follow his lead. He works hard and sets a strong example. He's an excellent role model."

McMullin said Gray is very visible throughout the school, so visible he's never in his office.

"When I call over to Race Brook to talk to him. I never find him in the office. In fact, when we have Code Red lock-down drills, the police officers have a pool which is won by the police officer who finds Mike," McMullin said. "Mike is gentle and responsive, or confident and decisive, depending upon the exact need. His school depends on his enthusiasm and big heart."

First Selectman James Zeoli said Gray would make a wonderful superintendent one day. Gray said he's unsure if he'd ever want to leave a school.

"I truly love being in a building. It's always exciting to be with the kids and teachers and I can still be a teacher here too. I don't know if I ever want to lose touch with that," Grav said.

Zeoli said Gray is the definition of "very approachable and lowkey."

"He greets everyone with a smile, he's really a good guy," Zeoli said. "He truly understands the students, families and town." Gray's administrative assistant,



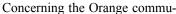
Race Brook Principal Michael Gray was named the state's elementary school principal of the vear.

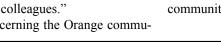
Joy Weaver, said Gray's recent recognition is more than well deserved.

"He's awesome," Weaver said. "He's the rare principal that is liked and supported by parents, students and staff all at the same time. He's great to work with and is respected by his colleagues."

nity, Gray said, residents place a strong value on a stellar education system

"They definitely hold education as a priority, there is a lot of community support," Gray said. "The parents are always in the building. We get a lot of support, it's a strong community for children."







June 6, 2014 (FRIDAY) June 7, 2014 (Saturday) Rain Date

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WHEN~	6:00PM Orange Ale House (Food/Drinks)



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