Taking another look at turf

New committee meets on the topic

By ROB GLIDDEN
Staff Writer

A new committee charged with exploring the issue of artificial turf at Southington High School met for the first time on Monday evening and expects to give a recommendation to the Town Council in February.

Formed by the council in September, the committee includes members from the Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning, the Board of Education, the council and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Chairman Mike DeFeo represents the youth sports leagues.

A potential turf field at SHS has been explored several times over the past few years, but was often sidelined by concerns about safety or the cost involved. Athletic Director Eric Swallow told the committee that there were numerous reasons to support the project, but he was most concerned about the decrepit condition of the current high school field.

“It’s been a goal of mine to see that our facilities are where they need to be from a safety perspective,” Swallow said.

One of the most vocal advocates of the turf field has been Parks Commission Chairman John Fontana, who commented that Southington athletes were falling behind when compared both to neighboring towns (most of which have turf fields) and to the athletic world as a whole.

See TUBE, page 8

Outdoor classroom at Sloper

By ROB GLIDDEN
STAFF WRITER

Southington students have been taking local field trips to YMCA Camp Sloper to learn about the natural world outside the classroom. The partnership is new for this school year and teachers hoped to schedule several visits before winter sets in. The October snowstorm and some other rainy days complicated the plans, but teachers said this made the students even more excited.

Last week, three fourth-grade classes from Strong Elementary School explored the camp grounds, along with members of the camp’s staff and several parents.

“They love this,” said strong teacher Heather Bacchus. “It’s great for them. We worked on food chains and animals while back, and now they get to apply that knowledge to a real environment.”

Some of the camp’s animal inhabitants, like deer, can be difficult to find during

See SLOPER, page 19

Christmas comes to Southington

By ROB GLIDDEN
STAFF WRITER

Merchants from both Plantsville and downtown Southington invited the public to gather for the two annual holiday events that herald the start of the Christmas season in town.

Hospitality Night is managed each year by the Merchants of Downtown Southington organization. Numerous businesses in the area opened their doors and offered food and sometimes entertainment. If residents collected enough stamps from the various stores in the area, they had a chance at one of several raffle prizes.

Gifts in a Basket owner Renee Belanger was organizing the event for the first time, following in the footsteps of Eryen La Londe, owner of the recently closed Auracle gift shop.

“It’s gone very smoothly,” Belanger said. “We have 29 participating businesses, which is awesome.”

The three hours of Hospitality Night are typically filled with potential activities for visitors. The First Congregational Church hosts an annual auction, and the Barnes Museum is known for preparing Christmas-themed exhibits and inviting the public inside for tours. The Southington Chamber Singers perform for the guests and warm apple cider was served in the home- stead’s kitchen.

Curator Marie Secondo said that this year’s decorations had been a “two month process.”

“We went all out with

See HOLIDAYS, page 17
Join the Rebel Alliance at the Southington Library

By ED HARRIS
Editor

Children and adults have the opportunity to join the Rebel Alliance next Saturday at the Southington Library. Star Wars, the series made popular by George Lucas, is coming alive at the library on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m.

“My incredibly popular,” said Children’s Librarian Cynthia Cohen, a longtime fan and the driving force behind the event. The library is offering several activities including Jedi training, pictures with real Storm Troopers and rebels, attacking the Death Star with a paper airplane, and feeding Jabba the Hut. A costume contest is also planned.

Each activity is a separate station, designed to get as many children through as possible. I thought about what I would do if I was going to Jedi school,” Cohen said.

The 501 Legion, which has actors in movie quality Star Wars costumes, will also have four storm troopers and 2 rebel alliance members available for photographs. The 501 Legion did some holiday bell ringing in town a few years ago.

In addition to the Star Wars event, the library has several books, video games and movies associated with the popular space saga. The books are available for several reading levels. “The children’s department has a lot of good books on Star Wars, said Jean Chmielewski, publicist.

Register in person at the Children’s Service Desk. Contact the Children’s Service Desk with any questions, 860-628-0947 x 3.

---

Teachers back fundraiser in memory of late resident

By KAITLYN NAPLES
STAFF WRITER

Several teachers at the Middle School of Plainville are putting together a fundraising event, to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The fundraiser is in memory of Joe Spagna, who was a teacher at the middle school for the past 34 years.

“Making dreams possible is what Joe Spagna will be remembered for, as his motto ‘Whatever It Takes’ expresses,” a release said.

The fundraiser will be a pasta dinner, door prizes, and the sale of “Whatever It Takes” bracelets. All of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Connecticut, Inc., and will benefit a child with a life-threatening medical condition, the release said. Joe Spagna of Southington, was “a devoted father and husband,” who enjoyed life to the fullest, was an avid scuba diver, skier and traveler, and was also a supervisor for American Medical Response (AMR), a ski patrol member at Mount Southington, and a volunteer firefighter in Southington. He was also an active member of UNICO and Mary Our Queen Church in Southington. He touched many lives, of students and teachers alike, which earned him the recognition as Teacher of the Year in 1993,” the release said. “He always encouraged freedom of creativity and gave us the opportunity to have confidence in ourselves,” a former student said in the release.

Denise Grodzicki said the Make-A-Wish Foundation was chosen after a student had created a Facebook page to honor Joe Spagna.

“Had he been so supportive of all his students and there were so many comments about how he made an impact on their lives, I just thought it would be appropriate,” Grodzicki said.

She said she would encourage individuals to attend the event “to keep Mr. Spagna’s memory alive and to be able to help a child with a life-threatening medical condition.”

The Event, which is open to the public, will be held at Hawk’s Landing Country Club in Southington, on Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. Hawk’s Landing Country Club is located at 201 Pattenswood Dr.

For more information on the event or donating to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Connecticut in Joe Spagna’s memory, contact Denise Grodzicki at denissedrodzicki@gmail.com. For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Connecticut, Inc. please visit their website at www.ct.wish.org.

Comments? Email knaples@bristolobserver.com

---

Southington Community YMCA
29 High Street, Southington • 860-628-5597
www.southington-chesireymca.org

YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build Healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Participate in our cause. And give back and support your community.

At the Y, we exist to strengthen community. Together with people like you, we nurture the potential of kids, help people understand and improve their health, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. So join our cause. And create meaningful change not just for you, but also for your community.

Winter Membership Special
Starts Dec. 15
Stop in for a tour today!
College Break
Memberships and Holiday Gift Cards available

THE PREMIER NEW BRITAIN FLORIST!
Wreaths - Poinsettias
Cat Flowers & Arrangements
For the Holiday Season
Delivery to all hospitals & funeral homes
33 Charles St., New Britain, CT
(860) 223-7887 or (860) 666-7887
www.webersnursery.com

BY KAITLYN NAPLES
STAFF WRITER

Several teachers at the Middle School of Plainville are putting together a fundraising event, to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The fundraiser is in memory of Joe Spagna, who was a teacher at the middle school for the past 34 years.

“Making dreams possible is what Joe Spagna will be remembered for, as his motto ‘Whatever It Takes’ expresses,” a release said.

The fundraiser will be a pasta dinner, door prizes, and the sale of “Whatever It Takes” bracelets. All of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Connecticut, Inc., and will benefit a child with a life-threatening medical condition, the release said. Joe Spagna of Southington, was “a devoted father and husband,” who enjoyed life to the fullest, was an avid scuba diver, skier and traveler, and was also a supervisor for American Medical Response (AMR), a ski patrol member at Mount Southington, and a volunteer firefighter in Southington. He was also an active member of UNICO and Mary Our Queen Church in Southington. He touched many lives, of students and teachers alike, which earned him the recognition as Teacher of the Year in 1993,” the release said. “He always encouraged freedom of creativity and gave us the opportunity to have confidence in ourselves,” a former student said in the release.

Denise Grodzicki said the Make-A-Wish Foundation was chosen after a student had created a Facebook page to honor Joe Spagna.

“Had he been so supportive of all his students and there were so many comments about how he made an impact on their lives, I just thought it would be appropriate,” Grodzicki said.

She said she would encourage individuals to attend the event “to keep Mr. Spagna’s memory alive and to be able to help a child with a life-threatening medical condition.”

The Event, which is open to the public, will be held at Hawk’s Landing Country Club in Southington, on Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. Hawk’s Landing Country Club is located at 201 Pattenswood Dr.

For more information on the event or donating to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Connecticut in Joe Spagna’s memory, contact Denise Grodzicki at denissedrodzicki@gmail.com. For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Connecticut, Inc. please visit their website at www.ct.wish.org.

Comments? Email knaples@bristolobserver.com
Our Town

Town wide food drive set

By ROB GILDEDEN
STAFF WRITER

A town-wide food drive is being held during the month of December to help Southington’s goodwill organizations meet the increased need that always comes with the winter months.

The event has been organized by Board of Finance member Sandra Feld and the Spring Lake Village community. It meets on three Saturdays during December on the town green.

"Bread for Life and Community Services are in dire need of donations," Feld said in an email. "It will make you feel good to help your neighbors in this holiday season."

Residents can make a cash donation or bring non-perishable food items such as tuna, cereal and peanut butter.

Community Services Director Janet Mellon said the first day of the drive, held on December 3, "went very well."

"It’s been wonderful," she said. "Spring Lake Village is constantly doing things. They have been incredible."

The event dovetails with Bread for Life’s annual appeal, a yearly campaign designed to raise awareness of Southington residents in need.

"We have an opportunity every day to help one another," said Bill McDougall, Bread for Life’s board chairman, in the appeal. "There are so many people who are truly hurting. If we can ease their pain by making sure that hunger is not an issue, then we have accomplished our mission."

The food drive will be active again on Saturday, December 10 and Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Comments? Email rglidden@southingtonobserver.com.

Help decorate the Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree at the Southington Library is filling up, but more donations are always welcome.

J.C. TONNOTTI WINDOW CO.
REMODELING

Fall / Winter Projects?
• Interior Remodeling
• Interior Doors
• Drafty Entry Doors
• Wood Floors
• Trim Work
• Porch Enclosures
• Finished Basements
& More

Call Today for $avings
860-621-1642
www.jctonnotti.com

Voted Best Oil Company in Bristol 3 Years in a Row!

• Boiler Installation
• Warm Air Furnaces
• Oil Tanks • Water Heaters
• Ignition And Tank Removal
• Emergency Service
• Automatic Delivery
• Diesel Fuel In This Year Too Available

$10 off CLEANING
5% off for New Customers

Mystique Oil
860-585-8740
www.MystiqueOil.com

J.C. TONNOTTI WINDOW CO.
REMODELING

Fall / Winter Projects?
• Interior Remodeling
• Interior Doors
• Drafty Entry Doors
• Wood Floors
• Trim Work
• Porch Enclosures
• Finished Basements
& More

Call Today for $avings
860-621-1642
www.jctonnotti.com

La Rich Roofing
Master Elite Roofing Contractor
Over 5000 Satisfied Customers
Our Workmanship is 100% Guaranteed for 25 years
by Shingle Manufacturer... Best Warranty in Writing
Quality you can count on for years.
We do Roof Repairs
• Roofing Experts
• Vinyl Siding • Windows
• Seamless Gutters

FREE ESTIMATES - FULLY INSURED
860-747-4427
860-622-9800
www.larichroofing.com

Thank You for Voting Us
THE BEST ROOFING CONTRACTOR

La Rich Roofing
Master Elite Roofing Contractor
Over 5000 Satisfied Customers
Our Workmanship is 100% Guaranteed for 25 years
by Shingle Manufacturer... Best Warranty in Writing
Quality you can count on for years.
We do Roof Repairs
• Roofing Experts
• Vinyl Siding • Windows
• Seamless Gutters

FREE ESTIMATES - FULLY INSURED
860-747-4427
860-622-9800
www.larichroofing.com

Thank You for Voting Us
THE BEST ROOFING CONTRACTOR

OUR TOWN

Thank You for Voting Us
THE BEST ROOFING CONTRACTOR

OUR TOWN

Thank You for Voting Us
THE BEST ROOFING CONTRACTOR

OUR TOWN

Thank You for Voting Us
THE BEST ROOFING CONTRACTOR
The Step Saver/ The Observer

50,000-watt pulpit today, derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively dubbed the project as the “magic derisively d
The Southington Police Department is seeking another successful year with its Stuff a Cruiser event returns for holidays. Police Spokesman Sgt. Lowell DePalma. said, "The event is great host. DePalma said the items collected will be turned into toys and clothing for children in need. Police Chief John "Jack" Daly in 2009. The first year the police filled 11 cruisers and that number increased to 18 last year. "It’s amazing to see," said Police Spokesman Sgt. Lowell DePalma. Officer Tom Gallow helped Kahn with the leg work, including setting up the event at Walmart. For its part, Walmart has been a part, Walmart has been a key partner in the event, helping fill more and more Walmart parking lot. The Southington Police Department is hosting its Stuff a Cruiser event this weekend in the Walmart parking lot. The event is held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

Patrick Brew, 32, of 112 Meriden Avenue, was charged on Nov. 22 with second degree breach of peace. The woman charged with evading responsibility, He was held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

Sgt. Lowell DePalma. said the items collected will be turned into toys and clothing for children in need. The Southington Police Department is seeking another successful year with its Stuff a Cruiser event returns for holidays. The event is good host. DePalma said the items collected will be turned into toys and clothing for children in need. For its part, Walmart has been a key partner in the event, helping fill more and more Walmart parking lot. The event is held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

Sarah B. Hague, 55, of 127 Burritt Street, was charged on Nov. 27 with second degree robbery, second degree assault, sixth degree larceny and second degree breach of peace. He was held on a $100,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

Michael M. Michaud, Poland, 64, of 211 Sunnyside Avenue, Bristol, was charged on Nov. 26 with evading responsibility, DUI, using unsafe tires and failure to drive in the proper lane. She was held on a $500 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

Krista M. Pellerin, 26, of 51 Merrell Avenue, was charged on Nov. 25 with second degree breach of peace. She was held on bonds totaling $500 for a Dec. 2 and $2,500 for a Dec. 12 court date. The Southington Police Department is seeking another successful year with its Stuff a Cruiser event returns for holidays. The event is "We’re working on the second year of the event," said Police Spokesman Sgt. Lowell DePalma. Officer Tom Gallow helped Kahn with the leg work, including setting up the event at Walmart. For its part, Walmart has been a key partner in the event, helping fill more and more Walmart parking lot. The event is held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

Jeremy Kisluk, 26, of 331 Park Street, Newington, was charged on Nov. 22 with DUI and failing to obey a traffic signal. He was held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

The Southington Police Department is hosting its Stuff a Cruiser event returns for holidays. The event is "We’re working on the second year of the event," said Police Spokesman Sgt. Lowell DePalma. Officer Tom Gallow helped Kahn with the leg work, including setting up the event at Walmart. For its part, Walmart has been a key partner in the event, helping fill more and more Walmart parking lot. The event is held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

Kevin M. Richardson, 28, of 932 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford, was charged on Nov. 26 with two counts of second degree failure to appear. He was held on bonds totaling $2,000 for a Dec. 5 court date.

Terrance E. Securee, 54, of 117 Arden Road, Waterbury, was charged on Nov. 25 with sixth degree larceny. She was held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

Joel Faluoro, 29, of 10 Darling Street, was charged on Nov. 25 with disorderly conduct. He was held on a $1,000 bond for a Nov. 28 court date.

The Southington Police Department is seeking another successful year with its Stuff a Cruiser event returns for holidays. The event is "We’re working on the second year of the event," said Police Spokesman Sgt. Lowell DePalma. Officer Tom Gallow helped Kahn with the leg work, including setting up the event at Walmart. For its part, Walmart has been a key partner in the event, helping fill more and more Walmart parking lot. The event is held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

The Southington Police Department is seeking another successful year with its Stuff a Cruiser event returns for holidays. The event is "We’re working on the second year of the event," said Police Spokesman Sgt. Lowell DePalma. Officer Tom Gallow helped Kahn with the leg work, including setting up the event at Walmart. For its part, Walmart has been a key partner in the event, helping fill more and more Walmart parking lot. The event is held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

The Southington Police Department is seeking another successful year with its Stuff a Cruiser event returns for holidays. The event is "We’re working on the second year of the event," said Police Spokesman Sgt. Lowell DePalma. Officer Tom Gallow helped Kahn with the leg work, including setting up the event at Walmart. For its part, Walmart has been a key partner in the event, helping fill more and more Walmart parking lot. The event is held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.

The Southington Police Department is seeking another successful year with its Stuff a Cruiser event returns for holidays. The event is "We’re working on the second year of the event," said Police Spokesman Sgt. Lowell DePalma. Officer Tom Gallow helped Kahn with the leg work, including setting up the event at Walmart. For its part, Walmart has been a key partner in the event, helping fill more and more Walmart parking lot. The event is held on a $1,000 bond for a Dec. 5 court date.
Winter driving tips

Though we have been experiencing some of that legendary New England winter weather, temperatures have been above average for this time of year, it is only a matter of time before we experience the joy of another Connecticut winter full of snow, sleet and freezing rain. About a month or so ago we received our first taste of winter weather with an October snowfall that knocked power out across the state for more than a week in some places and made driving treacherous, due to downed lines and snow. With that in mind, let us share some winter driving tips from AAA (AAA.com).

Because more crashes involving property damage occur in the winter months than at any other time, AAA encourages motorists to prepare for adverse cold weather driving conditions with three main steps: prepare your vehicle, plan your journey in advance and be cautious while on the road.

First, make sure your vehicle is prepared for winter driving. AAA offers the following tips for motorists departing on winter road trips: Have the battery and charging system tested. A fully charged battery in good condition is required to start an engine in cold weather. Replace worn windshield wipers that streak, and be sure the washer reservoir is filled with a winter solvent that will not freeze. The full council first began debating the proposal at its Oct. 11 meeting and a public hearing was scheduled for Dec. 2. The council decided to table the issue following a public hearing that included absolutely no input from the public.

It is worth noting that councilors approved favorable to the proposal during the Oct. 11 meeting, but many are still concerned that the Town should not leave the light on for those issues.

I heard an amusing story recently about a man who taught his grand- daughter to say the Lord's Prayer. After much effort, the little girl memorized the entire prayer. She proudly recited it perfectly when I asked. Except for one line: “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Well, in this day and age when it comes to email, I can relate to the idea that “email” might be synonymous with “evil.” After all, nowadays some people have become slaves to their email. I know I have.

Almost any of the activities I do at work are done via email. Occasionally a phone call is involved, but the call often goes something like this: “Hi, I just sent you an email. Please get back to me with an answer—preferably in the next ten minutes.”

I disagree here. Yes, the amenities in the hotel because of what television is programmed to do, but they are simply sitting on their money. Growth or prosperity. These so called "job creation" initiatives are simply not intended to create new employees, they are simply sitting on their money.

In fact, your email is being read by a whole new breed of people, who are not only reading it, but are also writing back to you, on their cell phones, while you are driving. This is a major distraction for drivers, and can lead to accidents.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.

Email is frustrating, even when it stops.

I am not a fan of email. In fact, I try to avoid it as much as possible. But, I am forced to use it when I work.
**Constitution Day**

Students from Sacred Heart University recently presented copies of the U.S. and Connecticut Constitutions to State Representative Rob Sampson and Governor Dannel Malloy to commemorate Constitution Day. Pictured above are Sacred Heart University students, from left, C.J. Fleck, Melissa Hancock and James Eagan present pocket-size US and CT Constitutions to Sampson (R-80) at the State Legislative Building in Hartford.

---

**Letters**

**Fundraiser raises 232 toys**

To the Editor,

Reilley Walden would like to express her thanks to everyone who came out to her 2nd Annual “Stuff My Mom’s SUV for CCMC” on November 26. It was a great success and she collected 232 toys for the children at the hospital. Millie at CCMC was so happy to see Reilley when she dropped off the toys. Reilley also wishes to thank Mrs. Lackner and the families at William Strong School who supported her with the toy drive and to thank the paper who kindly published it for her. Happy Holidays!

Maryann Stanley and Reilley Walden
Southington

---

**Send us your letters!**

We welcome letters to the editor from all of our readers. Send your letter to Editor Ed Harris at eharris@SouthingtonObserver.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week’s edition. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for length or grammar.
The Step Saver/ The Observer

entire project when it went and could jeopardize the board agreed that the field mated at $867,000. The time, the cost was estimated that the turf had been left out of the packaging. They can also be used and it can lead to an astonishing fire spread. Video of experiments with dry Christmas trees has shown that they can enhance fire spread to the point where a typical sized family room can be a fatal environment in less than 25 seconds. In contrast, a well watered natural Christmas tree poses no more hazard than any other object in the room when it comes to fire spread. Position the tree away from any heat source. Be sure holiday lights strands are thoroughly checked, as discussed above. And never, never put an open flame such as a candle anywhere close to a Christmas tree. If using an artificial tree, be sure to inspect it for electrical faults just as you would any other electrical holiday decoration. Candles are a big part of many holiday celebrations. They can also be incredibly dangerous and must, like any open flame, be treated with respect. Candles account for well over 250 residential structure fires per year. Candles that have been tested in approved laboratories. Lights that have been tested by Councilor Peter Romano, another committee member. "That's the question that always stops the discussion and without the fund- ing, this doesn't happen." In addition to the initial cost, Swallow told the committee that the turf would need to be replaced after ten to twelve years worth of fundraising events could help finance the eventual replacement. That still leaves the ques- tion of how to pay for the installations and committee members had differing opin- ions on whether the details of the financing were meant to be hashed out by them or by the other municipal boards in town.

Turf: New committee to report to the Council

From page 1 “Every college in the country is putting in turf fields and football fields are moving the grass out,” he said. “Most towns which have one use it for 250 to 350 events a year.”

Earlier this year, Fontana approached the Board of Education about possibly including the cost of the field within the middle school renovation project. At that time, the cost was estimated at $867,000. The board agreed that the field was needed, but several members felt this action sent the wrong message to voters and could jeopardize the entire project when it went to referendum in November. Ultimately, strict dead- lines in the process of sending a project to referendum kept the two issues from being bundled together. Councilor Peter Romano was for and so much more! Roofing • Gutters • Downspouts • Masonry

The Step Saver/ The Observer

November 28 council meeting and is meant to examine the other parks in town.

Turf: New committee to report to the Council

From page 1 “Every college in the country is putting in turf fields and football fields are moving the grass out,” he said. “Most towns which have one use it for 250 to 350 events a year.”

Earlier this year, Fontana approached the Board of Education about possibly including the cost of the field within the middle school renovation project. At that time, the cost was estimated at $867,000. The board agreed that the field was needed, but several members felt this action sent the wrong message to voters and could jeopardize the entire project when it went to referendum in November. Ultimately, strict dead- lines in the process of sending a project to referendum kept the two issues from being bundled together. Councilor Peter Romano was for and so much more! Roofing • Gutters • Downspouts • Masonry

The Step Saver/ The Observer

November 28 council meeting and is meant to examine the other parks in town.

Turf: New committee to report to the Council

From page 1 “Every college in the country is putting in turf fields and football fields are moving the grass out,” he said. “Most towns which have one use it for 250 to 350 events a year.”

Earlier this year, Fontana approached the Board of Education about possibly including the cost of the field within the middle school renovation project. At that time, the cost was estimated at $867,000. The board agreed that the field was needed, but several members felt this action sent the wrong message to voters and could jeopardize the entire project when it went to referendum in November. Ultimately, strict dead- lines in the process of sending a project to referendum kept the two issues from being bundled together. Councilor Peter Romano was for and so much more! Roofing • Gutters • Downspouts • Masonry

The Step Saver/ The Observer

November 28 council meeting and is meant to examine the other parks in town.

Turf: New committee to report to the Council

From page 1 “Every college in the country is putting in turf fields and football fields are moving the grass out,” he said. “Most towns which have one use it for 250 to 350 events a year.”

Earlier this year, Fontana approached the Board of Education about possibly including the cost of the field within the middle school renovation project. At that time, the cost was estimated at $867,000. The board agreed that the field was needed, but several members felt this action sent the wrong message to voters and could jeopardize the entire project when it went to referendum in November. Ultimately, strict dead- lines in the process of sending a project to referendum kept the two issues from being bundled together. Councilor Peter Romano was for and so much more! Roofing • Gutters • Downspouts • Masonry

The Step Saver/ The Observer

November 28 council meeting and is meant to examine the other parks in town.

Turf: New committee to report to the Council

From page 1 “Every college in the country is putting in turf fields and football fields are moving the grass out,” he said. “Most towns which have one use it for 250 to 350 events a year.”

Earlier this year, Fontana approached the Board of Education about possibly including the cost of the field within the middle school renovation project. At that time, the cost was estimated at $867,000. The board agreed that the field was needed, but several members felt this action sent the wrong message to voters and could jeopardize the entire project when it went to referendum in November. Ultimately, strict dead- lines in the process of sending a project to referendum kept the two issues from being bundled together. Councilor Peter Romano was for and so much more! Roofing • Gutters • Downspouts • Masonry

The Step Saver/ The Observer

November 28 council meeting and is meant to examine the other parks in town.

Turf: New committee to report to the Council

From page 1 “Every college in the country is putting in turf fields and football fields are moving the grass out,” he said. “Most towns which have one use it for 250 to 350 events a year.”

Earlier this year, Fontana approached the Board of Education about possibly including the cost of the field within the middle school renovation project. At that time, the cost was estimated at $867,000. The board agreed that the field was needed, but several members felt this action sent the wrong message to voters and could jeopardize the entire project when it went to referendum in November. Ultimately, strict dead- lines in the process of sending a project to referendum kept the two issues from being bundled together. Councilor Peter Romano was for and so much more! Roofing • Gutters • Downspouts • Masonry

The Step Saver/ The Observer

November 28 council meeting and is meant to examine the other parks in town.

Turf: New committee to report to the Council

From page 1 “Every college in the country is putting in turf fields and football fields are moving the grass out,” he said. “Most towns which have one use it for 250 to 350 events a year.”

Earlier this year, Fontana approached the Board of Education about possibly including the cost of the field within the middle school renovation project. At that time, the cost was estimated at $867,000. The board agreed that the field was needed, but several members felt this action sent the wrong message to voters and could jeopardize the entire project when it went to referendum in November. Ultimately, strict dead- lines in the process of sending a project to referendum kept the two issues from being bundled together. Councilor Peter Romano was for and so much more! Roofing • Gutters • Downspouts • Masonry

The Step Saver/ The Observer

November 28 council meeting and is meant to examine the other parks in town.
Resident in Service

Branch Army
Duty Station: Ft. Eustis, VA
Name: Jordan I. Crooms

Rank: PFC
Branch: Army
Duty Station: Afghanistan
Name: Matthew W. Curran

Rank: Sgt
Branch: US Army
Station: Fort Drum, NY
Name: John E. DeMello Jr.

Rank: Capt
Branch: US Army
Station: Iraq
Name: Justin Deschaines

Rank: Sgt
Branch: US Army
Station: Ft. Drum
Name: James E. Desjardins

Rank: Capt
Branch: USMC
Station: 29 Palms, CA
Name: Pietro D. DiChello

Rank: Sgt
Branch: Army
Duty Station: Fort Riley, KS
Name: Brent R. Dorval

Rank: SRA
Branch: USAF
Duty Station: Fairchild AFB, Washington
Name: Michael J. Falk

Rank: LT. Col.
Branch: Army
Duty Station: Fort Bragg, NC
Name: Jesse Crispino

Rank: Maj.

Man receives medal 25 years later

Sometimes, it’s just in your character to “step up to the plate.” Orchards at Southington resident, Lloyd Sherwood, has always done just that.

After joining the Army Reserves in 1948, Lloyd went on to full active duty as a member of the D Battery, 514th AAA Battalion out of Massachusetts in 1953, serving in the Korean War during the 50’s.

Although he was discharged from active duty in 1955, service to his country was deep in his heart so after a brief respite, Lloyd joined the Massachusetts National Guard.

Even though Sherwood was eligible for the Good Conduct Medal upon his military discharge, he did not receive it as he was at a military hospital at the time.

After 25 years, and with the assistance of Congressman John Larson, Lloyd was finally presented with the Good Conduct Medal at a ceremony at The Orchards on November 21.

In proud attendance were 75 Orchards’ residents, staff, family and friends to witness Congressman Larson personally present the Good Conduct Medal to Lloyd along with Representative Zakeleki.

In addition, Sherwood is the recipient of a number of other awards, including the Army Service Ribbon, Korean Service Medal with Three Bronze Service Stars, United Nations Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

In a myriad of ways, Sherwood continues to shine at The Orchards at Southington. He initiated and organized The Orchards Veterans group, calls BINGO for the residents four times a week, is a member of the Orchards choral group and bowling team, and is an active member of the American Legion Post in Southington.
Some simple holiday survival tips

Exercise is beneficial to the brain in many ways

Have you ever noticed that people who are in good physical shape are in better mental shape? I see that in my office especially with the older population of people. And from an evolutionary perspective we are better equipped to adapt to stress and change if we are mentally and physically in shape.

Exercise benefits the brain in two major ways. First, it helps generate new brain cells. And second, it strengthens the connections between those cells, providing more mental agility and actually allowing the brain to stay young even as the body ages.

There has been scientific research showing that the body continues to make new brain cells later in life. The general assumption was that around 50 we stop making new cell but now it is understood that neurogenesis (making new brain cells) can occur throughout life even as we advance into old age.

However, neurogenesis doesn’t occur at an equal rate in every person or throughout the different times in one’s life. Among the variables affecting the rate of production is exercise. Each time a muscle tense and relaxes, it releases various chemicals into the body. Among these is a protein called IGF-1 that helps to organize the production of other chemicals that prompt brain cells to reproduce with remarkable speed. The more of these chemicals the more new brain cells grow equipped to process new information. A brain with little of these chemicals closes itself off to new information and memory tend to suffer as well.

It is all well and good to get a lot of new cells, but they need to connect together to work together. Exercise also aids in maintaining and improving these connections, the synapses. Researchers have found that the positive impacts of exercise on the brain come quickly.

In under an hour, improvements in mental fitness often kick in, with synapse firing more efficiently. The bad news is that the benefits of exercise tend to fall off fairly quickly. People have to keep at it and these days Americans often don’t place much of a premium on physical fitness. We may be getting not only slower, but also slower on the uptake.

If the allure of remaining mentally sharp into old age isn’t enough to get you off the couch, think about this: recent studies suggest (not proved) that some of the same benefits may also slow the onset of Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s disease.

Fortunately, good results don’t require an extreme amount of exercise. Even just a few hours a week of brisk walking can help sustain body and mind. Any amount of exercise is better than none. I will also add that diet and sound sleep are also extremely important for mental alertness.

There are many ways to stay healthy, active and mentally sound. And isn’t that what we want as we live longer.

Dr. Carol Grant, a local chiropractor, does not intend this column to substitute for medical advice. She urges you to always consult with your personal physician before changing any current program.

During the holiday season life tends to become a whirlwind of holiday gatherings, frenzied shopping and gift giving. What happens is that there are a lot of people who emotionally or financially can’t keep that pace.

I have been blessed with a beautiful grand daughter this year and my wish is to see the holiday through her eyes. Her eyes are full of hope, innocence, honesty and all things good. There is no malice, or ill will. She is pure goodness! May you enjoy every moment. Stay well.

Hope that these tips listed below will be a useful guide for you to follow.

Schedule time for Self-Care! Regular exercise and time management are a must. Find what works best for you and stick to it. There is nothing more important than taking care of your self and then everyone else will fall into place.

Eat well – Moderation is the key. Try to avoid fast foods and over indulging. There are so many tempting good foods but just be smart about the choices that you make.

Avoid Caffeine – minimize the impact of caffeine in your life.

Plan the holiday and set time limits. Do not over spend your financial and emotional resources. Take time to step back and enjoy the simple things that the holiday brings. You do not have to do it all.

Control your expectations of: Happiness, joy, sadness and Loneliness.

Be nice to others – Give compliments and thanks.

Enjoy the people you are with and make the very best of the situation that you are in. Do not be consumed by things that happened in the past or the fear of what will happen in the future.

Find the True Spirit of the Holidays!

Source: Lynn Palmieri

For more information on financial assistance offered at the YMCA contact Lynn Palmieri, YMCA financial assistance Coordinator at 860-426-9513 or lpalmeri@southingtonchesireymca.org.

Southington residents Richard Flynn and Scott Newland raised $12,800 of the $35 million donated by the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge (PMC) to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through its Jimmy Fund. They were among 5,169 cyclists who rode up to 190 miles across Massachusetts to raise money for cancer research and treatment. The 2011 fundraising total is $2 million, or 5.7 percent, more than the PMC gave in 2010 and brings its 32-year Jimmy Fund contribution to $328 million.

The PMC is the most successful athletic fundraising event in the nation; it raises and contributes more money to charity than any other. In August, cyclists from eight countries and 37 states rode one of 11 routes that ranged from 25 to 190 miles. Riders included this year’s Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, Massachusetts Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown, 350 cancer survivors, and avid cyclists and weekend warriors alike. Many rode in support of loved ones being treated for cancer or in memory of those who have been lost to the disease.

The contribution represents 180 percent of every rider-rider raised dollar, a charity pass-through rate that is nearly unparalleled within the athletic fundraising event industry. Approximately 3,140 volunteers and 200 companies supplying almost $5 million in products and services provided riders with food, medical and mechanical assistance, luggage transport and support of all kinds.

The 2011 PMC exceeded its own fundraising goal of $34 million by $1 million. “PMC riders are committed to the cause and to this event,” said Billy Stagg, PMC founder and executive director. “Their dedication to raising money for cancer research is unparalleled in the fundraising industry.”

Fashion for a cause

Models line up for a walk down the runway at a recent fashion show held by The Hospital of Central Connecticut’s Bradley Memorial Auxiliary. The event raised money for equipment at the hospital’s Southington campus. The Hospital of Central Connecticut’s Bradley Memorial campus Auxiliary fashion show drew more than 380 people and raised $12,000. Models from the hospital and community Proceeds will help pay for EKG machines.

Making new friends

Cub Scouts from Pack 8 in Southington recently hosted a Reptiles Rock show from Rainforest reptiles. Above, Grover the lizard gets to know a member of Pack 8.
The Southington Library is sponsoring its annual “Food for Fines” program. Excess unopened canned goods and other non-perishable foods will be collected in donation boxes at the library, with proceeds going to the Southington Community Services for the holiday season. The program will run through December.

People are asked to bring the overdue item along with the food item and their library card to the Lending Desk in the library. Lost or damaged materials, fees for losses that are in billing or collection stages, and lost card fees are not included in the food drive. The library “Mitten Tree” will also be ready for decorating with new mittens, hats, gloves, scarves and socks. Handmade items are also appreciated. According to Southington Community Services Department, "People can anonymously don a mitten to receive a book of their choice when they return books to the library."

Pet photos with Santa at the Grange

Southington Grange #25 invites animal lovers to have their pet’s photo taken with Santa Claus, Sunday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grange Hall. Located at the corner of Knowles Ave. and Summit St. in Plantsville, the Grange will be decked out for the holiday season.

Bring the family—hot cocoa and cookies will be served and there will be a holiday craft for children. Freshly cut Connecticut grown sparse Christmas trees will be available for sale.

You must pre-order. Call 860-681-4179 to reserve your 6- to 8-foot tree. All pets must be on leashes or in carriers. There is a nominal charge for photos. All proceeds will benefit the Grange.

Library runs food for fines program

The Southington Library runs a Food for Fines program, where unopened canned goods and other non-perishable foods are collected to help Southington Community Services during the holiday season. The program will run through December. People are asked to bring the overdue item along with the food item and their library card to the Lending Desk in the library. Lost or damaged materials, fees for losses that are in billing or collection stages, and lost card fees are not included in the food drive. The library “Mitten Tree” will also be ready for decorating with new mittens, hats, gloves, scarves and socks. Handmade items are also appreciated. According to Southington Community Services Department, “People can anonymously don a mitten to receive a book of their choice when they return books to the library.”

Pet photos with Santa at the Grange

Southington Grange #25 invites animal lovers to have their pet’s photo taken with Santa Claus, Sunday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grange Hall. Located at the corner of Knowles Ave. and Summit St. in Plantsville, the Grange will be decked out for the holiday season.

Bring the family—hot cocoa and cookies will be served and there will be a holiday craft for children. Freshly cut Connecticut grown sparse Christmas trees will be available for sale. You must pre-order. Call 860-681-4179 to reserve your 6- to 8-foot tree. All pets must be on leashes or in carriers. There is a nominal charge for photos. All proceeds will benefit the Grange.

Library runs food for fines program

The Southington Library is sponsoring its annual “Food for Fines” program. Excess unopened canned goods and other non-perishable foods will be collected in donation boxes at the library, with proceeds going to the Southington Community Services for the holiday season. The program will run through December.

People are asked to bring the overdue item along with the food item and their library card to the Lending Desk in the library. Lost or damaged materials, fees for losses that are in billing or collection stages, and lost card fees are not included in the food drive. The library “Mitten Tree” will also be ready for decorating with new mittens, hats, gloves, scarves and socks. Handmade items are also appreciated. According to Southington Community Services Department, “People can anonymously don a mitten to receive a book of their choice when they return books to the library.”

Pet photos with Santa at the Grange

Southington Grange #25 invites animal lovers to have their pet’s photo taken with Santa Claus, Sunday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grange Hall. Located at the corner of Knowles Ave. and Summit St. in Plantsville, the Grange will be decked out for the holiday season.

Bring the family—hot cocoa and cookies will be served and there will be a holiday craft for children. Freshly cut Connecticut grown sparse Christmas trees will be available for sale. You must pre-order. Call 860-681-4179 to reserve your 6- to 8-foot tree. All pets must be on leashes or in carriers. There is a nominal charge for photos. All proceeds will benefit the Grange.

Library runs food for fines program

The Southington Library runs a Food for Fines program, where unopened canned goods and other non-perishable foods are collected to help Southington Community Services during the holiday season. The program will run through December. People are asked to bring the overdue item along with the food item and their library card to the Lending Desk in the library. Lost or damaged materials, fees for losses that are in billing or collection stages, and lost card fees are not included in the food drive. The library “Mitten Tree” will also be ready for decorating with new mittens, hats, gloves, scarves and socks. Handmade items are also appreciated. According to Southington Community Services Department, “People can anonymously don a mitten to receive a book of their choice when they return books to the library.”

Pet photos with Santa at the Grange

Southington Grange #25 invites animal lovers to have their pet’s photo taken with Santa Claus, Sunday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grange Hall. Located at the corner of Knowles Ave. and Summit St. in Plantsville, the Grange will be decked out for the holiday season.

Bring the family—hot cocoa and cookies will be served and there will be a holiday craft for children. Freshly cut Connecticut grown sparse Christmas trees will be available for sale. You must pre-order. Call 860-681-4179 to reserve your 6- to 8-foot tree. All pets must be on leashes or in carriers. There is a nominal charge for photos. All proceeds will benefit the Grange.
Obituaries

Harvey Cassell, served in the Navy

Harvey T. Cassell, Sr., 82, formerly of Marshall, MO, died on Sunday, November 20, at Bristol Hospital, Oct. 20.

Born in Sedalia, MO on September 23, 1928, he was the son of the late Everette and Gertrude (Paddell) Cassell.

He served in the US Navy during WWII and continued with the Navy for a total of 20 years. For over 20 years he was a supervisor for General Foods Corporation and after retiring worked at the Mobil station on Queen Street in Southington. Cassell was a member of the American Legion and has been a Southington resident for over 20 years. He also enjoyed playing pool, poker and cribbage with his buddies at Jensens and Calendar House.

He is survived by his loving companion Biance Mary Lou Klimovich of Southington, daughters Marie Wentz and Conetta of Las Vegas, Nev., who is currently serving in the military and his daughters, Toni and daughter, Lisa Conetta of Southington, her husband, Gary; a daughter, Toni Cunningham of Brooklyn, N.Y., a son, Jamie Conetta of Bristol; a son, Brandon Conetta of Las Vegas, Nev., who is currently serving in the military and his daughters, Toni and daughter, Lisa Conetta of Southington, her husband, Gary; a daughter, Toni Cunningham of Brooklyn, N.Y., a son, Jamie Conetta of Bristol; a son, Brandon

Patricia Chaldeaine, loved animals

Patricia Chaldeaine, 74, of Southington, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 9, 2011 To advertise, call (860) 628-9645

She is survived by son, Branden and his wife, Vic, of CT; a son, Michael and his wife, Cynthia, of TX, nine grandchildren, Starsen and husband Marvin Meek of TX, nine grandchildren, Christopher, Cindy, Liz, Nathan, Megan, Patrick, Alyssa, Kyle and Robert, and three great-grandchildren, Sharon and husband Dennis White of Vestavia Hills, Birmingham, Ala., and son, Kevin of Alexandria, VA, and his wife, Mary Helen Jasunas,

Mary Jasunas, served in the Women’s Air Corp

Mary Helen Jasunas, 88, passed away on Saturday, November 26, at Southington Care Center. She was the wife of the late William Jasunas.

She was born on Feb. 2, 1922, the daughter of the late John and Elizabeth Patterson. Mrs. Jasunas was a Veteran of WWII serving with the Women’s Army Corps where she met her husband.

She enjoyed reading and antiquing but most of all she loved spending time with her grand and great grandchildren.

She is survived by her loving children, Sharon and her husband Dennis White of Vestavia Hills, Birmingham, Ala., and son, Kevin of Alexandria, VA, and his wife, Mary Helen Jasunas,

Mary Jasunas, served in the Women’s Air Corp

Mary Helen Jasunas, 88, passed away on Saturday, November 26, at Southington Care Center. She was the wife of the late William Jasunas.

She was born on Feb. 2, 1922, the daughter of the late John and Elizabeth Patterson. Mrs. Jasunas was a Veteran of WWII serving with the Women’s Army Corps where she met her husband.

She enjoyed reading and antiquing but most of all she loved spending time with her grand and great grandchildren.

She is survived by her loving children, Sharon and her husband Dennis White of Vestavia Hills, Birmingham, Ala., and son, Kevin of Alexandria, VA, and his wife, Mary Helen Jasunas,

Mary Jasunas, served in the Women’s Air Corp

Mary Helen Jasunas, 88, passed away on Saturday, November 26, at Southington Care Center. She was the wife of the late William Jasunas.

She was born on Feb. 2, 1922, the daughter of the late John and Elizabeth Patterson. Mrs. Jasunas was a Veteran of WWII serving with the Women’s Army Corps where she met her husband.

She enjoyed reading and antiquing but most of all she loved spending time with her grand and great grandchildren.

She is survived by her loving children, Sharon and her husband Dennis White of Vestavia Hills, Birmingham, Ala., and son, Kevin of Alexandria, VA, and his wife, Mary Helen Jasunas,
Obituaries

Sophia Ucinski, worked at Pratt and Whitney

Sophia (Schwartz) Ucinski, 89, of Southington passed away peacefully on November 21, 2011 at Southington Care Center. She had been the wife of the late Theodore W. Ucinski. She was born in Southington on December 16, 1922 to the late George and Caroline (Pacia) Schwartz. Sophia was raised in Southington and moved to New York where she lived for the next 30 years before returning home to Southington. She worked at Pratt and Whitney, retiring after 16 years. Sophia is survived by her sister Veronica Zima of Southington and her nephew Theodore Ucinski of New York. She was predeceased by her son Theodore Ucinski.

Burial was held privately in family lot at Mt. St. Mary’s Cemetery, Long Island, NY.

Sacred Heart Parish, Southington. He was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran of World War II, serving with the 308th Airborne Squadron. Later he worked at American Brass, Metal Hose Division, retiring in 1983. He enjoyed spending time with his family.

Phoebe J. Nantifo, Sr. 71, passed away on Saturday, December 3, at home, surrounded by his family. He was survived by his wife of 47 years, Patricia (Lawlor) Nanfito.

Born in Middletown on April 25, 1940, he was the son of the late Vincent and Josephine (Lattis) Nanfito. Prior to his retirement from the employ of Nanfito owned and operated Nanfito Window and Siding, he served in the U.S. Navy from 1959-1963 achieving the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class and receives the Naval Good Conduct Medal and Veterans Wartime Service Medal.

He was a member of St. Alphonsus Church, Knights of Columbus #872 of Portland, a Past Grand Knight, American Legion Post #72 of Southington, Sons of Italy, and the Mangia Focia Society.

Michaelangelo Ceccario, Palazzo, 83, passed away on Monday, Nov. 28. He was the beloved husband of the late Luigia Cecce Palazzo. He was born on June 7, 1928, in Bonena, Italy the son of the late domenico and Assunta (Barbetta) Ceccario Palazzo.

While living in Italy he was a Corese Forstale for 25 years and was very active in politics.

Hamilton_TEXTURE-Texbury, 89, Cohasset, died peacefully at his Duxbury home, Saturday, November 26, 2011 after saying goodbye to his loving family. Hamilton grew up in Hingham, and graduated from Hingham High School.

He then served in the U.S. Navy in Norfolk, VA and Harrisonburg, PA as a Naval Airplane Mechanic during World War II. Following World War II, he attended Clarkson College in Potsdam and graduated with a degree in Business Administration.

While at Clarkson, he met his wife, Shirley Ann Thompson, who was studying for her elementary education degree at Potsdam State Teachers College. Ham and Shirley were married in Canton, NY, Shirley’s hometown, in 1951, lived briefly in Brookline, MA, and settled in Cohasset in 1953, where they raised their four children, until moving recently to assisted living facilities in Weymouth, MA.

He worked as an industrial scale salesman for most of his career, providing services to businesses throughout the Northeastern U.S. In his spare time he served as a member of the Cohasset Recreation Commission and on the Board of Directors of the Cohasset Community Center. Ham spent many years reading the Christmas Table at the annual Christmas Bazaar sponsored by the Cohasset Light replica to Government Island, and in securing the lens that is now part of the Minot’s Light replica from the U. S. Coast Guard, so that the history of Minot’s Light could be preserved for town residents. In March 2011, Ham and Shirley gathered with family members and friends to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Newspaper news

Do you have news you wish to see in The Observer? Send the information to The Observer, care of the editor Ed Harris, at eharris@SouthingtonObserver.com, or fax it to The Observer at (860)621-1841.

Milestones

Have you had a baby? Are you recently engaged? Have you just gotten married? Send us the information and we’ll share it with the community. Forms are available on-line at the observer.com.

Sports

Send us your Southington sports news. Do you want to see your youth league results published? How about recreation league results? Can you send us information about the Observer care of the sports writer John Goralski at jgoralski@SouthingtonObserver.com, or fax it to The Observer at (860)621-1841.

You can send your information to The Observer care of the editor Ed Harris at eharris@SouthingtonObserver.com, or fax it to The Observer at (860)621-1841.

Grade 6, Second Honors: Anthony Abbatellio, Rosario Aino, Marta Alessandri, Catherine Almeida, Nicoletta Belales, Erica Bruno, Nicholas Bucknvage, Jakob Forrest, Olivia Fourney, Amir Gone, Kirsten Guntern, Jackson Hall, Peter Henderson, Jordan Henderson, Jenna Hickey, Amanda Howe, Taylor Hubert, Daniel Hunter, Ashley Hussain, Katelyn Jerardi, Alex Imme, Julia Kahl, Rea Kelolli, Quinlin Kimmel, Joseph Kocera, Andrew Kraj, Jessica Krooher, Jonathan Kryandski, Jake Kubisic, Eric Langland, Alex Le, Joseph Lee, Sarah Lew


Grade 8, First Honors: Kelsey Allen, Andrew Ardolino, Angela Balagiao, Quinn Beconte, James Berno, Luke Maluszewski, Christina Martin, Johnathan Mikosz, Miller John, Mindeh Sarah, O'Connor, Anna Lala, Zorina Alex, Gerville, Karen Tanya, Scott, Sarah Taylor, Alyssa Kay, Kaitlin Maya, Kate

Grade 2, Second Honors: Amir Agoora, Madison Aldieri, Michael Allen, Jake Aparo, Abigail Axsar, Forrest, Michael Freeman, Laura Furtak, Emily Gable, Kelly Graft, Liam Guthrie, Diana Halla, Michael Jagos, Jessica Karwowski, You Kelly Graff, Liam Guthrie, Laura Furtak, Emily Gibney, Forrest, Michael Freeman, Laura Furtak, Emily Gable, Kelly Graft, Liam Guthrie, Diana Halla, Michael Jagos, Jessica Karwowski, You
As a director, Peter E. Pristic was drawn to Larry Shue’s comedy, “The Nerd,” for a simple reason. The writing. “What added to the humor was how well it was written,” said Peter of the stage play, which centers on a young architect visited by a man he’s never met who saved his life in Vietnam. “It’s real. It’s believable. It’s not far-fetched humor. It’s not predictable. It could really happen,” said Peter of the show.

Peter first read the play 20 years ago. He said, “The honesty and sincerity of the humor involved makes it funny for me.” For audiences, Peter said the humor works because, “You really feel for the main character. He’s someone to root for.”

And Peter said, like himself, audiences will appreciate “the sincerity and honesty” of the play. For “The Nerd” to work, Peter said one of the main tasks as a director is helping the cast define their characters. Fortunately, Peter said, this was aided by who he chose to play the characters in “The Nerd.” Peter said he specifically looked for actors who had many of the same traits of the characters they portray. This gave the cast something they could draw from their own experiences as they put their characters on stage. He helped the actors develop a history of their characters to help them understand what brought these people to this particular point in their lives.

Asked what he liked about the cast he gathered for this Southington Community Theatre production, Peter said, “They’re all extraordinarily talented.” During auditions and work after they were cast, he said their “insight into the characters was pretty immediate… It didn’t take long for them to figure out how to bring their character to life.”

Audiences will enjoy “The Nerd,” said Peter. “They’ll be laugh so hard, their sides will hurt. And these days, we all need to laugh… The cast is hysterical. The writing is phenomenal.” It’s an escape, added Peter. “It’s the middle of December… this provides a nice break from all of the (holiday activities). It’s a chance to let go and be entertained.

Southington Community Theatre presents Larry Shue’s comedy, “The Nerd” on Friday, Dec. 9 and Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Calendar House, 388 Pleasant St., Southington. Performances both nights are at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 at the door, $12 in advance at Just for You… Country Gifts, 979 Meriden-Waterbury Road, Plantsville, The Music Shop, 405 Queen St., Southington.

The cast includes Tony Lamberto, Craig Folcik, Amanda Savio Guay, Martin Smith, Scott Hoffman, Katrina DeVona, and James Brino. Stage manager is Denise Hadyka.

For more information, go to Southington CommunityTheatre.org.
Attention, all Jedi knights: The Storm Troopers are coming to Southington.

The Southington Library will host a special “Star Wars” event at 3 p.m. today at Zion Lutheran Church, 17 West Main St., Southington. For more information, call (860) 489-9005 or e-mail escoutry@sbgbglobal.net.

The one-time performance is cast and supported by members of St. Dominic Parish, and is open to the public. Admission is free. Complimentary light refreshments will follow the show and a Christmas Carol sing-a-long in the Geraghty Parish Center.

For more information, contact dick@saintdominick.org.

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE: “Music and Poetry of the Season” featuring the Buona Viva Ensemble, under the direction of Michael Ravita, will be at 7:30 p.m. today at Zion Lutheran Church, 77 Judd St., Bristol. Please bring a non-perishable food item or make a free will offering to benefit Meals for the Needy, Bristol’s oldest soup kitchen.

WINTER CONCERT: The Bristol Choral Society will present its annual Winter Concert at 7 p.m. Saturday at Bristol Central High School, Wolcott St., Bristol. The 130-voice chorus will perform traditional classics and pop Broadway pieces. They will be accompanied by their string ensemble. The Choral Society is directed by Ken Ferris. Tickets are $10 and available at www.bristol-choralsociety.com, or at Michael Ravita’s office, 220 Street, Bristol. Remaining tickets will be sold at the door.

HOLIDAY CONCERT: The Plainville Choral Society will present its annual holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday at the Plainville Middle School, North Street Drive, Plainville. Traditional and popular Christmas carols will be performed, accompanied by the Plainville High School Band. Tickets are $5, $10. Tickets are available at www.bristol-choralsociety.com, phone: (860) 489-7188 or www.warnerritheater.org.

For more information, call (860) 747-5695.

DOO WOP HOLIDAY: A “Rockin’ Holiday Celebration” with doo wop performers will be at 8 p.m. Dec. 16 at Torrington’s Warner Theatre. Performers include Lou Christie, Charlie Thomas’ Drifters, Jimmy Beaumont & The Skyliners, Lenney Welch and Peggy March. Tickets are $35, $42.50 and $49. Call (860) 489-7188 or www.warnerritheater.org.

ART EXHIBITION: Southington artist Ellen Couture will exhibit her work at Paul Gregory’s Bistro, 148 Center St., Southington, throughout the month of December.

Couture is the vice president and former member of The Art League of Plainville, and a member of the Southington Arts & Crafts Association. She has been painting and drawing for more than 30 years, and was trained as an artist at Tunxis Community College and through Adult Art Education Programs. She has successfully competed against local artists in juried shows and with the local art leagues and the Berlin Fair.

For more information on her work, call (860) 919-9905 or e-mail escoutry@sbgbglobal.net.

Send arts and entertainment news and listings, including information on local musicians, artists, theater, film, books and more, to kelley.mcguire@yahoo.com.
The production with Ms. Carrol. Scripted in alternating scenes of narration, accompanied by screened biblical art on the overhead screens, and the live action of the cost portraying biblical characters. The briskly-paced production will be accented with a brief Christmas Carol sing-along before a reception and complimentary light refreshments in the Geraghty Parish Center. All are welcome. For more information, please contact dicky@saintdominic.church.

The Sourthington High School Interact Club is already well underway in the new school year, despite the loss of all of its previous officers. With Bob Brown, a History teacher at the high school, advising, and Senior Mark Mazurowski presiding over the club, new members have been able to give back to the community through both local and national organizations. Since its inception, Interact has been fully committed to helping the community, either by fundraising to raise money and to donate to local charitable organizations, or by donating member's time to help support organizations such as Bread for Life or Salvation Army. So far this year, Interact has raised money by helping The Rotary Club work their Froh Booth at the Apple Harvest. In addition, they have had members collect food for Bread for Life, an organization that helps raise food for food pantries, and Amber Alert, which identify children so that they can be tracked down more easily if lost.

Later this year, Interact is planning to hold fundraisers such as a Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's Dec. 11 from 9:00-11:00 and selling Christmas Cookies so that they can raise money to give back to the community. The Interact Club helping Bread for Life.

Mississippi Holida Zazzle, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Over 30 vendors selling holiday items. At the Derynoski School. Part of the city's 15-year tradition of offering an hour long concert. No tickets needed. Free will offering accepted.

SOUTHINGTON
CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL. 7 p.m. sitting in celebration of 15 years by offering an hour long concert. No tickets needed. Free will offering accepted.

SOUTHINGTON
CORN AND CURRENCY SHOW: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holiday Inn Express. Twenty tables of dealers. No charge or ticket required.

SUNDAY DEC. 11
SOUTHINGTON PASTA DINNER FUNDRAISER. 9:47 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall. Fundraiser to help send Jonathan Bean back to Haiti. $10 tickets. Call Carolyn Bean 621-8893 or get at the door.

TUESDAY DEC. 13
SOUTHINGTON AGUA TURF CHRISTMAS PARTY. Annual holiday celebration. Contact Helen Marriette, tour director, (860) 747-3723.

FRIDAY DEC. 16
SOUTHINGTON DENTAL PAIN FREE DAY, 1-5 p.m. Colite Family Dentistry, 33 Meriden Avenue.

FRIDAY DEC. 16
SOUTHINGTON DISCOVERY/CHALLENGER BASKETBALL, Mondays through Dec. 20, 6 p.m.-7 p.m. (younger players) or 7 p.m.-8 p.m. (older players), at Bristol Boys Club, 105 Laurel St., Bristol. Open to athletes aged 5 and up. This program introduces the game of basketball to the players and teaches them various phases of the game as the child advances in their dribbling, passing and shooting of the basketball. Cost is $30 per child, $25 for 2 or more scholarships are available. Volunteers are also needed to buddy with the children. Contact: Dee Valerio-

SOUTHERN
INTERACT CLUB FUNDRAISER set at Applebee's Dec. 11

MUSICAL NATIVITY PRODUCTION AT ST. DOMINIC CHURCH

On Sunday, December 11, at 6 p.m., St. Dominic Church will present its second annual live musical production of “The Nativity of Jesus Christ: King and Savior” Departs TBA. $95 PP. “I think this is great,” said Kelly Peretti, 8, as she held her dog's shaped balloon. “A dog is my favorite animal.” Plantsville has also seen some new business in the early evening. damarys Perez, a server at the new Zingarella’s restaurant, was offering bits of fried dough to visitors. She said she had been impressed by the tradition. “The community keeps doing more for this event and all the kids love Santa,” Perez said if he were open last night, so i guess that was good timing.”

SOUTHINGTON High School Interact Club is already well underway in the new school year, despite the loss of all of its previous officers. With Bob Brown, a history teacher at the high school, advising, and senior Mark Mazurowski presiding over the club, new members have been able to give back to the community through both local and national organizations. Since its inception, Interact has been fully committed to helping the community, either by fundraising to raise money and to donate to local charitable organizations, or by donating member’s time to help support organizations such as Bread for Life or Salvation Army. So far this year, Interact has raised money by helping The Rotary Club work their Froh Booth at the Apple Harvest. In addition, they have had members collect food for Bread for Life, an organization that helps raise food for food pantries, and Amber Alert, which identifies children so that they can be tracked down more easily if lost.

Later this year, Interact is planning to hold fundraisers such as a Pancake Breakfast at Applebee’s Dec. 11 from 9:00-11:00 and selling Christmas Cookies so that they can raise money to give back to the community. The Interact Club helping Bread for Life.

HOLIDAY: SEASON’S GREETINGS

From page 1 decorating this year because of the (museum’s 175th anniversary,” she said. “Horsecarriage rides are available and Santa Claus visits with children inside the Bank of America. Not long after the event began, a long line was already forming our bank’s door.” “I want to ask for a candy cane,” said Jacob Berger, 7. His parents commented that this request should be easy.” A handful of new businesses have opened on both North Main Street and Center Street in the past year, and the owners were excited to participate for the first time. “I think this is great,” said Craig and Brew owner Kristin Michalak. “The town’s been really welcoming and this is another part of that. It’s why I wanted to come here.” Plantsville’s “Christmas in the Village” event was held one night earlier. This tradition features the merchants and restaurants on West Main Street offering various snacks and activities to the residents who come out to visit.

“We’ve got good weather tonight,” said Paula Perrotti, executive director of Paulin’s Unique Consignment and the president of the Village of Southington elementary school students with special needs.

“Do you want a quickie before Christmas?” said John Taffe, tour director, (860) 747-3723.

“Do you want a quickie before Christmas?” said John Taffe, tour director, (860) 747-3723.
Santa Claus came to visit during Hospitality Night last Friday.

Merchants from both Plantsville and downtown Southington invited the public to gather for the two annual holiday events that herald the start of the Christmas season in town. The three hours of Hospitality Night are typically filled with potential activities for visitors. Plantsville’s “Christmas in the Village” event was held one night earlier. This tradition features the merchants and restaurants on West Main Street offering various snacks and activities to the residents who come out to visit.

Photos by STACEY MCCARTHY

Christmas time in Southington

Members of Southington Brass play at Fire Co. 2 during Plantsville’s Christmas in the Village.

Plantsville Engine Co. 2 firefighter Brian Badgley pours some soup.

Santa Claus came to visit during Hospitality Night last Friday.

Bridget O'Brien, 5, and her dad John check out the cookies and cupcakes at Christmas Gourmet Cookies and Frosted Courture Cupcakes.

Jack and Max DelSanto inspect a reindeer Christmas decoration.

Co. 1 LT Dean Voisine and his granddaughter Kyley Koczon.

Zingarella Pizzeria and Ice Cream Cafe server Erica Sapper serves hot soup during Christmas in Plantsville.
Local artist has worked highlighted in December

By ROB GLIDEN
STAFF WRITER

A local artist, active in both Southington and Plainville, currently has her holiday-themed work showcased at Paul Gregory’s Bistro in Southington.

Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection” will be shown at Paul Gregory’s during the month of December. The pictures depict a variety of New England locations draped in snow, from prominent landmarks like the lighthouse in Rockport, Maine to more personal vistas like the window of her daughter’s house.

“I really use the Christmas collection to decorate my own home,” Couture said. “I’ve never seen all of them hung so close together. It was kind of overwhelming.”

Currently a Southington resident, Couture grew up in Plainville and is a past president of the Art League of Plainville.

She is also active in the Southington Arts and Crafts Association.

“There have been a lot of events (for artists) in Southington over the past few years,” she said. “Plainville is also getting busier than it was in the past.”

Couture is the latest artist to be featured at Paul Gregory’s, which began showcasing the work of nearby residents in September.

“We had this empty wall and we wondered what we could do with it,” said co-owner Paula Pierson. “There are a lot of artists in my family and it came to me one night that I should use that wall to show off some art. I’ve had a very positive response from the artists and the customers. It’s been nice.”

At right, a photo from Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection”.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: 7 p.m.
TGJ worship service is celebrating 15 years by offering an hour long free service Mon-Fri

www.107country.com

Local artist has worked highlighted in December

By ROB GLIDEN
STAFF WRITER

A local artist, active in both Southington and Plainville, currently has her holiday-themed work showcased at Paul Gregory’s Bistro in Southington.

Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection” will be shown at Paul Gregory’s during the month of December. The pictures depict a variety of New England locations draped in snow, from prominent landmarks like the lighthouse in Rockport, Maine to more personal vistas like the window of her daughter’s house.

“I really use the Christmas collection to decorate my own home,” Couture said. “I’ve never seen all of them hung so close together. It was kind of overwhelming.”

Currently a Southington resident, Couture grew up in Plainville and is a past president of the Art League of Plainville.

She is also active in the Southington Arts and Crafts Association.

“There have been a lot of events (for artists) in Southington over the past few years,” she said. “Plainville is also getting busier than it was in the past.”

Couture is the latest artist to be featured at Paul Gregory’s, which began showcasing the work of nearby residents in September.

“We had this empty wall and we wondered what we could do with it,” said co-owner Paula Pierson. “There are a lot of artists in my family and it came to me one night that I should use that wall to show off some art. I’ve had a very positive response from the artists and the customers. It’s been nice.”

At right, a photo from Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection”.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: 7 p.m.
TGJ worship service is celebrating 15 years by offering an hour long free service Mon-Fri

www.107country.com

Local artist has worked highlighted in December

By ROB GLIDEN
STAFF WRITER

A local artist, active in both Southington and Plainville, currently has her holiday-themed work showcased at Paul Gregory’s Bistro in Southington.

Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection” will be shown at Paul Gregory’s during the month of December. The pictures depict a variety of New England locations draped in snow, from prominent landmarks like the lighthouse in Rockport, Maine to more personal vistas like the window of her daughter’s house.

“I really use the Christmas collection to decorate my own home,” Couture said. “I’ve never seen all of them hung so close together. It was kind of overwhelming.”

Currently a Southington resident, Couture grew up in Plainville and is a past president of the Art League of Plainville.

She is also active in the Southington Arts and Crafts Association.

“There have been a lot of events (for artists) in Southington over the past few years,” she said. “Plainville is also getting busier than it was in the past.”

Couture is the latest artist to be featured at Paul Gregory’s, which began showcasing the work of nearby residents in September.

“We had this empty wall and we wondered what we could do with it,” said co-owner Paula Pierson. “There are a lot of artists in my family and it came to me one night that I should use that wall to show off some art. I’ve had a very positive response from the artists and the customers. It’s been nice.”

At right, a photo from Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection”.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: 7 p.m.
TGJ worship service is celebrating 15 years by offering an hour long free service Mon-Fri

www.107country.com

Local artist has worked highlighted in December

By ROB GLIDEN
STAFF WRITER

A local artist, active in both Southington and Plainville, currently has her holiday-themed work showcased at Paul Gregory’s Bistro in Southington.

Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection” will be shown at Paul Gregory’s during the month of December. The pictures depict a variety of New England locations draped in snow, from prominent landmarks like the lighthouse in Rockport, Maine to more personal vistas like the window of her daughter’s house.

“I really use the Christmas collection to decorate my own home,” Couture said. “I’ve never seen all of them hung so close together. It was kind of overwhelming.”

Currently a Southington resident, Couture grew up in Plainville and is a past president of the Art League of Plainville.

She is also active in the Southington Arts and Crafts Association.

“There have been a lot of events (for artists) in Southington over the past few years,” she said. “Plainville is also getting busier than it was in the past.”

Couture is the latest artist to be featured at Paul Gregory’s, which began showcasing the work of nearby residents in September.

“We had this empty wall and we wondered what we could do with it,” said co-owner Paula Pierson. “There are a lot of artists in my family and it came to me one night that I should use that wall to show off some art. I’ve had a very positive response from the artists and the customers. It’s been nice.”

At right, a photo from Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection”.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: 7 p.m.
TGJ worship service is celebrating 15 years by offering an hour long free service Mon-Fri

www.107country.com

Local artist has worked highlighted in December

By ROB GLIDEN
STAFF WRITER

A local artist, active in both Southington and Plainville, currently has her holiday-themed work showcased at Paul Gregory’s Bistro in Southington.

Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection” will be shown at Paul Gregory’s during the month of December. The pictures depict a variety of New England locations draped in snow, from prominent landmarks like the lighthouse in Rockport, Maine to more personal vistas like the window of her daughter’s house.

“I really use the Christmas collection to decorate my own home,” Couture said. “I’ve never seen all of them hung so close together. It was kind of overwhelming.”

Currently a Southington resident, Couture grew up in Plainville and is a past president of the Art League of Plainville.

She is also active in the Southington Arts and Crafts Association.

“There have been a lot of events (for artists) in Southington over the past few years,” she said. “Plainville is also getting busier than it was in the past.”

Couture is the latest artist to be featured at Paul Gregory’s, which began showcasing the work of nearby residents in September.

“We had this empty wall and we wondered what we could do with it,” said co-owner Paula Pierson. “There are a lot of artists in my family and it came to me one night that I should use that wall to show off some art. I’ve had a very positive response from the artists and the customers. It’s been nice.”

At right, a photo from Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection”.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: 7 p.m.
TGJ worship service is celebrating 15 years by offering an hour long free service Mon-Fri

www.107country.com

Local artist has worked highlighted in December

By ROB GLIDEN
STAFF WRITER

A local artist, active in both Southington and Plainville, currently has her holiday-themed work showcased at Paul Gregory’s Bistro in Southington.

Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection” will be shown at Paul Gregory’s during the month of December. The pictures depict a variety of New England locations draped in snow, from prominent landmarks like the lighthouse in Rockport, Maine to more personal vistas like the window of her daughter’s house.

“I really use the Christmas collection to decorate my own home,” Couture said. “I’ve never seen all of them hung so close together. It was kind of overwhelming.”

Currently a Southington resident, Couture grew up in Plainville and is a past president of the Art League of Plainville.

She is also active in the Southington Arts and Crafts Association.

“There have been a lot of events (for artists) in Southington over the past few years,” she said. “Plainville is also getting busier than it was in the past.”

Couture is the latest artist to be featured at Paul Gregory’s, which began showcasing the work of nearby residents in September.

“We had this empty wall and we wondered what we could do with it,” said co-owner Paula Pierson. “There are a lot of artists in my family and it came to me one night that I should use that wall to show off some art. I’ve had a very positive response from the artists and the customers. It’s been nice.”

At right, a photo from Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection”.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: 7 p.m.
TGJ worship service is celebrating 15 years by offering an hour long free service Mon-Fri

www.107country.com

Local artist has worked highlighted in December

By ROB GLIDEN
STAFF WRITER

A local artist, active in both Southington and Plainville, currently has her holiday-themed work showcased at Paul Gregory’s Bistro in Southington.

Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection” will be shown at Paul Gregory’s during the month of December. The pictures depict a variety of New England locations draped in snow, from prominent landmarks like the lighthouse in Rockport, Maine to more personal vistas like the window of her daughter’s house.

“I really use the Christmas collection to decorate my own home,” Couture said. “I’ve never seen all of them hung so close together. It was kind of overwhelming.”

Currently a Southington resident, Couture grew up in Plainville and is a past president of the Art League of Plainville.

She is also active in the Southington Arts and Crafts Association.

“There have been a lot of events (for artists) in Southington over the past few years,” she said. “Plainville is also getting busier than it was in the past.”

Couture is the latest artist to be featured at Paul Gregory’s, which began showcasing the work of nearby residents in September.

“We had this empty wall and we wondered what we could do with it,” said co-owner Paula Pierson. “There are a lot of artists in my family and it came to me one night that I should use that wall to show off some art. I’ve had a very positive response from the artists and the customers. It’s been nice.”

At right, a photo from Ellen Couture’s “New England Christmas Collection”.
By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

The ballet "The Nutcracker" isn’t necessarily about Christmas. The ballet, which depicts one night in the life of a young girl named Clara, happens on Christmas Eve. And there is a Christmas tree.

But that’s really all it has to do with the holiday. Yet, the ballet has long been synonymous with the winter holidays. And it’s solid entry on the performance calendar of ballet companies across the country. For instance, Plainville’s own Dance Incorporated performed the ballet at Southington High School on Nov. 27.

Other area dance companies have their productions coming up as well. “I love that ‘The Nutcracker’ gets me into the holiday spirit,” said Kristina Mazzone, a dance instructor from Bristol.

However, Kristina said “The Nutcracker” also holds appeal for her as someone who performs. “The dancing and technique that the dancers in that ballet have is incredible. As a dancer, I can appreciate all the rehearsals and ballet classes they have to take to become so great.”

“I appreciate most that ‘The Nutcracker’ is the perfect combination of traditional grace and liveliness,’ said Caitlyn Flynn, a dancer from Southington. “One does not have to be a dancer to enjoy the show. The upbeat music and high energy is enough to captivate anyone’s attention.”

“The Nutcracker” has many different segments, from the opening party sequence, where Clara’s family, aunts, uncles and cousins gather at the house on Christmas Eve to the Fight Scene between the Nutcracker and the Mouse Queen to the Land of the Sweets. Most fans of the ballet will have their favorite.

“‘My favorite part is the Dance of the Snowflakes,’ said Caitlyn. “The music is so dynamic and often the dancers do many jumps in this section, which is fascinating to watch. The precision in timing of the dancers in this section is outstanding. I find it very interesting to watch many dancers performing at once versus watching a solo ballerina.”

Kristina, however, is diplomatic about her favorites. “I can’t say that I enjoy one scene more than the other. All the scenes are important to build up suspense and help the audience understand the storyline. Everything is danced so beautifully that it’s hard to choose.”

Caitlyn, as a dancer also appreciated “The Nutcracker” because of “how diverse each of the leads is. Whether you are the Snow Queen or Chinese tea, you have to really commit yourself to the character you are playing and adapt your personal style of dance to fit your role. Because each lead is so different, everyone is able to relate to one of the characters, which enriches the experience of being an audience member.”

The central character of “The Nutcracker” is Clara, whose life and dreams are played out on stage. It’s a role that appeals to young girls because they can see themselves mirrored in the character.

“I love how Clara gets so excited about Christmas and that one special present that she receives,” said Kristina. “As a little girl, I obviously got excited for Christmas and opening presents with my family on Christmas morning. And there was always that one present that trumped all other presents and it was my favorite that Christmas. I actually still get excited about Christmas. So some things never change.”

“How is Clara a very relatable character to young girls because of her immense creativity and curiosity,” said Caitlyn. “Most young girls have a fascination with ballerinas and when I was young I was no exception. I grew up convinced I would be Clara in this ballet mostly because she was so relatable.”

Besides making her think of the holidays, Kristina said the ballet holds a particularly sparkling memory. “It was about a year ago when my fiancé took me to ‘The Nutcracker’ and then he proposed to me that same night. So ‘The Nutcracker’ will always have a special place in my heart because of that night.”

Here is a sampling of performances of “The Nutcracker” coming up in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Nutmeg Ballet will be performing its tradition version of “The Nutcracker” at The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Ave., Hartford on Saturday, Dec. 17 and Sunday, Dec. 18 at noon and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are $33 to $45. For tickets, go to Nutmeg Ballet.”

Conneticdance.com or by calling (860) 247-7450.

“The Friends of Dance” will also hold its “Nutmeg Ballet” version of “The Nutcracker” at the Elmwood, 166 Capitol Ave., Hartford on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. tickets are $25 and $20. For tickets, call 860-757-4998.

Conneticdance.com or by calling (860) 251-9195.

“New Haven Ballet’s ‘The Nutcracker’” will be performed Friday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17 at 1 and 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. This production is supported by students of New Haven Ballet and features principal dancers from Boston Ballet. Performances are at the Shubert, 247 College St., New Haven. For tickets, go to shubert.com.

The Evjen Academy of Dance will present “The Nutcracker” at the Main Stage Theater at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Performing Arts, 359 Washington St. Hartford on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 1 and 5 p.m. Tickets are $25 and $20. For tickets, call 860-757-4998.

‘Nutcracker’ is a holiday dance tradition
**Cork and Brew**

The Buzz
Cork & Brew is the first and only destination in Connecticut where you can craft and brew your own custom wine or microbrew on premise. In addition to the wine and beer, customers can also make their own soda. During the initial appointments, customers decide what type of beer or wine they would like to make. After that, the ingredients are mixed together and put in special containers in a temperature controlled room where they will stay for up to six weeks. Customers come back to bottle the wine or beer and create custom labels. Soda is made during one appointment and brought home. It will be ready to drink in approximately 10 days.

In Your Glass
The following wine varieties are available: Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Noir, Cabernet, Riesling, Zinfandel, Malbec, Amarone, Barolo, Sherry, Chianti, or Shiraaz. There are several beer styles that can be brewed including Western IPA, Rock, Oatmeal Stout, Cream Ale, Continental Pilsner, and Wheat. They also have several flavors of soda (cola, root beer, ginger ale, orange, cherry, cream, raspberry, and Hutch.)

On Your Plate
Cork and Brew doesn’t serve food, but their customers are encouraged to bring their own food along with their friends and family during the bottling process.

Your Wallet
Wine (enough to fill 30 bottles) prices start at $175.25 for a Black Cherry Pinot Noir (dry, ruby red wine presents with flavors of fresh, ripe black cherries balanced by a subtle touch of tannins) and go up to $288.24 for Amarone (unique to the Valpolicella region of Italy and packed with rich raspberry, blackberry, and cassis flavors.) Prices do not include the cost of bottles. Beer (60 bottle batch) ranges from $119.25 for a Continental Pilsner (balanced, well rounded, golden European- style lager with a noticeable hop profile and all-malt character) to $129.25 for a Western IPA (a deep, golden hoppy, English style pale ale.) Prices do not include the cost of bottles. Soda is made in 12 bottle batches and costs $2.50 a bottle. The custom label, glass bottle, soda, and caps are included in the price.

If you’re interested in being featured in a future “Tasty Bites,” email mchaiken@BristolObserver.com.

---

**Spare Time Bristol**

**SUPER SAVINGS AT SPARE TIME BRISTOL**

**BOWLING SPECIALS**

- **$1.99 PER GAME**
  - SUNDAYS
    - 9am-Noon

- **EASY AS 1,2,3**
  - MON., TUES & WED
    - 8pm-Close
  - $3 entry fee gets you
    - $1 games and $2 shoe rental.

**Live it Up! Go Bowling**

- **Go To:** sparetimebristol.com

---

**Dining & Entertainment Guide**

**Out on the Town**

**Live Bands**

- **FRI & SAT**
  - **Blue Moon**
    - 1169 Meriden-Wtby Tpk
    - RTE 322 • Exit 28 off I-84
    - PLANTSVILLE
    - 860-863-5963
  - **Ruff Kuf**
    - **La Express**
      - SATURDAY 12/10
      - OPEN MIKE live BANDS 6:30-11 PM
  - **Sunday**
    - **Open Nite**
      - 860-583-1669
      - 177 Farmington Ave
      - Bristol

**Go To:** sparetimebristol.com

---

**Blue Moon Southington.com**

**Domestic**

- $2 Drafts

---

**Ferrazzi Limosines**

- 203-753-5140

---

**The Basics**

Cork & Brew
Open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11am to 6pm, Thursday from 1pm to 7pm, and Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

35 North Main Street, Southington
Phone- 860-863-5655
www.corkandbrew.com

---

**The Scene:** Warm and cozy front display room filled with beer, soda, and wine making supplies.

**In Your Glass**

- The following wine varieties are available: Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Noir, Cabernet, Riesling, Zinfandel, Malbec, Amarone, Barolo, Sherry, Chianti, or Shiraaz.
- Soda includes (cola, root beer, ginger ale, orange, cherry, cream, raspberry, and Hutch.)

**On Your Plate**

- Cork and Brew doesn’t serve food, but their customers are encouraged to bring their own food along with their friends and family during the bottling process.

---

**Your Wallet**

- Wine (enough to fill 30 bottles) prices start at $175.25 for a Black Cherry Pinot Noir (dry, ruby red wine presents with flavors of fresh, ripe black cherries balanced by a subtle touch of tannins) and go up to $288.24 for Amarone (unique to the Valpolicella region of Italy and packed with rich raspberry, blackberry, and cassis flavors.)
- Beer (60 bottle batch) ranges from $119.25 for a Continental Pilsner (balanced, well rounded, golden European- style lager with a noticeable hop profile and all-malt character) to $129.25 for a Western IPA (a deep, golden hoppy, English style pale ale.)
- Soda is made in 12 bottle batches and costs $2.50 a bottle. The custom label, glass bottle, soda, and caps are included in the price.

---

For more information on Cork and Brew or to make an appointment, visit www.corkandbrew.com.
Winter Sports Previews

The dirty dozen

Hard-court effort is key as the girls aim for their 12th straight postseason appearance

By JOHN GORALSKI
SPORTS WRITER

The Blue Knights are still waiting for some of Cherraine Davis’ shot put attempts to fall back to the earth. Pole vaulter Rhiannon Jacobs has lost sight of them as she’s launched herself into space repeatedly in the months since the New England championships. Kyle Hamel and Jacob Harton have widened the search as they’ve criss-crossed the country side on long distance runs.

Seniors will pave the way for the growing youth movement

By JOHN GORALSKI
SPORTS WRITER

The Blue Knights are still waiting for some of Cherraine Davis’ shot put attempts to fall back to the earth. Pole vaulter Rhiannon Jacobs has lost sight of them as she’s launched herself into space repeatedly in the months since the New England championships. Kyle Hamel and Jacob Harton have widened the search as they’ve criss-crossed the country side on long distance runs.

Last year, they entered the season with a new coach, an unproven squad, and two losses in their first three attempts, but the girls mounted a six-game winning streak to build a 7-2 record in early January. They rallied for four wins in their last seven contests to finish with two more victories than the previous year. When the dust had settled on the season, Southington had earned a winning record and their 11th consecutive postseason appearance.

Can they make it an even dozen? “It really is one game at a time. I know it’s a cliché, but it’s true this year. Everyone is so balanced in the CCC West. There isn’t going to be any of those games where we can relax,” said Forgione. “This isn’t going to be easy, and this program isn’t for everybody. We can’t just show up. We have to do all the little things. It’s going to take a lot of work, and they can’t let up one day.”

Southington returns five of their top eight players from last year’s team, but they lost their top two scorers to graduation. Forgione expects co-captains Megan McLaughlin and Emily Wendt to lead the way. Theydjave widened the search as they’ve criss-crossed the country side on long distance runs.

Don’t worry, the role of underdog is nothing new to the Lady Knights. Last year, they entered the season with a new coach, an unproven squad, and two losses in their first three attempts, but the girls mounted a six-game winning streak to build a 7-2 record in early January. They rallied for four wins in their last seven contests to finish with two more victories than the previous year. When the dust had settled on the season, Southington had earned a winning record and their 11th consecutive postseason appearance.

Can they make it an even dozen? “It really is one game at a time. I know it’s a cliché, but it’s true this year. Everyone is so balanced in the CCC West. There isn’t going to be any of those games where we can relax,” said Forgione. “This isn’t going to be easy, and this program isn’t for everybody. We can’t just show up. We have to do all the little things. It’s going to take a lot of work, and they can’t let up one day.”

Southington returns five of their top eight players from last year’s team, but they lost their top two scorers to graduation. Forgione expects co-captains Megan McLaughlin and Emily Wendt to lead the way. Theydjave widened the search as they’ve criss-crossed the country side on long distance runs.

Don’t worry, the role of underdog is nothing new to the Lady Knights. Last year, they entered the season with a new coach, an unproven squad, and two losses in their first three attempts, but the girls mounted a six-game winning streak to build a 7-2 record in early January. They rallied for four wins in their last seven contests to finish with two more victories than the previous year. When the dust had settled on the season, Southington had earned a winning record and their 11th consecutive postseason appearance.

Can they make it an even dozen? “It really is one game at a time. I know it’s a cliché, but it’s true this year. Everyone is so balanced in the CCC West. There isn’t going to be any of those games where we can relax,” said Forgione. “This isn’t going to be easy, and this program isn’t for everybody. We can’t just show up. We have to do all the little things. It’s going to take a lot of work, and they can’t let up one day.”

Southington returns five of their top eight players from last year’s team, but they lost their top two scorers to graduation. Forgione expects co-captains Megan McLaughlin and Emily Wendt to lead the way. Theydjave widened the search as they’ve criss-crossed the country side on long distance runs.

Don’t worry, the role of underdog is nothing new to the Lady Knights. Last year, they entered the season with a new coach, an unproven squad, and two losses in their first three attempts, but the girls mounted a six-game winning streak to build a 7-2 record in early January. They rallied for four wins in their last seven contests to finish with two more victories than the previous year. When the dust had settled on the season, Southington had earned a winning record and their 11th consecutive postseason appearance.

Can they make it an even dozen? “It really is one game at a time. I know it’s a cliché, but it’s true this year. Everyone is so balanced in the CCC West. There isn’t going to be any of those games where we can relax,” said Forgione. “This isn’t going to be easy, and this program isn’t for everybody. We can’t just show up. We have to do all the little things. It’s going to take a lot of work, and they can’t let up one day.”

Southington returns five of their top eight players from last year’s team, but they lost their top two scorers to graduation. Forgione expects co-captains Megan McLaughlin and Emily Wendt to lead the way. Theydjave widened the search as they’ve criss-crossed the country side on long distance runs.

Don’t worry, the role of underdog is nothing new to the Lady Knights. Last year, they entered the season with a new coach, an unproven squad, and two losses in their first three attempts, but the girls mounted a six-game winning streak to build a 7-2 record in early January. They rallied for four wins in their last seven contests to finish with two more victories than the previous year. When the dust had settled on the season, Southington had earned a winning record and their 11th consecutive postseason appearance.

Can they make it an even dozen? “It really is one game at a time. I know it’s a cliché, but it’s true this year. Everyone is so balanced in the CCC West. There isn’t going to be any of those games where we can relax,” said Forgione. “This isn’t going to be easy, and this program isn’t for everybody. We can’t just show up. We have to do all the little things. It’s going to take a lot of work, and they can’t let up one day.”

Southington returns five of their top eight players from last year’s team, but they lost their top two scorers to graduation. Forgione expects co-captains Megan McLaughlin and Emily Wendt to lead the way. Theydjave widened the search as they’ve criss-crossed the country side on long distance runs.

Don’t worry, the role of underdog is nothing new to the Lady Knights. Last year, they entered the season with a new coach, an unproven squad, and two losses in their first three attempts, but the girls mounted a six-game winning streak to build a 7-2 record in early January. They rallied for four wins in their last seven contests to finish with two more victories than the previous year. When the dust had settled on the season, Southington had earned a winning record and their 11th consecutive postseason appearance.

Can they make it an even dozen? “It really is one game at a time. I know it’s a cliché, but it’s true this year. Everyone is so balanced in the CCC West. There isn’t going to be any of those games where we can relax,” said Forgione. “This isn’t going to be easy, and this program isn’t for everybody. We can’t just show up. We have to do all the little things. It’s going to take a lot of work, and they can’t let up one day.”

Southington returns five of their top eight players from last year’s team, but they lost their top two scorers to graduation. Forgione expects co-captains Megan McLaughlin and Emily Wendt to lead the way. Theydjave widened the search as they’ve criss-crossed the country side on long distance runs.

Don’t worry, the role of underdog is nothing new to the Lady Knights. Last year, they entered the season with a new coach, an unproven squad, and two losses in their first three attempts, but the girls mounted a six-game winning streak to build a 7-2 record in early January. They rallied for four wins in their last seven contests to finish with two more victories than the previous year. When the dust had settled on the season, Southington had earned a winning record and their 11th consecutive postseason appearance.

Can they make it an even dozen? “It really is one game at a time. I know it’s a cliché, but it’s true this year. Everyone is so balanced in the CCC West. There isn’t going to be any of those games where we can relax,” said Forgione. “This isn’t going to be easy, and this program isn’t for everybody. We can’t just show up. We have to do all the little things. It’s going to take a lot of work, and they can’t let up one day.”

Southington returns five of their top eight players from last year’s team, but they lost their top two scorers to graduation. Forgione expects co-captains Megan McLaughlin and Emily Wendt to lead the way. Theydjave widened the search as they’ve criss-crossed the country side on long distance runs.

Don’t worry, the role of underdog is nothing new to the Lady Knights. Last year, they entered the season with a new coach, an unproven squad, and two losses in their first three attempts, but the girls mounted a six-game winning streak to build a 7-2 record in early January. They rallied for four wins in their last seven contests to finish with two more victories than the previous year. When the dust had settled on the season, Southington had earned a winning record and their 11th consecutive postseason appearance.

Can they make it an even dozen? “It really is one game at a time. I know it’s a cliché, but it’s true this year. Everyone is so balanced in the CCC West. There isn’t going to be any of those games where we can relax,” said Forgione. “This isn’t going to be easy, and this program isn’t for everybody. We can’t just show up. We have to do all the little things. It’s going to take a lot of work, and they can’t let up one day.”

Southington returns five of their top eight players from last year’s team, but they lost their top two scorers to graduation. Forgione expects co-captains Megan McLaughlin and Emily Wendt to lead the way. Theydjave widened the search as they’ve criss-crossed the country side on long distance runs.

Don’t worry, the role of underdog is nothing new to the Lady Knights. Last year, they entered the season with a new coach, an unproven squad, and two losses in their first three attempts, but the girls mounted a six-game winning streak to build a 7-2 record in early January. They rallied for four wins in their last seven contests to finish with two more victories than the previous year. When the dust had settled on the season, Southington had earned a winning record and their 11th consecutive postseason appearance.

Can they make it an even dozen? “It really is one game at a time. I know it’s a cliché, but it’s true this year. Everyone is so balanced in the CCC West. There isn’t going to be any of those games where we can relax,” said Forgione. “This isn’t going to be easy, and this program isn’t for everybody. We can’t just show up. We have to do all the little things. It’s going to take a lot of work, and they can’t let up one day.”
Homeless ‘Cats
Lincoln College teams are forced to travel if they want to play

By JOHN GORALSKI
SPORTS WRITER

Vince Simmons paused to choose his words carefully. Most first-year coaches would be hard at work this time of year, honing the rough edges on their teams to prepare for the conference opener. Simmons is stuck behind a desk in a darkened classroom, thinking about how to respond to his vision.

What are your expectations this year for the Lincoln College women’s basketball team?

**Basketball**

John Wasielewski, the school’s athletic director/ men’s coach, leaned forward in his chair to field the question. “We just want to get through the season,” he said. “We’ve had just three practices with the guys over the last month, but we’re making the best of it.”

The timing couldn’t be worse for the fledgling program. Over the past three seasons, the Wildcats women have struggled with numbers, but have earned a reputation as a fierce underdog. Simmons ranks and seemed poised steadily rising each year in the conference opener. Simmons is stuck behind a desk in a darkened classroom, thinking about how to respond to his vision.

Our Athletes

Greg Daniels, above, helped lead the mens team to the program’s best record last winter, but he won’t play at home in his final season. Lincoln College has been forced on the road in 2011. “This could be our first team to make the playoffs, and we’re also trying to be the first team in that conference with a winning record,” said the coach. “We’ve said that in the past, but we’ve continued to make progress. It’s really been baby steps, but I’m hoping that this might be our biggest step yet. It’s our toughest schedule, but we’ve got some talent.”

The men opened the season with an 88-79 win over Hartwick on Nov. 7, but neither team won a season opener, and nearly every third-year coach has heard the same.”

**John Wasielewski, Lincoln College of NE Athletic Director**

Basketball

Lincoln College teams are forced on the road in 2011.

It’s been more than a month since the Wildcat men tipped off against UConn-Avery Point in the season opener, and nearly as long since Simmons’ teams opened their season on Nov. 7, but neither team has had a home game yet and Simmons said he’s seen his share of nothing but a handful of non-conference games. That’s because both teams have found themselves without a place to play when officials learned that their borrowed gym was no longer available. Since that day, school officials have been scrambling to find another option.

“We’ll call it a transition period,” said Wasielewski. “Hopefully, they’ll build us a gym or find us a campus. We’ve got a Hartford and Suffield campus, so we’ll see. Until then, we’ll see what we can do.

We’re looking at a couple of schools, and we’ve got practice facilities lined up. It will get better. We’ve had just three practices with the guys over the last month, but we’re making the best of it.”

The timing couldn’t be worse for the fledgling program. Over the past three seasons, the Wildcat women have struggled with numbers, but have earned a reputation as a fierce underdog and a potential powerhouse. The men have been steadily rising each year in the conference division III ranks and seemed poised for a breakout year.

Now, the coaches are forced to find a way to keep their teams on track.

“We’ve had just three practices with the guys over the last month, but we’re making the best of it.”

John Wasielewski, Lincoln College of NE Athletic Director
Middle School Sports Schedule

**Kennedy Boys Basketball**
*Coach: Matt Lefkowitz*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 12/14</td>
<td>Washington MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 12/21</td>
<td>Wilson MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 1/4</td>
<td>Dag MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., 1/9</td>
<td>DePaolo MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 1/12</td>
<td>Moron MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 1/18</td>
<td>Washington MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., 1/20</td>
<td>Lincoln MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 1/26</td>
<td>Dag MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., 1/31</td>
<td>Dodd MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 2/2</td>
<td>DePaolo MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Kennedy Girls Basketball**
*Coach: Bob Smedley*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 12/14</td>
<td>Washington MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., 12/19</td>
<td>Lincoln MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 1/4</td>
<td>Dag MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., 1/10</td>
<td>DePaolo MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 1/12</td>
<td>Moron MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 1/18</td>
<td>Washington MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., 1/24</td>
<td>Wilson MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 1/26</td>
<td>Dag MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., 1/31</td>
<td>Dodd MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 2/2</td>
<td>DePaolo MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DePaolo Boys Basketball**
*Coach: Bob Riccio*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 12/15</td>
<td>Dodd MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., 12/19</td>
<td>Moron MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 12/21</td>
<td>Lincoln MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., 1/8</td>
<td>Dag MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., 1/9</td>
<td>Kennedy MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., 1/13</td>
<td>Washington MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 1/18</td>
<td>Dodd MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., 1/20</td>
<td>Moron MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 1/26</td>
<td>Wilson MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 2/2</td>
<td>Kennedy MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DePaolo Girls Basketball**
*Coach: Bob Spreda*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 12/15</td>
<td>Dodd MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., 12/19</td>
<td>Moron MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 1/4</td>
<td>Wilson MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., 1/10</td>
<td>Kennedy MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., 1/13</td>
<td>Washington MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., 1/18</td>
<td>Dodd MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., 1/20</td>
<td>Moron MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., 1/24</td>
<td>Lincoln MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., 1/31</td>
<td>Dag MS</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., 2/2</td>
<td>Kennedy MS</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Patriots**
*Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School*
385 Peasant Street, Southington, CT 06489

**The Eagles**
*John F. Kennedy Middle School*
1071 S. Main Street, Plantsville, CT 06479

**The week ahead in Southington sports**

**FRIDAY**
Girls Basketball vs. Simsbury (FR-3:45, JV-5:30, V-7:00).

**SATURDAY**
Ice Hockey at Sheehan (V-4:00 scrimmage). Wrestling vs. Amity, Middletown, RHAM, Plainville (V-4:00).

**MONDAY**
Girls Basketball at Plainville (JV-5:30, V-7:00).

**TUESDAY**
No games scheduled.

**WEDNESDAY**
Boys Basketball vs. Bristol Eastern (FR-3:45, JV-5:30, V-7:00). Ice Hockey at NW Catholic (V-2:30 @ International Skating Center of CT, Cheshire). Wrestling at Bristol Eastern (V/JV-6:00).

**THURSDAY**
No games scheduled.

CORRECTION: The middle school schedules posted in the Dec. 2 edition of the Southington Observer were incorrect.
Lincoln College: basketball road trip

From page 23

over UConn-Avery Point on Nov. 1, a good measure compared to last year’s team. After an 11-day layoff they tested the bench with an 88-36 win over Landmark College. Two days later, they outlasted an NCAA division II team with a 73-71 win over Dean College. They showed some rust in a 78-69 loss to Quinsigamond, but bounced back with an 80-69 win over Holyoke Community College. The men are 4-1 overall.

“We’ve had to cancel a couple of games. We had to move others to the second semester. We’ve had back-to-back games, so it’s made the schedule a little bit tougher,” said Wasielewski. “We should be well-oiled for the first substitution that we’ve got.”

With the season in jeopardy, it could affect the eligibility of the team’s four sophomores. Marcus Marshall is the team’s leading scorer with 67 points (13.4 per game). Conrad Booker averages 9.8 points, Greg Daniels averages 6.6 points with 8.2 rebounds, and Che McCoy is averaging over 12 points per game with 2.5 assists. Players have just two years of eligibility in junior college programs.

“Obviously, they’re disappointed. Nobody wanted to flat out cancel everything,” said Wasielewski. “It makes the schedule a little more difficult, but they’re trying to stay positive. They’re hoping that it’s not too late, and we’ll go from there.”

In addition, the team is more balanced than ever before. Newcomers Kevin Smith (11.2 points, 6.4 rebounds) and Matt Correia (9.6 points per game) have anchored the attack.

“We’re a running team. We’ve got a couple of good shooters, but we’re better on the fast break than we ever have been,” said Wasielewski. “We’ve got guys that can rebound and outlet the ball, and we’ve got ball handlers, too. We’ve got a lot of options, and that’s nice. We’ve got about three or four guys that can run the point, and we don’t have to worry about turnovers. We’re pretty fast, so we get the ball out and try to run as much as we can.”

The women have a different challenge with 10 returning players and a first-year coach. The Wildcats are off to a 2-4 start, but Simmons believes that his team has the potential to win 15 games.

“Our team is actually better than our record shows. Right now, our main issue is maintaining the focus and intensity we need in order to compete,” he said. “I still have high expectations for our team. I still think we can win. Originally, I thought that we could win 20 games. Now, I’m hoping that we can win 15. I honestly believe in our team, and their potential. If we can get all on the same page, we’re going to be successful.”

The girls opened the season in Rhode Island on Nov. 7 and suffered a 64-40 loss to the US Naval Academy Prep School. They rebounded with a lop-sided 51-12 victory over Holyoke Community College (61-39), and Holyoke Community College (66-38), but they rebounded with a 54-71 victory over Bard College at Simon’s Rock on Dec. 1.

“We have good size with a pair of 6’2” girls that are twins out of Waterbury,” said Simmons. “We have a nice point guard with Shana McIntyre. She’s the leader, and she’s a little older so she brings some maturity to the girls. If we can get Sara Guzman to play up to her ability, we can win a lot of games. She can play four positions with her size and flexibility.”

Freshman guard Stacy Plantt has averaged 10.5 points, 5 rebounds, and 2.4 assists. Linda Saunders is averaging 8.5 points and 8.6 rebounds. Leaire Saunders is averaging 11.3 points and 8 rebounds. McIntyre is averaging 19.2 points, 6.2 rebounds, and 3.4 assists, while Guzman contributes 4.2 points and 4.2 rebounds per contest. Sam Hanna has added 13 points and 15 rebounds over the first five contests.

Simmons said that the biggest challenge is the team’s lack of depth, since they’ve been battling with just one substitution in most games.

“I’m trying to make sure that we compete, even to fight with six people,” he said. “If we go out there and compete, I think we can win against any team. If we don’t, I think they’re going to have these kinds of results.”

As December begins, Wasielewski has lined up five practice facilities, but game venues are tougher to find. NCAAs rules require a full-sized gym with a regulation college three-point line. The men have been able to practice at the Bristol Boys Club. The women have just found a home in New Britain at St. Joseph Parish, but regulation games cannot be played in either facility.

“It would be a lot easier if we had a gym,” he said, “but nothing worth it is easy.”

To comment on this story or to contact sports writer John Goncalves, email him at jgoncalves@sothingtonobserver.com.
Hometown Business & Service Directory

Step Saver/Observer
Southington • Bristol • Plainville

OLDE TYME CHIMNEY SERVICES
WE SELL, INSTALL, AND SERVICE HOME/PELLET STOVES
• CAS/PUMPS & INSTALL
• STAINLESS STEEL CHIMNEY LINING
• CLEANING
• OIL FLUE
• PELLET/WOOD STOVES CLEANED
FRED ALGIERE
Since 1988
26 Friday, December 9, 2011
To advertise, call (860) 628-9645

APPLIANCE REPAIR
ACE APPLIANCE
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
69 West Main St., Plantsville, CT
(Across from Dean’s Store)
860-621-5534
• Servicing your Area Daily
• All Makes and Models!
• Professional parts
• Counterperson
• Parts for all Brands

STUMP GRINDING
FREE ESTIMATES
Call Mark 203-704-0821

Siding, Gutters Windows & Roofing
Maintenance-free home exterior solutions include
Hardi Plank, Vinyl Siding, Asphalt Roofing,
Seamless Gutters, Windows & Doors
Call for your FREE Estimate
1-888-828-7434

SAVE ME
BEST CATALOG STORE AT BEST PRICE
We specialize in Mobile and Manufactured Homes,
Office Trailers, Accessories, Parts, Supplies, and Service
• Hard to Find Parts • Window Gear Boxes • Air Conditioners
• Anchors • Awnings • Mobile Home Water Heaters • Doors • Stove Vents • Exhaust Fans • Faucets • Steps • Energy Saving Windows
• Miller Furnaces Gas, Oil, Electric Parts - Hardware
• Tubs and Walls and Sinks • Skirting
• Doors • Toilets • Floor Registers
• Fronston Heat Tape
• Vapour Barrier Under Home

Mobile Home Fix-It Center • (203) 754-5962

Alex’s Landscaping & More
• Full Cleanup
• Designer Landscaping
• Weekly Mowing
• Any Cement Repair (Stairs, walls, etc.)
• Snow Removal
• Interior/Exterior Painting
• Small Tree Removal

The Observer
Southington • Bristol • Plainville

4 WAYS TO PLACE AN AD!

Serving Bristol, Southington & Surrounding areas
Cell phone: (860) 940-8057 • Eq # Hic.063001

To Advertise Your Business
www.stepsaferobserver.com • www.bristolobserver.com
Power players

Southington skaters Austin Carta and Abby Lamson powered the Central CT Capitals to a 2-2 record at the New England Regional of the International Silver Stick Hockey tournament. The locals competed against AAA teams from New England, New York, and New Jersey.

Tigers try for a Turkey day title

The Saint Thomas Middle School boy’s basketball team rebounded from an opening round loss to make a run at teh title of the Meriden Holiday Turkey Tournament at St. Stanislaus School. The Tigers lost in the first round of the double-elimination tournament to advance to the final game. Michael Ranagan received the tournament MVP trophy. Front, from left, Matt Leary, Alec Zukauskas, Michael Nanfilto, Bryan Doyle, Cameron Rhodes, Gregory Stefanko, and Michael Ranagan. Back, Coach Eric Zukauskas, Coach Brian Baker, Zach Verdi, Garrett Baker, Dominic Nazarro, Joe Zachia, Chris Dakota, Coach Nazarro, and Coach Ranagan.

Missing from the photo are Ross Ayer and Robert Norris.
Scott Ottochian, SHS indoor track coach

We have senior leaders that are going to be able to work with and demonstrate to the younger kids. They'll be role models, and hopefully the younger kids will learn from those athletes.

Ottochian expects her to continue to develop and get better," said Ottochian. "Hopefully, with such a large and talented senior class, led by Davis in the throws. Last season, she finished second overall as a junior at the New England meet. Ottochian expects her to continue to dominate. She came close to state records at the postseason meets, and Ottochian said that those records are well within reach.

"Those are definitely realistic goals," he said. "She had a big summer. She went to Europe and had some outstanding performances. One of her throws went 46 feet, so she spent a great deal of time getting herself prepared for the indoor and outdoor season. I expect her to win New England, and right now she's getting mentally and physically prepared."

Davis will lead the girls. Myles DiValentino will power the boys, but Ottochian is still searching for four other events because they require speed of the cross country program. She seems to be the trend across the roster. The Knights have talent but will depend on their youth for their depth. Ottochian said that this is an exciting investment.

"We are strong in the upper classes, but we don't have the numbers. We'll have a strong pole vaulter, a strong thrower, and some really good individual performances," he said. "The positive is that we have senior leaders that are going to be able to work with and demonstrate to the younger kids. They'll be role models, and hopefully the younger kids will learn from those athletes.

With the continued development of the cross country programs in the fall, Southington should be strongest in the distance and mid-distance events. Kyle Hamel, Nick Garcia, Joe Pappalardo, and Damien Florian could see some positive performances.

In the shorter events, however, Southington has fewer options. Kate Wendt (hurdles) will join sprinters Erica Kosienski, Micaila Dean, and Nicole Wershoven, but the boys roster is still up for grabs. The same is true in the jumping events because they require sprinters, too. Woolley and Lombardi have competed in the high jump. Sarah Catangelo and Woolley should figure in the long jump events, but Ottochian said that there are some newcomers that could step up and turn heads.

We do have some areas where we could use some help," he said. "With the guys, they are all new faces, and they are all young. I do have a lot of young talent. It's just going to be about finding out what they can do." For the girls, pole vaulting appears to prove a strength. Jacobs advanced to the state opens as a junior, and Ottochian expects her to take the next step in her senior season.

"She's a hard-worker, and a very good pole vaulter. She had Erin Saucier as a role model through the years, and now she's developing as her own person," said the coach. "I'd like to see her surpass Erin's record. You always like to see us getting better and better."

Improvement will be the measure for the Knights this winter. The seniors will be pushing themselves to chase records and advance. The underclassmen will focus on getting better. Ottochian said that it could be an exciting mixture.

"That's what we did last season," Ottochian said. "The most important thing was the positive growth we saw and the development in kids at a personal level. We've kind of emphasized personal bests and improvement every day, so that next year you come back bigger and stronger than you were the year before. That's still the big emphasis."

To comment on this story or to contact sports writer John Gonalski, email him at gonalsk@ southingtonobserver.com.
Girls basketball: 2011-12 winter sports preview

From page 22

Durocher to pick up the slack, spread out the ball, and lead a high-octane attack.

McLaughlin will power a small army of guards that includes junior guards Taylor Waters and Jenna Perrella, along with freshman phenom Kaitlin Peterson. Junior point guard Stephanie O’Keefe will try to mix it up as Forgione shuffles players in and out of the lineup. The coach expects to showcase his speed and depth at guard with an array of four-guard running schemes.

“We have to shoot, and we want to push the ball. We want to attack the rim. We want to get to the foul line. We want those higher percentage shots to be successful,” Forgione said. “We have a saying this year—All In. We want to get to the foul line. We want to attack the rim. We want to get to the foul line.

Defensively, the Knights will look to confuse opposing teams at both ends of the court. They’ll press, trap, and swarm ball handlers like a cloud of angry bees.

“We’re going to try to do a lot of running and jumping and trying to come up with some points off our defense,” said the coach. “I met with the kids in March, and I asked them to commit to conditioning. The ones that did will get an opportunity because I want to play a pressure style defense and score points off turnovers. I like to run. That’s my style. I like to push the ball, and that’s going to favor those girls that are correct.”

Forgione makes no apologies for the schedule. “It’s rough, but the Knights will need to be ready for the post season if they want to go past round one. They want to get to the foul line and we want to push the ball.”

Southington will need to battle in the trenches and fight for every point.

Forgione said that his team will be ready for the challenge.

“We’ve got to work hard. We’re going to have fun, and we’re going to be exciting,” he said. “If you want to see a true high school student-athlete, my kids are the perfect example. They do a great job in school. They work hard and do the right things outside of school and in the community. They are great role models for the younger kids in Southington. I don’t know if that will equal more wins for us, but at the end of the day that’s the most important.”

Don’t bet against them.

To comment on this story or to contact sports writer John Gorski, email him at jgoralski@southingtonobserver.com.

O’KEEFFE: Continuation

“We’re going to try to shoot the ball and we want to push the ball. We want to attack the rim. We want to get to the foul line. We want those higher percentage shots to be successful.”

Mike Forgione, SHS girls basketball coach

Girls Basketball

Coach: Mike Forgione
2010-11 season: 11-9 (6-8 in the CCC South) 
2011 Postseason: The Knights earned the 22nd seed for the Class LL tournament but lost to No. 11 Danbury in the opening round.
Key returning players (captains*): Megan McLaughlin*, Emily Durocher*, Danielle Charanum, Maeghan Chapman, Stephanie O’Keefe.
Key losses: Tori Munson, Mariah Berry, Mirea Sawicka.

Outlook: To be successful, the Lady Knights will need to start with their defense and run. Southington needs to spread the ball around, and it will take a team effort.

“We have a saying this year—All In. We have to be in this year,” said second year coach Mike Forgione. “Even coming off the bench, you’re going to contribute.

Outlook: To be successful, the Lady Knights will need to start with their defense and run. Southington needs to spread the ball around, and it will take a team effort.

“We have a saying this year—All In. We have to be in this year,” said second year coach Mike Forgione. “Even coming off the bench, you’re going to contribute.

Whether it’s a minute here or a minute there, I’m hoping that each girl will contribute what they can. We’re all going to have to produce to be successful.”

With four guards roaming the perimeter, Forgione will rely on Durocher to anchor the middle along with junior forward Danielle Charanum. Senior forwards Rachel Mongillo and Chrsissy Swel are battting for minutes, and that depth should help the Knights to battle for rebounds and second chance scores.

“The kids have me really excited because this is a really good group,” said the coach. “They want to get better. They’re working hard, and they really want it.”

We need those higher percentage shots to be successful. We’re going to have to produce to be successful.”

Girls basketball: 2011-12 winter sports preview

Winter Sports Previews

3 Winding Ridge, Lot 3
SOUTHWICK, CT

Price: $760,000
Agency: Century 21-Lil
Contact: Lil Polak at Ext 310
Features: Open House Sunday 1-3pm
New Construction: 4 BR, 3 1/2 bath, well designed Colonial. 2500 sf, over size 1st flr high ceilinged FR w/FP and hardwood, open flr plan w/eat-in kitchen, granite counters, wall oven, stove top range, center island. Epicurean’s delight of a kit, 2nd flr w/4 BR, 2 full baths, LR, office, great rooms, full bath, walk-out bsemnt for future expansion, 2 car garage. MBR suite w/lav/bshower & glass shower. Whispering trees included in this nice, new construction & flat 2 acre piece lot. MLS# G597532. 21011000000. Directions: Mountain Ave to Mt Vernon Pkwy to Winding Ridge.

95 Roxbury Road
SOUTHWICK, CT

Price: $399,000
Agency: Perrella Realty, LLC
Contact: Gail Perrella at 860-621-7130 Ext 16
Features: Gourmet kitchen with all top of the line appliances, granite countertops, tile back splash. Master bedroom suite on 1st flr with walk-in closet, built in shelves. Bath has granite vanity top, tub, separate shower. 2nd BR has walk-in closet. 2 car garage. Needs furance and roof.

188 Simpkins Drive
Bristol, CT

Price: $289,900
Agency: Country Manor Realty
Contact: Karen at 860-589-2100 Ext 103
Features: DRASTICALLY REDUCED, BUILDER SAYS SELL!!!

This beautiful new quality constructed Colonial boasting nice open flr plan w/dine in kitchen. granite countertops & cabinets opening to great room w/gas FP & vaulted ceiling. DOR, front porch, 2nd flr laundry rm, 3 BRs, 2 1/2 baths, balcony overlooking great room, walk-out basement for future expansion, 2 car garage all on private lot on cul de sac. A must see home at a great price. Will also consider Rent or Rent to Own for $1,800 a month. Offered exclusively by Country Manor Realty.

To feature a home in Hot Properties, call our Advertising Dept., 860-628-9645.

Lincoln College
New England Men's Basketball
Lincoln College 88, UConn-Avery Point 79
Tuesday, Nov. 22

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:

Lincoln College (89)—
Lincoln 89

Three point field goals—
Lincoln (6): McCoy, Smith (2), McFarlane,
Douglas, 3-1-7; Eric Riley, 0-0-0; Devour Strother, 0-0-0.Totals:
Three point field goals—
Lincoln (3): McIntyre, Hanna.
Three point field goals—
Lincoln (2): McIntyre, Hanna.

Lincoln College NE 34 20 — 54
Springfield Tech CC 13 — 18

Lincoln College NE 16 24 — 40
Simon’s Rock (12) — 35

Dean College 84, Springfield Tech 13
Thursday, Dec. 1
At Springfield MA

Lincoln College NE 16 02 — 38
Holyoke CC (26) — 33

Holyoke CC 66 — (61)
Rodriguez, 6-14; Ing, 3-2-9;
Cropper, 6-4-16; Mulloy, 5-3-13;
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Vega, 3-3-9;

Quinsigamond CC (61) —
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Ing, 3-2-9;
Cropper, 6-4-16; Mulloy, 5-3-13;
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Vega, 3-3-9;

Lincoln College 10 20 — 30
Quinsigamond CC 23 20 — 43

Quinsigamond CC (61) —
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Ing, 3-2-9;
Cropper, 6-4-16; Mulloy, 5-3-13;
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Vega, 3-3-9;

Quinsigamond CC (61) —
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Ing, 3-2-9;
Cropper, 6-4-16; Mulloy, 5-3-13;
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Vega, 3-3-9;

Quinsigamond CC (61) —
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Ing, 3-2-9;
Cropper, 6-4-16; Mulloy, 5-3-13;
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Vega, 3-3-9;

Quinsigamond CC (61) —
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Ing, 3-2-9;
Cropper, 6-4-16; Mulloy, 5-3-13;
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Vega, 3-3-9;

Quinsigamond CC (61) —
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Ing, 3-2-9;
Cropper, 6-4-16; Mulloy, 5-3-13;
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Vega, 3-3-9;

Quinsigamond CC (61) —
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Ing, 3-2-9;
Cropper, 6-4-16; Mulloy, 5-3-13;
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Vega, 3-3-9;

Quinsigamond CC (61) —
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Ing, 3-2-9;
Cropper, 6-4-16; Mulloy, 5-3-13;
Rodriguez, 6-1-14; Vega, 3-3-9;