SENTINEL KEDDING

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CT DOT to increase train station security \$19.3 million

project will add cameras at Redding, other **Stations** By Rob Sample

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) has unveiled a project to install security cameras at five stations along the Danbury MetroNorth line – including 10 at the Redding train station.

This project is the fourth and final phase of a larger program to upgrade the network infrastructure throughout the MetroNorth system in Connecticut. The DOT held a community information session on Thursday, March 28 as part of the project's publichearing and comments process. The comments period is in effect through April 11.

This phase of work will encompass stations along the main New Haven line between Greenwich and Stamford, as well as the New Canaan and Danbury branch lines. Six stations along the Danbury line are involved, including Wilton, Cannondale, Branchville, Bethel, and Danbury in addition to Redding. Cameras and other network components were installed at the Merritt 7 station several years ago when it was rebuilt. The cameras will monitor platforms, stairways, underpasses, overpasses, and other station facilities. The project will also include upgrading the fiber-optic cables that run along overhead catenary supports and track-side poles along the lines that are involved.

"We're not anticipating any impact to commuters during this project," said Seamus Flannery, DOT Supervising Engineer. "All of this work can be done without any impact" on schedules or riders. Flannery also noted that it does not overlap or conflict with any other MetroNorth projects.

"This will benefit commuters because it will provide safer, more secure stations," added Sergio Martinez, Senior Program Manager for STV, Inc., the DOT's consulting architect. "Less crime would happen when people know they are being watched. The fiber-optics are beneficial as well because they will be the backbone on which camera images will travel, and it's being upgraded to the state of the art."

By providing video documentation, the CCTV network will also assist police in investigating any crimes that take place at MetroNorth stations. Fiber-optic transmission will also benefit the railroad by facilitating connectivity between stations and MetroNorth's various operations systems, in addition to its security network.

The DOT has estimated the cost of this effort to be approximately \$19.3 million. Twenty

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Photo by Max Drukman

An early spring rainbow captured the creative attention of photographers across Redding, including this beauty taken over the train station in West Redding. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, with credit of course, please e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org

Main Street Accelerator program advances Georgetown improvements

By Kate Perry



Georgetown Village Restoration, Inc. board members Lisa Devine and Jackie Stauffer in front of the new Historic Georgetown Village

Georgetown Village Restoration, Inc. (GVR) is in the fourth month of Connecticut Main Street Center's (CMSC) Accelerator program, a leadership development program focused on helping communities better their downtown. GVR was accepted into the program last fall, and several GVR board members are

participating.

'We're learning a lot about how best to support and improve Georgetown's Main Street area. We've created inventories of current businesses and buildings, built a one-page promotional sheet for the organization, and created an action plan for several potential projects," said Lisa Devine, GVR board vice president and participant in the Accelerator program.

CMSC was founded by Connecticut Light & Power in 1995 to protect and strengthen commercial districts; it became a private nonprofit in 1999. They help communities manage their Main Streets, creating a network of vibrant downtowns all across Connecticut in the process.

CMSC's six-month, virtual Accelerator program includes five other communities in addition to Georgetown: the East Side NRZ of Bridgeport, Downtown Windsor, Town of Haddam, Norwich Community Development Corporation, and the Town of Thomaston.

The first two months focused on CMSC's in-depth Four Point Main Street Approach centered around organization, economic vitality, design, promotion, and sustainable growth and development. Month three detailed defining, analyzing, and ideating challenges and potential initiatives leading to writing an action plan, as well as sharing the eight guiding principles downtown revitalization, including partnerships incremental rollouts. The most recent month drilled down on community engagement and tailoring messaging. The last two months will cover managing volunteers, how to ensure long-term success of selected projects, and exploring funding possibilities.

GVR has been pursuing several ideas for projects that work toward their Accelerator application goal of examining "how to increase exposure and foot traffic in Georgetown to help support

Continued on page 8

Board of Finance approves budgets School budget to increase 3.6%

By Rocco Valluzzo

By unanimous decisions, the Redding Board of Finance approved the budgets proposed by the Redding Board of Education, the Board of Selectmen, and Town of Redding consolidated budget at its Monday, March 25 meeting.

The consolidated budget (government and school) reflects an increase of 3.74% (\$1,961,058) for a total of \$54,401,794. This also includes Redding's share of the Region 9 Board of Education budget of \$11,987,042, which also increased 3.74%, or \$432,388.

Totaling \$25,453,622, the Redding Board of Education's Budget represents an increase of \$884,094 (3.6%). This was below the 5.8% average increase for other District Economic Reference Groups. Easton was at 4.9%.

The increase was driven by two major factors: medical insurance and salaries. Medical insurance costs rose 5% (\$149,967) to \$3,149,309 and certified staff salaries rose 4.8% (\$472,717) to \$11,753,228. Non-certified statt saw a 6.2% (\$215,511) increase to \$3,519,385, and transportation costs rose 5.9% (\$71,336) to \$1,279,913.

A proposed budget of \$16,961,130 by the Redding Board of Selectmen represented an increase of 3.95% (\$644,576) for 2024-25. This represents a 1% decrease from a proposed 4.95% increase following its budget workshop in January.

One of the main budget drivers was salary increases. The town has contractual obligations to the police and highway departments as well as the emergency dispatchers. The two former have a 3.5% increase in salary and First Selectwoman Julian Pemberton expects the dispatcher increase to be in line with these as well.

Health insurance costs have increased 11% (\$183,055), which is more than double the increase for fiscal year 2023-24. The town switched providers in 2019-20 from Anthem to Connecticare and saw an initial decrease of 13%.

"We've been through two years of sharply elevated inflation and that's now moderating," said Board of Finance member Rob Dean. "During this period of inflation and this year, which is kind of the apex of that curve, we have not seen these budgets come up to the rate of inflation or anywhere near it. Either we're setting ourselves up for a giant bubble in the future or both the selectmen and the school board are doing an excellent job of sustaining a high-value budget. I'd like to think maybe it's the second." ■

Redding's Big Outdoors

Topstone Park: Boulder Top Trail

By Justin Reynolds



Photo by Justin Reynolds

It's a rainy, cold, gray Wednesday afternoon in mid-March. A two-hour Zoom meeting about go-to-market strategies and ideal customer profiles and gamechanging technological innovations that will no doubt supercharge team productivity wraps up seven minutes late, which leaves me no choice but to get away from the screen again to hit Topstone for a brief reprieve.

This time, I choose to give Boulder Top Trail — a 0.35-mile stretch connecting Pond Trail with Saddleback Trail — a little more scrutiny.

Like the name suggests, Boulder Top is sprinkled with boulders. If you've never been, imagine the way a toddler might decorate a gingerbread house with gumdrops, M&Ms, and other confectionery debris. Boulders well, rocks really, but Rocky Top belongs to Tennessee — are littered across the trail in similar

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Editorial

By Jeanne Ammermuller

When I got the call from Sentinel publisher Susan Clark asking me to help out with the paper for a few months, I said no. Or should I say I tried to say no. I'm happily semi-retired. I have enough work to pay the bills. But Susan is persuasive, as many in the Sentinel orbit know.

But that's not entirely why I changed my mind. I said yes because of what the Sentinel represents: local journalism. A mechanism by which the citizens of Redding can be informed. A reliable source for facts about topics that affect children, families, seniors, the environment, and our bank balances. A great place to find cultural inspiration or things to do on a rainy (or sunny) day.

Without the Sentinel, where else can you find this kind of information? It turns out even Facebook relies on our local paper. While scrolling through some local Facebook pages, I saw two separate instances where someone asked about a thorny topic, and the answer came in the form of a Sentinel article — in the last week. A few years ago, there would have been no such resource.

And this week's issue offers several opportunities to get up to speed on what's happening in town. From coverage of the Joel Barlow High School Debate team's big win and a closer look at the Hickories, a Ridgefield organic farm, to in-depth coverage of the Board of Finance and Zoning commission meetings, there's something for everyone.

In a world where journalists are being harmed in record numbers and small-town newspapers are folding every day, I want to be part of an institution that matters. I want to watch journalists in action - going to those municipal meetings, interviewing the people closest to what matters.

So, I said yes, and this week has been everything I hoped for, except perhaps getting enough sleep. ■

Seniors, time to register for the Senior Tax Benefit

By Anne Young Albanese

The deadline for Redding seniors to register for the senior tax benefit is approaching. The program, intended to help seniors stay in their homes, offers Redding homeowners 65 years of age and older a credit on their real estate tax bills tax bills. Redding seniors may qualify for both the Town of Redding Elderly Benefit and the State of CT Homeowners Program.

To qualify for the Redding benefit, at least one homeowner must be 65 years of age by May 15, 2024. They must have owned a single-family home in Redding since May 15, 2021. In addition, the property for which the benefit is being claimed must be the legal residence of the homeowner and must be occupied for more than 183 days of each year. Finally, the application requires a copy of the homeowner's Connecticut driver's license. The town benefit was adopted by ordinance in 1975, and the discount amount will be calculated by the assessor's office once the mil rate has been set through the town referendum.

To qualify for the state benefit, homeowners must be at least 65 years old by December 31, 2023. They must be homeowners with a principal residence in Redding as of October 1, 2023. Total income from 2023 must be \$43,800 or less for unmarried persons and \$53,400 or less for married couples. The discount will range from \$250 to \$1,250 depending on income. For more information on what qualifies as income, seniors or family members should visit the town's website at townofreddingct.org.

Applications for both benefits are available online at townofreddingct.org/about-redding/forms/ or at the assessor's office in town hall at 100 Hill Road. Applications must be submitted by May 15, 2024. After April 15, 2024 any applications for the state program must be submitted in person at the assessor's office. For additional information, seniors can call the assessor's office at (203) 938-2626. ■

Legal Notices

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Commission held on March 27, 2024 at 7:30pm in person the commission reached the following decisions:

Application #24-02Z -34 Mountain Road (Assessor's Map and Lot #41-8): Owners Ronald J. DeSantis and Donna M. Livolsi. In Accordance with Redding Zoning Regulations Section 5.5, request for a Special Use Permit for earth moving in excess of 300 cubic yards. **APPROVED**

Application #24-05Z - 9 Brookside Road, Unit A (Assessor's Map and Lot #46-65A): Owner Isley Properties LLC, Alexander Isley Member; Applicant Dean and Whitney Coccaro. In Accordance with Redding Zoning Regulations Section 5.2, request for Site Plan Approval to change the use from an office to a "specialized School" (yoga studio). APPROVED ■

> Matt Lecher, Chairman, Redding Zoning Commission

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50p (a), the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) announces that, on March 28, 2024, the Council issued Findings of Fact, an Opinion, and a Decision and Order approving an application from MCM Holdings, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for

the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at the Boy Scouts of America Camp Hoyt, 288 Simpaug Turnpike (Parcel No. 12-29), Redding, Connecticut. This application record is available for public inspection in the Council's office, Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut. ■

The Brunissen Trust for Redding Senior Citizens, Inc. will meet at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at the Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Rd, Redding, CT. ■

Barbara L. Roche

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Zoning approves special use permit

Mountain road earth moving gets go-ahead By Rocco Valluzzo

After reviewing plans for water run-off remediation, a planting plan, and erosion control measures, the Redding Zoning Commission approved an application for a special permit for earth moving in excess of 300 yards at 34 Mountain Road at its meeting on Wednesday, March 27.

Owners Ronald DeSantis and Donna LiVolsi propose capping an existing landfill in accordance with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). A good amount of soil is to be moved from another part of the property.

The proposal had originally received a negative referral from the Planning Commission, which felt the planting plan should have greater tree variety and include additional trees and shrubs. The commission was also concerned with the erosion potential toward neighboring property and that the change in topography would make its appearance inconsistent with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

Charles Croce and Jim Olsen, engineers with Tighe & Bond in Middletown, presented maps and illustrations of the site and the water run-off remediation plan at the commission's public hearing on the matter on March 13. They proposed building a four-foot deep water retention basin on the site that will control the volume and course of water run-off after the capping.

The retention basin will collect 34 of the runoff that flows across it, holding the water and letting it out slowly while also filtrating it into the ground.

Croce noted the basin is designed to drain dry. Planting calls for a mix of sugar maples, white oaks and flowering dogwood. Twice a year the basin should be inspected, and any buildup of trash and debris removed.

Croce and Olsen also discussed the erosion control measures that are now in the plan, as well as the planting plan, including at least 85% coverage to prevent erosion. The earthmoving would be to take previously moved soil and place it back from where it came. Tighe & Bond's design and proposal follows the DEEP recommendations, reduces water flow to other properties, and accommodates a potential driveway.

The grading on top of the landfill has a minimum slope of 2%. According to DEEP requirements, property with a minimum slope of 2% can only have grass on the top of a landfill. Part of the erosion control measures involves putting a silt fence around all of the disturbed areas and areas where it is down-sloped.

Commission member Amy Atamian asked if excavating the debris from the landfill was an option. Olsen replied that it would be cost-prohibitive, adding that Connecticut is now in what he described as a solid waste crisis.

"All of the landfills are pretty much closed," he said. "A lot of it (waste) gets sent out of state." ■

First-ever early voting goes smoothly in Redding | By Susan Clark



Four days of early voting took place before the Presidential Primary elections on April 2. March 26, 27, 28 and 30 saw 124 voters in town cast their ballots early. Proportionally more Democrats than Republicans took advantage of the opportunity to vote early - 99 Democrats and 25 Republicans. (There are more registered Democrats than Republicans in Redding.)

The process to cast an early vote is a hybrid of absentee and in-person voting. After registering at the polling place, the voter receives a ballot envelope to which a personalized label is affixed on the spot. After filling out their ballot, they place the ballot in the envelope and the envelope in a ballot box. The ballots are not opened and counted until the day of the election.

Unlike absentee voting, when a voter may rescind their absentee ballot and vote in person, an early vote cannot be changed or canceled.

Laura Bartro, Registrar of Voters (D), relayed that early voting usually has the highest participation rates on the first and last days available. And Redding followed the pattern, with 48 voters on day one and 30 on the last day. According to Bartro, feedback was positive with voters appreciating the opportunity to vote early.

Early voting is now required in all municipalities in Connecticut and the cost is borne by each town. While there has been discussion in Hartford about state funding, no decisions have been made.

The Presidential Primaries early voting was a good test of the processes that will be in place for the other elections later in the year, especially the Presidential election in November.

CT DOT to increase train station security \$19.3 million project will add cameras at Redding, other stations / continued from page 1

percent of the funds will be provided by the State of Connecticut, with the remaining 80 percent coming from the Federal government. The installation is expected to begin in 2025.

The plans call for cameras to be placed along platforms at 80-foot intervals. Redding's MetroNorth station is relatively small by comparison to others, which will average 25-35 cameras each. Three types of cameras will be installed: fixed cameras, which will focus on a defined area; cameras with pan, tilt and zoom capabilities; and multi-sensor cameras, which offer 360-degree surveillance.

The cameras and fiber-optic

cable were installed along the rest of MetroNorth's stations in Connecticut during previous project phases. Altogether, the cameras and the cable network will form an internal, closed loop system. Data will be internal but can be requested by police for investigatory purposes.

"Most police departments have contacts at our office of rail operations, and can request copies of footage when needed," Flannery said.

One attendee asked whether cameras would be filming private property. "The intent of the cameras is to just focus on the platforms, entryways, and points of interest on the platforms - such

as ticket vending machines," he said, noting that footage would not be archived indefinitely. "Our policy is for 30-day retention of video footage."

One session participant asked if the project would have any impact on trees along the lines involved. "There will not be any tree clearing or removal, but there may be selective tree trimming to facilitate fiber-optics installation," said Martinez.

Interested residents welcome to submit their comments via email to Seamus.Flannery@ ct.gov. People can also submit comments by leaving a voicemail. The number to call is (860) 817-

WHY DO YOU LOVE REDDING?

In celebration of the *Sentinel's* second anniversary, we are asking readers to respond to the prompt:

"I love Redding because..."

Submissions can be written (under 300 words), photographs, or original artwork. A selection will be published in our April 18 anniversary issue.

Please send to editor@reddingsentinel.org by Friday, April 12.

Redding Sentinel Ltd News and Views of Redding, Connecticut

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Redding Sentinel Ltd believes in supporting the community it serves. We pledge to donate all profits to local community organizations.

Ridgefield Walking Tour brings

history to life | By Pamela Brown

History is more interesting and informative when you immerse yourself in it up-close and personal. That's the premise of the annual Battle of Ridgefield Walking Tour. "Not everyone likes to learn through books or by watching a documentary on TV. This is an interactive way to engage the community and the general public in the history of Ridgefield," said Stephen Bartkus, Executive Director of the Ridgefield Historical Society (RHS). "It gives everyone a different perspective on the town of Ridgefield and its history so they'll appreciate more of what happened here in the past."

RHS is co-producing an "living immersive history" walking tour to commemorate the 247th Anniversary of the Battle of Ridgefield in collaboration with Dr. Darla Shaw, a renowned former educator in the Ridgefield School district, professor of Women's Studies at Western Connecticut State University, and RHS volunteer. The one-hour, one-mile walk takes place on the same date of the actual battle: on Saturday, April 27. There will be four tours -10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 12:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 for members; \$20.00 for nonmembers (tickets are limited and selling out quickly). Event is rain or shine.

The tour begins at the Battle of Ridgefield sign at Casagmo Condominium Complex — where the main engagement of the Battle of Ridgefield took place - and continues along the east side on Main Street. "It was a running battle that took place throughout town. It's really powerful for people to be on the site and experience and understand what took place 247 years ago right there. It was incredibly intense with cannon fire and gun fire," said Bartkus noting the battle is the only inland engagement of the Revolutionary War fought in Connecticut. "The colonists who lived here and those who had come from surrounding communities put up a barricade and blocked off Main Street. That's where they mounted their strongest defense to prevent the 2,000 British Troops from continuing south



The tour will feature actors in period costume, including one posing as Benedict Arnold.

to get back to their ships that were docked in Westport."

Attendees will walk the same path as the soldiers, stopping at various historical sites. A variety of actors, including local theater performers dressed in period costumes will portray individuals involved in or who lived through the battle and share informative, entertaining stories. Some of the historic figures include Benedict Arnold and General Tryon, in addition to the wives of tavern keepers and the local minister. "We'll have Patriots and Tories so there's both perspectives, explains Bartkus. "It really brings history to life in a different way that we're not able to do through other forms, so we're hoping this appeals to a wider audience and different age ranges to get them engaged in the history of Ridgefield."

The tour aligns with the Society's mission to preserve, interpret, and foster public knowledge of Ridgefield's historical, cultural, and architectural heritage. All proceeds from the tour benefit the educational programming of RHS, and it also raises awareness of its Battle of Ridgefield Archaeology Project, a grant-funded project that studies where the battles took place in Ridgefield so the land can be preserved. "Ridgefield is an amazing place because of its rich history, and the arts and culture that is located here is unprecedented and unparalleled," said Bartkus.

The tour will end at the Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center, former headquarters of the Continental Army where an authentic cannonball is lodged in on Main Street. They had just the building's corner post. On that burned Danbury and were trying same day, Keeler Tavern is offering complimentary "War at Home" tours of their museum at 11:30a.m. and 1:00p.m. for attendees of the 10:30am and 12:00p.m. Walking Tour, respectively. Tickets are limited; advance registration for the "War at Home" tour is required though Keeler Tavern at: keelertavernmuseum.org/events.

To learn more about the history of the battle, Mike Allen, creator of the podcast Amazing Tales from Off and On Connecticut's Beaten Path, will present "How the Battle of Ridgefield Impacted the Revolutionary War" at St. Stephen's Church North Hall at 353 Main Street in Ridgefield on Wednesday, April 24, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. "It's really a week-long commemoration of that historical event in town," added Bartkus.

For Bartkus, the tour is a way to honor a critical time in history and those who valiantly fought. "It's important to recognize and commemorate the sacrifices that these brave individuals, who lived here 247 years ago, made so long ago on this very land so we are able to live ours today. The democracy we enjoy today and the rights and freedoms we have today are because of the people who gave their lives for us." ■

For tickets, visit https:// ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org/ programs-events/ and follow the link for the Battle of Ridgefield Walking Tours (members please use promo code 50FF at checkout).

For more information, email info@ridgefieldhistoricalsociety. org or call (203)438-5821.

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Meadow Ridge Scholarship Fund helps others achieve their goals | By Pamela Brown



Meadow Ridge Scholarship recipients with fund chair Dick Swank.

Do Good. Donate. Feel Great. Those words are the guiding forces for the Meadow Ridge Scholarship Fund that provides yearly scholarships to Meadow Ridge employees and their dependents.

"I'm extremely proud of our residents that have stepped up to the plate and have made a contribution to the betterment of the recipients," said Dick Swank, Chairman of the Scholarship Fund. "It's an amazing commitment on the part of the residents to make sure our employees and children of our employees have an opportunity to get a good education."

Last year, the fund awarded thirty-one scholarships in the record amount of \$186,000. All funds come from donations from Meadow Ridge residents and anyone else who would like to donate. Swank credits Dick Farrell for leading the fundraising effort. "He's done the most in getting this campaign on a high level," said Swank.

Last year, Chloe Rees, of Ridgefield, who works as a server at Meadow Ridge, received a \$6,000 scholarship. "All of the residents are truly special people and their generosity has helped me in many ways. With college costs increasing each year, this scholarship is extremely appreciated," said Rees, a junior at Western Connecticut State University who is pursuing a BS in Nursing and intends to obtain a Master's Degree. "This scholarship greatly reduced the financial burden on my father, allowing him to work less overtime, which made us both happy. Also, it made me feel like there were more people around me who believed in and supported me." Rees is encouraged by the residents. "It means the world to me to know that the residents at Meadow Ridge are interested in my journey and want me to succeed. Even residents I haven't spoken with a lot ask me about my school. This helps keep me motivated."

The Scholarship Fund was established in 2004 by Mort Bailey, a former Meadow Ridge resident. All of the board members are Meadow Ridge residents. In

2006, the first scholarships totaling \$4,000.00 were awarded to four students. The money is managed by the Fairfield County Community Fund (FCCF). "It brings the residents and employees closer together and represents a commitment on the part of the residents to help employees who meet the criteria improve their skills and their opportunities for advancement," said Swank.

Scholarships are awarded to students attending four-year Universities, community colleges, specialized trade schools, and more. "It varies very much and we have a mixture," said Ruth Wolsch, Chairman of the Scholarship Selection Committee. "It might be a high school student starting freshman year or someone might already be in school. For instance, we had a Meadow Ridge employee who was a certified nurse assistant. She went back to school to be a licensed practical nurse and then became a registered nurse. It shows how much it can advance someone's education and career while they're at Meadow Ridge," said Wolsch.

After applicants complete a comprehensive application, the six-member selection committee determines top candidates using four criteria - academic record, financial need, personal statement, and references. The final step is a formal interview by the selection committee. "We review their scores and make recommendations to the Scholarship Fund then the fund makes its approvals," explained Wolsch. At a small ceremony, recipients are introduced to the residents. "It's very rewarding to everyone who donates, knowing what their contribution is doing for somebody else's life," she added.

Rees appreciates the ongoing support. "It's one of the few rare jobs where coming to work is enjoyable and that's thanks to the residents. Simply seeing the faces of the people who care for me puts a smile on my face," she said. "They ask me questions about school, how everything is going, and encourage me to keep going. They help me to see that my hard work will all be worth it in the end. Knowing the residents are rooting for me has made me believe in myself more. Thanks to the scholarship, I will end up with less debt after graduation, which puts me that much closer to achieving my dreams." ■

> Tax deductible donations can be made to the Meadow Ridge Scholarship Fund, 100 Redding Road, Redding, CT 06896.

Solar eclipse comes to Redding April 8

By Jeanne Ammermuller

While some will travel great distances to experience the upcoming total solar eclipse, Redding residents will have the rare opportunity to witness a greater than 90% eclipse, weather permitting.

The eclipse will begin at about 2:10 p.m. with the moon slowly overtaking the sun. It will end around 4:30.

Residents are reminded to avoid looking directly at the eclipse, as it can cause severe eye damage. The sun can burn the retinas and cause blindness.

For safe viewing, it is important to use specially designed eclipse

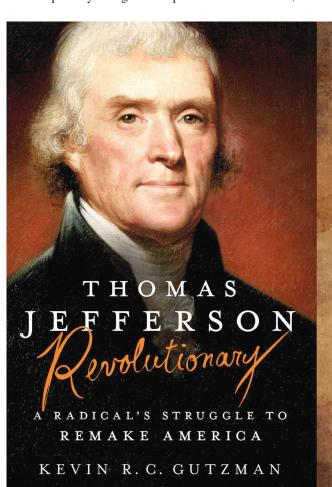
glasses or a special filter for cameras and telescopes. According to the American Astronomical Society (AAS), filters and glasses should comply with the ISO 12312-2 international standard. Ordinary sunglasses are not adequate. A list of vendors of glasses and filters can be found at eclipse.aas.org.

Viewers can also watch the eclipse using pinhole projection. AAS explains several approaches to creating a pinhole projector, including making a waffle pattern by crossing one hand with open fingers over the other. With your back to the sun, look at the shadow

on the ground in front of you. The little spaces between your fingers will project a grid of small images on the ground, showing the sun as a crescent. A perforated spoon or colander can create the same

New Pond Farm is making its telescopes and astronomers available, but registration is now full. Visit newpondfarm.org to be added to the wait list.

Wherever you find yourself on Monday, April 8, you may want to try to view the eclipse - as the next one in the U.S. won't happen until 2044! ■



FOUNDING FATHERS LECTURE SERIES

With Dr. Kevin R. C. Gutzman

April 13th, 2024 2:00 PM

Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road Redding, CT

The Redding Historical Society invites you to learn about Jefferson's complex philosophy and radical ideals in a lecture hosted by New York Times bestselling author and Professor Kevin Gutzman, PhD

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SPORTS

Barlow lacrosse hopes to make title runs | Late rally secures win in

Boys lacrosse season preview By Rocco Valluzzo



Although a young team, the Falcons should be in the hunt for South-West conference and state Class M titles.

Now that the 2024 season is underway, the Joel Barlow High boys varsity lacrosse team is eager to prove that it can compete with the top teams in both the South-West Conference and in the state Class M division.

In fact, the Falcons feel they have a chance to win titles in both. Time will tell just how well they stack up against the competition.

Second-year head coach Taylor Leahy has 42 players in the program, which includes varsity as well as JV teams. Although they will be comprised mainly of juniors and sophomores, the Falcons still have much varsity experience and do not have to contend with any pre-season injuries.

"Everyone is healthy," said

Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

the season on a good note." Barlow returns a number of players from last season's team. Finishing at 10-10 overall last year, the Falcons qualified for the SWC tournament, upsetting New Fairfield in the quarterfinals before losing to New Milford.

Leahy, whose team started prac-

tice on March 16. "We're starting

The team also made the Class M tournament, losing to eventual champ Cheshire in the second

Only five players have graduated since then, including former captains Danny Shaban, Griffin Ellis, and Charlie Falkowski. Shaban (all-SWC first team) and Ellis started in the midfield. Falkowski, a goalie, was sidelined for the season due to a knee injury.

Former captains and defensemen Andrew Zaia and Adam Goodacre have also graduated. In addition, the Falcons lost junior Tyler Ramirez (All-SWC), who transferred to another school.

Once again, the Falcons will be a young team, having just four seniors. Three are captains Dylan Taylor, Cole Peterson, and Ian Lent. Taylor will handle the faceoffs and Peterson will start in the midfield.

Lent will start on attack. The Falcons also have senior newcomer Liam Kiernan.

A number of juniors will also play major roles for Barlow this season. Captain Andrew Watson (All-SWC second team) will start on defense. Classmate and captain Cole Bonanno, one of three triplet brothers on the team, will be in

Joey Bonanno will be on defense and Luke Bonanno is on attack, as is Spencer Skidell. Classmate Quinn Pranzo is a long stick midfielder.

From the sophomore class, Barlow has Frankie Branca on attack and Tyler Young is on defense. Other sophomores who could see varsity time are Kaden Holub and Jack Hall.

If the Falcons hope to go far in the SWC and in Class M they will face some tough opponents along the way. One is two timedefending SWC champ Weston as well as runner-up New Milford. New Fairfield should also be strong.

Although Cheshire moved up to Class L, Barlow will still have to deal with Avon and Pomperaug in Class M.

Barlow hosts Masuk today at 4 p.m. ■

girls softball opener

Girls softball By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo Joel Barlow High first baseman Penny LaMastro takes the throw from pitcher Maggie Jimenez during a varsity softball game against Abbott Tech on Saturday, March 30. Barlow won the season-opener 19-6.

When it came to protecting its lead, the Joel Barlow High varsity softball team took no chances in its season-opener.

Clinging to a two-run lead, the Falcons needed a little insurance heading into the seventh inning against Abbott Tech of Danbury. Saving their best effort for last, they racked up 11 runs in their final at bat to secure a 19-6 win on Saturday, March 30.

"I think it's a great way to start the season. We worked on some things in between, and we got the job done.

"We have three freshmen starting this year, taking over for three seniors from last year," said Barlow head coach Mike Lanuk. "They've done a remarkable job in the first game coming out."

Although hosting the game, the Falcons played as the visiting team since Abbott Tech's field at Hatter's Park was deemed too wet. They went right to work offensively in the top of the first. After loading the bases, they forced in two runs on a pair of walks for a 2-0 lead.

The Wolverines, however,

bounced right back in the bottom of the frame thanks to a two-out double that brought in a couple of runs to tie it.

Barlow immediately answered in its next turn. Taking the lead for good, the team scored four runs with the help of three hits, a couple of errors and a passed ball to go up 6-2.

Falcon pitcher Maggie Jimenez struck out two in the third before her team tacked on a couple of more runs. After loading the bases, the Falcons pushed one across the plate on an error and another on an infield single for an 8-2 advantage after three and a half innings.

While Barlow never trailed after that point, the Wolverines chipped away at the lead, starting with a pair of runs in the bottom of the fourth with the help of a pair of errors. They then held off Barlow in the top of the fifth before scoring another in the bottom of the frame.

It became a two-run game after six innings when the Wolverines scored once more but the threat ended with Barlow's last turn. Batting around, they plated nine runs on 11 hits, putting the game out of reach.

"It was a good last inning," said Lanuk. "We got the job done today."

Barlow racked up 23 hits. Sophia Kelly and Violet Ganim led the way five apiece. The former drove in four runs and the latter three. Olivia Massone had a pair of hits with three RBI.

Jimenez pitched a complete game, holding the Wolverines to eight hits for the win.

"She has worked hard in the off-season to get to this point," said Lanuk. "She did a great job today. Her change up was working nicely and when things got a little tough for her she came back with a big-time pitch."

Barlow visits Newtown today and hosts Bassick on Monday. Both games are at 4:15 p.m. ■

Redding's Big Outdoors: Topstone Park: Boulder Top Trail / continued from page 1

fashion.

If you're gonna break an ankle on a trail run in this park, a betting man might put his money on it happening somewhere here.

Heading from Saddleback toward the pond, I carefully navigate several rocks, jump through a break in a stone wall, and run up a small hill, passing by what I think is the best clue one could summon for a scavenger hunt in Topstone: Find a tree that looks like the number 4.

Only after writing and reflecting on the previous sentence do I remember there are different ways to write the number four. I realize I'm on Team Open Four but not everyone is.

An even better scavenger hunt clue enters my mind: Find a tree that looks like an upside-down lowercase h.

(Apologies to future generations of scavenger hunt organizers for spoiling the clue.)

I hang right at a recently fallen dead tree, jog past the nowdisappeared rotten tree I saw two 20-something mountain bikers building a jump on top of when the world was closed, dance through a gap in another rock wall.

Inching closer to the pond, I run past a colony of enormous uprooted trees to my right -Brobdingnanian even, at least for Connecticut. How'd gravity conquer these beasts? Gotta be 10, 20 of 'em at least. I imagine a group of extra-excited Nephilim horsing around after a night of drinks accidentally knocking them all over. It was either that or the

It's all smooth sailing from here to the pond — if your version of smooth sailing includes a ton of rocks — so I study the ground as I move forward. A minute or so later, I arrive at the end of the trail, ankles intact. After a quick hello to the overlook atop Topstone Mountain, I find myself at the foot of Boulder Top again, heading back to Saddleback.

This direction is a bit harder to traverse — it's more uphill — and I begin retracing my steps.

A song called Harry Hood comes on. Jackpot! I think back to the summer maybe 11 years ago when I put something like 117 versions of this tune on my iPod, deleted everything else, hit shuffle,

and listened to it nonstop for two months. Yes, I'm one of those people. Totally worth it.

Before I forget: I need photos for the piece. Gotta take a picture of the scavenger hunt tree in particular. It's right next to the trail, but to get a good one, I need to diverge a bit.

The thing about listening to music in the woods is you can't hear the sounds of the woods the birds, the squirrels, the people.

After snapping a pic, I turn back to the trail, and I'm somewhat startled by two women walking what appears to be a kennel of dogs headed in my direction. Even though I have no reason to, I feel pretty sketchy: it must be residual angst from the long-gone teenage years. We exchange pleasantries, and I'm a bit let down that none of the canines express interest in me.

Even so, there are new products to bring to market and new synergies to be achieved.

So that's what 0.35 miles feels like, I think to myself as I reconnect with Saddleback, head home, and return to the digital

Barlow Debate wins state championship By Rob Sample

In a tournament that cemented its role as a debate powerhouse, the Joel Barlow debate team won the statewide varsity championship on Saturday, March 23. This was Barlow's eighth Connecticut Debate Association (CDA) championship since 2008.

The state championship is an invitation-only event for the best student debaters on the best teams overall. In total, 150 students participated this year, representing 23 high schools, after earning speaker or team honors during the tournaments leading up to the final competition.

Siddharth Gupta, a senior at Joel Barlow, and Owen Fellows, a Barlow junior, were credited with clinching the top spot after a protracted debate on the pros and cons of a wealth tax in the U.S. Their opponents in the final round were from CDA member Blind Brook High School in Rye, N.Y.

"For me, winning is just closure it's a satisfying victory after a successful year," said Gupta. "Congratulations to Owen, too -I couldn't do any of this without him. Here's to many more years of a dominant Barlow Debate."

At these events, topics are kept secret until an hour before debate begins. Once they learn their topic, students then make cases for both sides using a 10-page packet of relevant articles provided by the Connecticut Debate Association. They also can confer with their teammates and coaches at this time with questions, and during the lunch break between the second and third rounds of competition.

"In the four preliminary rounds, sides are assigned randomly but each team debates twice on each side," noted Barlow Debate Coach Randall Smith. "In the exhibition final, the rules are a bit different. In this instance, the sides were

decided by mutual agreement: Gupta and Fellows argued the government position, in favor of a wealth tax, while Blind Brook chose the opposition. Had they both chosen the same side, they'd have to flip a coin instead."

In outlining the issue at hand, Gupta first provided a definition of a wealth tax. "A wealth tax is a bracketed realized and unrealized capital gains tax," Gupta said. "There's good arguments on both sides of the aisle on whether this would benefit the U.S. economy or would not."

In outlining the reasons why a bracketed wealth tax would be a positive thing, Gupta noted that the richest Americans often do not depend on income they've earned from actual work. They instead possess investments that if sold, might generate capital gains and an attendant income tax. They can avoid this indefinitely by borrowing against the value of those investments - often over a lifetime.

"The [current] tax rules result in an estimated one trillion dollars of revenue being lost each year," he

For its part, the Blind Brook team argued against the wealth tax on two criteria: that it would encourage corruption and that it would hurt the American economy. Its speaker opined that instead of encouraging fairness, holders of unrealized stock gains might pay a higher tax rate on assets that subsequently lost value.

"In times when there is significant wealth inequality, the solution is not to keep going with the system that has already been implemented, but instead to enact a reform," countered Fellows.

Numerous good points were expertly aired on both sides, but

Continued on page 8



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Boys & Girls Club spelling bee for third | Barlow Beat | and fourth graders to be held June 1

More high school-aged mentors needed By Rob Sample



The Boys and Girls Club of Redding and Easton Keystone Club is restarting an event that was once an annual tradition in Redding: a spelling bee for third and fourth graders. The event will be held on June 1, but participants spend weeks preparing with the help of a mentor.

Participation in the spelling bee is set at 15 students per grade for a total of 30 participants, each paired with a mentor. So, it's important for the Keystone Club to sign up more mentors. Students from Redding or Easton who attend any high school are welcome to sign up as mentors and as mem-

bers of the Keystone Club. Mentors must be in grades 9 through 12 to take part.

Each volunteer will be paired with a young student. Mentors will meet with a student each week to provide spelling guidance and better prepare their student for the upcoming spelling bee. This event and the mentorship initiative are being spearheaded by the B&GC's Keystone Club, its high-school af-

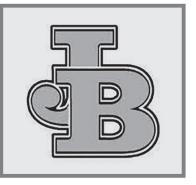
A "Meet Your Mentor" event will take place Thursday, April 25 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Boys & Girls Club Pavilion. The club is located at 170 Cross Highway in Redding.

Separate bees will take place on June 1 for the two grades, also at the Pavilion. The third-grade competition will be from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., while the fourth graders will compete from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

In addition, Boys & Girls Club is reinvigorating the Keystone Club. According to Maritza Jones, Keystone Club liaison for the Boys & Girls Club, members can be students who go to public, private, and parochial high schools; magnet schools; vocational-technical high schools; or are homeschooled. Keystone Club meetings take place at the Cross Highway complex. ■

To sign up go to https://bcgre.net/keystone-club/

By Siddharth Gupta



As the third quarter of the school year comes to a close on April 2, there have been many exciting developments regarding student activities at Barlow.

To begin, Barlow Debate traveled to Stamford High School on March 2 to score two awards in the last regular tournament of the season. Then, on March 23, the Connecticut Debate Association's best and brightest traveled to Barlow for the State Final. After going 4-0 in the preliminary rounds (one of only three to do so) and sweeping the final round against Blind Brook High School in a unanimous 5-0 decision, the partnership of Siddharth Gupta and Owen Fellows scored Barlow Debate's eighth Varsity State Championship since 2008. The stunning victory marks the conclusion of a dominant season for Barlow Debate - Barlow tied Greenwich High School with 15 State Final qualifiers, scored 43 awards throughout the season, and progressed to the final rounds of regular tournaments 5 times. Barlow Debate, once again, is far and away #1 in the state. Congratulations to Fellows for scoring 3rd Varsity speaker at State Finals, too.

Barlow Debate isn't the only student organization performing exceptionally well recently. At competitions in Hartford and Waterbury, after qualifying rounds, Barlow Robotics seeded first and sixth, closing out the days ranking third and fourth, respectively. They have a strong chance to qualify for the Districts Championship, which is a regional competition

from April 4 – 6. However, they won't know for sure until only a few days prior.

Additionally, Barlow Theater's impressive performances of the musical Carrie consistently resulted in an absolutely packed auditorium, despite the PG-13 rating. Their next performance will be next school year in the fall.

Fundraising efforts for Saint Baldrick's resulted in an impressive \$17,000 being raised at Barlow, which means that across the 10 years in which Barlow has participated in the fundraiser, \$170,000 has been raised. Several faculty and students shaved as hundreds more made generous donations. Yet another charitable drive made successful by the selflessness of the Barlow community.

Additionally, the World Language Honor Societies welcomed their inductees at their Induction Ceremony on March 21, and recognized their graduating seniors for their participation in their respective societies. And lastly, a Trivia Night held by the Class Council of 2026 summoned droves of competitive and knowledgeable students to participate in a successful fundraiser for the current sophomores, who are aiming to raise sufficient funds for their Senior Prom. Oh, and speaking of—Prom is officially on May 17th at the Amber Room in Danbury! Tickets will begin to sell soon. With that all being said, that's all the latest updates from Barlow for now, with more to come in the near future.

> Siddharth Gupta is a senior at Joel Barlow High School

Joel Barlow debuts digital SAT

By Anne Young Albanese

Joel Barlow High School (JBHS) administered the digital SAT for the first time on March 20. The test was first available on March 9, but the JBHS administration chose to administer that and the digital PSAT on March 20. There were 400,000 students across the country who took the digital test this March. According to Jason Schemm, assistant principal at JBHS, "180 of 192 Joel Barlow 11th grade students took the Digital CT SAT (94% participation), and 174 of 9th grade students (8/9) took the Digital PSAT. He added, "The entire SAT Suite is now digital moving forward, and away from paper-based tests."

There are additional benefits to the new test. The test is now shorter, taking a bit more than 2 hours while the paper and pencil version took three. The reading passages are shorter in the reading and writing section with one question tied to each passage. Calculators are now allowed for the entire math section, including the graphing calculator that most students at JBHS already own as a require-

ment for math classes. The suite of scores provides students in the United States with insights on careers that require the skills as identified by the students' responses. According to the College Board, "Students can opt to hear from nonprofit colleges and scholarship programs that are interested in students like them, without having to share any personal information."

During COVID, many high schools were unable to host the test out of a worry that a classroom of students might spread the virus. The nonprofit College Board quickly put together an online version of its test so students would be able to take it from home without the chance of spreading COVID. Meanwhile, more and more colleges stopped requiring standardized testing due to the challenges COVID brought to their potential students.

Now that COVID requirements have changed, colleges are again starting to include standardized testing for admission decisions, so the College Board needed to decide where it wanted to go with the

SAT test format into the future.

The College Board first launched the digital SAT internationally in March 2023. During this period, the College Board analyzed the data from this pilot program to explore the idea of bringing it to the United States. Eighty percent of students found it less stressful than the paper and pencil

JBHS offered a makeup SAT exam on April 2, before spring break. For those students taking Advanced Placement Tests (APs), the College Board is expected to start turning to digital testing, starting in 2025. To learn which AP exams will first start digital administration, parents and students can visit apcentral.collegeboard.

JBHS will notify parents and students regarding the upcoming SAT and other standardized tests that are offered by the College Board. If families are searching for schedules for future tests, they can visit the College Board at collegeboard.org.

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Attorney **Tiffany P. Robertson** joins Chipman Mazzucco Emerson LLC as part of the firm's trusts and estates team. She brings with her extensive experience working closely with clients, accountants, financial planners, and insurance specialists in connection with estate planning and probate matters. Her work includes advising clients avenues for achieving their estate planning goals, as well as providing their loved ones with guidance through the trust and/or estate administration process after they pass away.

Tiffany is a 1994 graduate of Boston University and received her law degree from American University's Washington College of Law in 1998.

native of Ridgefield, CT, Attorney Robertson now resides in Newtown, CT. She looks forward to meeting with clients in our Danbury, Westport, and Southbury offices.

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Remembering Redding

The Georgetown Story – its past, present, and future

Part seven: The late 1970s and early 1980s By Brent Colley

This is a multi-part series on the history of Georgetown. To read earlier installments, visit reddingsentinel.org/archive and open the March 2, April 6, June 1, October 12, and December 14, 2023 issues and the March 14, 2024 issue.

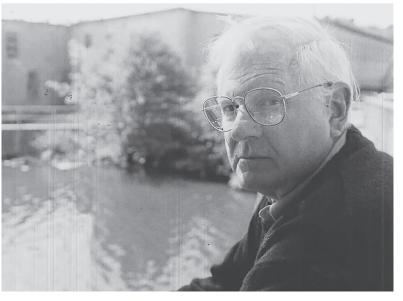
At the start of 1976, a new president was appointed to lead Gilbert & Bennett. By August 1978, another worker's strike had begun, and long-standing board members and stockholders were questioning the ethics and morals of the new board members and demanded a return to the "stockholder approval system" for all major decisions, a system that had worked very well in the past. At that time, some board members were concerned that new treasury stock may be issued "for general corporate purposes and/or acquisitions" without stockholder approval.

In a letter to then Gilbert & Bennett President Caleb Taft, fourth-generation employee and Vice President Raymond Miller wrote:

"I believe the Board is again thinking of issuing treasury stock for acquisitions (or whatever) without stockholder approval. I cannot accept Counsel's ruling about not requiring stockholder approval because of the passage of time and a different Board. I believe this attitude is morally and ethically wrong. After all, at least one or two of the Board members in 1959 are still on the Board and I'm sure many of the stockholders who sent in their proxies in 1959 are the same people who own stock today. At the next Board meeting, I would like to propose that the Directors reaffirm the intentions of the 1959 Board that treasury stock will only be issued after the stockholders have approved it."

Miller's request was not honored, and it angered several long-time Board members. The strongest voice, and the one who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Miller on this issue, was James M. Knott, Sr. His companies were the coating companies in Massachusetts, and he had been on the Board since 1962. In one of his letters, he dared to state what no one else would:

"To the best of my knowledge, the first time stock was ever issued by the Board without the approval of the stockholders was the modification of the Board's agreement with Caleb Taft from an agreement "to make available 25,000 shares of stock at \$7.00



James M. Knott, Sr., a former member of the Gilbert & Bennett board of directors, who raised concerns about board practices.

a share, to an outright gift of 13,500 shares...I think it would be appropriate to ask the stockholders for their approval of the November 17, 1976 agreement between the Company and Caleb Taft at the (1978) Annual Meeting to reaffirm the covenant between the Board and the stockholders with respect to the issuance of authorized stock."

In this letter, he makes a great point. As I was trying to understand better what had happened at Gilbert & Bennett and what led to the takeovers that would eventually close the Georgetown plant, I began searching to see if James was still alive and willing to fill in the gaps I was missing in G&B's history, as 1978 to 1984 remained a mystery. I got lucky in 2003, when I found an e-mail for James M. Knott, Sr. who owned a company named Riverdale Mills up in Northbridge, MA, that sold wire mesh. I e-mailed him, and a couple of days later he provided some very interesting information about his company, the details of his fallout with Caleb Taft, and his efforts to purchase Gilbert & Bennett in 1984:

"I sold Coatings Engineering corporation to G&B in 1962 and served on their Board of Directors and Executive Committees until 1978 when ongoing disputes with then President Caleb Taft resulted in my being demoted and CEC being made a subsidiary rather than an independent corporation. When President Caleb Taft gave me that message I shook his hand, said, 'Good luck,' and walked away. Eighteen days later, I bought an abandoned mill building, hung up my pinstripes, put my wingtips, white shirts, and ties away, and designed and built new machinery to coat wire mesh by a new process to compete with G&B. Six years

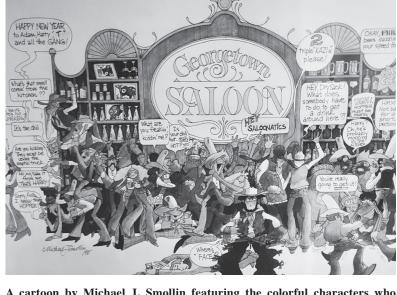
later, having far outsold G&B in the lobster industry, I attempted a hostile takeover of G&B. Unfortunately, I was outbid by the Kuwait people."

Kuwait people? I had heard a rumor that after Gilbert & Bennett left Georgetown, the problems that would lead to the company's bankruptcy started in 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait. Iraq destroyed all the Kuwaitis' documents including the Gilbert & Bennett deeds and mortgages and froze all their money. Was this true? This sent me and my dad back into our family's collection of Ray Miller's documents to find out. Although it took quite a while, we found it. A handwritten phone message for Gilbert & Bennett Sales V.P. Richard G. Perry from his secretary about a Redding resident who just returned from the Middle East and had called about the following:

"October 7, 1975. Just returned from the Middle East. Has a party, Arab family, very nice people, interested in 50-50 or majority partner in wire mfg. business, already in cement. Oil monied people."

So now I had the "puzzle piece" that tied in perfectly to the information I had about who had purchased Gilbert & Bennett in 1985, JGH Acquisitions. This information came from a 1990 article by Susan Elan of the Fairfield County Advocate who included that after the purchase, the company was split into two companies — Gilbert & Bennett Manufacturing Co. and Gilbert & Bennett Limited Partnership, and the venture was said to be financed with Kuwaiti money.

As Georgetown left the 1970s and entered the 1980s, it is important to note that it wasn't all negative – there was a lot of fun



A cartoon by Michael J. Smollin featuring the colorful characters who frequented the Georgetown Saloon in the early days.

being had and created for children of all ages; there were concerts, carnivals, cookouts, fairs, family gatherings, and ballgames. The best example of adult fun is The Georgetown Saloon, established in 1978 by Adam Lebarsky, Tom "T" Kolkoski, and Steve Alward. That trio had great vision and foresight, bringing a country-western bar to Main Street Georgetown two years before the movie Urban Cowboy starring John Travolta hit the big screen. In addition to the Saloon, Main Street had Crowley's Georgetown Restaurant, and on the Old Mill Road/Rt 57 end, Mama Rosa's was a very popular Italian restaurant named after local legend Mama Rosa DeLuca.

For kids, Main Street was a safe stretch to ride your bike, skateboard, or just hang out while your parents shopped or visited friends. But in general, most Georgetown kids roamed freely without our parents in the late 1970s; we left our houses in the morning and unless we came home for lunch, we were out until dusk. Portland Avenue had the most kids, so we'd usually head there first and branch out in different groups to different locations based on who wanted to do what. If I had to pick our favorite areas at this time, it would have to be fishing the Norwalk River at Branchville Station or the section of Georgetown on the Wilton side of Old Mill Road. We'd bike down to the Old Mill Road ballfields to play pickup baseball or football games against the kids from Wilton, and if we didn't have enough for a game, we'd just fish along the Norwalk River for eels and trout.

I loved where we lived; we always had something to do and someone to play with. Our house was at 32 Peaceable Street, just

above Branchville Station and Portland Avenue. Across the street was the Redding Land Trust's "Rock Lot" and CL&P's open space. We were borderline Redding/Georgetown, the phone company said we weren't Redding because our phone number was 544-8927 not 938-8927, and that was fine by us. Georgetown is why the Colley family came to America, and Gilbert & Bennett is the reason we came. My grandfather's grandfather was a blacksmith who came to Georgetown to make custom wire loom parts for Gilbert & Bennett. The Miller family funded our family's first mortgage, and my dad bought our house from Bill Pryor. Bill's Dad, John Pryor, was my grandfather's neighbor on Church Street, the house right next to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Everything in my life is connected to Gilbert & Bennett and Georgetown - that's why Georgetown is important to me, and that's why I continue to share what I learned from my grandfather, his friends, and my dad.

In Part 8, we'll explore Georgetown in the 1980s and 90s, a very important period to know about for everyone who cares about Georgetown, and the real reason why Gilbert & Bennett left.

Brent Colley
is Co-Historian
for the Town of Redding
and Co-Founder
of the Redding
CT History Project

OBITUARY

Philip J. Lauterbach March 7, 1931 - March 3, 2024



Philip Joseph Lauterbach passed away March 3, 2024, just shy of his 93rd birthday during an early celebration with family, surrounded by his loved ones. Born March 7, 1931 to his parents Sebastian and Marie, he was the fourth of six children including Sebastian, Betty, Anne, Jack, and Billy.

Phil grew up in Westport, Connecticut and was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, serving in the US Army Airborne, 11th Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He married Joan Ward Lauterbach, the love of his life in 1958 and built their home in Redding. A bit of a rebel, Phil found success working for himself and soon started Lauterbach Inc. Phil and his brother Jack ran their own business together with 50 plus years of success. They had an exceptional partnership and were two of the most honorable people you would ever have the pleasure of meeting. Their business was guided with strong ethical values, developed through hard work and honesty, which in turn has rubbed off on his family.

He had an infectious personality, immeasurable sense of humor and told a story like no other. With his personable nature you couldn't help but fall in love with him. To

this day, Linda, Patti and Paul's friends consider Phil to be their second father.

If you knew Phil, you knew he was an avid clammer...who could, and would, out-clam anyone, and we mean anyone. He also may, or may not have, thrown a few extra clams than were allowed in his basket, just for good luck.

He also loved his blue crabs. Younger Phil crabbed every day on the Saugatuck River and would sell his crabs for 5 cents a piece. He loved to tell his infamous story about the biggest crab he ever caught, so big the legs dangled clumsily over the net, and in a devastating turn, he lost the crab. He searched for that beloved crab all day, but to no avail. This was of course talked about for years and years and years.

He was a competitor in all things from horseshoes to corn hole, always needing to win and always doing just that. He was a magician on the backhoe and few things made him happier than his big machines, a good cigar, a healthy fire in his fireplace, and a perfectly grilled burger. A true "man of the soil," just last year he dug up his entire front yard to plant a vegetable garden with his son-in-law Jack.

Phil Lauterbach's family and faith were the most important aspects of his life. He never missed mass, no matter the circumstance, loved his family deeply and aspired to be the best person and son of God he could be. He was an extraordinary brother, husband, father, father-in-law and Poppie. Phil will be profoundly missed by his three children Linda, Patti, and Paul and their spouses Jack Croughwell, Buddy Carroll, and Carol Lauterbach; his grandchildren Ian (Aly) Courtney (Chris), Ryan, Cassie (Rob), Kylie (John), Olivia, and Brett; as well as his great granddaughters Harper

and Brynn, and the many lives he touched. He reunites with his beloved wife whom he missed beyond words.

We believe he achieved his goals and succeeded in all aspects of his life. We are so proud to call you ours, Philip Joseph Lauterbach aka Poppie. Until we meet again, we love you beyond words and will miss you enormously.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to The Padre Pio Foundation of America (padrepio.com).

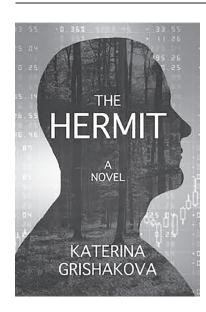
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Book Review

The Hermit

by Katerina Grishakova

271 pages Heresy Press \$17.95



The Hermit, by Katerina Grishakova describes "...one of those men who reach such an acute limited excellence at twentyone that everything afterwards savors of anticlimax." This was F. Scott Fitzgerald's portrait of Tom Buchanan in The Great Gatsby. It is also the reality of Andy Sylvain, Wall Street titan, as he begins to fear that he is "one of those men."

Katerina Grishakova is a native Russian who evokes eloquently the spiritual malaise of market capitalism's foot soldiers. For ten years a trader herself, Grishakova has created, in Andy Sylvain, a character with superior gifts that reward his expectations but lead him nowhere. With compelling style, she shows how exclusive focus on material success is reductive. It sheds culture. Carried to extremes, it can erode nearly everything into nothing of real worth. The result is chronic anhedonia of the emotionally empty and spiritually bereft.

The author shows how, as focus narrows necessarily in job performance, living consequences of corporate culture can be opaque, discounted, or misapprehended. As energies are spent each day on tasks sustained by institutional assumptions, other possibilities can be lost to a narrow view. We all make assumptions about life and how we live it. Grishakova shows how many attitudes and false convictions are taken for granted as true. The author uses storytelling expertise to explore limitations of emotional ignorance, while her focus stays fixed on "brilliant men who have everything but who are lost."

Andy Sylvain, successful in his career, now fifty and recently divorced, begins to question his

choices. Katerina Grishakova tells his story of inner challenge in a clear, steady progress toward either self-destruction or redemption. Until the end, it is never entirely clear how Andy will end up.

He is at a loss after several failed remedial excursions. His native skepticism deepens his confusion. He greets each fiasco with what amounts to Dorothy Parker's quip, "What fresh hell is this?" Sylvain at last begins to understand himself as he starts to listen to the misgivings of others and redirects his strong intuition to reveal deeper truths. He notes colleagues for whom joys of life have been lost, families forsaken, or who have escaped into strange incarnations.

Andy is intrigued when a man sitting next to him dressed like a cowboy recognizes in him an executive of the big money world and explains his notion of corporate leadership with easy cynicism: "They fail to see what every business model - and I mean every business model - comes down to: smart people barricading themselves in certainty." Andy's closest friend, struggling with those same fragile references, soon meets an unexpected fate, another signpost on the road to awakening.

The Hermit is a novel of social realism that puts light on the inner life of an American type. This ground has been covered before, but not with Grishakova's contemporary verve and grasp of the modern idiom. Sylvain's rational self has made him wealthy, but growing reservations about choices he's made put him in conflict with emerging existential understanding. His ex-wife and daughter leave the Westchester family home and move to Connecticut. Andy gradually realizes that he is absent from his own life and that the one he is living gives him nothing he needs.

As Andy's ex-wife, Madeline, a richly serious woman, says about her future, "I want to be that old lady that sits on a porch, looking at the world, and marveling at its ineptitude and its rudderless zeal." Katerina Grishakova, in The Hermit, sustains that sentiment with first-hand understanding and a first-rate debut novel. ■

Review by Tom Casey

Tom is the author of **Human** Error and Strangers' Gate

LIBRARY CORNER

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

This week, if you have a Redding address, you have probably received our annual appeal letter in your mailbox. Because Mark Twain Library is an association rather than a municipal department, we receive a generous portion of our annual operating funds from the Town but have to make up the difference (about 40%) ourselves. This means our dedicated volunteers are tasked with raising roughly \$400,000 annually, just to support ongoing operations.

This was all part of Mark Twain's original vision for the Library: to remain independent from the Town, governed by a Board of Trustees. At the time, Twain's books were being banned across the country and he didn't want the

2024 ANNUAL APPEAL

"Optimist: A person who travels on nothing, from nowhere to happiness."

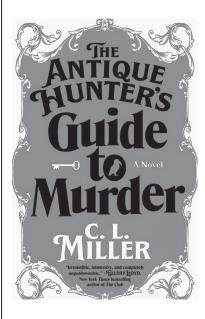
-MARK TWAIN

Library to have to muddle through local politics to fulfill its mission. He envisioned a library supported by neighbors and even "volun-told" some of them that they were donating their land in support of the building project. Today, Mark Twain Library still operates in line with our founder's vision: a community resource supported through gifts from our neighbors.

I hope when you find our annual appeal in your mailbox this week you will consider a gift to the Mark Twain Library to support our collections, programs, and services for all. ■

> Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Good books for good readers



Sometimes we all need to just escape from the noise. My remedy for that is to find a comfortable spot and crack open something like this...The Antique Hunter's *Guide to Murder: a Novel* by C.L. Miller. "Irresistible, immersive, completely unputdownable" are just a few of the many descriptions you will find in the reviews for this entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable page-turner of a book. C.L. Miller is the daughter (and editorial assistant for) her mother, Judith Miller, on The Miller's Antique Price Guide and it is her debut novel. It's an old manor mystery tracking an international killer with a reluctant young

detective and her eccentric colorful Aunt navigating the murkier side of the antiques world.

By Margi Esten

Or, this...The Mystery Writer: A Novel by Sulari Gentill. She is a Sri Lankan-born Australian author, also known under the pen name S.D. Gentill. This is a literary thriller about an aspiring writer who meets and falls in love with her literary idol - only to find him murdered the day after she gave him her manuscript to read. Gentill's Rowland Sinclair mysteries have won and/or been shortlisted for the Davitt Award and the Commonwealth Writer's Prize. She is also a 2023 Edgar Award nominee. ■

Nod to the pod

Mystery Show, "Case #5: Source Code"

Nine years later, Mystery Show remains one of my favorite podcasts ever. It ran for just one season (which lasted but a few months), and only six episodes went to air before some behindthe-scenes production drama ended its glorious run. I'm still waiting for it to come back.

Each episode had host-turnedsleuth Starlee Kine working to solve a mystery - the kind you can't use Google or Wikipedia to solve. In this one, Kine is working on behalf of her friend David, who has become obsessed with finding out the actor Jake Gyllenhaal's real height. After

watching Gyllenhaal in the film Source Code, David notices that sometimes the actor looks tall and sometimes he looks short. Puzzled, David seeks answers on the Internet. But all he finds is an extensive and ongoing argument amongst fans. "It's an international debate," says David.

Kine embarks on a multi-month investigation that frequently stalls, and dead-ends multiple times. I'm pretty sure she never thinks this case will turn into an actual episode with an actual answer. And yet! To say I finished this episode completely delighted would be an undersell.

I clearly struggle to accept cancellations. I still think about My So-Called Life weekly, and it was only on the air for one season, 30 years ago. (Treat yourself to that, too, if you haven't already!) Why must I fall so hard for these fleeting treasures? I do hope you listen to Ms. Kine and her strange adventures, but I also want to apologize in advance if you, too, start pining for more.

OBITUARY

Barbara P. Loh

1949 - 2024



Barbara P. Loh, known to her family and closest friends as Smokey, died suddenly and unexpectedly in Auckland, New Zealand on February 16th, 2024.

Barbara grew up in Ridgefield and Redding, Connecticut, and graduated from Wheaton College in 1971. While in college, she met her husband Don Graham at Wesleyan University. They were married on June 2, 1973 and last June celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Bermuda with their two sons and spouses, and beloved grandchildren.

After college Barbara worked

at the Massachusetts State House as a legislative aide and later as a paralegal at a prestigious Boston law firm. She then became a child advocate in the newly created Office for Children.

Barbara later earned her MSW at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work in Hartford, and became responsible for recruiting foster parents and overseeing the placement of foster children at the Center for Human Development. She and her husband also welcomed several foster children into their own

She had two children, Nick born in 1982 and Kent born in 1987. Barbara was an incredible mother and nurtured her children. She prioritized their education and made sure they received and took advantage of numerous educational opportunities. She was a strong advocate for voluntary enrichment programs in the public schools at the middle school level. She instilled in her sons enduring values and principles that allowed them to become caring and compassionate husbands and fathers. Barbara was also their biggest fan and attended countless hockey, baseball, lacrosse, and soccer games from the early days in elementary school, through high school and even college. She would remind her sons that she was quite the field hockey star in her day and lamented the fact that there was no Title IX when she went to college.

When Barbara's children were very young, she decided to pursue her interest in journalism and took a part time job as a reporter for the Springfield newspapers and later for the Hartford Courant. Her working hours were most often before her children awoke and after they went to bed. The days were devoted to her children.

When her children got older, Barbara took a job as the Director of Community-Based Domestic Violence Services with the YWCA. There she was in charge of setting up and running one of the first supervised visitation centers in the state. The goal was to allow children to establish a

relationship with the noncustodial parent free of the direct or indirect effects of physical or emotional abuse. The program soon became a model for the state and was emulated statewide.

Barbara later became an adjunct professor at Westfield State University and was hired as the Executive Director of a nonprofit Springfield organization in that broadcast local news and information to visually impaired individuals through special radio devices. She rebranded the program which is now known as Valley Eye Radio and increased significantly the number of volunteer readers and added several paid employees. Barbara lobbied the state legislature for additional funding and increased donations while simultaneously obtaining numerous grants which have allowed Valley Eye Radio to expand the scope and content of the information and how and where it is broadcast. Barbara and Valley Eye Radio became key contributors to the Massachusetts Audio Information Network.

Barbara will be sorely missed by the employees and volunteers at Valley Eye Radio, as well as her many friends including those at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield and the women in her book club who have been meeting monthly for over ten years. She will also be missed by Finnigan and Lucy her two golden retrievers.

Barbara was predeceased by her father George Loh, who gave her the nickname Smokey at an early age (a long story). She is survived by her husband Donald Graham, of Longmeadow, MA; her son Nicholas and his wife Abbey and their sons Oliver and Liam, all of Houston, TX; her son Kent and his wife Brigid and their daughter Madeline, all of Danvers, MA; her 98-year-old mother Averill Loh of Stowe, VT, a longtime Redding resident and John Read Middle School teacher; her sister Rebecca (Brecca) Loh of Hyde Park, VT, and Brecca's extended family; her brother David Loh of Morrisville, VT, and his extended family.

Business Spotlight

Expand your palate at The Hickories with 180 varieties of fruits and vegetables

box-of-vegetables-per-week'

subscription," Brewster said.

"More crucially than that, it's

a shared-risk business model

in which farmers and their

communities share in the risks

and rewards of agriculture. We

offer our CSAers first dibs to buy

Hickories sells spring, summer,

and fall shares, along with a super-

share subscription that combines

all three. Shares are purchased in

the spring. Customers can also

purchase a fresh egg add-on and

buy a subscription for flowers, too.

good year for strawberries but not

such a great year for sweet peas,

for example," Brewster explained.

"CSA is a way for us to even out

the booms and busts of a seasonal

crop schedule. We endeavor to

extend our seasons as much as

8, have grown up in the CSA

program; her family eats food

grown at The Hickories almost

season; they are at peak flavor and

peak nutrition," she said. "We are

trying to raise our kids in a way

that is less exposed to pesticides

and more exposed to awesome

new flavors. Even though they're

young, Hickories farm kids'

palettes already know more than

180 different fruits and vegetables.

"We always eat things in

exclusively. How could you not?

Brewster's two sons, 6 and

"Some years will be a really

As part of its CSA program, The

into our harvest every year."

By Justin Reynolds



Dina Brewster is a third-generation farmer tending to 100 acres of organic farmland in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

If you're looking to add more variety to your diet while eating healthier and more sustainably, you may want to check out The Hickories, a 100-acre womanowned-and-operated organic farm off Lounsbury Road in Ridgefield, at the top of Cains Hill, just a couple of minutes from West Redding.

"My grandparents came to the land in 1936," said Dina Brewster, who runs the farm business. "I'm the third generation to be stewarding the farm, and my kids could be the fourth."

Brewster founded The Hickories nearly 20 years ago. Prior to trying her hand at farming, she was a public high school English teacher in New York City.

"It was a big shift for me," she said. "I watched the place develop from a one-acre vegetable garden to 45 acres of highly diversified farmland.'

Today, The Hickories produces over 180 varieties of organic fruits and vegetables. The farm also raises livestock and sells pork, lamb, wool, flowers, and eggs

from its 300 laying hens. "The more diversified the farm is, the safer our community is," Brewster said. "There's always something to eat."

The Hickories offers a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, where community members buy into the farm's

harvest ahead of time. "It's often referred to as 'a different vegetables."

Though The Hickories has been around for nearly two decades, Brewster's operation is still under the radar for many folks in the

"A lot of newcomers who moved up during COVID don't know about us," she said. "We want to make sure communities understand what a lifeline CSAs are for the farms that utilize them. If you truly want to support local farmers, the number-one thing you can do is join a CSA program."

In addition to its CSA programs, The Hickories also has a farm store open to the public Tuesday through Sunday year-round.

"In general, people start coming to our farm store, seeing what we produce, and learning how to incorporate new vegetables in their kitchens," she continued. "Some people just dive in and sign up for our CSA out of the gate. Others decide to commit to \$100 a month to buy local food and pre-purchase gift cards that way."

While a CSA might be a bit pricier than buying factory-farmed fruits and vegetables at a grocery store, it's much healthier for both people and the planet, Brewster explained.

"The cost of the corporate food system is largely externalized," Brewster said. "What you are paying at checkout doesn't account for carbon emissions, trucking, and underpaid workers. Part of what we endeavor to do here is toe a line of sustainability that does not externalize those costs."

While most of the farm is closed to the public - tractors and livestock abound — The Hickories does have a small looped walking trail that's open most days.

"It's great to see all of these old barns standing up in our community," Brewster said. "Our towns are standing in a protective circle around them. We are here because our community is here and wants us to stay productive." ■

To learn more about The Hickories, visit thehickories.org

Redding's Shinall earns sixth major marathon star

By Rocco Valluzzo

Portofino
Restaurant & Wine Bar

Catering for Any Special Event We can host events including

weddings for up to 90 guests! 213 Greenwood Ave. (Dolan Plaza) Bethel

203-797-8131 portofinorestaurantandwinebar.com



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Lisa Shinall of Redding earned her sixth star for running in each of the world's major marathons. Shinall, who ran in Tokyo last month, has also run marathons in New York, Chicago, Boston, London and Berlin.

Lisa Shinall has run her fair share of marathons.

A former fitness trainer, personal trainer, and running coach, she has participated in 25 marathons to date. But her most recent holds special significance.

On March 3, Shinall was one of about 38,000 runners to take part in the Tokyo Marathon. It not only marked her 25th marathon overall, it earned her a sixth star for running each of the world's major marathons (Tokyo, New York, Boston, Chicago, London and Berlin).

"I just wanted to do this to get my sixth star," said Shinall, a mother of four children. "Once I did Boston last year, I said to my husband, 'You know we're going to Tokyo next year."

Shinall, who completed the 26.2-mile course in five hours, 12 minutes and 26 seconds, noted Tokyo was a bit different than the other major marathons. All participants had seven hours in which to complete it.

"I saw a lot of people cramped up because it was hot and in the sun," she said. "That kind of got to me a little bit. I was excited for the star. I kept seeing that was the goal and I was going to do it."

Runners could stop only at water stations that had the same number as the last one on their bib. In addition, they were not allowed to throw down cups at water stops, only at certain garbage boxes.

"It was just a very different marathon from what I had run before," said Shinall. "I was very nervous going into it."

Training for her first marathon in 1998, Shinall had to defer for a year due to a stress fracture.

Her husband Mike bought her a treadmill to use at home if their twin girls were sick and could not go to babysitting at the Y. She later joined a group in Easton that would meet at 3:15 a.m. on Saturdays during the summer.

"I feel very fortunate, I really do," she said. "I'm grateful to my family. I'm grateful to my husband for putting up with me."

Besides the eight major marathons, Shinall also ran the Nike Women's marathon in San Francisco in 2005 and 2008 as a member of Team in Training to raise money for leukemia and lymphoma research. She has also run the New York Marathon eight

"New York is my favorite because it was my first," she said. "The crowds are the best."

When her sister had breast cancer, she ran New York in 2015 as a member of Fred's Team, a Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center running program, to benefit research for leukemia and lymphoma. She has also run for Autism Speaks since her daughter Jacqueline is a clinical psychologist and works with young people on the spectrum.

Shinall typically trains for 16 weeks prior to a marathon two days of strength training, a day off and four solid days of running including a long run and a recovery run. The other runs are anywhere from 8 to 10 miles and one could be a track run at Joel Barlow High, especially from the summer into the fall.

Before running in her next marathon, Shinall has three half marathons lined up. After that comes a different type of marathon, one on a raked, graveled trail, which would be a first for her.

"I swore I was retiring from this then I started thinking about it," she said. "My body has a little bit more to give." ■

Most people might know 20

Main Street Accelerator program advances Georgetown improvements / continued from page 1

possible."

businesses and the community." One plan is to create Georgetown merchandise (in addition to the Georgetown Day t-shirts that are sold each year at the annual event), including items from local artisans like Phil Capezio with his handmade serving boards with "Georgetown" engraved on them and wooden coasters by Créé à la Main. In addition, there will be fun, retro offerings like t-shirts with an illustration of the famous Georgetown Saloon drawn by Paula Valderrama, owner of Bethel's new Café Duo, and "I ♥ Georgetown" motel keychains.

Later this spring, GVR is also unveiling a self-guided historic walking tour; the printed guides will be found at select local businesses and at the Georgetown

Little Free Library. In this first iteration of the historic walking tour, eight locations have been selected for their historical significance and contributions to the area. The selected walking tour locations are still in use today as retail shops or other use and are easily recognizable to help connect the past with the present.

GVR was formed in 1999 as a collaborative effort among business and building owners to support and improve Georgetown. It is a 501(c)3 organization, and most notably its volunteers organize Georgetown Day, a free community event that takes place each June on Main Street and features a chili cookoff, artisan and food vendors, live music, and more. Other GVR projects

include street clean-ups, installing Georgetown signs (using ARPA funds), the Free Little Library, and commissioning the Georgetown mural by Kristen Terrana-Hollis.

GVR also supports the Wire Mill Advisory Committee's extensive work where possible and was recently asked to appoint a GVR member to join the committee. GVR secured a letter of support from CMSC for the wire mill committee and Town of Redding's recent DEDC Brownfield Area Revitalization (BAR) Round 4 — Georgetown Revitalization Plan grant application. Learn more at www.georgetownct.org.

Kate Perry is a member of the Georgetown Village Restoration, Inc. Board of Directors



www.**caraluzzis**.com

Barlow debate wins state championship / continued from page 4



The Barlow Debate team is all smiles after winning the Connecticut state championship. This was the eighth time the team has won the statewide title.

the Barlow team was judged the winner of the day. "Teams are encouraged to use the best arguments they can come up with, and that includes whatever they hear during the day from opponents," noted Smith. "Nobody, however, is allowed to search the internet during the tournament."

Other qualifiers were senior Griffin Spec; juniors Zac Colangelo and Cade Fravel (cocaptains) and Luis Diez, Trevor Steinke, and Kristian Pavel; and

sophomores Dylan Winegar and

In the novice category were sophomores Andrew Jortner, Kosta Nani, Brady Decker, and Yu-Min Cho who all finished among the top ten teams. Sophomores Arianna Pereira and Maansi Tibrewal went 2-2.

The team moves on to take part in debate competitions at Yale University and the Reagan Northeast Regional tournament in New York City. ■

This Week's Featured Events

All About Eve: A Play Reading

Saturday, April 6 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.Local and professional actors present a lively reading to raise funds for New Pond Farm. New Pond Farm Education Center Sacred Heart Church Parish Hall 30 Church Street newpondfarm.org

Redding Land Trust Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 7 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Open meeting followed by a reception. Registration required. Highstead 127 Lonetown Road reddingctlandtrust.org

Blooming Books: Redding **Garden Club Open House**

Thursday, April 11 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Drop into the Garden Club's reception at the Mark Twain Library and be the first to view stunning arrangements transforming books into memorable centerpieces

Want to feature an upcoming event?

E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.

Arts

Saturday, April 6

Art Reception - Roderike Pohl 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Meet the artist and view her work Easton Public Library 691 Morehouse Road Easton

eastonlibrary.org/calendar-list

Saturday, April 6

All About Eve: A Play Reading 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Local and professional actors present a lively reading to raise funds for New Pond Farm. Sacred Heart Church Parish Hall 30 Church Street newpondfarm.org \$, R

Saturday, April 6

Choral Masterworks Series Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Coronation Mass

8:00 p.m. 4 Heart Harmony performs with full orchestra. Sacred Heart University, Chapel of the Holy Spirit 5151 Park Avenue Fairfield edgertoncenter.org

Sunday, April 7

Jazz Brunch

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Austin Bradford, a Joel Barlow freshman, plays solo jazz piano. Shakedown Street Eats (formerly Note Kitchen & Bar) 227 Greenwood Avenue Bethel

Sunday, April 7

The Allen and Helen Hermes **Arts Series presents – Broadway** Tails: Strays and Stars

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Learn about training animals for the stage and screen from Tony-Award nominee William Berloni. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R

Thursday, April 11

Traditional Irish Music Session 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open session hosted by Damien Connelly & David Sasso.

Traditional musicians welcome to bring their instruments. Nod Hill Brewery 137 Ethan Allen Hwy (Route 7) Ridgefield

Saturday, April 13

Big Band Concert & Dance

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Live big band music; dancing optional. Benefits Network for Good. Danbury Music Centre 256 Main Street Danbury danburymusiccentre.org

CHILDREN | TEENS

Thursday, April 11

Reading to Rover (Grades K-4) 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Practice reading out loud to Gromit, a trained therapy dog. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R

Sunday, April 14

STEM at New Pond Farm (Grades K-4)

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Sky science New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R

Sunday, April 14

Topstone Family Story Time 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Co-sponsored by the Redding

Park and Recreation Department Topstone Park Beach 72 Topstone Road marktwainlibrary.org R

Sunday, April 14 and Monday, April 15

FLIP Fabrique in Blizzard 7:00 p.m.

Circus performance from Québec Quick Center for the Arts Fairfield University 1073 North Benson Road Fairfield quickenter.fairfield.edu

Monday, April 15 -Friday, April 19

April Vacation Camp

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A fun, safe place for K-6 kids to play during school vacation. Before/after care available. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road townofreddingct.org/parks-andrecreation/ \$, R

$F_{\text{OOD}} \mid W_{\text{INE}}$

Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7

In the Kitchen, cooking

Earth Day Cookies

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Saturday (Grades 2-5) 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sunday (Grades 6-12) New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org

Health | Wellness

Tuesday, April 9

Narcan Training

\$, R

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R

Sunday, April 14

Archery Open House

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. No experience necessary, equipment provided. Riverbrook Regional YMCA 404 Danbury Road Wilton wiltonymca.org

N_{ATURE}

Saturday, April 6

Vernal Pool Walk 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Program run in partnership with Ridgefield Conservation Commission and Norwalk River Watershed Association. Woodcock Nature Center 56 Deer Run Road Wilton woodcocknaturecenter.org R

Saturday, April 6

Welcome Cheyenne & Friends 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meet the new red tail hawk and other newcomers Woodcock Nature Center \$, R

Monday, April 8

It's a Solar Eclipse!

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m Enjoy the solar eclipse with New Pond Farm's astronomers. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org R

Thursday, April 11

Blooming Books: Redding Garden Club Open House

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Drop in for a reception and to view eco-friendly floral arrangements with older books. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road

Saturday, April 13

Astronomy: Viewing the Night Sky

8:30 p.m. Outdoor program – dress accordingly. New Pond Farm Education Center 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org \$, R

Tuesday, April 23 and Wednesday, May 15

Spring Migration: Birding with Joe Bear

7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Leisurely early morning birding walk through diverse habitats. New Pond Farm 101 Marchant Road newpondfarm.org

Religious Services

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (in person)

or 10:15 a.m. (Zoom) 44 Portland Avenue bethlehemlutheranct.org

Calvary Independent Baptist Church Adult and Child Sunday School at

10:00 a.m. / Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m. Nursery provided for all services 711 Redding Road cibcredding.org

Christ Church, Episcopal Sundays at 9:00 a.m. 184 Cross Highway

christchurchredding.org

First Church of Christ, Congregational

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. 25 Cross Highway firstchurchredding.org

Long Ridge United Methodist Sundays at 11:00 a.m. 201 Long Ridge Road

Danbury longridgeumc.com

Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish

Sacred Heart Church:

30 Church Street

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. Saturday Eucharistic Adoration: 6:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon LATIN Weekday Mass: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday 6:00 p.m. LATIN

St. Patrick Church:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. Weekday Mass: Monday – Friday at 8:30 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays Eucharistic Adoration 7:00 p.m. 169 Black Rock Turnpike sacredheart-stpat.org

Special Programs

Thursday, April 4

Foundhers Circle

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Group for female-identifying founders and entrepreneurs. Donations of \$20 welcome. Georgetown Collective 28 Main Street, A georgetowncollective/events R

Thursday, April 4

Egypt's Golden Couple -**Meet the Authors**

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mark Twain Library 439 Redding Road marktwainlibrary.org R

Friday, April 5

The Nest Project Community Meeting

4:00 p.m. Learn about The Nest project, building plans, and enjoy refreshments. Joel Barlow High School 100 Black Rock Turnpike er9.org

Saturday, April 6

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Open to all residents, bring identification. Danbury Public Works 53 Newton Road Danbury hrra.org/household-hazardous-

Sunday, April 7

Redding Land Trust Annual Meeting

waste

Open meeting with updates followed by a reception. 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Highstead 127 Lonetown Road reddingctlandtrust.org

Saturday, April 13

Founding Fathers Lecture Series: Thomas Jefferson

2:00 p.m. Author Kevin R.C. Gutzman discusses Jefferson's complex philosophy and radical ideals. Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road

Saturday, April 27

Battle of Ridgefield Walking Tour

10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. Living history walking tour of Revolutionary War sites. Meet at Casagmo Condominium Complex Ridgefield ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org \$, R

MEETINGS

Monday, April 8

Board of Finance

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room Subject to change to virtual or hybrid. 100 Hill Road townofreddingct.org

Tuesday, April 9

Redding Fire District #1 Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Redding Ridge Firehouse 186 Black Rock Turnpike townofreddingct.org

Tuesday, April 9

Planning Commission

7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room Subject to change to virtual or hybrid. 100 Hill Road

Wednesday, April 10

Zoning Commission

townofreddingct.org

7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road townofreddingct.org

Thursday, April 11

Redding Historic

Cemetery Committee 2:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road townofreddingct.org

Thursday, April 11

Gilbert and Bennett Wire Mill

Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m. Virtual

us06web.zoom.us/j/8480388388

Tuesday, April 16

Conservation Commission

7:00 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road townofreddingct.org

Tuesday, April 16

Zoning Board of Appeals

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Virtual Us06web.zoom.us/j/87581133126

Tuesday, April 16

Board of Selectmen

7:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road townofreddingct.org

Wednesday, April 17

Water Pollution Control Commission

7:30 p.m. Virtual

Thursday, April 18

Historic Review Committee Town Hall / Hearing Room 100 Hill Road Subject to change to virtual or hybrid as necessary

Monday, April 22

Board of Finance

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Town Hall / Hearing Room Subject to change to virtual or hybrid. 100 Hill Road townofreddingct.org

Tuesday, April 23

Region 9 Board of Education

7:00 p.m. JBHS Learning Commons 100 Black Rock Turnpike er9.org

Tuesday April 23

Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.

Town Hall / Hearing Room Subject to change to virtual or hybrid. 100 Hill Road townofreddingct.org

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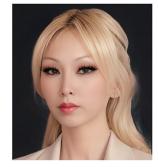
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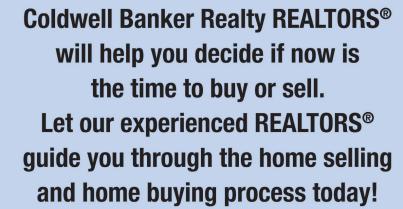
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