Haddam Killingworth News

AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COVERING HADDAM, HIGGANUM, HADDAM NECK AND KILLINGWORTI

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July 29, 2021

For breaking news go to HK-Now.com every day

Free weekly

McDougall Celebrates Silver Anniversary at KAA

By Clark Judge.

Most people don't remember where they were or what they were doing 50 years ago this weekend.

Don McDougall is not most people.

Ask him what happened on July 17, 1971, and he's ready with a response: He answered his first call for the Killingworth Ambulance Association, transporting a patient who'd been stung by a bee to a nearby Middlesex Hospital clinic.

So why is that noteworthy? Because 50 years later, Don McDougall – now 87 — is still connected with the KAA. He serves on its board of directors.

"Fifty years?" said an incredulous Charlie Smith, first president of the KAA. "That's got to be some kind of record for continuous and faithful service."

Maybe. Probably. Nobody is sure. It doesn't matter to the taciturn McDougall, who's spent much of his life volunteering in Killingworth. He's been on the KAA board of directors for three decades and didn't quit serving as an EMT until he turned 80.

"Time flies," he said. "I don't even think about it."
Until, that is, you ask him about his first ambulance experience. Then it all comes back in detail. After taking a phone call from the Clinton dispatch, he jumped into his tan '64 Plymouth Valiant and rushed to pick up the KAA ambulance – a used 1964 Cadillac bought earlier



that year in Greenwich for \$3,000.

Then it was off to Stevens Road, home of the victim, where he was joined by attendant Romanie Klein-Robbenhaar. Together they loaded the patient on to a stretcher and hoisted her into the back of the ambulance. Then they drove away, with McDougall at the wheel.

"The big thing I remember that day," he said, "is the kids crying when we put their mother in the ambulance."

Continued on page HK5

Haddam Receives Check for \$10,516 from CIRMA

By Robert McGarry, First Selectman.

On Tuesday First Selectman McGarry accepted a check for \$10,516 from the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA). CIRMA provides Workers' Compensation, liability, vehicle, property and other insurance for Haddam. The check represents Haddam's share of CIRMA's equity distribution program which returns excess surplus (reserve) funds to the member towns.

Photo by JoAnn Ricciardelli.



First Selectman Robert McGarry and Carol Fitzsimons, Senior Underwriter, CIRMA

Congratulations HKSC 2021 U12 Boys Team

By Jen LoGiudice.

(July 16, 2021) — The Haddam-Killingworth Soccer Club U12 boys team had a fantastic spring season!

They won their division at the Clinton Invitational Soccer Tournament and they also won their division in the CJSA South Central District League. The undefeated team was coached by Alex Malangone. "Thank you for a great season. There was hard work, big efforts, and all heart from everyone," Malangone said.

The team players include Levi Batt, Massimo Malangone, Samuel Malangone, Sebastian Morales, Ben Murphy, Alex O'Rourke, Luca Piacenta, Mark Pietruszka, Max Pizzorusso, Aaron Richwine, San Sirico, Cole Therrien and Aaron Torres.



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Blue Origin's Rocket, New Shepard Blasts Off!

By Sharon Challenger.

On July 20, 1969, the world witnessed the American astronauts on Apollo 11 land on the moon. When Neil Armstrong stepped off the spacecraft and walked upon the moon's surface, it was "one giant leap for mankind."

On that historic day, many dreamed of a day when space travel would be available to anyone who would like to "boldly go where no man has gone before."

Fast forward to, July 20, 2021, the 52nd anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, his brother Mark Bezos, an investor and volunteer firefighter, Wally Funk, a Mercury 13 aviator (age 82) and physics student, Oliver Daemen (age 18) participated in the first crewed flight on Blue Origin's space rocket New Shepard. The spacecraft is named after Alan Shepard, who became the first American into space 1961.

Wally Funk was the youngest graduate of the Woman in Space Program, a privately-funded project which tested female pilots for astronaut fitness in the 1960's. The First Lady Astronaut Trainees (FLAT) were a group of women pilots qualified to fly in space but excluded because of their gender.

During the early days of the space age women were never considered as astronaut candidates. Prior to 1983, American human spaceflight was a male-only affair. That changed however on June 18, 1983, when Sally Ride became the first American woman to go into space on the space shuttle Challenger.

Prior to July 20, 2021, New Shepard performed 15 tests without a crew on board. New Shepard is about sixty feet in height and is completely automated. It is launched like a conventional rocket, but the booster returns to the launchpad making it reusable. The crew capsule returns to Earth with the help of 3 parachutes which slow its decent to less than 20 mph before it lands. Unlike NASA rockets, the crew capsule returns to land rather than the sea. The flights last approximately eleven minutes,

three of which, allow passengers to experience weightlessness.

Along with the crew, several pieces of aviation history were on board the space flight: a medallion from the first hot air balloon, a piece of canvas from the Wright Flyer, and a pair of Amelia Earhart's aviator goggles. "I like to think that if Amelia were here, she would be very proud of Wally," Bezos said, referring to his fellow astronaut Wally Funk.

During their minutes of weightlessness, a video showed the four floating inside the capsule. Some did somersaults, cheered, and threw ping pong balls and shared Skittles candies.

Bezos declared it as being the "Best day ever!" when the capsule touched down in a remote area the west Texas desert. They were met by friends and family and were eager to share their adventure.

Upon landing the ground crew rapidly drove to the landing site and prepared for the astronauts to exit. The vessel has to be grounded before the hatch can be opened because a significant electric charge builds up and can be quite strong after space travel.

At the press conference later, the astronauts spoke about their experience. "I've been waiting a long time to finally get up there," Funk said after the flight.

"It was incredibly exhilarating," Mark Bezos said. When Jeff Bezos was asked if his future plans include more spaceflights, he replied, "Hell yes, how fast can you refuel that thing? Let's go!"

For those interested, Blue Origin has a spot on its website where you can reserve your interest for future flights.

"You'll receive early access to pricing information and tickets when we open reservations," the company has promised.







It seems that Neil Armstrong's prediction 52 years ago has come true, it was indeed, "one giant leap for mankind." Today, it seems the "giant leap" is available to anyone who aspires to dream big! *Photos by Blue Origin*.

Inventories on wood, gas & pellet stoves, inserts & fireplaces are LOW! There is a shortage of raw materials to manufacture these supplemental heating products. If you are considering purchasing supplemental heat sources to reduce your oil and electric prices, start the process now!

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Special Meeting Approves Funds for Sewer System Design

By Edward Munster.

This Special Town Meeting, held at the Firehouse Community Room (July 15, 2021), was attended by all three members of the Board of Selectmen, several members of the Board of Finance and about 20 Haddam residents.

Town Clerk Scott Brookes read the published call of the meeting which included seven items. William Bowles was elected to be Moderator by a unanimous voice vote.

Jason Lonergan, Jennifer O'Neal, Peter Christopher, and David Law were appointed to the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority for the fiscal year 2021-2022:

The meeting approved the transfer of \$35,423.05 to cover the over expended costs of the Scovil resource dam and \$17,385.76 to cover the over expended costs for the 20-22B Freightliner 1145D as recommended by the Board of Finance.

The meeting voted to increase by \$145,600 the project authorization for the Beaver Meadow Culvert as recommended by the BOF. Half of the increase \$72,800 will be funded by a State grant and the other half will be funded by transfers from two projects already bonded by the Town. Marge Debold asked for an explanation of the increase in cost of the culvert. First Selectman Robert McGarry answered that culvert will need to be designed, the road will need to be torn up and rebuilt and the utilities will need to be temporarily moved and then relocated as before. The motion passed unanimously by a voice

vote.

The meeting approved unanimously \$21,000 for the purchase for of the McCann Property which is about quarter acre and is needed for access to Higganum Cove area.

The meeting approved unanimously the recommendation of the BOF to authorize \$1,870,000 for the remediation of the property at 11 Candlewood Hill Road using a grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development.

The meeting considered the approval of the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant of \$128,205 from the State Department of Office and Policy and Management. Specifically, it was stated that "the Town shall use said [these] funds for [the] Higganum Community Sewer Project -[for the] Plan and design of the community sewer design/engineering only." Considerable discussion ensued on the matter. Resident Maurice Adams made a brief presentation to make the point that priorities appear to have shifted. in the town's ten year capital plan. Adams pointed out that the town's Ten Year Capital Plan for Higganum Sewer funding has gone from \$6.5million in the 2020 Plan to zero in the 2022 Plan. He proposed that the motion be amended to state that the Higganum Community Sewer Project be Priority #1 for the Town. Selectman Sean Moriarty stated that it might not be legal to make a change in the wording of this item from how it had been published in the legal

call of the meeting. Many comments from various attendees supported the project. Raul deBrigard asked if anyone at the meeting opposed the sewer project and no one voiced opposition. Mark Lundgren then asked the moderator to call the vote on the motion before the meeting which was to approve the STEAP Grant as stated in the original call. This required an immediate vote which passed unanimously. At this point FS McGarry asked Mr. Adams to attend the next meeting of the BOS to discuss the matter and McGarry indicated that the BOS would very likely vote to go on record stating that this Sewer Project would take on #1 Priority for the town.

The town meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Stay in the Game

From Town of Haddam.

(July 21, 2021) The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), and many youth sports organizations in our state are joining together in this message to encourage interscholastic Athletic Directors and other youth athletic team administrators to help all of their athletes 12 years and older stay on the field and in the classroom this fall by helping them get vaccinated.

The Pfizer vaccine is currently approved for youth aged 12 and older. It requires two shots, scheduled 3 weeks apart, which means athletes and coaches should get vaccinated now to be ready for the Fall sport season.

For more info: vaccinateathletes_final_072021.pdf

BBQ Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru August 7

By Linda Ursin.

(July 20, 2021) — Haddam Neck Covenant Church is hosting a BBQ Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru Takeout Event on August 7, 2021, by reservation only. Some outdoor seating is available by reservation. This is the famous BBQ chicken the Church has sold at the Haddam Neck Fair for over 40 years. The dinner includes a BBQ thigh/leg chicken quarter, baked beans, coleslaw and corn bread for \$10.00 (cash only please).

Please call in your reservation to the HNCC Church office at 860-267-2336 and indicate your

pick-up time: 12-1, 1-2, or 3-4, 4-5, 5-6 p.m. Reserve a table if you would like outdoor seating. Order deadline is August

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Road in East Hampton, the road to the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 4:30.

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New Marijuana Law is Not a Free Pass in Workers' Compensation By Attorney Alexander J. Sarris

On July 1, 2021, Connecticut was the 19th state to legalize recreational marijuana usage which remains an illegal drug under federal law. As such, it is now legal under Connecticut law for a person 21 or older to possess or consume up to 1.5 ounces of marijuana / cannabis plant material and maintain up to 5 ounces in a locked container at a residence or in the trunk or locked glove box of a motor vehicle.

The new legislation is not an invitation for a free for all at the jobsite: smoking marijuana at the workplace or within 25 feet of an entrance remains prohibited. Also, even legal use of marijuana or alcohol on your own time at home may jeopardize an otherwise valid workers' compensation claim.

How so? If an injured person was (1) intoxicated or under the influence at the time of the injury **and** (2) the intoxication was a substantial factor in the injury then there will be a presumption the injury is not compensable through workers' compensation. The lesson here is that a decision to drink or smoke may have repercussions on events several hours later, particularly if that usage impaired judgment and directly caused the injury.

If you have questions regarding intoxicating substances and the workplace, please call **Dzialo**, **Pickett & Allen**, **P.C.** for a legal consultation.

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HK Coalition Attends CADCA's Mid-Year Training Institute

By Matt McEwen.

Higganum, CT – HK's Healthy Community Healthy Kids (HC-HK) Coalition virtually joined thousands of substance use and misuse prevention specialists and community coalition advocates from July 9 - 15, 2021, for CADCA's (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's) 20th Annual Mid-Year Training Institute.

"Our coalition was honored to be part of CADCA's Mid-Year Training Institute," stated Matt McEwen, Prevention Coordinator for HK Youth and Family Services (HKYFS). "During the week, we worked on building our skills and strategies to address substance misuse issues throughout Haddam-Killingworth. We also got the opportunity to network and share strategies with fellow coalition leaders, which sparked new substance misuse prevention ideas to incorporate into our community. Three members of our coalition attended the training

institute. We hope to grow that number next year."

The theme of this year's CADCA Mid-Year Training Institute was "Every Day CADCA Trains: Community Coalition Leaders." More than 100 sessions were offered over five days of training for adults, youth, and international prevention advocates featuring a plethora of topics ranging from addressing the unique needs of LGBTQ+ youth, to the state of science with Marijuana and Opioids, and the prevention of underage drinking.

McEwen, a 2010 HKHS graduate, is the newest among the ranks at HKYFS. As Prevention Coordinator, he will actively mobilize volunteers and community groups across all sectors of the HK community to strengthen and expand the reach of HKYFS and the HC-HK Coalition. "I am thrilled to give back to my community in this role and I look forward to advancing the Coalition's mission of preventing and reducing substance abuse,

especially among HK youth. The skills we learned through CADCA's Mid-Year Training Institute will significantly enhance our initiatives and further our impact," McEwen stated.

Mid-Year attendees also had the opportunity to open a dialogue with some of the nation's top prevention leaders, who featured as speakers for the event. This year's featured speakers included Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Regina LaBelle, Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, George F. Koob , M.D., Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Robert L. DuPont , M.D., President of the Institute for Behavior and Health, Bertha K. Madras, Ph.D., Professor of Psychobiology Department of Psychiatry Harvard Medical School, and many more.

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Please visit www.haddam.org, www. townofkillingworth,com or hk-now.com for the most current information, including cancellations, location changes, time changes. See hk-now.com for more information on calendar items.

Thursday, July 29

Make Your Own Puppet – KW Library 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Craft and create a new friend at our make your own puppet program! Suggested ages 6 – 12. PLEASE NOTE: All of our summer programs will be held outside on the library's grounds. Adults must remain with their children during the duration of the event.

Please register online killingworthlibrary.org/. Registration for this program reserves one activity table, with room for multiple family members. Please indicate the number of children in your group on the registration form.

Want to do a show? See the calendar for July 31st Haddam ZBA Mtg. 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Killingworth Joint Pension Comm. Mtg.-

Municipal Emp, Pension Trustees 3:00 p.m. Town Office Building.

Friday, July 30

Higganum Farmers Market 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **Entertainment - Gale Gardiner Kid Day** (Concert on the Green 7:00 p.m. TBD)

HK Rec Dept Outdoor Concert Series: Great Hill Mountain Band 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Free Outdoor Summer Concerts sponsored by the HK Recreation Department! Bring a blanket or a chair to enjoy an evening of live entertainment at the Higganum Town Green or Parmelee Farm. Fun for the whole family!

The Great Hill Mountain Band hails from Portland, Connecticut. They are an award-winning country music band, together for 27 years, playing a mix of modern Texas-style country music as well as southern and classic rock. Over the years, the Great Hill Mountain Band has played at bars, fairs, private parties and many park and recreation summer concert events. They are known for their energy, enthusiasm and harmonies that will appeal to all ages and keep them dancing until the end of

the evening.

Saturday, July 31

Puppet Show – KW Library 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Come join us for fun and fairytales at our puppet show! Presented by our very own intern Hana. Suggested ages 2- 5. PLEASE NOTE: All of our summer programs will be held outside on the library's grounds. Adults must remain with their children during the duration of the event. Register online https://killingworthlibrary.org/

The stage will be left in place for children to present their own puppet show! Just ask to reserve a time!

Open Mic – Higganum United Methodist Church 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The Higganum United Methodist Church's outreach, intergenerational, audience-participation hot spot invites musicians, singers, poets and comedians to the stage. Open Mic: sing, play an instrument, tell a joke or recite a poem, OR just come! FUN for all ages!!

Monday, August 2

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Killingworth Charter Revision Comm. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (remote access)

Tuesday, August 3

RSD#17 BOE Mtg. 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Central

Thursday, August 5

Reptile Decorating KW Library 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

"Why does it always have to be snakes???"
Come be braver than Indiana Jones and decorate your own wooden snake! Suggested ages 6 – 12.

PLEASE NOTE: All of our summer programs will be held outside on the library's grounds. Adults must remain with their children during the duration of the event. Register online https://killingworthlibrary.org/Parmelee Farm Comm. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. – 9:00

p.m. Parmelee Farm.

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Mosquito Control through Larvicides

By Sharon Challenger.

From July 21-23, 2021, the storm drains in Haddam were being treated with a larvicide to help cull the mosquito population in our neighborhoods.

The company hired to apply the larvicide, Innovative Mosquito Management, Inc. www. innovativemosquitomanagement.com is headquartered in Madison, Connecticut.

According to the company website, owner Kurt Ehrhart worked for DEEP in the 1980's on the State's mosquito control program. He has over 30-years-experience providing mosquito control services for towns, state and federal agencies, and residential properties.

The name of the product which was applied is VectoLex, a biological larvicide made by Valent BioSciences. It contains a bacterial active ingredient called Bacillus sphaericus (Bsph) which is classified as an organic compound.

The Goal

The purpose of Larviciding is to kill mosquito larvae or pupae or to otherwise prevent emergence of adult mosquitoes.

How Bsph works

The spores in Bsph produce toxins which are target specific and only affect mosquitoes, black flies and fungus gnats. It is particularly effective in waters high in organic matter such as catch basins, animal waste lagoons, and stagnant ponds.

Bsph spores produce complex crystal proteins which when ingested by mosquito larvae rupture the gut of the larvae. Death usually follows quickly within 24 hours and sooner under ideal conditions. Bsph does not interfere with other wildlife present in or around the treated water.

The VectoLex brochure found here: www. valentsciences.com contains the following information:

VectoLex Mode of Action

- Mosquito larvae ingest Bsph protoxin
- Protoxin activated in alkaline environment of the midgut
- Larval proteolytic enzymes break down activated protoxin into polypeptide fractions
- Polypeptide fractions act on midgut cells
- Midgut cells lyse
- Larvae die

Purpose of the Application

Facts from www.worldmosquitoprogram.org
When a mosquito feeds on blood, it also swallows
any viruses or parasites living in the blood. These
viruses and parasites can be transferred to the next
person the mosquito bites through its saliva. Any
disease that is spread in this way from mosquito to
human (or animal) is known as a 'mosquito-borne
disease'.

- Nearly 700 million people contract mosquito borne illnesses each year
- Mosquito borne illnesses result in over 1 million deaths annually
- Common types of mosquito-borne diseases include malaria, dengue, West Nile virus, chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika

Information from the State of Connecticut (July 2, 2021) State Reports Positive Mosquitoes for West Nile Virus in Milford

First WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools of Season
New Haven – The State of Connecticut Mosquito
Management Program (MMP) announced that
mosquitoes trapped in Milford on June 21 tested
positive for West Nile virus (WNV). These results
represent the first WNV positive mosquitoes
identified in the state by the Connecticut
Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) this year.
Connecticut residents are reminded to protect
themselves from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne

"The West Nile virus season has begun with the first detection of virus in mosquitoes," said Dr. Philip Armstrong, Medical Entomologist at the CAES. "This is earlier than usual, and we anticipate further build-up of the virus from now through September."

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes residents should:

- Minimize time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight-fitting and in good repair.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a longsleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time, or when mosquitoes are more active. Clothing should be light colored and made of tightly woven materials that keep mosquitoes away from the skin.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure and to protect small babies when outdoors.
- Consider the use of an EPA-approved mosquito repellent and apply according to directions when it is necessary to be outdoors.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE HK1

McDougall Celebrates Silver Anniversary at KAA

Continued from page HK1

There were three of them. Two girls, ages 5 and 6, and a small boy who was 3-1/2.

"I guess they were scared," said Sue Browne.
She would know. She's their mother. She was
also the patient, summoning the ambulance after
experiencing an adverse reaction to a bee sting. First,
she said, she started itching. Then she broke out in
hives. Soon, she became disoriented and had to sit
down, settling into a recliner when the ambulance
was called.

"It was unusual," she said. "I was kinda out of it. I didn't realize how serious things were."

Nevertheless, she remembers the ambulance arriving ... and a stretcher transporting her from her house ... the kids outside ... the ride to the clinic ... and her release roughly one hour later after she was treated and cleared by physicians.

Like McDougall, she cannot forget.

"It's a blessing that the ambulance showed up," she said. "Otherwise, I wouldn't have made it. They saved my life, and I'm very grateful."

Today, she and McDougall's wife, Marion, are what Browne calls "the best of friends." The two get together on Mondays to play cards, join in Scrabble or work on crafts, and for years their husbands regularly joined them for Saturday dinners following church.

Then COVID hit. That marked one of the few interruptions in McDougall's last 50 years.

A mechanic who in 1971 worked nights at Pratt and Whitney, he joined the KAA after answering a knock one afternoon on his front door. Standing in front of him was Marge Gaylord, a board member of the newly formed ambulance association.

"She asked if I could help out with the ambulance," McDougall said. "They were looking for somebody during the day, and I said, 'OK.' There was a need at the time, and I felt I could help with that need. I

never really thought about how long I'd be doing it. I just did it."

Which pretty much sums up McDougall's adult life.

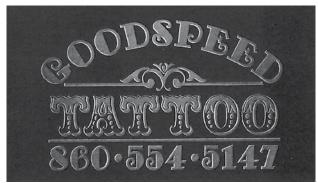
He worked 30 years at Pratt and Whitney, becoming the maintenance supervisor before leaving at the age of 58. "Looking for something to do," as he put it, he took an income tax course at H&R Block and became a part-time accountant. He did that for 25 years. He was an assistant scout leader with the Boy Scouts. He hiked the 273-mile Long Trail, running the length of Vermont. He did it three times. He just returned from his second camping trip this summer. He's the town's Emergency Operations Manager, working with the Emergency Operations office the past 25 years. He volunteers with CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Now he observes his silver anniversary with the KAA.

In short, Don McDougall has never stopped.

"I can tell you why I do a lot of this," he said. "I had a friend that retired, and all he did was go to the refrigerator and get a beer, sit down and watch TV and then go out and pick up the mail. He did that for a couple or three years, and he died. He didn't do anything. When I retired, I just couldn't sit around do nothing. I had to do something."

He's still doing it.

"Why?" he said. "Because I can, I guess. If you can't do anything, what are you living for?"





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Garrick York, owner

Blue Fire Stage Company Presents - Another Evening of Inappropriate Songs

By Rebecca Degnan.

(July 20, 2021) — Blue Fire Stage Company is excited to present Another Evening of Inappropriate Song! If you were among the sold-out audiences at their previous EOIS performance, in late February of 2020, it was likely the last public event you attended

before the world shut down. If you weren't there, you may have driven by the former Haddam Elementary School on one of those evenings and wondered why the parking lots were so full. Audiences

roared with laughter at Blue Fire's surprising and hysterical material and super talented performers. And now, with the world slowly recovering from a difficult and emotional year, Blue Fire is

proud and excited to present Another Evening of Inappropriate Song.

Blue Fire invites you to get your friends together and treat yourself to a night of pee-your-pants laughter and the top-notch entertainment audiences have come to expect from this small but mighty local theatre company. Performances are outdoors at the Parmelee Farms pavilion, July 30 and 31, 2021.

Tickets can be purchased at bluefirestage. ticketleap.com/eois21. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and if the last EOIS is any indication, they are likely to sell out. Get yours today!

CAMPUS CORNER

Merit Pages News.

Jackson Mirmina Named to Hofstra University' Spring 2021 Dean's List

HEMPSTEAD, NY (07/22/2021) – Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List for their outstanding academic achievement. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List.

• Jackson Mirmina of Higganum, CT Annemarie LePard Named to Spring 2021 Provost's List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, NY (07/22/2021) – Annemarie LePard of Higganum, CT achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the Spring 2021 semester, earning a spot on the Provost's List at Hofstra University. Sydni Therrien Named to Cazenovia College Dean's

CAZENOVIA, NY (07/21/2021)-- Sydni Therrien of Haddam, CT was named to the Cazenovia College Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester. Those named to the Dean's List have achieved a 3.5 or better grade point average.

Local Students Receive Degrees from Rochester Institute of Technology

ROCHESTER, NY (07/19/2021) – Rochester Institute of Technology conferred more than 4,000 degrees at all of its campuses in the 2020-2021 academic year. Due to New York state COVID-19 occupancy restrictions, commencement was celebrated May 14-15 in smaller ceremonies by college and were live-streamed for graduates' family and friends.

• Freddy Stock of Haddam received a BS in applied mathematics.

• Benjamin Blair of Higganum received a BS in computing and information technologies.

Local Students Placed on Spring 2021 Dean's Commendation List

GETTYSBURG, PA (07/19/2021) – Gettysburg College students take pride in their work, and we are likewise proud to announce their recent academic achievements.

Students with a quality point average in the range of 3.300 to 3.599 for a semester's work were recently placed on the Deans' Commendation List.

The following students from your area have been

- placed on the Spring 2021 list:

 Andrew Donlan of Haddam
- Kerri Peoples of Higganum

Julia Callis Received President's Freshman Award at Penn State

By M. Callis.

ÚNIVERSITY PARK, PA - Penn State University President's Freshman Award

- (July 20, 2021) Julia Callis (HKHS '20) of Killingworth, CT received the President's Freshman Award at Penn State in recognition of her academic excellence which is given to freshman who have earned a 4.0 GPA.
- She also received a scholarship as she attained the top spot in her Material Science Engineering program and was nominated and joined the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the National Society of Leadership and Success Honor Societies.

New Discoveries in Science

By Sharon Challenger.

Human cells make a soap-like substance that breaks up bacteria

Researchers have reported that human cells which are not a part of our immune system, release a detergent-like protein which helps to dissolve the inner cell membrane of bacteria. Once the membrane is broken down, the protein destroys the invading bacteria.

Today's oceans hold only a fraction of shark species

Fossils found in the Pacific Ocean indicate that a massive shark extinction took place around 19 million years ago. Shark populations dropped by 90 percent and scientists are trying to understand what caused the dramatic die-off.

Elizabeth Sibert, a paleobiologist and oceanographer at Yale University stated, "Nineteen million years ago is not known as a formative time in Earth's history." So apparently climate change does not explain the mystery.

Insects had flashy noise-making wings – as early as 310 million years ago.

The discovery of a fossilized wing structure of Theiatitan Azari, a grasshopper like insect, indicate it used its wings to communicate. Researchers believe it may have made crackling noises by snapping the thin membranes of the wings together. Questions remain, did they use their wings to attract mates, or warn off predators?

Source: (https://www.sciencenews.org)

Haddam Kíllíngworth News

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CT Manufacturer Faces Difficulty Hiring Workers

By Marc Fitch, Yankee Institute. Reprinted by permission from Yankee Institute.

(July 21, 2021) — A Waterbury-based manufacturer of plastic medical devices says that for the first time they are having difficulty finding workers to fill the low-skill positions necessary to fulfill their orders and keep the business running.

President of Forum Plastics Mark Polinsky and Controller Jennifer Cory say that while higher-skilled workers have always been in short supply, they now face a shortage of minimum-wage workers they typically found through advertisements and temp agencies in the past.

"It's been very bad," Polinsky said. "We've had ten, twelve, fifteen positions that we can't fill, and it has affected our shipments and ability to produce parts." Typically, Forum Plastics employs roughly 150 people, including 80 full-time and 65 temporary positions.

A shortage of labor both in Connecticut and nationally has been the focus of much debate as COVID-pandemic restrictions recede and businesses find that many workers are slow to return.

Many have blamed the federal government's continuing unemployment benefits, which total \$300 per week, for keeping more people out of the workforce and the labor shortage has forced some of those industries to increase their salaries and benefits offered in order lure people back.

A recent survey by Morning Consult and an article by Axios found that 13.0 percent of those surveyed said the enhanced unemployment benefits were keeping them home. Axios estimated the results translate into 1.8 million people staying out of the workforce because of the unemployment payments. Gov. Ned Lamont opted to continue the federal benefits in Connecticut until they expire in September, even as 26 other states have ended the program early.

The governor, however, also reinstituted the worksearch requirement for unemployment recipients and offered a \$1,000 sign on bonus using federal pandemic relief funds.

"We saw a little bit of an uptick as a result of [the work requirement], but then we've had people come in, work for an hour or two and then just leave," Polinsky said.

Cory says that new hires from temp agencies will

come onto the job site, go through the safety protocols and then when they are shown the work they will be doing, walk out. "We've had that happen about five or six times over the past month," Cory said.

"What I think it is, is that there's high demand and people are picky," Polinsky said. "Whereas, in the past, it was people were looking for work and we were able to match a job with a person. Now it's a lot more difficult."

But for a company like Forum Plastics, finding minimum wage employees is vital to its competitiveness. Unlike a restaurant, for example, the company cannot simply increase its prices to make up for labor costs, which are already set to rise when Connecticut's minimum wage increases again in August to \$13 per hour.

That's because, like many manufacturers, they are competing on a global scale against companies based in China, Taiwan or Mexico.

"Most of our arrangements with our customers involve being able to increase prices for material goods," Polinsky said. "But most of them are not open to price increases for labor because most of our customers are sourcing things from not only around the country but from around the world."

"Raising our prices every time we have a labor cost increase, or the state has a wage increase, would cause us to be uncompetitive," Polinsky said.

Cory says that Forum Plastics has increased its shift differential and moved forward early with increasing the minimum wage to \$13 per hour ahead of the state's scheduled wage increase in an effort to attract more workers.

The company has previously said that it might have to move out of state when Connecticut's minimum wage hits \$15 per hour, which is scheduled to occur in June of 2023.

Chief economist for DataCore Partners, LLC Donald Klepper-Smith, who served as chief economic advisor under Gov. M. Jodi Rell, says "there is considerable disagreement within the economics community

around the plusses and

minuses associated with

the unprecedented amount of benefits being provided to the unemployed."

"My strong belief is that this unprecedented amount of aid – federal, state and local – is creating significant disincentives for workers to return to work, and many firms are struggling as a result," Klepper-Smith said. "Economic growth will necessarily be affected as well."

"Common sense says that when you receive more in unemployment benefits than you do during a regular workweek, you undermine economic growth as a result. It's bad policy and is setting Connecticut up for a nasty situation down the road," Klepper-Smith said.

While Connecticut has faced some of the slowest job and economic growth in the nation since the 2008 recession – and never fully recovered the jobs lost during that period – the state currently has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, according to a recent report by Wallethub.

Wallethub found Connecticut's 7.9 percent unemployment rate was tied for 50th in the country with New Mexico and overall ranked Connecticut 49th out of 51 based on changes in its unemployment between June of 2019 and June of 2021.

"We do struggle with positions across all categories, it's not just the minimum wage positions. We're having the hardest time with the minimum wage positions right now because that's the highest number of people we need," Cory said.

"With the expiring benefits, we're hoping people will have more of a desire or incentive to go back to work. Everything I see, or that has been published, says people are choosing not to go back to work," Polinsky said. "Hopefully we'll see that there are more people interested in employment."

The federal unemployment benefits are set to expire in September.



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Chamber Welcomes Rep. Courtney to Virtual Chamber Luncheon

By Sierra Lopez.

(Middletown, CT.) Chairwoman, Maureen Westbrook of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce announced that United States Representative, Joe Courtney will serve as keynote speaker at a Virtual Chamber Luncheon Meeting on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

The Virtual Luncheon Meeting, sponsored by Tower Laboratories LTD, will be held via Zoom from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Congressman Courtney's district includes many of the down-county towns within the chamber's service area. His remarks will touch on the important issues that he is working on as he represents his constituents in Washington, D.C. including COVID-19 recovery, infrastructure, American Rescue Plan Funds, manufacturing and the defense sector in Connecticut, and much

Congressman Courtney serves on the House Armed Services Committee, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, and on the House Education and Labor Committee.

Chamber President Larry McHugh noted, "We are thrilled to welcome United States Representative, Joe Courtney and look

forward to hearing his remarks. I would like to thank him for speaking to our members and thank Tower Laboratories LTD for their sponsorship of what is sure to be another great virtual event."

The cost is \$10 for Chamber Members and \$15 for non-members.

Advance registration is required, please register online: www. middlesexchamber.com

DEATHS

John Lewis Kruger, 88, a lifelong resident of Haddam Neck, passed away on July 16th at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Angela Patricia Vitali, 85, formerly of Durham, wife of the late Lawrence John Vitali, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

LEGAL NOTICE

KILLINGWORTH LEGAL NOTICE

The Killingworth Conservative Party will hold its Biennial Organizational meeting on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at 7:00pm, at 154 Schnoor Road, Killingworth, CT 06419. John Samperi, KCP Chairman.

The Town of Haddam shall endeavor to post its Legal Notices with the Haddam News publication. In the event that the weekly publication cannot meet the Town's statutory requirements, the Middletown Press or Hartford Courant shall be utilized to meet said statutory deadlines. Courtesy copies will be published to Haddam News that may or may not be timely. The Town's website is: www.haddam.org.







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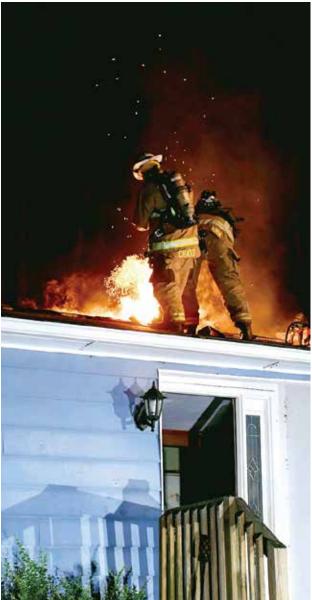
By Olivia Drake, HVFC.

(July 17, 2021) Haddam Volunteer Fire Company, along with several mutual aid companies, responded to a structure fire at 10:15 p.m. July 17 on Chamberlain Hill Road. All occupants were able to exit the home safely prior to crews arriving on scene.

The fire is under investigation with the Haddam Fire Marshal's Office.

Photos by Olivia Drake, HVFC.









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Outstanding Coast Guard Band Concert in Haddam

By Stew Gillmor.

On Sunday evening, July 18, 2021 the U.S. Coast Guard Band clarinet quartet gave a well-received concert of American and American-influenced music at the Thankful Arnold House in Haddam, home of the Haddam Historical Society. The clarinet quartet has regularly performed recitals and given master classes for audiences across the nation as part of the Coast Guard Band's Clamber Players concert

series. The group performed for the Haddam audience a program entitled "Sounds of America" which focused on American composers and themes, including works by Gershwin, Copland, W.C. Handy and "The American String Quartet, No. 12" by Antonin Dvorak, written in 1893. This work is in F major, in four movements, and arranged here for four clarinets. The Dvorak Suite was the main element of the evening's performance and was outstanding.

The four Coast Guard Band musicians included Chief Musician Chantal Hovendick, and Musicians

First Class Christopher Howard, Steven Zhang and Robert Durie. The talented Coast Guard musicians brought and performed on the soprano clarinet in Bb, and in Eb. the Bass Clarinet in BBb and the rather rare Basset Horn in F. In this reviewer's opinion the evening was a great success.

The Haddam Historical Society will present two

more summer concerts as part of their Music in the Museum Gardens series. On August 8, 2021 the Old Lyme Town Band will appear, and on August 15, 2021 the troubadour Tom Callinan. Concerts are FREE to all, but donations are accepted. The grounds are open at 5:00 p.m. to picnic and the concerts begin at 6:00 p.m. The Thankful Arnold House Museum is located at 14 Hayden Hill Road, in Haddam.

Why not join the Haddam Historical Society?

The Society hosts many education programs for children and adults, including school children, and a summer program for children 8 to 12. It hosts historical tours of local homes and sites and is a member of the Connecticut Women's Heritage Trail. Its considerable collections of photographs, letters, journals, maps, tools, and other artifacts are catalogued and available to residents, historians, scholars and students. The herb gardens behind the museum are designated as one of Connecticut's

Historic Gardens.

Call 860-345-2400 or see the website at www.haddamhistory.org for information and museum hours.

Photos by YN1 Scott Turner, USCG.





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