

D*Hoffman* DECADES

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

Five Standout Secondary School Athletes



2015 Audi A3
Review
See page 22

Chrissy Bendzinski
RHAM

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WELCOME

TO OUR SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE OF *DECADES*!

If readers glance at the photo at the bottom of this page, they will see that Jonathan T. Hoffman has joined us as head of Corporate Operations & Legal Counsel, just further proof that Hoffman Auto Group is not just metaphorically but literally—one big happy family! We're a business with a huge amount of heart.

Perhaps nowhere do we wear that metaphoric heart on our sleeve more than in our support of worthy causes. In this issue, writer Rebecca Cretella brings you twin philanthropic stories. The first is on the good work of the Carmen & Frank Mangini (CFM) Foundation and its annual Football Fundamentals Mini-Camp, the second on the good work of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp (HITWGC) in Ashford, including its relationship with the Travelers Championship.

There's inspiration a-plenty in our cover story, written by Melinda Tuhus and photographed by Nick Caito, on five standout secondary school athletes, including charming cover girl Chrissy Bendzinski, a nationally ranked middle distance runner for RHAM in Hebron.

But that's not all we have for readers. In a pair of stories by cultural contributor Christopher Arnott, we look in "Memory Lane 2014" at a year notable for an exceptional number of important anniversaries, and in "Where Are They Now?" at roughly three dozen past Connecticut celebrities to see how their careers panned out and what they're up to now.

And finally, because we're still an automobile company magazine, we have a review of the audacious, all-new 2015 Audi A3. It's one sweet ride. May your lives be as well!

So we hope you enjoy this issue. We're thankful for your continued loyalty and support.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MUSTO

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Hoffman Leads the Way with Audi Veterans to Technicians Program

Audi of America, Inc. established the Audi Veterans to Technicians Program to meet the growing and predicted future dealership demand for talented and experienced technicians, and Hoffman was an early adopter of the program. Currently, two returning veterans are in apprenticeship at our Audi dealerships. These young, disciplined, skilled veterans just needed an opportunity, and Hoffman Audi is proud to have taken the initiative to participate in this beneficial program. Of the three candidates sent to us through Audi Veterans to Technicians, one (Gary Garvin) was hired at Audi of New London while another (Isaac Diaz) was hired at Audi of East Hartford. Before the Audi program began, Ryann Gummoe who served in Afghanistan, was hired as an apprentice at Hoffman Porsche.

Isaac Diaz (left) working under a watchful eye at Hoffman Audi in East Hartford.

Hoffman Honda Congratulates Third Master Tech

Thien (Ty) Ly was awarded Master Tech certification following a rigorous 15 years of study and the successful completion of a multitude of examinations. Obtaining this certification designates Ty as a Honda service technician possessing the highest level of professional qualifications within the company's service training program. As automotive technology continues to increase in sophistication, technicians require sophisticated technical skills as well as advanced electronics and computer skills. There are only 31 total Master Technicians out of the 16 Honda dealership district that Hoffman Honda resides in. Ty Ly proudly joins two other Master Technicians (Eric Dalka and Jose Pena) at Hoffman Honda. By supporting Ty and others on their path to this grand achievement, Hoffman Auto Group continues to demonstrate commitment to providing growth and advancement opportunities for employees. Hoffman Honda now stands out among all Honda dealerships in our Connecticut district, for having the deepest bench of highly trained technicians to serve customers.

Pictured (left to right): Jose Pena; Matthew S. Hoffman, Vice President of Hoffman Auto Group; Eric Dalka; Ty Ly; Dwight Dery, Hoffman Honda Service Manager; I. Bradley Hoffman, Co-Chairman of Hoffman Auto Group; Jonathan T. Hoffman, Corporate Operations and Legal Counsel of Hoffman Auto Group.



Hoffman Employees Take on the Urban Fitness Challenge!

In support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford, our Hoffman AutoBots team had a fantastic time at the Urban Fitness Challenge last October. Hundreds of participants pushed themselves to the limit in order to raise funds to support the afterschool meals initiative called the Kids' Cafe Program. For every registration fee collected, one deserving child in Hartford is guaranteed to have dinner on the table for four months.

Participants competed in a demanding obstacle course of ropes, tires, PVC pipes, sandbags and more. Our team showed its determination and endurance.

Hoffman Continues Support of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

The Hoffman Auto Group proudly presented a donation to MADD for \$11,375 in support of the group's continued efforts to educate the public and put an end to drunk driving, support victims of drunk driving and prevent underage drinking. Hoffman has partnered with MADD in support of their mission since 2003 with \$194,690 raised. Every December for the previous 18 years, red ribbons have been displayed on all Hoffman vehicles to raise awareness.

Pictured from left: Matthew S. Hoffman, Vice President; Jeffrey S. Hoffman, Co-Chairman; Paula D'Agostino, MADD Program Specialist; Janice Margolis, MADD Executive Director; I. Bradley Hoffman, Co-Chairman; Jonathan T. Hoffman, Corporate Operations and Legal Counsel.



New Owner Technology Events

Nearly every month, one of our Hoffman Service Departments hosts a new owners' technology event, providing customers detailed information on how to get the most out of their vehicle's technology. It is an opportunity for customers to ask questions of our technicians as well as observe demonstrations. Every customer who purchases a new vehicle is automatically invited to attend the next event held at the dealership where they made their purchase.

Hoffman Continues to Support FAVARH

FAVARH is a local chapter of the Arc, a community-based organization for people with intellectual, physical and developmental disabilities. FAVARH supports more than 350 children, young adults, adults, seniors and families throughout the Greater Farmington Valley area. Its mission is to help each person achieve his or her personal best as they encourage and support a greater level of independence and personal satisfaction. Hoffman Auto Group is a proud sponsor of FAVARH again this year to assist in meeting their goals in the community.

Pictured (left to right): Jeffrey S. Hoffman, Co-Chairman of the Hoffman Auto Group; Matthew S. Hoffman, Vice President of the Hoffman Auto Group; Stephen Morris, Executive Director of FAVARH; I. Bradley Hoffman, Co-Chairman of the Hoffman Auto Group.



2014 Porsche Panamera Launch

Hoffman Porsche held an unveiling of the all-new 2014 Porsche Panamera. The redesigned luxury vehicle is a thrilling contradiction in that it behaves like a sports car but provides the luxury of a sedan. Guests enjoyed a selection of German beer and wine along with a diverse selection of hors d'oeuvre. The highlight of the evening was the contradictory tastes of the menu. Everyone enjoyed the Mexican Chipotle Chocolate Short Ribs. Each of our guests received a complimentary Panamera to take home . . . of course it was only a scale model.

Hoffman Continues Support of Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation

Hoffman was visited by Tonka and Macey, two Fidelco Guide Dogs in training. The Hoffman Auto Group is proud to continue supporting Fidelco. Fidelco partners with volunteers who help care for German Shepherd puppies and participate in the Puppy Raiser program for two years. The goal is to match highly trained and loving guide dogs to individuals who are blind. Check out the ways to get involved from fun events for all ages to raising a guide dog at www.fidelco.org

Pictured from left: Matthew S. Hoffman, Vice President; I. Bradley Hoffman, Co-Chairman; Tonka; Jeffrey S. Hoffman, Co-Chairman; Eliot D. Russman, Fidelco CEO; Macey; Jonathan T. Hoffman, Corporate Operations and Legal Counsel.



500 Attend American Heart Association Go Red for Women Luncheon

In March, heart disease survivor, Lauren Shields, was joined on stage by I. Bradley Hoffman, after sharing her story of hope and inspiration. Lauren's compelling speech detailed how she benefitted from AHA-funded research, allowing her to receive a proper diagnosis and subsequent heart transplant five years ago. She encouraged everyone to consider donating and "pay it forward" so others can benefit and live long, healthy lives. Mr. Hoffman thanked current supporters and encouraged all attendees to give generously to aid in the battle against the #1 killer of all women—heart disease.



Lexus Elite Lounge Provides Luxurious Environment for Customers

Our new spacious Hoffman Lexus Elite Lounge is complete and provides customers exclusive areas to make a visit to Hoffman Lexus a luxurious experience.

Our convenient business area provides the opportunity to telecommute while enjoying a complimentary breakfast sandwich. The comfort is beyond compare, with our leather reclining seating and two-sided fireplace. There is also a quiet room on one side of the fireplace as well as a family room for parents and children. What are people saying? "Lexus has an elegant, comfortable service area complete with fireplaces, reclining furniture, computers and snacks, making any service there quite enjoyable. I will never not own a Lexus and will always go to Hoffman." ~ Shelley K. "I waited in the newly-designed lounge—very comfortable. Love the breakfast menu, as knowing I can eat while I wait makes it that much easier to get up and out the door on appointment day. Good complimentary Wi-Fi connection." ~ Diana R.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford-Hoffman (BGCH) Basketball League Receives Continued Support

The Hoffman Auto Group continues in its 14th year providing support to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford in their mission to help children grow and evolve into their full potential as caring, productive and responsible citizens. The BGCH provides boys and girls in the all-inclusive Burton C. Hoffman Basketball League fundamentals of the game and team-building skills. Members of the league are given the opportunity to participate in a sport, develop skills and provide a fun experience they may not have otherwise had.



DETAILS

By Robert Bailin

PowerAll Portable Power Bank and Car Jump Starter

The PowerAll Portable Power Bank and Car Jump Starter is a convenient and powerful device that combines three different products: a battery charger, a car jump starter, and an LED flashlight all together in one compact design that can easily fit inside your pocket, the glove box inside the vehicle, or carry-on bag for travel. It's the Swiss Army Knife of portable power bank battery chargers. Charge all of your portable electronic devices, such as smart phones, tablets, cameras and wireless headphones. It's equipped with two 5VDC / 2.1A USB ports that can charge two separate devices quickly and simultaneously. If your car won't start, use the PowerAll with the included jumper cables to boost your car battery and start your engine in a matter of seconds. Its handy Ultra-Brite LED flashlight has dual illumination modes: Constant On and SOS Signal Light. If you find yourself in an emergency situation, you can use the SOS Signal Light flash to attract attention for up to 120 hours on a full charge. \$99 on Amazon. www.thepowerall.com.



Fuloon Inflatable Backseat Car Mattress

Have you ever had the need to sleep in your car? Perhaps an unfortunate camping incident involving rain or wild animals? Well, that backseat isn't all it's cracked up to be, with the odd slope and the seatbelt apparatus poking you in the back.

The Fuloon Inflatable Backseat Car Mattress provides you with a simple way to make your car's backseat as much fun as you hoped it would be. Designed to fit almost any car, the Fuloon has two blocks and a center cutout on the front side of the mattress that levels the sleeping surface by filling in the legroom that you would usually fall into. The rest of it covers those pesky seat belts that wreak havoc on your ribs and hip bones, while making your backseat almost the width of a twin size bed.

The Fuloon Inflatable Car Mattress is made of durable PVC, comes with a 12VDC electric pump for inflation, measures 53"L x 35"W x 16.5"H, weighs about 6 pounds, and includes a storage bag and a blanket to protect the top of the mattress from sharp objects. \$120. www.amazon.com.



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Electrical systems in today's cars are so much more reliable that a typical owner may never have to replace a blown fuse. But for those times when you discover that your new AC power inverter won't power a small cube refrigerator, or that you can't use a DC Power Outlet splitter to run a DVD player and a coffee maker at the same time, NTE's new line of miniature (ATM) and standard (ATC) Automotive Blade Fuses with an LED indicator

shows exactly which one of the 25 or 30 fuses in the fuse panel is blown in the dark recesses under the dashboard (it's the one with the glowing red LED!). Available in 8 standard color-coded sizes from 3 to 30 amps. \$4.11 per 5-pack. www.ntepartsdirect.com.

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Increase your cell phone's signal by up to 25 times with the Wilson Cell Phone Signal Booster Kit. Designed for use in your car, truck, RV or boat, the booster kit significantly improves your cell phone's performance and signal strength. The Mobile 3G extends cellular signal range, reduces lost connections and speeds data rates for subscribers of all North American cellular carriers by detecting available cellular signal, amplifying it and delivering the amplified signal inside your vehicle. The booster is powerful enough to improve the cellular signal on multiple phones and data devices simultaneously.

The booster kit comes with everything you need for installation, including a high-gain 12-inch magnet-mount antenna that attaches easily to the roof of your vehicle. The antenna is connected via cable to the 3-watt amplifier, which is housed in a compact metal case that fits neatly under your passenger seat and plugs

into the vehicle's DC power outlet. Also included with the kit is a low-profile interior antenna (with a 3-foot range) that allows for discreet installation. \$260 at Amazon. www.wilsonelectronics.com.



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Five Standout Secondary School Student-Athletes for Whom Education Isn't "Secondary"

By Melinda Tuhus

Photography by Nick Caito

STEPHEN THIBAUT

Stephen Thibault's coach describes the sophomore wrestler at Avon Old Farms, a private boys' school, as a "phenom." John Bourgault, who is also the school's athletic director, says, "He combines everything that makes a great wrestler—his technique is flawless; his stamina, his physical strength, but probably most important is his smarts, his mind, his intelligence—knowing where he is on the mat in time and space. He's the best wrestler that's come through here in ten years and he has two more years to go. He's the first All-American I've coached. And the funny thing is, he considers himself a baseball player."

Thibault, who is 16 and weighs 126 pounds, hails from Southwick, Mass. He started wrestling in second grade in a town program and two years later moved on to Northeast Elite in Enfield, "and that opened me up to traveling, and the better youth competition," he says. He adds that making All-American "means a lot to me. It's been an amazing experience." He says his goals are to try to win match to match, and to wrestle in college. "I'm looking at some colleges, talking to some coaches. I have my eyes set on the Ivy League."

His coach notes proudly that Thibault has earned the school's highest level of academic honors and also serves on the student council.

Rob Dowling, his baseball coach, says Thibault is "an incredibly competitive, dedicated and skilled athlete at a lot of things, including baseball. We have won our league the last seven years, and he was instrumental in last year's season, when we went 19 and 3." He plays second base and shortstop and Dowling says he's also a great batter, hardly ever striking out.

Thibault began playing baseball in kindergarten, even earlier than wrestling. "Every summer I play on a travel team, Team CT Baseball,



Stephen Thibault

and we go all over the East Coast. We won most of our tournaments. I love the warmth outside, the camaraderie. It's a mental game. Even though you're not always in the action, you have to be ready for anything."

College may seem a long way off to this sophomore, and he's not sure what he'll study. "However," he adds, "chemistry has become a great interest of mine that continues to intrigue me."

As for inspiration, he thanks Coach Bourgault and Ralph Powers, his coach at Northeast Elite, but adds, "Many of my coaches, teachers, advisors and my parents have guided me throughout my life and shaped me into who I am today."

TAYLOR WILLIAMS

Senior Taylor Williams is a premier basketball player at Capital Prep in Hartford. One of the most impressive things about her, says her coach, Tammy Millsaps, is how she's rolled with the punches since



Taylor Williams

transferring in as a junior from Loomis Chaffee. “She was the No. 1 player there; she ran the show. She had to make a huge adjustment here because we already had a lot of good players. She had to play a backup role as a junior. We are 25-0, we’re No. 1 in the state. She’s played out of position, she’s played point guard for us, and she was a shooting guard last year.” The team has since clinched the Class L state championship for the second year in a row.

Williams started playing at age 7 in a town league, and at 9 was recruited to play in the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union), which is highly competitive. She plays AAU ball in the spring and summer; in winter she plays for Capital Prep. “It’s about the same level and I even have some of the same teammates.”

Williams says her top performance was this year in a game against Classical Magnet School in Hartford, where she scored 26 points—her highest ever. For inspiration, she looks to her Dad, Clarence. “He’s the one who pushed me to play when I was young; he played in high school and college.”

Williams has a good high school academic record and plans to study biology in college and then go to medical school, but adds that her dream is to become a sports broadcaster, and she plans to minor in communications. “I want to stay around basketball and sports as long as possible.”

She has been accepted at Sacred Heart University on a basketball scholarship, but she’s keeping her options open, “because a couple of other schools have shown an interest in me.”

Williams says, “I like basketball because it’s taught me a lot of life’s lessons—to persevere through adversity, to be more vocal, to be more outgoing—and it’s given me a sense of confidence.” She says playing out of position has “brought up my basketball IQ and allowed me to be a leader.”

ALANNAH BOYLE

It could be tough having your father for your coach, but lacrosse standout Alannah Boyle doesn’t seem to mind. The senior at Hall High



Alannah Boyle

School in West Hartford says he's her inspiration, along with Clarissa Clarke, her coach from Nor'easter Lacrosse, an out-of-school team she played with, traveling all over the East Coast. Lacrosse—a game originating with native Americans—seemed to be more popular in private schools, but Coach Steve Boyle says it's gaining popularity in the public schools, and also in college. "A few years ago, the sport went to a three-division system from two, and now there are 100 Division I schools, up from 85 two years ago. Division 1 and 2 can offer scholarships. Now there are well over 700 colleges in the country that offer women's lacrosse." He adds that men's and women's lacrosse are very different. "Men can hit but women's rules are to protect them from being hit and it's a much more beautiful game because of that."

Alannah grew up playing soccer, basketball and field hockey, "then came to lacrosse later and fell in love with it," her Dad says. "What makes Alannah unique is the crossover we see from one sport to the next. People don't say what a great lacrosse player she is; they say what a great athlete and what a great competitor she is."

The position she plays is called attacker; it's like a forward in soccer. She has scored a rather astounding 229 goals in three years into a goal that's one-third the size of a field hockey goal.

Alannah made All-American last year, and All-State the past two years. She says making it to the state semi-finals last year was "a great moment for us." Her athletic goals are "to make sure it's still fun and continue working hard and being competitive."

Academically, she's drawn to history, and says her goal after college is to get into public service, "hopefully working in schools in developing nations." She's on her way to Manhattan College in the Bronx, a Division I school where she'll be playing lacrosse.

CHRISSY BENDZINSKI

Chrissy Bendzinski enjoys a runner's high all year long. The senior at RHAM (Regional Hebron, Andover and Marlborough) High School in Hebron runs cross-country in the fall, indoor track in the winter and outdoor track in the spring, excelling at all of them.

Mark Logan, athletic director at RHAM and Bendzinski's cross-country coach for all four years of her high school career, is proud of his All-New England runner. "She combines tremendous academics with outstanding athletics," he says. "She's a well-rounded individual; she has a part-time job and does volunteer work. She's a great team leader [who] understands the concept of hard work and the rewards that it brings. She knows that to succeed, you can't just rely on natural talent." He says Bendzinski understands the science behind running.

As to why Bendzinski chose to focus on running, she says, "I just like it. I discovered my liking at a young age because my Dad (Mike Bendzinski) was a coach for high school boys' cross-country since before I was born, and still is, so I kind of grew up around it. My Dad really encouraged me. He'd say, 'I'm going running and you can go on a 5-minute run with me.' He would take me to kids' races where I'd run a half-mile or a mile. In high school, I got really competitive with it and trained a lot. You can meet a lot of really cool people; I've made a lot of friends through it so it's been a good social experience as well," though she acknowledges that pounding the pavement for mile after mile or endlessly circling the track "is not for everyone."



And like Boyle, Bendzinski pursued more than one sport early in life. "In elementary and middle school I played basketball and soccer. I played t-ball for a couple years. It's common to run both track—the longer events—and cross-country. They complement each other; sometimes it's hard to be really good at either one if you don't do the other." She runs the longer distances in track: 800 meters, 1600 meters and 3200 meters. The cross-country distance is 5K.

It works for her. This year she was Central Connecticut Conference champion in cross-country. She won All-State and All-New England honors as well. In indoor track she was state champion in the 1,000 meter race in both 2013 and 2014. Among her top performances was her best time ever—2:12—for 800 meters (almost half a mile) at a national indoor track competition in New York City in March,

sponsored by New Balance. That performance ranked her 12th in the country.

Bendzinski says her Dad, the girl's track assistant who coaches her and the other middle and long distance runners, is her biggest inspiration, "because he stuck with it for so many years and he's actually coached me and taught me a lot about it and made sure I always understand why I'm doing something. Also, there are other high school runners from Connecticut who are awesome and they have inspired me. I want to beat them," she says, laughing, "but they inspire me."

She's entering her last season of high school running, and says her goals are "to get my best times and mostly have fun. Then I'm off to college. I want to focus on the team aspect. At my school I'm kind of a standout athlete, and in college I'll be coming in as someone who is not the best [on the team] and has a lot to work towards. In the future I want to soak in the whole team aspect and hopefully win our conference. There's always a goal to get a better time in whatever distance you're doing."

She's attending Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania on scholarship, where she'll continue her three-season running career. She's planning to major in biochemistry. "I really like science. I've wanted to be a doctor for a long time but I'm not sure if I'm ready to make that decision; there's also research I could get into."

SAM HOYT

Sam Hoyt, a senior at Glastonbury High School, says he got into diving via a circuitous route. His mom has been a swimming coach there for the past 25 years, and his family had a tradition of all the kids having to swim until the age of 13 so they could be safe during vacations at the beach. "I'm pretty skinny," he explains, "so being in the water was miserable 'cause I was just freezing the whole time." From third through eighth grade he switched schools to get more help with his severe dyslexia.

"I never thought of diving as my sport until the middle of 8th grade; Trinity College runs a USA diving program, and I went in the middle of eighth grade." He was cut from the team his freshman year, but became more motivated his sophomore year. The following summer he went to Indiana University's diving camp and says he learned a lot that helped him improve his skills. "Every coach says the same thing but it's the way they said it that clicked with me, plus the one-on-one time with the coaches." He practiced eight hours a day for two weeks.

Hoyt says his top performances include a Wethersfield meet this year where he broke his school and pool record for six dives; the Connecticut Conference championships where he broke his record for 11 dives; and finishing second at double LLs (where the largest schools in the state compete). His signature dive is the forward 1½ somersault with two twists.

Hoyt says he gets inspiration from his parents and from his team leadership. He talks openly about his dyslexia and the challenges it poses. "Professionals that test me say dyslexia is like flying a plane with one engine instead of an engine on each wing, and I have no engine. I was reading at the pre-K level in third grade."

His coach, Shelley Farrar, says Hoyt has been a part of the swim team for all four years of high school. "He's a great kid. He's come



Sam Hoyt

through a lot. He's one of our best 50 freestyle and breaststroke [swimmers], but diving is a separate event. It's a very tight-knit group; we have 26 kids and only three are divers. His teammates respect him and vice versa." She says high school only has one-meter diving. There are five different categories and he does two or three different dives in each category.

He's a good student and excelled in his classes. This year, he says, "My focus has been on diving and Boy Scouts." He's about to earn his Eagle Scout badge. He's heading to Union College in the fall. His athletic goals are to qualify for NCAA Division 3 in college and, he adds, "I'm thinking about going to the Olympic trials in six years." **H**

Where Are They Now?

by Christopher Arnott

It's easy to care about pop singers and sports figures and beauty queens when they're right there on TV, singing songs or scoring points or winning prizes. There's a new crop of contenders for our attention every year.

They have to be really special, memorable, endearing and enduring sorts of persons to make us stop and say, long after they've left the scene, "Hey! Whatever happened to them?" Here are about three dozen such people. Part of their appeal is that they grew up in Connecticut, or spent an important phase of their career here. They distinguished themselves. Many moved on.

Quite a few have *returned* to our fair state, but in less visible or public positions. They've all been missed and thought about. And here they are again.

We survey a range of entertainers, athletes and other notables, from the 1930s through just a few years ago. It is admittedly a random and incomplete list.



Marian Bergeron

■ THERE SHE WAS, MISS AMERICA

Marian Bergeron was crowned Miss America in 1933, still the only Miss Connecticut to win the national honor. The Nutmeg State has landed four Top Ten finalists (including Kaitlyn Tarpey just last year) and three semi-finalists since the pageant began in 1922. Bergeron isn't just the only Miss America to come from Connecticut, she's the only one from all of New England. She also got to wear the crown for two years, since no Miss

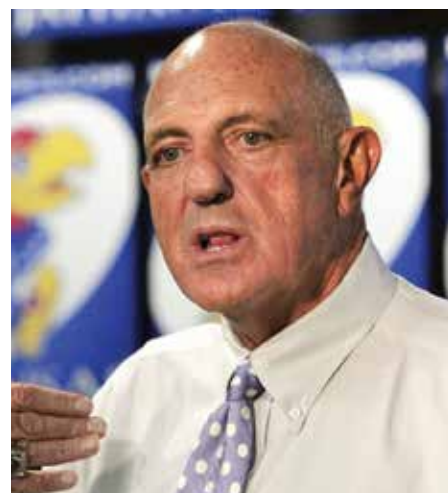
America pageant was held in 1934. Bergeron was just 15 years old when she was crowned, but already had a fallback career as a singer, having sung professionally for a blues program on a New Haven radio station. She became a vocalist for Rudy Vallee's, Ozzie Nelson's and Guy Lombardo's big bands. She also modeled, and volunteered for numerous charities. She died in 2002 at Kettering Medical Center in Ohio (one of the institutions at which she had been a gracious volunteer).

■ AND HERE SHE IS, MISS USA

Bergeron may be the only Connecticut winner of the Miss America Pageant, but East Hampton resident Erin Brady achieved the parallel honor of winning the Miss USA Pageant on June 16, 2013 and participating in the 2013 Miss Universe Pageant held in Russia, where she finished in the top 10. She will have to surrender her crown this June 8 in Baton Rouge, La.

■ BEYOND THE LEW

Lew Perkins was born in Boston and served as Athletics Director for colleges in South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Kansas and Maryland. But it's his 13-year tenure at UConn, starting in 1990, which secured



Lew Perkins

his legend. Not only did he oversee NCAA national championships in women's basketball, men's basketball and men's soccer, he helped steer Division I football to the college. Perkins was the first winner of the National Athletic Director of the Year Award in 2000, and by 2003 had left Connecticut to become AD at the University of Kansas. There, after first distinguishing himself by identifying numerous violations of NCAA rules by his predecessor, he became embroiled in scandal

himself when a number of employees at the University of Kansas Athletics Department ticket office were accused of making millions on a ticket-reselling scheme. He was not directly implicated in that imbroglio, but Perkins was accused of accepting gifts in return for tickets to campus sports events. This hastened his retirement in 2010.

■ CANADIAN GOLD

Kevin Dineen played for the Whalers from 1984–01, when his production slipped and he was traded to the Philadelphia Flyers, where his father Bill Dineen was head coach and his career was revived. He returned to Hartford in 1995, scoring the last Whalers goal on April 13, 1997, after which the team became the Carolina Hurricanes. Most recently, Dineen coached the Canadian women's hockey team to its fourth consecutive Olympic gold medal in Sochi, Russia.



Ron Francis

■ LIKE A HURRICANE

Skating center for nearly a decade with the Hartford Whalers (and serving as captain for over half that time), Ron Francis was traded to the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1991, six years before the Whalers team itself left Connecticut. In 1998–99, Francis even joined the team the Whalers had become, the Carolina Hurricanes in Greensboro, North Carolina. He holds the Whalers/Hurricanes records for most points, most goals, most assists and most games played. He retired from playing hockey in 2005, his number (#10) was raised at Hartford Civic Center in 2006 and Francis entered the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2007. For the past eight years, he's served the Hurricanes in a management position, and in April he replaced Jim Rutherford as General Manager. He lives in Raleigh, North

Carolina with his family. You can find vintage-style Francis #10 Whalers T-shirts for purchase online and still bask in his glory.



Javier Colon

■ VOICE RECOGNITION

Stratford-born singer Javier Colon was already an accomplished recording artist when he won \$100,000 and a contract with Universal Records on the very first season of the TV talent contest *The Voice*. That probably added to the frustration he felt when his solo album *Come Through for You* didn't do as well as hoped. Colon felt that Universal hadn't supported the record properly and left the label. But he didn't forsake *The Voice*. Last year he began a cable series, *Inside Voice with Javier Colon*, which comments on the latest *Voice* doings. It airs on the otherwise golf-themed *Back9Network*.

■ STILL FINDING THEIR VOICES

Javier Colon's not the only *Voice* contestant to hail from Connecticut. Season 3 featured Avery Wilson of Hamden and Kelly Crapa of New Fairfield. Whatever happened to them after the Season 3 crown went to Cassadee Pope? Well, Wilson and Crapa are both still teenagers. One hopes their best years are still ahead of them.

■ IDOL RUMORS

As for *American Idol*, Julia DeMato of Brookfield came in 10th in season 2, while Katie Stevens of Middlebury took 8th place in season 9. DeMato uses her lingering *Idol* fame to help in her charity work, as when she hosted a karaoke competition at a pub in Norwalk. She's still based in Brookfield, working as a cosmetologist in her sister's salon. Stevens has stayed in show business, landing on the controversial new MTV sitcom *Faking It*, in

which she plays a high school student who gains popularity by pretending to be a lesbian. Stevens also appeared in Todrick Hall's parody video *Beauty & the Beat*.

■ SEX AND THE CITY OF GLASTONBURY

Born in Glastonbury and bearing one of the most history-laden surnames in Connecticut, Candace Bushnell's popular and saucy columns for the *New York Observer* became a bestselling book in 1997 and a hit TV series in 1998, both called *Sex and the City*. She's kept



Candace Bushnell

busy with books (including *Trading Up* and the forthcoming *The Two Mrs. Stones*), TV projects (*The Carrie Diaries*, based on her young adult series featuring *Sex and the City* protagonist Carrie Bradshaw, is in its second season on the CW network), speaking engagements and even a radio talk show.

■ REECE'S NEWS PIECES

When he was Sports Director for Hartford's WVIT Channel 30 in the late '80s and for much of the '90s, Beasley Reece was



Beasley Reece

already a “Where Are They Now” contender, having entered the broadcasting field after nine years as a professional football player with the Dallas Cowboys, the New York Giants and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. In interviews, Reece has recounted the flop sweat he experienced during his panic-stricken first WVIT appearance. He quickly found his way, however, and is still a Sports Director and TV personality on Philadelphia’s KYW Channel 3 since 1998. He’s won three Emmys and a dozen Associated Press Awards.

■ DEMOCRAT IN DUTCH

Democrat **Joseph Ganim** was elected mayor of Bridgeport in 1991. After 12 years in office, during which time he was thought of as a worthy candidate for Governor of Connecticut, Ganim went to jail on corruption charges stemming from improper gifts he’d received. He was convicted on March 20, 2003, resigned as mayor on March 29, and served time until 2010. A couple of years ago, Ganim applied to have his license to practice law restored. The request was not considered outlandish, but was nonetheless denied, with a panel of judges concluding that Ganim had not shown remorse for his crimes. Oh, but he has, the ex-mayor’s lawyers argued in a follow-up argument made before the state Supreme Court in December. The verdict came back on April 9 as the Connecticut Supreme Court unanimously upheld the lower court ruling and quashed Ganim’s effort to recover his license to practice law.



Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.

■ INDEPENDENT THINKER

Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. was born in Paris. A Republican in his early years as a member of the U.S. House and Senate, he left the increasingly conservative Republican Party.

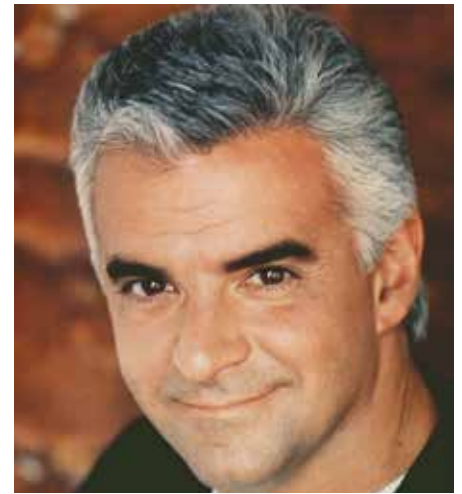
He was elected Connecticut’s 85th Governor running as a member of A Connecticut Party. In 1996, he joined the Board of Directors for Compuware. From 1999–2011, he served on the Board of the WWE. He has also served on the Boards of Trust for America’s Health and Medallion Financial Corp. In an interview with Josh Eidelson of *Salon* late last year, Weicker slammed the GOP, commenting that “the party is so far off to the right that it can’t even come to grips with reality in America today” while adding that former Senator Joe Lieberman, who unseated him from the Senate, “was a god-awful United States senator.”

■ FROM MAKING HELICOPTERS TO SAILING YACHTS

George David already had a larger-than-life presence in Connecticut as the head of the state’s largest employer, United Technologies Corp. (manufacturer of the Black Hawk helicopter, aircraft engines and many other aeronautical products). David’s regime has been dotted with fraught moments where it looked like thousands of Connecticut jobs could suddenly go elsewhere. As it is, UTC’s workforce in the state has dwindled to around half of what it was a quarter-century ago. It didn’t help his image when in 2009 George David went through messy and very public divorce proceedings with his second wife, Countess Marie Douglas-David. Since his erstwhile spouse was arguing that she had helped him with his business and thus deserved a larger share of his fortune than was being offered, some trade secrets got revealed in the court proceedings. Countess Marie sought a \$100 million settlement but ended up with a mere \$5 million. George David left UTC in 2008. The headlines he’s made in the past few years have to do with yachting. In a 2011 Fastnet Race in Ireland, his boat capsized, but in 2012 he set a new record in the 635-mile Newport to Bermuda yacht race. The mention of a Wendy Anne David on the yacht’s crew roster was the first inkling gossip reporters had that George David had married Wendy Touton, the “other woman” cited in his divorce.

■ THE PETERMAN CATALOGUE

The *Seinfeld* TV series first aired 25 years ago, which has sparked rumors of reunions. Might they include **John O’Hurley**, who appeared as “J. Peterman” on 20 episodes of the show between 1995 and 1998? It’s possible that O’Hurley, who graduated Kingswood-Oxford School in ‘72, would be unable to find time in his busy schedule. Since *Seinfeld* ended,



John O’Hurley

O’Hurley has voiced characters on over a dozen cartoon shows, from *Phineas & Ferb* to *Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated* to *The Looney Tunes Show*. He has made over half a dozen movies. He has been a regular on several TV series, from classic (*All My Children*) to short-lived (*The Mulets*), and made guest appearances on many other shows. He has hosted *Family Feud*. He’s narrated Coors Lite commercials. He has played Billy Flynn in the musical *Chicago* onstage. He’s co-composed two CDs of New Age music. He has authored two humorous self-help books. O’Hurley’s resume is as diverse and exotic as a J. Peterman catalog. There’s a real J. Peterman Company, of course, a fashion concern founded by a John Peterman who bears no relation to O’Hurley and has nobody named Elaine Benes on the payroll. The real-world Peterman left the J. Peterman Company following its bankruptcy in 1999, but regained it in 2001. One of the resurgent company’s investors? John O’Hurley.

■ HOW CAN WE LIVE WITHOUT HIM?

Michael Bolton may not have had a top 20 hit album since 1996, but it’s possible that more people can recognize him now than in his chart-topping heyday. Back then, Bolton was ubiquitous on VH-1, but in 1999 he gained street cred as a punchline in the popular movie *Office Space* and capitalized further on his image by appearing in the riotous “Jack Sparrow” video on *Saturday Night Live* in 2011. His 2009 single “Murder My Heart” was co-written by Lady Gaga. (Though several of his hits are covers, such as “Georgia on My Mind” and “When a Man Loves a Woman,” Bolton first established himself in the music industry as a songwriter, and has collaborated with everyone from Laura Branigan to Shania Twain to Indian pop composer A. R. Rahman.) He recently appeared in quirky commercials

for Honda cars. Last year, Bolton published his autobiography *The Soul of It All: My Music, My Life*, in which he recounts years of struggle as a young rocker in New Haven. He returned to the city in 2007 to host the reality TV series *Clash of the Choirs*. Bolton's apparently



Michael Bolton

working on a new album, and recent live appearances have included a cushy gig at a fancy hotel in St. Moritz, Switzerland. You may have seen him guest-starring on *Two and a Half Men*, or mentioned in *People Magazine's* Sexiest Men Alive list—in 2012, not 1995! Don't worry about where Michael Bolton is now. Where isn't he?



Marlon "Magic Man" Starling

■ FORTUNE VANISHED, STILL MAGIC

Champion boxer Marlon "Magic Man" Starling, born in Hartford in 1959, won the WBA welterweight title in 1987 when he knocked out Mark Breland. He lost the title unfairly when Tomas Molinarez decked him with a punch that was later proven to

be thrown after the bell had rung. In 1989, Starling won the WBC welterweight title, but missed the chance to augment that comeback with other titles through losing some close decisions. He had his final matches in 1990, then hung up the gloves. Starling told the *Hartford Courant* in 2013 that the multi-million dollar fortune he'd earned in the '90s was all gone, and that he was "back to poor." But, he added, "I've got dignity and I've got respect. I've got a place to sleep. I'm happy." He's been volunteering at the San Juan Center in Hartford, including demonstrations of his boxing techniques, and hopes someday to own his own gym.

■ HERE'S TO LEFTOVERS

Some may remember Amy Brenneman for her stage work, before she became a TV star. She nailed the difficult title role of Bertolt Brecht's *Saint Joan of the Stockyards* for the Yale Repertory Theatre in 1993. Six years later, following stints on *NYPD Blue* and *Frasier*, the New London native starred in a show that put Hartford on the TV map, *Judging Amy*. (The series co-starred another Connecticut-born actor, Marcus Giamatti.) Since doffing Amy



Amy Brenneman

Gray's judicial robes for good in 2005 after an impressive six-season run, Brenneman's done another long-running series, *Private Practice*, and a bunch of movies. She also voiced Queen Toadstool, Dorothy Gale and Frankenberry's Mother on Cartoon Network's cult series *Robot Chicken*. Brenneman's latest role is Laurie Garvey in the HBO series *The Leftovers*, based on the novel by Yale alum Tom Perrotta, author of *Little Children* and *Election*.

■ FRESH FACE

Just starting her career is Michelle Lombardo, who was born in Hartford, grew up in Glastonbury, was the captain of her high school volleyball team and whose aunt is actress, singer and songwriter Katey Sagal. Lombardo dropped out of UConn after one year and moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career. Of Italian and Jewish descent, Lombardo was the first winner of *Sports Illustrated's* Fresh Face Contest in 2004, and appeared in the swimsuit issue in 2005. In 2006, she landed a role in the Adam Sandler film *Click*. She has since appeared in TV shows like *Entourage* and *Californication*, in Internet series like *Quarterlife* and *Girltrash!*, and is a host on the cable network Current TV.



Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

■ ROCK SOLID

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson attended Shepherd Glen elementary school and Hamden Middle School in Hamden, Connecticut, but was actually born in California and attended high school in Pennsylvania. He reconnected with Connecticut in the mid-1990s as part of Vince McMahon's World Wrestling Foundation. Changing his name to Rocky Maivia and then to just The Rock, Johnson led the wrestling stable known as The Nation of Domination. Although he took several long hiatuses from the sport, and officially retired from it more than once, he has been wrestling, hosting and feuding on WWE regularly in the past few years. Since 1999, he has made nearly 30 movies, including the *Fast & Furious* series, several *Mummy* films and *Tooth Fairy* (in which he wore wings and comforted small children). A seventh *Fast & Furious* picture is due in 2015, preceded

this year by *Hercules: The Thracian Wars*, in which The Rock plays the Greek demigod.



David Naughton

■ A CONNECTICUT WEREWOLF IN LONDON

Born in West Hartford, handsome, square-jawed singer, dancer and actor **David Naughton** first came to the limelight in a four-year stint performing in Dr. Pepper commercials. He also received positive recognition for a short-lived sitcom called *Makin' It*, for which he sang the title song and made the Billboard Top 10 in 1979. Naughton, whose brother James is also an actor, is probably best known for his starring role in the 1981 John Landis horror classic, *An American Werewolf in London*. Since then, he has appeared in numerous movies and TV shows, but hasn't necessarily had the career that some feel he deserves.



Eric Mangini

■ FROM SACK RECORDS TO SOPRANOS

Eric Mangini played high school football in Hartford for Bulkeley High, then set sack

records (single-season and career) at Wesleyan University. He'd already started coaching at that point, helping an Australian semi-pro football team called the Kew Colts win two regional championships. In 2006, Mangini became the youngest head coach in the NFL, for the New York Jets. He was fired after one successful and two less successful seasons, but not before gaining a major pop culture credit with a cameo on the next-to-last episode of *The Sopranos*.

Mangini moved to Cleveland to coach the Browns in 2009. This time, he lasted two seasons before being terminated. That led to a couple of interesting years back in Connecticut as an NFL analyst for ESPN. Last year, Mangini left the network and headed cross-country to become Senior Offensive Consultant for the San Francisco 49ers. He also runs a football camp at Bulkeley High School in Hartford (*see p. 24*).



Bobby Valentine

■ BOBBY V FROM ESPN TO SHU

Bobby Valentine was born in Stamford. Now he's the Athletic Director at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. In between, he played baseball for several high school, college and minor league teams, leading to three seasons with the L.A. Dodgers, three with the California Angels, three with the San Diego Padres, two with the New York Mets and one with the Seattle Mariners. In the '80s his job title changed from player to manager, leading to stints with the Texas Rangers, New York Mets, Chiba Lotte Marines (Japan) and, as recently as 2012, the Boston Red Sox. He also spent time as an on-air baseball analyst for ESPN. He took the Sacred Heart position last year. Of course, his presence in Connecticut has been assured for decades by Bobby V's

Sports Bar in his native Stamford. The bar has been around for over 30 years. He also recently opened a Bobby V's Restaurant & Sports Bar in Windsor Locks on Schoephoester Road near Bradley International Airport. The new Bobby V's seats up to 300 guests and features a 17-foot LED wall and 70 other TVs.

■ QUICK! WHAT HAPPENED?

Jonathan Quick played youth hockey in Fairfield County, then at Hamden High School, then at Avon Old Farms School. He set several hockey records as a goalie at UMass-Amherst, and was part of some memorable games: blocking all 33 shots taken against him in his first NCAA championship game and, in his second professional game playing for the ECHL's Reading Royals against the Pensacola Ice Pilots, scoring an empty-net goal in the third period. On December 6, 2007, Quick played his first NHL game for the Los Angeles Kings, then spent time off and on with the AHL's Manchester Monarchs until 2008, when he stayed with the Kings for good. Quick and his teammates took a silver medal in the 2010 Winter Olympics. In 2012, Quick led the Kings to their first Stanley Cup, winning the Conn Smythe Trophy in the process (becoming only the third American at the time to do so). In the Sochi Olympics, he started five out of six games in goal, finishing with a 3-2 record, a 2.17 GAA and a .923 SV%. He and his teammates finished fourth and did not medal.



Scott Burrell

■ BURRELL'S BACK IN TOWN

Six-foot-seven basketball player **Scott Burrell**, a Hamden High School sports superstar in his day, has worked since 2007 as the assistant men's basketball coach at Quinnipiac University, also in Hamden.

He was on the UConn team that won that program's first Big East championship, and had professional stints with the Charlotte Hornets, Golden State Warriors, Chicago Bulls, New Jersey Nets, Fayetteville Patriots, Shaanxi Gaitianli Kylins (China), Batang Red Bull Thunder (Philippines), Idaho Stampede, Bilbao Berri (Spain) and Hitachi SunRockers (Japan). Honors have included the NBA Most Improved Player Award of 1994 and an NBA championship while with the Bulls. In an interview last year with the sports blog *A Dime Back*, Burrell says of his QU gig "It's my hometown. I get to see my family every day. That's a great thing and it's a great place to be."



Marcus Camby

■ BE ALL YOU CAMBY

Hartford-born hoops star and shot blocker extraordinaire [Marcus Camby](#), a six-foot-eleven Hartford Public High School graduate, led the UMass Minutemen to several #1 weekly national rankings during the 1995–96 season, winning the John R. Wooden and Naismith College Player of the Year Awards in the process. Camby's team made the Final Four in 1996, but later had its appearance nullified because of \$28,000 he accepted from two sports agents. He later reimbursed the school for monies lost. Camby declared for the draft after his junior year, and played for the Toronto Raptors, New York Knicks, Denver Nuggets, Los Angeles Clippers, Portland Trailblazers, Houston Rockets, Knicks again, and then Rockets again. He was waived by the Rockets in September of 2013 and has been rehabbing from surgery on his torn plantar fascia and had hopes of making it back into the NBA this year.

■ VIN BAKER STANDS TALL

Six-foot-eleven [Vin Baker](#), an Old Saybrook High School graduate, played basketball for four years at the University of Hartford, where his teams never finished over .500, but he dominated his conference, scoring 28.3 points a game in his senior year. The power forward/center was picked eighth by the Milwaukee Bucks in the 1993 NBA draft, played four years for the Bucks and four years with the Seattle SuperSonics and was a four-time All-Star before winding up his career with shorter stints with the Boston Celtics, New York Knicks, Houston Rockets, Los Angeles Clippers, and finally in 2006, Minnesota Timberwolves. His career was undone by ballooning weight and a serious hidden alcohol problem. In recent years, the news services have chronicled various ups and downs of his life, including failed financial ventures like Vinnie's Saybrook Fish House that have resulted in a suit against financial advisor Brodeur & Co. for a reported \$86 million in losses, a drunk driving arrest in Norwich in 2007, foreclosure upon his Durham house for \$2.5 million, his hiring as an assistant basketball coach as St. Bernard School in Uncasville, his ongoing support of his nonprofit Stand Tall Foundation, his work as a youth minister at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, and his participation in Dennis Rodman's basketball diplomacy exhibition game in North Korea.

■ AGING MEDIA KINGS

[Howard Stern](#) and [Glenn Beck](#) both used Connecticut radio stations (WCCC in Hartford and KCI01 in New Haven respectively) as stepping stones to national broadcast notoriety. Stern's "King of All Media" persona—bolstered by movies, TV shows and even a short-lived run for Governor



Howard Stern

of New York—subsided when he became the big fish in the Sirius Satellite Radio pond back in 2005. He's still there, though he did sue the network in 2010 over alleged non-payment of stock bonuses. (Stern lost the suit.) His main moonlighting experience in the past few years has been as a judge for three seasons of *America's Got Talent*. He and AGT producer Simon Cowell shared the top slot on *Forbes Magazine's* list of highest-paid TV personalities for 2012–13. Stern turned 60 years old in January, and recently appears to have taken up photography as a hobby.

Glenn Beck's trajectory is somewhat different. After decades as a radio show host, Beck found mercurial success on cable news networks, first at CNN Headline News from 2006–08 and then for a couple of years at Fox News. He left Fox, where he'd begun to polarize viewers with his tearful emotional outbursts and conspiracy theories, in 2011 to found TheBlaze TV, a subscription-based network formed mainly to carry new Glenn Beck programming. Since 2012, TheBlaze TV airs not just on its own website but is found on the Dish Network satellite system. Beck continues to publish books, including the recent *Miracles and Massacres: True and Untold Stories of the Making of America*. He started the non-profit organization *Mercury One* in 2011, and planned to support it with sales from a new clothing line, 1791. Glenn Beck is still very much out there, and reports of a downturn in his fortunes appear to be exaggerated. He turned 50 on February 10.



Meg Ryan

■ RYAN'S HOPE

Meg Ryan, originally from Fairfield, became the onscreen love interest of Tom Hanks in three classic rom-coms: *Joe Versus the Volcano*,

Sleepless in Seattle and *You've Got Mail*. Ryan's other leading men included Billy Crystal (*When Harry Met Sally...*), Tim Robbins (*IQ*), Russell Crowe (*Proof of Life*), Hugh Jackman (*Kate & Leopold*) and Dennis Quaid (*Innerspace* and *DOA*); Ryan and Quaid were married in real life from 1991 to 2001). She made a series of interesting acting choices in the '00s including the boxing drama *Against the Ropes* and the erotic thriller *In the Cut*. She hasn't starred in a movie since the 2008 remake of *The Women*. This year, it was announced that Ryan was reteaming with Hanks, but only behind the cameras: he's producing her directorial debut, *Ithaca*, which will be shot this summer. She's also producing a pilot for a new TV series about an older woman returning to the workforce. Don't worry; Ryan hasn't forsaken acting. She stars in both *Ithaca* and the TV project.



Michael Wilson

■ THE PLAY'S THE THING

The artistic directors of Connecticut's major regional theaters get lots of attention. The institutions they run have multi-million dollar budgets, and some of the many shows they green-light make it to Broadway and beyond. Hartford Stage got a new artistic director a couple of years ago, [Darko Tresnjak](#). His predecessor, [Michael Wilson](#), served the theater from 1998–2011 and now regularly directs on Broadway, including recent revivals of *The Trip to Bountiful* and Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*. The Hartford Stage artistic director before Michael Wilson was [Mark Lamos](#), who freelanced as a director of plays and operas for over a decade before being lured back to running a Connecticut regional theater: the Westport Country Playhouse.

[Doug Hughes](#), who ran the Long Wharf Theater in New Haven for just three seasons in the mid-1990s, also works regularly in New York theater, both on old plays (by Shaw, Ibsen and Clifford Odets) and new ones (John Patrick Shanley's currently running *Outside Mullingar*). The only other long-serving Long Wharf artistic directors are: [Arvin Brown](#), who ran the theater for 30 years and for the last 20 years has been a busy director of TV dramas, including *NCIS*, *Leverage*, *Lie to Me* and *The Closer*; and [Gordon Edelstein](#), who was Brown's Associate Artistic Director in the '90s and has been the Long Wharf's Artistic Director for a decade now.



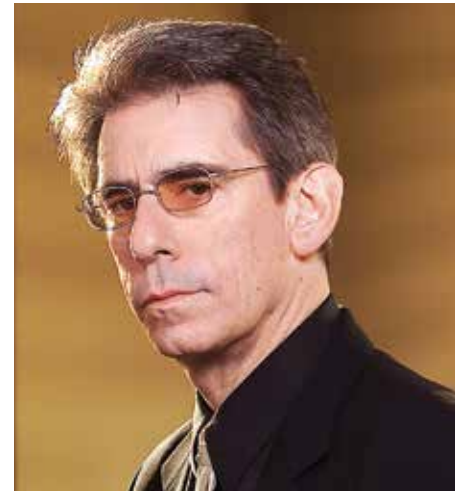
Grayson Hugh

■ HUGH'S ON FIRST

[Grayson Hugh](#) had several hit singles in the late 1980s—"Talk It Over," "Bring It All Back," a cover of "How 'Bout Us"—and landed songs on the soundtracks of the movies *Thelma & Louise* and *Fried Green Tomatoes*. But he lost his record deal due to a shake-up at MCA Records in 1993. Little was heard of Grayson Hugh, his blue-eyed soul-stirring vocals, or his classy keyboard playing, for years... until he returned to Connecticut, released a comeback album (2010's *An American Record*) and started playing out at places like the Meriden Daffodil Festival and New Haven's Café Nine. A new Grayson Hugh album is planned for this year.

■ THE BELZ IS RINGING

[Richard Belzer](#), born in Bridgeport in 1944, is currently in his 15th season playing Detective John Munch on the series *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. Such longevity and familiarity may make him an unlikely



Richard Belzer

subject for a "Where Are They Now?" round-up. But Belzer has played Munch in so many different shows over the years that he's quietly become the longest running fictional character to be played by a single actor in television history. Besides the *Homicide* and *Law & Order* series he's been on, Munch has turned up everywhere from *The Simpsons* to *The Wire*.

Richard Belzer, meanwhile, has become an author specializing in paranormal activity. He also regularly returns to the field in which he first established himself: stand-up comedy. When he was starting out, Belzer was well known for his Mick Jagger impersonation. Jagger's still going strong. So's Richard Belzer.

■ CLIFF HANGER

Another participant in the North Korean basketball exhibition was former UConn and NBA standout [Clifford Robinson](#). Playing for UConn from 1985–89, his team won an NIT Championship in 1988 and Robinson was named to the all-tournament team. He was picked 36th overall in the 1989 NBA Draft by the Portland Trailblazers, where he played eight years, making the playoffs every year and reaching the NBA Finals twice while being named Sixth Man of the Year in 1992–93 and an All Star in 1994. He played another 10 years with the Phoenix Suns, Detroit Pistons, Golden State Warriors and New Jersey Nets, amassing almost 20,000 points before retiring and becoming the oldest player at age 33 to score 50 points in a game. At six-foot-ten, he was also the tallest NBA player to make more than 1,000 three-pointers until he was surpassed by Dirk Nowitzki. Robinson's most recent public appearance was in *Survivor: Cagayan*, where he was the fifth contestant voted out. [H](#)



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Memory Lane 2014

Happy Anniversary! 2014 marks an unusual number of 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 50th, 75th and 100th birthdays of major events, people and institutions.

by Christopher Arnott

You'll find the onset of two world wars on the lists below, but also the end of racial segregation in the United States and the ascension of peacemakers Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King. You'll find the beginnings of illustrious careers, the premieres of some of the finest movies ever made and the debut of the Ford Mustang.

2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the theft of Edvard Munch's painting *The Scream*, as well as the 10th anniversary of the theft of Edvard Munch's painting *The Scream*. (The iconic artwork had been recovered, but another version of the painting was stolen again a decade later.)

Even a magazine called *Decades* can't touch upon every year it wants to. Nobody much cares for 45th anniversaries, so we won't even get into 1969, which brought us Woodstock, and the last live Beatles concert,

and the first Led Zeppelin album. Or the 60th anniversary, in 1954, of Elvis Presley recording "That's All Right" as a gift for his mama. Five years ago saw the release of the first Justin Bieber recording, but that doesn't exactly give you the same rush as The Beatles in 1964, does it now?

There's lots to celebrate. And 2014 already started a few months ago. A toast to...



2004

The Aluminum (10th) Anniversary of...

- The launching of Facebook.
- The July 4 groundbreaking, at Ground Zero, for the Freedom Tower (One World Trade Center) in New York City.
- Massachusetts' legalization of same-sex marriage.
- Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" at Super Bowl XXXVIII.



1994

The China (20th) Anniversary of...

- The birth of Justin Bieber.
- The death of Kurt Cobain.
- Michael Jackson marrying Lisa Marie Presley.
- George, Paul and Ringo reuniting to perform John's song "Free As A Bird."
- Weezer and Oasis releasing their debut albums.
- The inauguration of Nelson Mandela as the first black president of South Africa.
- The O.J. Simpson low-speed car chase.
- *The Lion King*, the worldwide number one movie of the year (ahead of *Forrest Gump*).
- George Foreman knocking out Michael Moorer to become the oldest heavyweight champion in history.
- The world premiere of Arthur Miller's play *Broken Glass*, at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven.

1989

The Silver (25th) Anniversary of...

- Ronald Reagan's Farewell Address.
- The death of Emperor Hirohito.
- The Exxon Valdez oil spill.
- The Tiananmen Square Massacre, and that indelible image of the young man standing in front of a tank in Beijing.



- The first airing of the *Seinfeld* sitcom.
- Nintendo's Game Boy system, not to mention Sega's Genesis.
- The non-violent Velvet Revolution that transformed communist Czechoslovakia into a parliamentary republic.
- Tim Burton's *Batman* movie, starring Michael Keaton.
- The *Driving Miss Daisy* movie, written by Connecticut-based playwright Alfred Uhry.
- The death of Samuel Beckett.

1984

The Pearl (30th) Anniversary of...

- The governmental dismantling of the phone company, a.k.a. the Bell System.
- The Macintosh personal computer going on sale.
- The release of the Band Aid charity single "Do They Know It's Christmas?"
- The assassination of Indira Gandhi.

1984



- The longest game in Major League Baseball history—25 innings, 8 hours 6 minutes—between the Chicago White Sox and the Milwaukee Brewers.



1964

The Gold (50th) anniversary of...

- The first Ford Mustang rolling off assembly lines.
- The Beatles performing on the Ed Sullivan Show, kicking off the British Invasion. (In April 1964, the top five records in the Billboard singles chart are all by The Beatles.)
- Carol Channing in the musical *Hello, Dolly!*
- Cassius Clay beating Sonny Liston to become world heavyweight boxing champion.
- Malcolm X leaving the Nation of Islam to form his own black independence group.
- Richard Burton marrying Elizabeth Taylor (for the very first time).
- The first episode of a still-running interrogatory game show. (What is *Jeopardy?*)
- The Rolling Stones' first album.
- The opening of Shea Stadium.
- Nelson Mandela's "I Am Prepared to Die" speech; in June 1964, Mandela is sentenced to life in prison.
- President Lyndon B. Johnson's signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ending enforced racial segregation in the U.S.
- The last Looney Tunes cartoon, as Warner Brothers closes down its cartoons division. Disney's film version of *Mary Poppins*. The film of *My Fair Lady*, for which the star of the original Broadway show Julie Andrews was passed over in favor of a bigger name, Audrey

Hepburn, is also released. Andrews wins an Oscar; Hepburn isn't even nominated.

- The first airing of the TV classic *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.
- Two of the best-ever James Bond films, *From Russia With Love* and *Goldfinger*.
- Pete Townshend of The Who smashing his first guitar.
- Robert Moog unveiling his Moog synthesizer.
- Martin Luther King receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The publication of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.
- People who turn 50 this year include Michelle Obama, Glenn Beck, Nicholas Cage, Lara Linney, Sarah Palin and Matt Dillon. Chris Farley was born in '64 and died in '97.



1939

The Diamond (75th) anniversary of...

- The end of The Spanish Civil War.
- The beginning of World War II.
- John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.
- Billie Holiday's heartbreaking "Strange Fruit."
- Batman's debut in *Detective Comics*.
- Lou Gehrig setting a record for most consecutive baseball games played: 2130. The ailing Gehrig then retires. In other baseball news, the first Little League game is played and the National Baseball Hall of Fame opens in Cooperstown.
- One of the best years in movie history: *Gone With the Wind*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *Goodbye Mr. Chips*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Ninotchka*, *Dark Victory*, *Stagecoach*, *Wuthering Heights*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (the first Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce Sherlock Holmes flick), W.C. Fields' *You Can't Cheat an Honest Man*, *Young Mr. Lincoln* (with Henry Fonda) and the final Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers musical, *The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle*.

- Born in 1939: filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola, warblers Linda Ronstadt and Judy Collins, poet Seamus Heaney, playwright Alan Ayckbourn, songwriter Neil Sedaka, actor Ian McKellen, writers Margaret Drabble and Margaret Atwood, rock & soul queen Tina Turner, ballplayer Carl Yastrzemski, comedienne Lily Tomlin, fashion designer Ralph Lauren, sidekick Fred Willard, actress Jane Alexander and British DJ John Peel.



1914

It's been a whole century since...

- New Haven's Shubert Theatre opened its doors.
- Hartford's Union Station burned down in the Fire of 1914.
- The Yale Bowl opened, whereupon Harvard routed Yale 36-0 in the stadium's first football game.
- Charlie Chaplin made his film debut.
- World War I began with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria.
- Honus Wagner became the first 20th century ballplayer to have 3000 career hits, and Babe Ruth joined the Red Sox.
- The births of Beat writer William S. Burroughs (Feb. 5), actor Alec Guinness (April 2), boxer Joe Louis (May 13), musician Sun Ra (May 19), artist Saul Steinberg (June 15), Superman co-creator Joe Shuster (July 10), children's author Robert (Make Way for Ducklings) McCloskey (Sept. 15), poet Dylan Thomas (Oct. 27), scientist Jonas Salk (Oct. 28) and Joltin' Joe Diamaggio (Nov. 25). "Professor" Irwin Corey (July 29) is still "The World's Foremost Authority."

1764

It's been 250 years since...

- The birth of the *Hartford Courant*, America's oldest continuously published newspaper.

The dozens of anniversaries listed above barely scratch the surface. There's simply too much to celebrate, and limited room to hold the party.



REVIEW

2015 Audi A3—March Gladness

by Ellis Parker

Launched in mid-March of 2014 to great fanfare and TV advertising, the 2015 A3 represents Audi's effort to attract younger buyers to the brand with a premium small sedan, hopefully converting them into Audi customers for life. Audi is looking to carve out a large share of the emerging American market for premium small sedans. The A3's primary competitors would seem to be the BMW I Series (which doesn't offer a four-doors-and-trunk configuration), the Mercedes CLA-Class (which the A3 outperforms in all areas except mileage and trunk space and which has a punishing back seat) and the Buick Verano (which is undergoing redesign). With the new A3, Audi seems to have found the sweet spot.

The A3 line began in 1996 as a three-door hatchback, which Americans came to know as the A3 Sportback. However, the 2015 A3 sedan shares similar dimensions with the original A4 sold from 1995–2001, which then grew gradually into a 'tweener, as popular car models so often do, until a new smaller sedan was needed to begin the process anew. Factoring in American ambivalence toward hatchbacks, the totally redesigned 2015 A3 is a four-door sedan with a proper trunk. In addition to the sedan, other variants of the A3 will be introduced in the upcoming months, including, for those who prefer hatchbacks, an extroverted Q3 Crossover and a very green A3 e-tron® plug-in hybrid

as well as a sporty S3 and a sweet three-door Cabriolet. But for the moment, the spotlight in Audi showrooms is on the A3 sedan.

The car that I drove had just 47 miles on it, having been tested the previous day by car reviewer Jim MacPherson. In other words, it still needed some breaking in. (Just teasing, Jim.) I took it for several days, wanting to put it through its paces under a variety of driving conditions. Considering the memorable winter we'd had up until that point, it was disappointing not to get a few inches of snow to glide around silently in or a creek-spilling downpour to test the traction in, but for once the weather was remarkably hospitable.

The A3 sedan rides on the Volkswagen Group's new MQB platform, with the mass of the power plant placed ahead of the front axle. It comes with a choice of 1.8 or 2.0 TFSI engines. I tested and recommend the 2.0, which is more expensive (my car carried a sticker price of \$34,295 with destination charge) but which, counterintuitively, actually achieves the same highway mileage and slightly better city mileage. During your infrequent trips to the gas pump (where premium gasoline is recommended), thanks to a very respectable 24 mpg city, 33 mpg highway and 27 mpg combined, you'll appreciate how small the displacement of the engine is. But when you are looking for a rapid burst of acceleration or to effortlessly maintain

a high speed, it will seem as if you have a much bigger power pack under the hood. That's because the 2.0 turbo, rated at 220 HP and 258 lb-ft of torque, is quick off the line with an estimated zero to sixty of 5.8 seconds (the S3 will be even more adrenaline-charged) that surpasses standard A4 models. Tight Wilbur Cross Parkway merge-or-die entrance ramps become a breeze. The six-speed S Tronic® transmission ensures that power is applied optimally and evenly, while the full-time quattro® all-wheel drive system, required with the 2.0 TFSI engine, ensures there's no wheel slippage as the A3 surges forward. Top speed is listed at 130 mph, a conservative estimate belied by both practical experience and a 160-mph speedometer.

If it had been late June, I'd have loved to enter the car in the 92nd running of the Pike's Peak International Hill Climb, a.k.a. The Race to the Clouds. Or at least taken it over the countless hairpin turns of California Highway 128 running from the mouth of the Navarro River through the redwoods to Cloverdale. Or Oregon's twisting McKenzie Pass, its volcanic vistas open only in summer. Because this car has the kind of get-up-and-go that will surprise people. And because that's how you break in a pedigreed car like this one.

But it's also a vehicle that is just lovely for everyday driving. Cocooned in its sound-deadening cabin, I found I could settle into

Big Man on Campus: The Audi A3 checks out the "Yale Whale"



traffic with the terrific Audi concert system set to my Sirius (three-month complimentary trial subscription) station of choice—and just chill. If I got stuck behind someone really plodding, I could maneuver around them in so little space and time that the slowpoke was likely left wondering if he or she imagined it. The classic, slightly aggressive Audi lines are there to suggest the car's hidden potential, augmented by a high grill, dual exhausts, an integrated rear spoiler and a wedge line rising from the front axle to the rear bumper, but in Brilliant Black, at least, it's a wolf in sheep's clothing and doesn't beg for attention. Headed to Storrs during March Madness, I slid by a Statie at a speed that surely would have brought a reaction driving something like a Camaro, but the trooper just shrugged. No harm, no foul. A mature car enjoying the road.



BMOC: The Audi A3 takes in the Quinnipiac Windspires

Who is the ideal buyer for the A3? For starters, anyone with a sincere love of driving. Not to mention anyone who recognizes that maneuverability is one of the best means of accident avoidance. But especially, anyone practical enough to seek economy alongside performance. Or anyone who, like me, prefers to fly below the radar—so to speak. But if you see a car as no more than a means to get from place to place or schlep people and groceries, this sweet set of wheels may be wasted on you.

I see the ideal buyer for this car as the man or woman who has just received that first promotion that says bigger things are expected of them and they're going to be a force to be reckoned with. A junior partner, perhaps. Or a rising chef given a percentage of the restaurant's proceeds to stay on. Although this is a car that would make a fabulous gift, one certainly that anyone 18–45 could love, it should not be sprung upon your high school or college graduate unless he or she has sufficient maturity to handle its temptations. Because the car accelerates so easily, eats up road so noiselessly, holds the lane so steadily, and brakes and corners so well that 60 feels like 40, 90 like 60, 120 like 90...

you get the picture. (If only we could all look and feel that way). But at the end of the day, if something unforeseen occurs, 120 actually is 120.

If you envision a continuum, with increasing technology on one side and increasing luxury on the other, as a general rule technology is geared more toward younger drivers and luxury more toward older. By this measure, the new Audi A3 skews young. I found luxury enough but technology to spare.

The luxury may not be as plush as higher up the Audi line, but it's certainly commendable. Although forged from lightweight materials where possible, the cabin is well-constructed and quiet. In the front, there's space a-plenty; in the rear, decent legroom and headroom up to about six foot. The trunk is only about 10 cubic feet (12.3 without quattro®), but augmented by split folding 60/40 rear seats. There are power adjustable exterior mirrors but the night mirror is manual (which I greatly prefer). There are rain and light sensors for the wipers and headlights. A "panorama" sunroof with a retractable sunshade comes standard. So do automatic xenon plus headlights with LED daytime running lights and LED taillights.

Seating surfaces are leather and comfortable, if not opulent. The eight-way adjustable driver's seat with four-way lumbar adjustment is power operated.

The steering column can both manually tilt and telescope, and the three-spoke, leather-wrapped multifunction steering wheel feels great in your hands. The car is equipped with cruise control. Climate control is manual, but responsive and easy to use. The car I tested had a \$500 cold weather package that included heated front seats, exterior mirrors and windshield washer nozzles.

Where the car especially shines is in intelligent design and a technology package that seems squarely aimed at 18–45s. Once you learn your way around the car, which doesn't take long because everything becomes intuitive, you may conclude, as I did, that Audi pretty much got everything right. I suppose the entry-level A3s could have implemented advanced key technologies, but the shaft that springs like a flick knife from the key fob at the touch of a button is good fun. There are good sight lines to every necessary gauge, dial, window and

mirror. Red accent lights in the cabin make everything easy to find at night. I loved the thin, seven-inch LCD display that rises as needed from the center dash or sinks back into it at the touch of a button, operated via an MMI controller on the central console that's one of the best user interfaces in the industry. And while I'm not sure what it says about me, I loved playing with the touch-friendly, jet-engine-inspired round vents on the dash.



BMOC: The Audi A3 visits Wesleyan's Andrus Field

Even the basic Audi sound system (AM/FM/SAT/ICD with SD card reader and auxiliary input) is terrific, able to crank out hip hop (or classical music) at deafening levels, never mind the optional Bang & Olufsen surround-sound audio system with 14 speakers and an eardrum-shattering 705 watts. Yeah, Audi had young people in mind. And youth will be well served with the driver information system, HD radio technology, Bluetooth streaming audio, Bluetooth connection for mobile phone, and so on. But many of us aging hipsters dig these features, too.

Numerous safety features come standard as well, including an anti-lock brake system (ABS) with electronic brake-pressure distribution (EBD) and brake assistance, a plethora of air bags, advanced design safety belts, lower anchors and tethers for children (LATCH), rear child safety locks, a tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) and a power central locking system with a safety unlock feature if the airbags deploy. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety just released crash test results, and the A3 took its place among the top vehicles with the agency's Top Safety Pick Plus (TSP+) rating. But as I opined earlier, the car's quickness and maneuverability may be its greatest safety feature of all.

The new Audi A3 is easy to love, and should surge to the head of a blossoming American compact luxury sedan class. Few, if any, vehicles combine so well the practical and the pleasurable. **H**

Two CT Non-Profit Camps Show Kids that the Impossible is Possible

By Rebecca Cretella

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible.'"

These powerful words spoken by film icon Audrey Hepburn aptly summarize the quest of two Connecticut non-profits to open up a world full of possibilities to under-resourced and seriously ill youth.



The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

For more than a decade, the Carmine and Frank Mangini Foundation—whose mission is to provide funding for academic and athletic programs that increase opportunities for under-resourced children—has used the art of football to teach adolescent males that through hard work, discipline and belief in oneself, anything is possible. The CFM Foundation's annual Football Fundamentals Mini-Camp connects young men with NFL players and coaches and other professionals and volunteers for a day of non-contact football instruction sprinkled with lots of valuable life lessons. The Camp's President is Eric

work, discipline, teamwork, selflessness and a positive attitude, teaching campers to ignore naysayers who tell them they can't succeed and to use their doubts as motivation to reach their goals. The campers are encouraged to seek out and surround themselves with successful people who can support and encourage them. They learn that football can be used as a catalyst and a means to help them achieve their goals in life. Above all else, the Foundation stresses the importance of education. Says Mangini, "Getting your education and your college degree should be your number one priority. The average NFL career is three to four years,



Football Fundamentals Mini Camp, with Eric Mangini on the left

Mangini, former head coach for the New York Jets and Cleveland Browns, and current Senior Offensive Consultant for the San Francisco 49ers. For one day every spring, 8th–12th grade young men hailing from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey—and even as far away as Ohio and Florida—spend an intense eight hours learning about the principles, mechanics, and ethics of high-level competitive football from the industry's most knowledgeable teachers. Because time is precious, Camp is very fast-paced and intense, but it's carried out in a fun atmosphere that focuses on quality instruction. By the end of the day, young men return home with applicable game skills, as well as many key takeaways they can apply both on the practice field and in the classroom. Camp volunteers stress the importance of hard

so having a marketable skill after your career is over is most important."

Since the Camp's inaugural event in 2002, Mangini has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Camp and Foundation. He surely must find it gratifying to garner financial support and national recognition for the Camp and Foundation every year and give back to his hometown of Hartford, even as he provides under-resourced youth with an incredible opportunity to learn from top professionals in the field.

And there's certainly been no shortage of excellent professional talent available to the campers, who in the past have included former New York Giant tight end Mark Bavaro; New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan; New Orleans Saints defensive coordinator Rob Ryan; New York Jets offensive line coach Mike Devlin; and former CFM camper, Hartford

native and current Cleveland Browns player Brian Sanford. These are just a few familiar names in addition to more than 40 college coaches who've been involved in this impactful event.

Over the years the participation level of campers and volunteers alike has increased dramatically at the Camp, and last year the event filled both Colt Park and Bulkeley High School fields, the latter of which is Mangini's alma mater. When asked what has been the most satisfying aspect of holding the Camp every year, Mangini replied, "Bringing together 700 campers, 140 coaches and hundreds of volunteers for a great day where kids have an opportunity to be around positive role models, whether it's a pro coach, college coach or a dedicated volunteer."

The CFM Foundation's Camp has expanded in recent years to include scholarship and grant opportunities, as well as the donation of computers to hundreds of kids and organizations. Says David Jorgensen, CFM Foundation Board Member, "Our main goal for the future is to keep the Camp going for many years to come and have former campers return as coaches and mentors to current campers. We believe this will 'complete the



The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp



circle' and show current campers proof that they too can reach great heights one day if they believe in our message of hard work, discipline, teamwork and having a positive attitude."

Another organization that has been doing incredibly inspiring work showing kids that the impossible is possible is The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Founded in 1988, HITWGC is the brainchild of actor Paul Newman, whose admirable mission it was to ensure that every seriously ill child has the chance to explore the world of possibilities that Camp has to offer. At HITWGC, children coping with illnesses like cancer, sickle cell anemia, HIV and hemophilia are able to experience the carefree culture of Camp, to develop friendships, and as Mr. Newman liked to put it, "to raise a little hell." Because of the enormous generosity of donors, volunteers and Team Hole in the Wall—the Camp's community fundraising program that encourages people to organize fundraising events of their own—kids can take part in quintessential Camp activities like horseback riding, woodworking, theater arts and mini golf, to name but a few, completely free of charge. The idyllic Camp facility is situated on 344 acres of land in rural Ashford, Conn. The summer Camp is open to children between the ages of seven and 15, hailing from about 25 states and five or six countries each year. HITWGC offers

children and their families a respite from the endless tests, hospital visits and hardships they routinely face and opens up a worry-free magical world where kids can just be kids. All Camp activities are designed to ensure that every child can participate while under the highest quality 24-hour medical supervision. At HIWGC, it's possible for a wheelchair-bound camper to visit a 20-foot-high tree house thanks to 340 feet of ramp and decking. At HITWGC, nothing is impossible.

When asked what the future holds for HITWGC, Communications Manager Beth Starkin remarked, "With our 25th anniversary behind us, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is focused on the future and continuing our efforts to broaden and deepen our services." This means many things, one of which is meeting its lofty goal of serving 30,000 children in its summer programs by 2018.

Near future plans also include hosting upcoming events like the 20th Annual Boston Big Top Bash on April 5th, where donors and camper families will gather together for a private performance at the Big Apple Circus, followed by a



The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

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complimentary face painting and reception at the Boston Children's Museum. On June 1, HITWGC will host the 13th Annual Polo for Children Benefit at the Greenwich Polo Club.

HITWGC is also eagerly anticipating the Travelers Championship on June 16, an annual Connecticut event that gathers together the world's best golfers and thousands of excited spectators. The Travelers Championship, held at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, is Connecticut's largest professional sporting event and the only Northeast stop on the PGA Tour. The net proceeds from the tournament benefit HITWGC and hundreds of other local charities. Last year's tournament generated \$1.2 million for 180 charities throughout the region, making the final total donated since 1951 more than \$31 million. Says Starkin, "We are proud of our relationship with the Travelers Championship, which continues to raise crucial awareness and support that help us provide 'a different kind of healing' to children and families coping with serious illnesses. We look forward to the 2014 Championship in June and are grateful for their continued friendship."

What started out that first summer in 1988 as a small Camp with big dreams and 288 smiling kids has since grown to serve more than 20,000 children and



The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp



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family members each year. The summer programs from June to August serve more than 1,000 youngsters annually, and in non-summer months, an additional 3,000 kids and families are served through camper reunions, family weekends, parent retreats and other programs in the community. On top of that, HITWGC's Hospital Outreach Program provides 19,000 visits to hospitalized children throughout the year. More than 22,000 children have been served through the summer Camp program alone since 1988. Today, there are several HITWGC locations worldwide, making it the largest Camp network for seriously ill children in the world. In 2013, HITWGC invited back its original campers from that first pioneering summer to join in celebrating 25 years in operation and witnessing how one generous man's vision has blossomed into a movement backed by thousands of passionate supporters to provide kids with the ultimate Camp experience. The Hoffman Auto Group proudly supports the incredible efforts of CFM Foundation and HITWGC to improve the lives of youths and help them dwell in the realm of possibility.

Here's how you can help: Hole in the Wall Gang Camp: www.holeinthewallgang.org. Football Fundamentals Mini-Camp: www.cfm-foundation.org/Make_A_Donation. 



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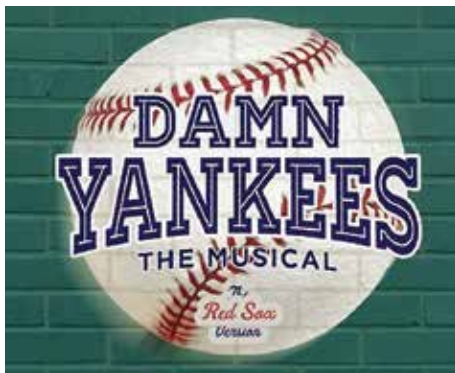
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HAPPENINGS

By Robert Bailin

Greater Hartford hosts a variety of special events throughout the year — from street festivals and art shows to major concerts and sporting events. Here is a sampling of events that may be of interest to you.

Through June 1. "Click! Clack! Ding!—The American Typewriter." This exhibition will include over 20 machines that span nearly 100 years, dating from 1873 to 1966. All the typewriters are American-made, with a focus on models built in Connecticut. Expect to fall in love with these once common household and workplace machines all over again. Monday–Wednesday, Friday, 11am–5pm; Thursday, 11am–8pm; Saturday, 10am–5pm; Sunday, noon–5pm. Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Students \$8, Children (age 12 & under) Free. *New Britain Museum of American Art, 56 Lexington Street, New Britain; 860-229-0257; www.nbmaa.org*



May 15 – June 21. "Damn Yankees—The Red Sox Version." Just in time for baseball season comes the muscular musical comedy about middle-aged Red Sox super-fan Joe Boyd who is transformed into star slugger Joe Hardy after he makes a deal with the devil—and his sexy associate, Lola. Goodspeed Musicals re-imagines a Broadway classic that swings for the fences, no matter which team you root for. In the game of love and baseball, you gotta have "Heart"—but watch out for "Whatever Lola Wants." Wednesday–Thursday, 2pm & 7:30pm; Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 3pm & 8pm; Sunday, 2pm. \$32.50–\$79.50. *Goodspeed Opera House, 6 Main Street, East Haddam; 860-873-8668; www.goodspeed.org*

May 17. "West Hartford Symphony Orchestra Pops Concert." An evening of beautiful music from Broadway, Hollywood and the Great American Songbook by favorite composers, under the direction of Richard Chiarappa. Saturday, 8pm. Table seating \$24, general seating \$18, seniors and students \$12. *West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford; 860-521-4362; www.wbso.org*

May 22 – June 15. "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike." With *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, comic genius Christopher Durang (*Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All to You, The Marriage of Bette and Boo, and Betty's Summer Vacation*) creates a wildly funny farce about a self-absorbed movie star—with her 20-something boy-toy in tow—who returns to the family farmhouse to visit her brother and sister. Her arrival, and subsequent announcement, quickly turn this genial reunion into a hilarious free-for-all. Tuesday–Thursday, 7:30pm; Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 2pm & 8pm; Sunday, 2pm & 7:30pm. \$25–\$85, students \$20. *Hartford Stage, 50 Church Street, Hartford; 860-527-5151; www.hartfordstage.org*

May 30. "Tony Bennett." Don't miss your chance to see a true living legend! Winner of 17 Grammy Awards, a Kennedy Center Honoree and NEA Jazz Master, Tony Bennett had his first hit in 1951, and his albums

continue to top the charts. A master of the Great American Songbook whose timeless appeal and charm has captivated audiences for over 60 years, Bennett brings his signature style and classic renditions of "Fly Me to the Moon," "Smile" and "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" to The Bushnell stage. Friday, 8pm. \$59–\$129. *William H. Mortensen Hall, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford; 860-244-2999; www.bushnell.org*

May 31 – June 1. "Hartford Comic Con." Due to ever-rising pop culture and comic book fan demand, Epic Conventions will come to the XL Center with the ever-popular comic-con platform. This two-day event will feature top comic book artists Ed McGuiness, Tim Sale, Joe Benitez, Shawn McManus, Jimmy Cheung; cosplay celebrities like Riddle I, Bellechere, Kristen Hughey, Bethany Maddock, Miggy Jagger; TV personalities Chandler Riggs (*Walking Dead*), Giancarlo Esposito (*Breaking Bad, Revolution*), Katrina Law (*Arrow, Spartacus*), Larry Thomas (*Seinfeld*). Show floor events will include KidsConn, Gaming, Films, Costume Contest, Panels and other pop culture fun! Saturday, 10am–7pm; Sunday, 10am–5pm. \$25 for single-day pass, \$45 for two-day pass. *XL Center, One Civic Center Plaza, Hartford; 860-249-6333; www.xlcenter.com*

June 5 – September 7. "Ruben Ochoa / MATRIX 169: Post Post." MATRIX 169 will showcase the post-minimalist sculpture of Ruben Ochoa in an exhibition titled Post Post. Using the construction materials of manual laborers that he connects with his Mexican-American background, Ochoa's simple and defiant sculptures transcend their functional material forms. For his MATRIX project, Ochoa will install a site-specific sculpture in the MATRIX gallery and a second public sculpture for the front lawn of the Wadsworth Athenaeum in direct dialogue with Alexander Calder's stabile "Stegosaurus" (1973), Tony Smith's "Amaryllis" (1965), and Carl Andre's "Stone Field Sculpture" (1977). Wednesday–Friday, 11am–5pm; Saturday–Sunday, 10am–5pm. Adults \$10, Seniors \$8, Students \$5, Children (age 12 & under) Free. *Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art, 600 Main Street, Hartford; 860-278-2670; www.thewadsworth.org*

June 13. "Lynyrd Skynyrd Live in Concert!" Having survived enough tragedy and just plain hard miles for 10 bands, Skynyrd is—remarkably at this stage of their career—on a roll. Their 13th studio album, *God & Guns*, debuted at #18 on the Billboard Top 200, giving the band their highest debut since 1977. Their latest album, *Last Of A Dyin' Breed*, re-ignites the in-studio alchemy the band found with Guns producer Bob Marlette, and the sound is traditional Skynyrd blended to perfection with an edge of immediacy. In short, it's rock 'n roll for the times. Come see the legendary rock band return with a fiery slice of Southern style guitar rock at the Simsbury Meadows. This event will take place rain or shine. Friday, 7pm. \$45–\$109. *Performing Arts Center at Simsbury Meadows, 22 Iron Horse Boulevard, Simsbury; 860-651-4052; www.simsburymeadows.com*

June 14–28. "The International Festival of Arts & Ideas." The International Festival of Arts & Ideas is a 15-day extravaganza of performing arts, lectures, and conversations that takes over theaters and open spaces in New Haven each June. More than 80% of Festival events are completely free! Events include Traces (7 Fingers), a thrilling theatrical circus with high-flying acrobatics; jazz legend Dianne Reeves with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra; The Gloaming, an Irish & American folk

supergroup; concerts from the String Quartet Truck, and dozens of other shows, exhibits, talks and concerts. See website for events calendar. Ticketed events: \$35. Various locations downtown, *New Haven; 888-ART-IDEA; www.artidea.org*

June 16–22. "Travelers Championship." For one week, the golf world turns its attention to the Travelers Championship, a world-class golf experience and family-friendly event. It is one of the PGA Tour's most well-attended events with a \$6.2 million purse and \$1.116 million winner's share. Daily pre-round events include the Opening Ceremony, the Players Pro-Am, Fan & Family Day, the Celebrity Pro-Am and a Mini-Golf Tournament. Monday–Sunday, all day. \$20–\$75. *Tournament Players Club at River Highlands, 1 Golf Club Road, Cromwell; 860-502-6800; www.travelerschampionship.com*

June 17. "Hoffman Audi quattro Cup Event." Hoffman Audi East Hartford and Hoffman Audi New London hold their third annual quattro Cup at the pristine Hartford Golf Club. With a record setting 77 local tournaments in the United States alone last year, the Audi quattro Cup remains the largest amateur golf tournament in the world. The winning two-person team will advance to the U.S. Final at Pebble Beach Resorts, scheduled for August 21–24. From there, two teams will embark on an epic odyssey to Dubai as representatives of Audi of America at the World Final. Free. *Hartford Golf Club, 134 Norwood Road, West Hartford; 860-523-5229; www.audiquattrocup.us*

June 26. "16th Annual Burton C. Hoffman Golf Classic." To benefit the Burton & Phyllis Hoffman Foundation which was founded in 1999 and continues to give back to the Greater Hartford Community. For sponsor information contact Gladys Rivera at the Hoffman Auto Group. Thursday, 11am–7:30pm. *Tumble Brook Country Club, 376 Simsbury Road, Bloomfield*

June 27 – September 7. "Fiddler on the Roof." The 50th anniversary production of the international smash musical about Russian Jewish villagers and their universal longings—love, wealth, freedom, God and home—makes its Goodspeed Musicals debut, boasting the beloved songs "If I Were a Rich Man," "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker" and more. In the little village of Anatevka, where "Tradition" is both embraced and challenged, local milkman Teyve sees his daughters fall in love in a time of extraordinary change. Wednesday–Thursday, 2pm & 7:30pm; Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 3pm & 8pm; Sunday, 2pm & 6:30pm. \$32.50–\$79.50. *Goodspeed Opera House, 6 Main Street, East Haddam; 860-873-8668; www.goodspeed.org*



July 12. "Riverfest." 2012 Montreal International Fireworks Competition Gold medal winner, Atlas Pyrovi-

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HAPPENINGS

sion, highlights the largest one-day fireworks celebration in Connecticut, choreographed to popular Americana-themed music that will be broadcast throughout the event sites. Riverfest features free entertainment including live bands, amusements, kids' activities, great food and more. Saturday, 4pm with fireworks at 9pm. Free. *Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, Hartford and Great River Park, East Hartford*; 860-713-3131; www.riverfront.org

July 20. "Fidelco Ride for Independence." Rev up your engine for the fourth annual Ride for Independence to benefit the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation. This family-friendly motorcycle fundraiser offers something for everyone. Riders enjoy a scenic, escorted route through the beautiful Farmington Valley before arriving back at Fidelco for a gourmet barbeque lunch, live music and more! Non-riders are encouraged to attend to cheer on our riders, join us for lunch and enjoy the vendors, entertainment and on-site K-9 demonstrations. Sunday, 9am-2pm. Riders \$40, Non-riders \$15 (children under 12 free). *Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, 103 Vision Way, Bloomfield*; 860-243-5200; www.fidelco.org

August 1-23. "The Impracticality of Modern-Day Mastodons." World premiere of *The Impracticality of Modern-Day Mastodons* by Connecticut playwright Rachel Teagle, recipient of the Leah Ryan Prize for Emerging Women Writers in 2012. When everyone becomes what they wanted to be when they grew up, the world is suddenly full of astronauts, ballerinas, and one bewildered mastodon. A brand-new, off-beat comedy about ambition, vocation and impractical beasts. Friday and Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 2pm. General admission \$20, seniors and students \$15. *Hole in the Wall Theater, 116 Main Street, New Britain*; 860-229-3049; www.hitw.org

August 2. "Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival." Authentic Caribbean cuisine, cool island beverages, spectacular costumes and dance, and island rhythms brings a festive Caribbean atmosphere to the Riverfront. Saturday, 1pm-11pm. Free. *Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, Hartford*; 860-713-3131; www.riverfront.org

August 15-23. "New Haven Open at Yale." The women's-only, WTA-event New Haven Open at Yale has always been much more than a tennis tournament. It is a leading example of leveraging a large-scale international sporting event that has a regional economic impact and to grow community pride, spirit and engagement, especially among youth. In addition to world class tennis, the tournament offers fans a host of off-court activities, autograph sessions, live entertainment, and much more. See website for gate opening and match starting times. Daily tickets \$7-\$58. *Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale, 45 Yale Avenue, New Haven*; 203-776-7331; www.newhavenopen.com

August 28 - September 1. "Historic Festival 32 at Lime Rock." Since 1983, the East Coast's premier vintage racing and concours event has been the Historic Festival weekend at Lime Rock Park. No other venue in the U.S. has three days of on-track racing sandwiching a prestigious concours event all on the same property. There will be more than 300 cars and drivers, racing everything from cars built before WWI to the best competition machines from the 1920s to the 1970s. In between the two race days is the prestigious Sunday in the Park Concours. Expect up to 250 cars comprising the Lime Rock Concours d'Elegance, lining the entire length of Sam Posey Straight. The cars are judged by eminent experts, by class, on the basis of design, rarity, provenance and condition. Thursday-Monday, see website for event times. \$25-\$50 (children under 12 free). *Lime Rock Park, 60 White Hollow Road, Lakeville*; 860-435-5000; www.limerockhistorics.com



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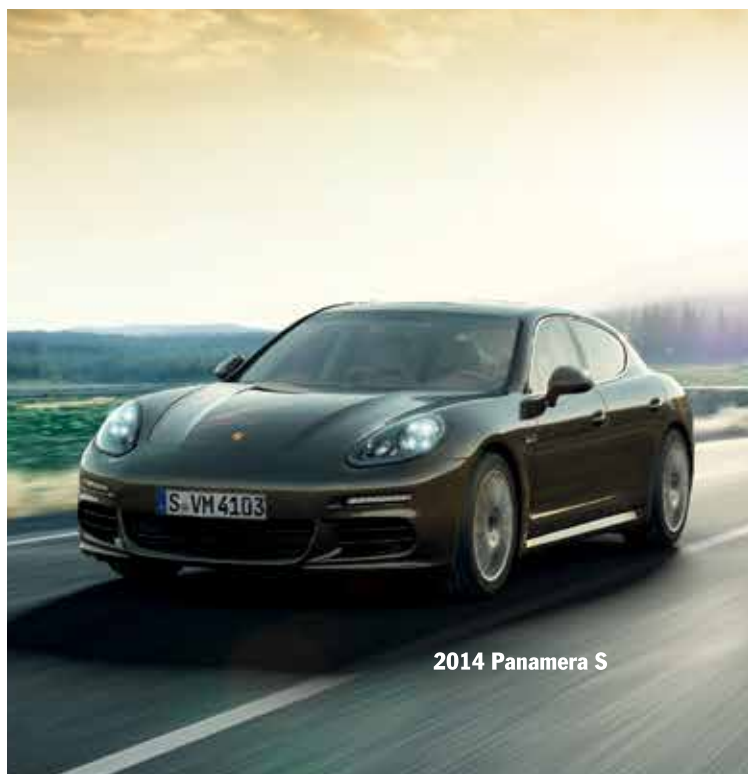
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