

At Home Page 3



DINING Page 4






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Holiday Shopping Page 2



FINANCIAL REPORT

Dow 30	43,717.48	-110.58	-0.3%
NASDAQ	20,173.89	247.17	1.2%
S&P 500	6,074.08	22.99	0.4%
Crude Oil	70.65	-0.41	-0.6%
Gold	2,652.00	-18	-0.7%

As of market close 12/16/2024

11/27/2024	Fraud (Impersonation/ID Theft)	Pine Tree Road	Reported ID theft then attempted to open an account in the victims name. Investigation remains open.
11/27/2024	MV Stop	Lonetown Road (Route 107)	
11/27/2024	Parking Enforcement	West Redding Train Station	
11/28/2024	Alarm	Dan Beard Lane	
11/28/2024	Assist - EMS	Cross Highway	
11/28/2024	Assist - EMS	Farview Farm Road	
11/28/2024	Assist - EMS	John Road Road	
11/28/2024	Assist - Other Agency	Redding Road (Route 107)	
11/28/2024	Disabled MV	Redding Road (Route 107)	
11/29/2024	911 Hang-up / Error Cell Phone	Cell Tower- 589 Redding (Mountain Road)	
11/29/2024	Animal Control Investigation	Black Rock Turnpike (Route 58)	
11/29/2024	Animal Control Investigation	Gallows Hill Road	
11/29/2024	Animal Control Investigation	Redding Road (Route 107)	
11/29/2024	Assist - EMS	Great Pasture Road	
11/29/2024	Assist - EMS	Redding Road (Route 107)	
11/29/2024	Assist - EMS	Wood Road	
11/29/2024	MVA - Property Damage	Long Ridge Road	

11/30/2024	Alarm	Sanfordtown Road	Unable to download narratives.
11/30/2024	All Other Offenses	Glen Hill Road	Illegal Dumping 2 tires on private property.
11/30/2024	Assist - EMS	Huckleberry Road	
11/30/2024	Assist - EMS	Redding Road (Route 107)	
11/30/2024	Assist - FD	Cross Highway	
11/30/2024	Emergency Committal / C.I.	Newtown Turnpike	Transported to Danbury ER for evaluation, due to severe intoxication.
11/30/2024	Misc. Incident	Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7)	
11/30/2024	Misc. Incident	Georgetown Road (Route 57)	
11/30/2024	MV Stop	Black Rock Turnpike (Route 58)	
11/30/2024	MVA - Private Property	Wood Road	Unable to download narratives.
12/1/2024	Alarm	Goodridge Road	
12/1/2024	Animal Control Investigation	Grassy Plain Street	
12/1/2024	Animal Control Investigation	Old Stagecoach Road	
12/1/2024	Animal- Sick/Dead/Nuisance	Picketts Ridge Road	

# Nearly 23,000 Connecticut Residents Will Have \$30 Million in Medical Debt Erased

## Letters Will Be Mailed Beginning December 23 Notifying Individuals and Families That Their Medical Debt Has Been Erased

Connecticut officials recently announced that nearly 23,000 Connecticut residents who have medical debt will be notified in the coming days that some or all of that debt has been eliminated under the first round of a major initiative his administration launched through a partnership with the national nonprofit organization Undue Medical Debt.

The nonprofit contracts with state and local governments and leverages public investments to negotiate with hospitals and other providers on the elimination of large, bundled portfolios of qualifying medical debt owed by patients whose income is at or below four times (400%) the federal poverty level or who have medical debt that is 5% or more of their income. (The current federal poverty level is an annual income at or below \$31,200 for a family of four.) Because these medical debts are acquired in bulk and belong to those least able to pay, they cost a fraction of their face value.

Under this first round, the Lamont administration invested approximately \$100,000 from the state's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

funding, and Undue Medical Debt was able to negotiate with a secondary market partner (i.e. collections agency) and a national provider to acquire approximately \$30 million in qualifying medical debt for Connecticut residents.

There is no application process for this medical debt relief and it cannot be requested. Instead, residents whose debt has been identified for relief will receive a branded letter from Undue Medical Debt indicating which debt or debts have been eliminated. Letters under this first round will be delivered to Connecticut residents through the U.S. mail beginning December 23, 2024.

In addition to this initiative, Governor Lamont recently signed legislation enacting a law that prohibits health care providers and hospitals in Connecticut from reporting a person's medical debt to credit rating agencies for use in credit reports. That new law – which went into effect on July 1, 2024 – was enacted to protect patients who may have otherwise been apprehensive about seeking essential medical care for fear that any inability to pay could negatively impact their credit rating.

# State Police Promote Five Officers



Lt. Colonel Gomez

The Connecticut State Police promoted five Troopers during a ceremony today at State Police Headquarters. Colonel Daniel Loughman, Command-

ing Officer of the Connecticut State Police, formally promoted the Troopers.

The following Troopers were promoted:

Lieutenant Colonel Chad Gomez Lieutenant Colonel Gomez was promoted from Major and has been assigned to command the Bureau of Professional Standards. He most recently served as Executive Officer in the Office of Field Operations. A graduate of the 119th State Police Training Troop, he has been a Trooper for 17

years. Lt. Col. Gomez previously served as Commanding Officer of the Central District and the Western District, as well as Commanding Officer of the Emergency Services Unit. In addition, Lt. Col. Gomez was a Detective in the Statewide Narcotics Unit, a Tactical Team Member with Emergency Services, a K-9 Handler and a Patrol Trooper at Troop L, Litchfield.

Sergeant Christopher Valente Sergeant Valente was promoted from Trooper First Class and has been assigned to Troop F- Westbrook after

most recently serving as Middlefield Resident Trooper.

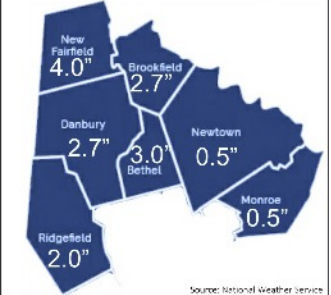
Sergeant Kristina Vivino Sergeant Vivino was promoted from Trooper First Class and has been assigned to Troop C- Tolland.

Sergeant Alexander Milne Sergeant Milne was promoted from Trooper First Class and has been assigned to Troop L-Litchfield.

Sergeant Gordon Leslie Sergeant Leslie was promoted from Trooper First Class and has been assigned to Troop E- Montville.

SNOW FALL ACCUMULATES

Monday, Dec. 17 Storm Snowfall



New Fairfield	4.0"
Brookfield	2.7"
Danbury	2.7"
Bethel	3.0"
Newtown	0.5"
Monroe	0.5"
Ridgefield	2.0"

Source: National Weather Service

Calendar

December 17 at 5:30 pm  
Region 9 Finance and Operations Committee  
JBHS Library Media Center 100 Black Rock Turnpike, Redding, CT

December 17 at 7:00 pm  
Conservation Commission  
Town Hall Hearing Room 100 Hill Road, Redding

December 17 at 7:00 pm  
Region 9 Board Of Education  
JBHS Library Learning Commons

December 17 at 7:00 pm  
Zoning Board Of Appeals  
Virtual-Zoom  
Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87581133126>  
Meeting ID: 875 8113 3126

December 18 at 7:30 pm  
Water Pollution Control Commission  
Virtual-Zoom

December 19 at 7:00 pm  
Historic Review CommitteeCANCELED  
Town Hall Conference Room 100 Hill Road, Redding, CT

December 19 at 7:30 pm  
Democratic Town Committee  
Town Hall Hearing Room 100 Hill Road, Redding

December 23 @ 7:30 pm  
Board Of Finance  
Town Hall Hearing Room (subject to change to virtual or hybrid as necessary)

December 24 @ 1:00 pm  
Town Offices Close at 1PM

December 25  
Town Offices and Recycling/Transfer Center Closed-Christmas

News Briefs

STAMFORD ZONING BOARD CHANGES RULES ON SALE OF DOGS AND CATS

The Stamford Zoning Board earlier this month made changes to various zoning regulations, including one that aims to curb the sale of puppies and kittens from pet shops in highly trafficked areas. The rule changes aim to curb the sale of puppies and kittens from pet shops in highly trafficked areas.

Land Use Bureau Chief Ralph Blessing presented proposed changes to the board on Dec. 2.

"Basically what we're proposing to do is to create two categories of pet stores," Blessing explained. "One would be 'pet store, supplies and accessories only,' in which you would not be permitted to sell cats and dogs. The other ones would be 'pet stores, full service.' Those would only be allowed by special permit in the C-I, M-L, and M-G zones."

## STATE SENATOR DEMANDS ANSWERS ABOUT MYSTERIOUS DRONES

At a news conference on Monday at the Fairfield train station, where drones were seen last week, State Senator Tony Hwang (Fairfield, Bethel, Easton and Newtown) called on federal and state authorities to be more transparent about where the drones are coming from, and who is flying them. "I'm extremely concerned that we are not getting information," Hwang said, adding that he is sending a letter to the Department of Homeland Security, "asking that federal authorities give facts, explanations and not just reassurances without any answers."

"We seem to be getting reassurances that it's safe, that they're benign, but not real facts as to who, and what these drones are," Hwang said.

## 1 KILLED, POLICE OFFICER INJURED

One person was killed and a West Haven police officer was seriously injured early Monday in a two-vehicle crash on Derby Avenue in West Haven. Officials report that the crash occurred at approximately 2:20 a.m., when the driver of a Hyundai Elantra lost control of the vehicle in icy conditions and slammed into a police car that was parked at a Citgo gas station on Derby Avenue. According to police, the driver of the Hyundai was seriously injured in the crash and the person who was killed was a passenger in that vehicle.

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## Shopping For The Holidays

### Hollandia Nurseries Gift & Garden Center



Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus while shopping for holiday gifts and decorations at Hollandia Nurseries Gift & Garden Center, 96 Stony Hill Road, Bethel

### Patricia's Presents



Find customizable presents, accessories and fun items for pets and people and much more at Patricia's Presents at 164 Greenwood Avenue in Bethel.

### The Toy Chest



A vast array of remote control toys, a wall of Jelly-Cats and a wall of Bruder Toy Trucks, aisles of puzzles, plus dolls and toys for all the girls and boys and more await at The Toy Chest 441 Main Street in Ridgefield.



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## Yes Virginia...

In 1897 The New York Sun published this reply to a letter from 8 year old Virginia O'Hanlon asking if there really is a Santa Claus. Their answer was and remains timeless and in many ways applies now more than ever. We republish it in the hope that the wisdom from 1897 resonates in 2024.

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say that there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in the Sun, it is so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon  
115 W. 95th St.

Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

premises as opening act

1964 "Goldfinger", 3rd James Bond film, starring Sean Connery and Honor Blackman premieres in London

1944 US Army announces end of excluding Japanese-Americans from West Coast, detainees released

1935 1st flight of the Douglas DC-3

1924 1st US diesel electric locomotive enters service, Bronx, NY

1903 The Wright brothers make the first sustained motorized aircraft flight at 10:35 AM, piloted by Orville Wright at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina

1900 New Ellis Island Immigration station completed costing \$1.5 million

1791 NYC traffic regulation creates 1st 1-way street

1777 George Washington's army returns to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

1777 France recognizes independence of British colonies in America

1538 Pope Paul II excommunicates King Henry VIII of England

Today's Birthdays

1966 Christopher A. Wray, American lawyer, F.B.I. Director, born in New York City

1953 Bill Pullman, American actor (Somersby, League of their Own, Independence Day), born in Hornell, New York

1946 Eugene Levy, Canadian comic actor, and writer (SCTV; American Pie; Schitt's Creek), born in Hamilton, Ontario

1936 Catholic Pope (2013-) 1st Jesuit pope, 1st from the Americas and 1st non-European pope since Syrian Gregory III in 741, born in Buenos Aires, Argentina

1935 Cal Ripken Sr, American baseball manager, born in Aberdeen, Maryland

1929 William Safire, American political columnist (NY Times) and speech writer (Nixon), born in New York City

1894 Arthur Fiedler, American conductor (Boston Pops), born in Boston, Massachusetts

Written by Francis P. Church in 1897  
Published September 21, 1897

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Things To Do

Announcing our:  
2025 WINTER  
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Classes start the week of January 13th!  
Grades K-2 – Tuesdays  
Grades 3-5 – Wednesdays  
Grades 6-8 – Thursdays  
High School – Thursday Evenings  
New!!!! WorkspaceCT can now provide  
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Ox tail , jerk chicken, curry goat, rice and peas are just a few authentic Jamaican items you can get at the new and exciting place located in the Berkshire shopping center in Danbury called “Kru Grill House”!!!  
Marlon & Natoya who are native Jamaicans had a dream to bring the vibrant culture of Jamaica to our area. Every item is made with genuine Jamaican spices, ensuring the true flavors of Jamaica. I’ve never had true Jamaican food before so when Natoya suggested one of their popular items, the “Oxtail” I told her... bring it on!!! I ordered the large oxtail meal, Plantain, rice and peas, and vegetables. I never had oxtail meat before, but it is now officially on my personal menu. Succulent, delicious & juicy. I can’t describe it with any other type of meat, but I’m definitely now a fan favorite. Open Monday through Sunday with indoor seating.

To see more of Nicky’s reviews,  
visit <https://is.gd/A1UH4p>

## Adopt A Rescue



MEET SNOOPY

Meet Snoopy, a nine-month-old, 35 lb. Great Pyrenees mix puppy with the softest white coat, floppy ears, heart nose, and gentle brown eyes. He was found roaming the streets in Texas before being brought in by a good samaritan. He’s been waiting for quite a while to find the right home...

We don't know what Snoopy's life looked like before coming to us but we believe it was one filled with neglect and abuse as he is very shy and fearful when meeting new people. While timid, he does warm up to doggies much quicker than he does to humans. Snoopy currently lives with multiple dogs of all sizes and ages in his foster home and enjoys their company.

Once he feels comfortable with you, he is a very sweet boy who enjoys cuddling and getting lots of pets and belly rubs. Snoopy will even give you kisses when he’s ready to - you just have to go at his pace and be aware of his body language so an experienced dog owner is crucial. Once he’s settled, he loves to play with his toys independently or with his foster siblings.

Snoopy is more fearful of men and seems to be more comfortable with women. He'd be best suited in a family with teens and up. His ideal home would be a quiet one with another dog as they help to build his confidence and make Snoopy more comfortable. He MUST go to a home with a fenced yard (no exceptions, no electric).

He will require someone who's going to commit to training and confidence building. He is very food motivated (treats are the key to his heart) and a fast learner. Snoopy is house trained and crate trained. He’s in need of an adopter who will be patient as it will take him some time to trust you.

To learn more, visit <https://www.happilyforeverafter.org/>

## Doing Good

### Feed A Veteran Breakfast Or Lunch

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**Please let us know if you are a Vet!!!**

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NOTE: FOR VETS RECEIVING BREAKFAST OF LUNCH. PROOF OF SERVICE MAY BE REQUIRED

Patrons of For Pete’s Sake Delicatessen, located at 73 Stony Hill Road in Bethel, can donate breakfast or lunch to local veterans all year long. As a result, veterans of American armed forces can enjoy breakfast or lunch at no charge as part of the program. Veterans should bring proof of service as they may ask for it.

The program runs all year long. Staff image shows flyer describing the program.

## Help Wanted

### The Dapper Den

The Dapper Den at 431 Main Street in Ridgefield is looking for Barbers and Apprentices. No experience is needed as they are willing to train the right candidate. Contact Jared at 203-438-2710.

### Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo located at 597 Elm Street in Stamford is seeking a Part Time Teller. Learn more or apply online at <http://linksit.xyz/zL56vP.htm>

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