

# Ready, set, read; Ready, set, volunteer at museum



**Kellie Lambert McGuire**  
Observing The Arts

Southington is ready to read.

Dr. Yvonne Thornton has been chosen at the 2012 "Southington Reads" author, and the community will be bonding over two of her books: "The Ditchdigger's Daughters" and "Something to Prove."

Dr. Thornton is a nationally-known best-selling author, earning a Pulitzer Prize nomination for "The Ditchdigger's Daughters," a book about her family. The book was made into an award-winning cable TV movie. "Something to Prove" continues her life story. Both books are available at the

Southington Public Library. Dr. Thornton has earned several accolades throughout her life, hosted her own television show and has appeared on "Oprah" and "Good Morning America." She has been named one of the five most influential black women of 2011 by Shecky's online magazine, listing her with Oprah Winfrey, Michelle Obama, Halle Barry and Jennifer Hudson.

The community is invited to hear Dr. Thornton speak at 7 p.m. March 21 at the Aqua Turf Club. Registration for the event will begin Feb. 1. Patrons may register using their e-mail address on the library website to receive an e-mail for a reminder to sign up.

For more information, visit [www.southingtonlibrary.org](http://www.southingtonlibrary.org) or call (860) 628-0947.

**NEW SHOW:** Steel Panther will perform April 19 at The Dome at the Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford. Tickets, which are currently on sale, are \$23 for general admission; \$40 for limited general admission VIP tickets, which include a meet-and-greet with the band.

For tickets, go to [LiveNation.com](http://LiveNation.com). For more



Steel Panther comes to The Dome at Oakdale this April.

information on the band and the tour, visit [www.steelpantherrocks.com](http://www.steelpantherrocks.com).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The New England Carousel Museum is in search of volunteers for five different areas.

A general handyman is needed to make small repairs and keep the building in good repair.

Someone with expertise in data processing, answering phones and helping to complete mailings is needed

in the office.

Those wishing to work with the public are needed for receptions, greeting guests and helping to oversee activities going on the museum. Docent training is available to those interested in becoming a tour guide.

Volunteers are also needed to work with staff at booths at the Bristol Home Show, bridal shows, and at country fair booths.

People are also needed for several committees. The

Special Events Committee also needs help with producing fun activities for the Greater Bristol community. The Building Committee oversees capital improvements to the building. The Education Committee develops new programming for children. The Harley Raffle Committee is in charge of the museum's major fundraiser of the year.

To volunteer, contact Jen Fritzen at (860) 585-5411, e-mail [info@thecarouselmuseum.org](mailto:info@thecarouselmuseum.org), or visit the museum at 95 Riverside Ave., Bristol, to fill out a volunteer form.

**PLAYHOUSE WINS AWARDS:** West Hartford's Playhouse on Park has earned several awards at the 2011 Connecticut Broadway World Awards.

The theater won 10 titles, including Best Professional Theater

Company, Best Ensemble Performance in a Play for "Around the World in 80 Days;" Best Actor in a Musical, **Doug LeBell** in "Chicago;" Best Featured Actress in a Musical, **Hillary Ekwall** in "Charlie Brown;" Best Director of a Musical, **Darlene Zoller/Collin Britt** in "Chicago."

Also, the theater won awards for Best Play, "An Enemy of the People;" Best Director of a Play, **Robert Davis** in "Equus;" Best Young Actor, **Mark Ford** in "Equus;" Best Ensemble Performance in a Musical, "Chicago;" and Best Young Actress, **Hollis Young** in "Brighton Beach Memoirs."

**LITTLE HOUSE GOES SMALLER:** Local band Little House has re-grouped, paring down to a four-piece band. Originally a seven-piece band, plus three singers, the group is aiming for a more authentic American music experience with its new format.

See the new version of the band at its performance barn in West Simsbury on Saturday. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7. Tickets are free and are available by e-mailing [info@littlehouselive.com](mailto:info@littlehouselive.com), indicating the show date and the number of tickets, up to 4. If seats are available, a confirmation e-mail will be sent.

For more information, visit [www.littlehouselive.com](http://www.littlehouselive.com).

Send arts and entertainment news and listings, including information on local musicians, artists, theater, film, books and more, to [kellmcguire@yahoo.com](mailto:kellmcguire@yahoo.com).

## Fire: Woodstove may have played part

From page 5

ditions on the roads.

The Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike was closed for part of the afternoon, as was the greenway that runs behind the business complex. Firefighters set up booms to catch runoff from the scene in case it was contaminated from the industrial supplies that burned.

Department of Energy and Environmental

Protection officials were called to the scene to contain spillage and remained there all night disposing of contaminants.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, but fire officials said it started in the area of a woodstove and other combustible elements.

Cheshire Fire Department also responded to the scene and Plainville Fire Department provided backup at Southington's fire stations.



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