

Author: Dr. Thornton to talk about autobiographies

From page 1

Thornton said, talking about how she has spoken about her books in various venues throughout the years. "That's where it's at."

"Ditchdigger's Daughters" is the inspirational true story of a father, a ditchdigger by trade, who would do anything humanly possible to help his six daughters succeed in life. In the Pulitzer Prize nominated book Thornton describes

how, with seemingly unflinching energy and determination, her father Donald, working two jobs, saw each of his five daughters obtain an education and become established in a successful career. Donald and his wife gave their children the strength to achieve their goals in the face of hardships, not the least of which were racial and gender discrimination.

"My mom and dad were working class people,"

Thornton said. "It was a wonderful upbringing."

Thornton said she had received numerous emails, comments and feedback telling her that the "Ditchdigger's Daughters," which took 18 years to be printed, was a good parenting book.

"It was a labor of love," Thornton said about the experience of writing and publishing the book.

"Ditchdigger's Daughters" was made into

an award-winning cable television movie and was condensed for inclusion in Readers Digest.

"Something to Prove" is the sequel to "Ditchdigger's Daughter." In it, Thornton reveals how she ascended to the top of her field as a physician by drawing on her father's teachings. Despite bias and setbacks, she became the first African-American woman to be board certified in maternal-fetal medicine. Dismissed

and shunned by her peers for entering the white, male-dominated world of academic medicine, Dr.

Thornton relied on her father's life lessons, which taught her to be strong and rise above adversity. The book also addresses balancing a family life along with a professional career.

"No amount of success can make up for failure at home," she recalled being told by her parents.

Copies of both books

are available at the library, though, due their popularity, patrons may have to reserve copies.

Registration for Southington Reads will begin on Feb. 1. Patrons may register their email address on the library website to receive an email reminding to sign up.

Southington Reads is Wednesday, March 27, 7 p.m. at the Aqua Turf.

Comments? Email eharris@southingtonobserver.com.

Budget: School board may have to lay off teachers

From page 1

board member Jill Notar-Francesco. "I'm curious if you looked at other areas in the district for reductions."

Erardi said he was

reluctant to make any major cuts to programs because while the district may hire more staff in the future, it was his experience that eliminated programs were normally gone for good.

Some board members speculated about potentially cutting programs to save a few of the teaching positions. One example was middle school sports, which costs the district about \$105,000 each year.

Chairman Brian Goralski cautioned the board that this strategy could leave them open to accusations of using "scare tactics," since middle school sports has been threatened many times in

the past but never actually eliminated. He also felt that cutting programs didn't really solve the problem of losing staff.

"I'm not in favor of looking at reducing programming," Goralski said.

"All these programs are staff-driven. If we reduce programs, we are also reducing staff."

The BOE is expected to vote on the budget on Thursday, after The Observer went to press.

Sewers: Council sets a public hearing for February 14

From page 1

service price and then doubled it, especially in

this economy," said resident Helen Henne, whose mother's property is included in the assess-

ment. "The town was dragging its feet on this and I don't think taxpayers should be penalized."

Williamsburg Drive resident and local developer Anthony Denorfia said the project could have been completed for a third of its final cost and had tough criticism for the project as a whole.

"From the beginning, this was totally mishandled," Denorfia said. "Williamsburg Drive is a disaster. For \$120,000 in construction costs, the street should be gold."

Town Manager Garry

Brumback said that the late billing did not contribute to the increased fees and that the situation was mostly a result of estimates that were made before the design of the actual project was completed. He proposed amending the process to allow residents a chance to hear about any potential changes in the costs before a sewer project would move forward.

"If the costs in the design are beyond a certain parameter of what was given at the original hearing, then it would

loop back for another hearing," he said. "If the residents are not comfortable with those new estimates, then we don't have to proceed."

The tentative plan approved by the council's sewer subcommittee assesses the three projects individually. The property owners on West Street would be assessed at \$131.23 per foot of frontage. The residents of Williamsburg Drive would be assessed at \$126.15 per foot of frontage. The residents of the various streets involved with the

third project would be assessed at \$97.62 per foot of frontage.

However, Town Council Chairman Edward Pocock, III said that just because the officials were setting the public hearing didn't mean that these would be the final numbers.

"I'm just as disgusted as some of you who have spoken," Pocock said. "What I see in this situation is a flaw in the process. It needs to be fixed."

Comments? Email rglidden@southingtonobserver.com.



TAMMI KNAPIK

Check mate

Brian Cochra, 5, sets up a chess during a recent visit to the Southington Library.

LET THE GAME BEGIN

GIO FOODS
~Authentic Italian Prepared Meals & Market~
In the Sherwin Williams Plaza across from Price Chopper

SB doesn't just stand for Super Bowl...
It stands for...
STUFFED BREADS **CATERING TO FOOTBALL FANS**

Buy 3 - Get 1 FREE
of Equal or Lesser Value

Ask us about our GIO-NORMOUS "Donut-Shaped" SANGWICH
Feeds up to 25 people

405 Queen Street • Southington, CT
Call Ahead to Place Your Order **860.863.5646**
Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-7pm • Sat & Sun 8am-4pm

VISIT www.MangiaGIO.com

CERAMIC TILE
Total Remodeling or Repairs
Free Estimates Work Guaranteed
860-628-0040
HIC. #0619856

Guitar And Piano Lessons
Beginner To Advanced All Styles
"Our instructors create unique lesson plans crafted specifically for you"

Learn your favorite songs within weeks!

MACRISCHOOL OF MUSIC
793-8455
www.macrimusic.com

Napoli 848 S. Main St., Plantsville, CT
860-628-4994
Fax 860.628.3718
www.napoli-catering.com

cafe, deli & catering

GO GIANTS!!

- 3 Ft Grinder \$39.95
- 6 Ft Grinder \$69.95
- Crispy Smoked Wings (Dozen) \$7.95
- Appetizers & Hors' De Ourves • Stuffed Breads

OPEN TILL 2 PM SUPERBOWL SUNDAY