

# Commentary



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## Our Views



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## Push through liquor sales

If at first you don't succeed, the saying goes, try, try again.

And, apparently, Gov. Dannel Malloy has taken that to heart.

An email came from the governor's office a few weeks ago. The missive from Hartford said the governor is going to propose legislation, which, among other things, will allow the sale of liquor on Sundays.

This isn't the first time there has been a move in Hartford these past few years to remove this restriction on Sunday liquor sales. As is obvious, they have failed. Former Bristol state Senator Tom Colapietro was among those who led a vigorous charge against removing the restriction on Sunday liquor sales.

This year could be different, however. Generally, the move to change the law has come from within the General Assembly. Now, the governor is tossing his political heft behind the move.

Malloy is arguing that the sales are needed so Connecticut can compete with other states that allow liquor sales on Sunday.

"As the years go by and other states modify their laws to reflect modern-day realities, our statutes have collected dust and it has resulted in consumers shopping in bordering states, causing Connecticut retailers to lose \$570 million in sales each year to surrounding states by some industry estimates," Governor Malloy said. "This proposal is pro-consumer, pro-'mom and pop' and pro-dollars being spent within Connecticut."

It's interesting that Malloy cites "mom and pop" stores as a reason for lifting the restrictions. After all, the mom and pop stores have been the biggest opponents of the move. For them, one more day of being open means hiring more people or giving up their own days off—or risk losing sales to other stores in the state who are open seven days a week... i.e. grocery stores and liquor superstores. And whatever additional profit they may have earned on the extra day open will be eaten up by expenses.

And all of the PR won't really change those basic facts of small business economics.

But Malloy is pulling out the chief executive playbook and arguing a change in law is needed to "compete" with our neighbors.

However, after several years of pushing for liquor sales, and consumers seeing little sense for the restriction or little sympathy for small businesses when they need a six pack for their tailgating party on a Sunday—and little moral outrage over removing the restriction—we'll probably be seeing liquor sales on Sundays this year.

This proposal does not mean package stores have to stay open on Sundays, just gives them the option to after years of forcing them to be closed on Sundays.

Although the governor is arguing the sales on Sunday will allow us to compete against those "economic powerhouses" Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and will help bring in revenue to the state, we think the actual results will be less "wow" and more "yawn."

But if liquor sales are allowed on Sundays by the General Assembly at last, at least we can put this issue to rest.

And then we can move on to much more important things.

# Relay for Life planning beginning

The actual Southington Relay for Life event is still several months away, but the planning and organizing stages have already begun.

Once again I will pledge The Observer's support for the Relay and we will do our best to run all the pertaining information that residents will need to know in the coming months.

Cancer has touched everyone's life, be it personally struggling with it or watching a friend or loved one battle with it. The Relay is a great cause to support and I wish them the best of luck this year.

The Relay for Life event will take place at the Southington High School on Friday, June 8 through Saturday, June 9.

Team captain meetings begin in February and run through the end of May.

In past years, Relay organizers have characterized the Relay as a "Celebration—a unique, challenging and fun way to raise money and awareness of cancer in Southington."

Residents can form a team with family, friends or coworkers. They can join the planning committee and help out behind the scenes. One can sponsor a luminaria to honor someone in their life that has had cancer. Businesses can also become corporate sponsors.

Working together we can help find a cure for cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, cancer is a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. If this



**Ed Harris**  
Thoughts around town

growth is not controlled, it can result in death.

Cancer does not discriminate and anyone can develop the disease.

The results of the report, "Cancer Facts & Figures 2012," located on the American Cancer Society's website, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org), are, at once, uplifting and chilling.

According to the report, 1.6 million new cancer cases are expected in the upcoming year. About 557,190 Americans were expected to die of cancer in 2012.

Cancer is the second cause of death in the United States. It accounts for one of every four deaths.

Despite these grim statistics, there is hope. Survival rates are increasing.

According to the report, the five-year relative survival rate for all cancers diagnosed between 2001 and 2007 is 67 percent, up from 59 percent in 1987-89.

## High tech gizmos need high tech kids

Well, it's been about a month since Christmas. This year the most popular gifts were electronic gizmos, such as iPhones, Droids, Kindles, flat-screen TVs, Nooks, DVRs, and iPads. (By the way, if you don't recognize any of those names, then maybe you should stop reading this column, and instead put down the newspaper and go finish churning the butter, because you have a long buggy ride ahead of you this afternoon to visit the telegraph office.)

Those high-tech marvels are no doubt terrific presents to unwrap on Christmas morning. Many people were thrilled to receive such wonderful gifts. And apparently, many other people were extremely disappointed when Santa chose to bring socks and sweaters rather than an electronic toy.

Right after Christmas a Facebook page was created so people could gripe and vent their frustration. The most common post said something like, "Am I the only person on the planet who didn't get an iPhone?! Christmas sucks!!!" Ah yes, nothing says "celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace" like public displays of unbridled greed and envy.

Anyway, millions of people did receive fancy electronic toys, and right about now, four weeks later, these people finally have discovered a sad fact that never gets mentioned in all the slick television commercials: only 12-year-olds truly comprehend menu-driven software.

The rest of the American popula-



**Bill Dunn**  
Laugh or Death

tion, especially adults over the age of 45, have their eyes glaze over when confronted with such cryptic concepts as "set-up menus," "access codes," "wireless settings," and "remote device interface."

There are many other frightening software terms being used, but the ones I listed are the terms I know I don't know. Terms I didn't list are the ones I don't even know I don't know anything about.

I was watching a ballgame the other day with a friend of mine who already owned an iPhone and received an iPad for Christmas.

During a time-out, an Apple commercial came on which showed a guy taking a photograph with his iPhone, editing the photo right on the screen of the phone, and then instantly transferring the image via a Wi-Fi connection (or possibly black magic) to his iPad

The rate was 50 percent in 1975-77.

Little by little, we are increasing our odds of survival.

Topping the previous year's Relay is always a tough proposition, as the Relay is constantly growing and having more of an impact.

Over the years the Relay for Life concept has grown and Southington's Relay is no exception. Despite a bad economy, Relay organizers have said that the last few years were the best for the event.

Over the last few years, more than 60 teams have participated in the walk around the track. Businesses all across the town have opened their doors to the teams and Relay organizers, allowing them to host fundraisers at their establishments.

Beyond simply hosting events, some of the businesses donated money that was raised on behalf of the Relay during special fundraisers at the eateries.

Beyond the participants, it is not surprising to see large crowds out supporting those walking around the track.

Let us all work together to make this year a bigger Relay and, in the process, shine a brighter light on eliminating cancer.

If anyone is interested in joining the planning committee, please contact either of the event co-chairs: Joyce McAloon at (860) 276-0255 or [joycemac24@cox.net](mailto:joycemac24@cox.net) or Robin Guzauckas at (860) 426-1129 or [robin@guzauckas.net](mailto:robin@guzauckas.net).

back at home.

I said to my friend, "Can you do that with your iPhone and iPad?"

He just laughed and said, "I don't even know what they're talking about. I just use my iPhone to make phone calls, and I use my iPad to surf the Internet and accidentally take photos of the floor. And it took me two weeks to figure out how to do those things."

I said, "But what about all those zillions of 'apps' that are available?"

He shrugged and said, "That would be nice, but I don't have a 12-year-old nephew to set up that stuff for me. So I'm stuck."

So that's the problem we middle-aged geezers face nowadays. The high-tech devices give us an amazing amount of potential functionality, but if there is no nerdy 7th grader nearby to unlock these mysteries, we're out of luck. (Did I just type "potential functionality"? What am I, in marketing? Oh wait, that's right, I am. Never mind.)

To put it in terms folks my age can understand, we've got all this available horsepower, but we can't start the car. We might as well be living in the 19th century.

Speaking of horsepower, I have to get going and hitch up the horse to my buggy. Right after I finish churning the butter I have to take a ride to the telegraph office.

*Bill Dunn is a freelance writer who resides in Torrington. He can be reached via his website at: [www.boomertrek.com](http://www.boomertrek.com).*