

Teen teaches seniors about cyber security

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Tejasvi Manoj, a 17-year-old from Texas, was named in 2025 as TIME magazine Kid of the Year. Her claim to fame? Teaching seniors how to avoid cyber scams.

Her reasoning for the task was personal – her grandfather was nearly hit by a scammer who was pretending to be a relative demanding money. Thankfully the grandfather called another relative before he hit that "send" button.

This is one brilliant young lady. Not only does she teach cyber security at senior centers,

but she developed an online teaching program called Shield Seniors (www.shieldseniors.com/About-us). While the site isn't fully up and running yet, it's one we will need to keep an eye on when it does start.

Have you heard of TED Talks? TED is a platform where the best and the brightest among us give short talks on all types of topics. If you want to see this sharp young lady during her TED talk, go online to www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3800D3xHQo. If you want to learn more from her while you're on YouTube, put her name – Tejasvi Manoj – in the search box. You'll be impressed.

Two years ago there were 860,000 scams reported by seniors and \$4.8 billion was lost in

one year alone. Why is it scammers come after us? They perceive that we have a lot of money (after all, we're retired, so we must be rich, right?)

We didn't grow up in the tech generations – taught to handle digital devices by the age of 3 and able to easily spot scams.

We're also, to our occasional detriment, too polite and trusting when we talk to others. It makes it all too easy for a scammer to manipulate us on the phone.

To learn more about how to avoid scams, go online to the Federal Trade Commission website (ftc.gov) and put "scammers," "scams against seniors" or "senior scams" in the search box.

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It Happened in Middlebury

Revolutionary War veterans

By KEVIN CASEY and DR. ROBERT L. RAFFORD

This month we conclude our tribute to Middlebury veterans of the Revolutionary War. There have been some questions surrounding the criteria of whom to list as our town's veterans. For example, which one or more of the following criteria does the town use: Was the veteran born here? Did they enlist in the service from here? Were they a resident here? How long? Did they die here? Are they interred here? Were they honorably discharged?

For example, Job Ovit (or Oviatt), who was the subject of this column in October 2020, was an indigenous man, the progenitor of a long line of descendants in Middlebury. He was a veteran with over five years of service in the Revolutionary War. He probably came from New York State, but lived for some time after the war in Woodbury, Middlebury and Waterbury, where he died in 1839. He was presumed buried in Waterbury, but research does not confirm this. He served honorably and was awarded a service-based pension in 1818. Which geographical entity should list him as their veteran?

Towns have chosen from among these criteria for years, but there is no standard. Using any one or more criterion means veterans can be honored by several towns and cities. Some would say that vet-

erans cannot be showered with too much honor! We would be grateful to hear your thoughts.

Among the Revolutionary War veterans listed on our town's plaque, we have featured six in the last three editions of the Bee-Intelligencer. The remaining veterans number approximately 26. Unfortunately, we do not have a great deal of biographical information on many of the remaining ones. Middleburian Ray Sullivan, in his 2010 book, "Breakneck," to which happily we refer you, contains fine summaries of most of the Middlebury veterans of the Revolution, and his new book, "Rochambeau's French Army At Breakneck," will delight you even further.

Here is a list of the Revolutionary War veterans buried in Middlebury Cemetery. Veterans who are also among the 90 subscribers on Middlebury's founding document in 1807 are noted with an asterisk:

David Abbott* (1763-1826), Aaron Benedict* (1745-1841), Enos Benham* (1755-1811), Samuel Benham* (1774-1860), Edward Blackman (1755-1827), Michael Bowers (1758-1840), Asahel Bronson (1759-1850), Isaac Bronson* (1736-1826), Titus Bronson* (1751-1820), Andrew Clark (1752-1836), Daniel Clark* (1762-1847), Capt. Samuel Fenn* (1767-1852), Dr. Stephen Hawley* (1767-1818), Benjamin Hine (1719-1800), Simeon Manvil* (1760-1825),

Augustus Peck* (1760-1812), Dea. Gideon Platt (1757-1836), James Porter Jr.* (1737-1822), Dea. Ebenezer Richardson* (1769-1826), Capt. Ebenezer Smith* (1730-1808), John Thompson (1746-1801), Aaron Tuttle* (1760-1836) and Ezekiel Tuttle (1718-1799).

Next month, on June 27, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Middlebury Historical Society will celebrate the unveiling and dedication of the Rochambeau Monument in Meadowview Park in Middlebury, the culmination of seven years of hard work, dedication, determination and perseverance. We are most grateful to the family of Lawrence and Marie Janesky for their profound generosity and patriotism, and to the people of Middlebury who have contributed generously to make this vision come alive. The memorial is dedicated to the veterans of Middlebury, the people and nation of France, the French army under comte de Rochambeau, and to the ideals that were consequently given birth on our soil: freedom, independence and democracy. Please join us for the celebration!

Bob Rafford is the Middlebury Historical Society president and Middlebury's municipal historian. To contact the society, visit MiddleburyHistoricalSociety.org or contact him at president@middleburyhistoricalsociety.org. Your membership and support are welcome.

Grants will benefit veterans

VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Two of the grants recently announced by the VA will have wide-ranging benefits for veterans.

The first, a \$16 million set of grants, supports organizations that provide adaptive sports programs for veterans and service members. Over time, the program has awarded \$160 million in grants. Whether it's for hunting, skiing, cycling or any of the dozens of sports and recreation activities (including art), the programs foster independence and a better quality of life.

The Adaptive Sports Grant Program (department.va.gov/veteran-sports/grant-program) provides the funding for non-federal entities who are experienced in running programs that include instruction and

competition in adaptive sports, assistance to the coaches and recreation therapists, and so much more. Paralympic athletes can receive a monthly training allowance, and seniors have their own Golden Age games.

If your organization wants to apply for a grant, look for VA Form 10096 Adaptive Sports Grant Application and see the Grants.gov website.

If you're a veteran or service member who wants to participate in the sports or art, see department.va.gov/veteran-sports. Don't wait too long – many of the events take place in the summer.

Second, the Highly Rural Transportation Grants (HRTG) program gives free VA health care appointment rides to veterans who live in very rural areas with fewer than seven people per square mile. The VA has announced grants totaling \$7 million for organizations (Veteran Service Organizations and State Veterans Service Agen-

cies) who provide the transportation.

Seven people per square mile – that's extremely rural and sparsely inhabited. The areas served include portions of Alaska, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington State and Wyoming.

If you're a veteran who lives in the rural parts of those states and you need transportation to VA medical appointments, go online to www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vtp/highly_rural_transportation_grants.asp and see the list of contacts for your state. There is no cost to you for the transportation.

If your organization wants to apply for grants to become a transportation provider in a rural area, see www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vtp/grant_applicants.asp.

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Memorial Day Weekend Events

Saturday, May 23

In the morning, Middlebury Lions Club members will place flags on the graves of veterans buried in Middlebury cemeteries.

Sunday, May 24

Middlebury Veterans' Memorial Day Ceremony

Join the Middlebury Lions Club in paying homage to our fallen military heroes and all those who have served our nation's military in a ceremony at noon at the Middlebury Cemetery on Route 64 behind Middlebury Garage. It will include an honor guard and rifle salute from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Local Boy Scouts will raise the flag at the start of the ceremony and lower it as taps is played. Local clergy will offer prayers of invocation and benediction, Middlebury selectmen will speak, and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address will be read.

Woodbury Parade

Woodbury's annual Memorial Day Parade will be at 2 p.m., rain or shine. The parade route will follow School Street to Route 6 and then proceed on Route 6 to Cannon Green, where a ceremony will take place.

Middlebury Veterans' Reception

All veterans are welcome to attend a reception at 4 p.m. at the corner of Bronson Drive

and Whittemore Road in Middlebury. Light refreshments will be served.

Middlebury Parade

The annual parade featuring Middlebury veterans, marching bands, town organizations, sports clubs, Scouts and local businesses will start at 5 p.m. The parade travels from Bronson Drive to Dwyer Road to South Street to Whittemore Road past Westover School to Town Hall for a ceremony of remembrance.

If you want to participate or need parade route information, contact the Recreation Department at 203-758-2520. Those with convertibles are welcome to show up on Bronson Drive at 4 p.m. to provide parade transportation for our veterans.

Road closures: Due to the parade, the following roads will be closed Sunday, May 24, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

- Rte. 64 and Whittemore Road
- Whittemore Road and Tucker Hill
- Intersection of North and South Street
- Intersection of South Street and Dwyer Road
- Rte. 64 and Store Road

Middlebury Historical Society Open House

The Middlebury Historical Society building on Library

Road will be open for guests Sunday, May 24, one hour before the Memorial Day parade and remain open until one hour after it. Light refreshments will be served, and tours of the building will be offered.

Monday, May 25

Naugatuck Parade

Naugatuck's annual Memorial Day parade will begin at 9:15 a.m. on North Main Street. The parade will proceed downtown to Town Hall on Church Street for a ceremony.

Southbury Parade & Picnic

The Southbury Memorial Day Parade will begin at 11 a.m. at the corner of Depot Hill Road and Main Street South and continue down Main Street South to the Veterans Memorial Green for services honoring those who served our country. Join the Family Day Picnic afterwards from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at 561 Main St. S. Food and drinks will be sold by the Boy Scout Troop 1607 or bring your own. Scouts will give veterans a free meal compliments of the troop. There will be music and fun for the kids.

Middlebury Recreational Area

The Middlebury Recreational Area will be open Saturday, Sunday and Monday for the Memorial Day weekend. It will be open Saturday, May 23, and Sunday, May 24, from 10 a.m. to sunset and Monday, May 25,

Salome's Stars

Horoscope for the week of May 4, 2026.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're the first sign in the Zodiac and like to take the lead wherever you go. But this time, you'd be wise to follow someone who has much to teach you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your adversary hasn't given up trying to undermine you at your workplace. Continue to stay cool – someone who's in authority knows what's happening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Spring debuts with a positive aspect for relationships! Paired Twins grow closer, while the single set finds new romance – perhaps with a LEO or LIBRA.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Wavering aspects this week mean weighing your words carefully to avoid misunderstandings with others, who

could take what you say and run with it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You could soon be on a new career path in pursuit of some long-standing goals, but don't cut any current ties until you're sure that you're ready to make the change.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A former colleague wants to reestablish an old professional connection. It would be wise to make the contact, at least until you know what they are planning.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A relationship that survived some rocky moments could be facing a new challenge. Deal with the problem openly, honestly and without delay. Good luck!

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A recent and much-appreciated change in the workplace inspires you to make some changes in your personal life as well. Start with a plan to travel more.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A friend needs your kind and caring ad-

vice, but you need to know what they are hiding from you before you agree to get involved.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your circle of friends continues to widen. Expect to hear from someone in your past who hopes to reestablish your once-close relationship.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your aspects favor the arts. Indulge in whatever artistic expression you enjoy most. Meanwhile, a workplace situation will continue to improve.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Warning! Your tendency to let things slide until the last minute could have a negative effect on a relationship that you hope can develop into something meaningful.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are both emotional and sensible. You enjoy being with people. Good career choices include teaching, performing, and working with the clergy.

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Read your weekly horoscope at bee-news.com

Middlebury Senior Center/Social Services

The Elderly & Social Services office is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Shepardson Community Center at 1172 Whittemore Road. Phone: 203-577-4166.

Shopping – The Senior Center minibus will go to ShopRite in Southbury Mondays, May 4 and 18, and to Walmart in Naugatuck Thursday, May 14, leaving the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. Call 203-577-4166 to reserve a seat.

Blood Pressure Check – The visiting nurse can check your blood pressure every Tuesday between 10 a.m. and noon.

Tuesday Lunches CHANGE – Senior Nutrition Services lunches are now offered every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. as eat-in or take out for a \$3.50 donation. Each meal includes an entree, vegetable, fruit, bread and milk. For the menu, call 203-577-4166.

Computers – Sean Howard leads an Ancestry workshop every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call Sean at 203-577-4166, ext. 4, for more information.

Hearing Screening – Have your hearing checked for free Wednesday, May 6, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Please call 203-577-4166 to make an appointment.

Educational Medicare Workshop – Doreen DiStasio will lead this workshop Thursday, May 7, at 11 a.m. Call 203-577-4166 to reserve a seat.

Financial Fraud Bingo – Monday, May 11, at 10 a.m., State Representative Bill Pizuto, along with the Connecticut Department of Banking, will present Financial Fraud Bingo, "a fun interactive way to remind ourselves about protecting our personal information and our money.... by playing Bingo. Light refreshments will be served. Call 203-577-4166 to reserve a seat.

Cooking Class – Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at noon, seniors are invited to a free cooking class. Learn simple, budget-friendly recipes, share a few laughs, and enjoy the joy of cooking together and meeting new friends. Call to reserve your spot, 203-577-4166.

Lunch and Learn – Thursday, May 14, try out devices to help your vision, and learn about free resources available for those who suffer with cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, or if your vision is getting worse and then enjoy a free lunch. You can pick up a copy of the new 2026 free directory of senior and disability resources. Call 203-577-4166 to reserve a seat.

Trip – Thursday, May 21, the senior center minibus will leave at 9:45 a.m. for a trip to the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield. The fee is \$7 per person for transportation. Please call 203-577-4166 to reserve your seat.

Book Club – The book club meets the last Wednesday of the month, May 27. If you love to read, call 203-577-4166 for more information.

AARP Driving Classes – The next class will be Monday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fee is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members, payable by checks made out to AARP. Registration is required at 203-577-4166.

Commission on Aging – The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the Shepardson dining area. All are welcome to attend.

The Food Bank is open to Middlebury residents by ap-

pointment, and the office can assist those applying for SNAP benefits. If you need the food bank and can't get there during regular hours, call 203-577-4166 to see if arrangements can be made for you to pick up food.

Call 203-577-4166, ext. 1, or email JoAnn.Cappelletti@jcap-pelletti@middlebury-ct.org if you need assistance. Find them on Facebook @MiddleburyCT-srCTR.

Like us on Facebook: **Middlebury Bee-Intelligencer**

Southbury Kitchens

Where great rooms begin

It's your turn to experience...

- Expert Design
- Quality Craftsmanship
- Warm Personal Service

77 Main Street North ~ Suite 111
• PLAYHOUSE CORNER •
203-264-4800

Complete Kitchen & Bath Renovations
southburykitchens.com

VASZAUSKAS FARM

Middlebury Road (Opposite the Shell Station)
Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Anthony Calabrese 203-758-2765

Mother's Day Baskets & Planters

Gift Certificates Available

Hanging Baskets • Roses • Perennials
Annuals • Herbs • Vegetable Plants
Strawberry Plants • Shrubs
Ornamental Statuary

Mulch and top soil in bulk or by the bag
Fresh Eggs • Livestock & Poultry Feed