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DAILY THROUGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

10 am Annual Holiday Train Exhibit. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

DAILY THROUGH SUNDAY, MARCH 15

10 am Eagles of Essex Exhibit and Community Photo Contest. Eagle viewing from our docks. Children's Discovery Activities. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

4 pm Essex and the Sea—at Essex Town Hall. Essex Library presents solo 'round the world sailor and fine artist Brek Morgan speaking about his adventures, sharing slides of his photos and paintings. Advanced registration advised. For info 767-1560 or www.essexlib.org. Town Hall, 29 West Avenue, Essex.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

12 pm History of Pots—Essex Garden Club. Presented by Guy Wolff—a demonstration of pottery making, a talk on the "history of pots". Mr. Wolff's daughter, who is blind, will display garden ornaments that she makes and sells. Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue, Essex. For info Carol Denham—767-0306 or Linda Levene—767-7263.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6 pm Redhook Ale Brewery Tasting. Steve Schmidt, Redhook Assistant Brew Master, will explain the unique qualities of the Redhook experience. The ales will be paired with an innovative four course tasting menu created by Chef Josh Berry. The Griswold Inn, 36 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-1776 or griswoldinn.com.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

6 pm Artist Opening, Artist Katia Levanti, Left Bank Gallery, 10 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-0449 or leftbankgalleryessex.com.

7 pm The Centerbrook Series on Architecture continues at the Essex Library, with Centerbrook Architects' partner Chad Floyd speaking on *Thoughts on Coastal Architecture*. Advanced registration advised. For info 767-1560 or www.essexlib.org. 33 West Avenue, Essex.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

10 am Winter Walk at Falls River Preserve and Jean's Island. Enjoy the spectacular Falls River Preserve with Phil Miller. Walk to Jean's Island if the ice is thick enough. Warm up afterwards at Ed Marlowe and Barbara Sarrantonio's home. Park at the end of Falls River Drive in Ivoryton. Sponsored by the Essex Land Trust. For more info www.essexlandtrust.org.

11 am Scents of Love. Nutritionist and Aromatherapist Belinda Murano offers a Valentine's-theme workshop in which participants will create their own "signature" massage oils, bubble bath, etc. Advanced registration advised. For info 767-1560 or www.essexlib.org. Essex Library, 33 West Avenue, Essex.

11 am Eagle Photography. Join us for a workshop full of tips and techniques on photographing birds (bring your digital camera!) Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

1 pm Children's Valentine Workshop. Left Bank Gallery, 10 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-0449 or leftbankgalleryessex.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

12 pm Jewelry Trunk Show. Left Bank Gallery, 10 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-0449 or leftbankgalleryessex.com.

2 pm Savory Bites & Sweet Delights. Spend a delicious afternoon tasting the creations of area restaurants, caterers and specialty food purveyors. All proceeds will support Valley Regional High School's *Safe Grad* night. The Griswold Inn, 36 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-1776 or griswoldinn.com.

3 pm Essex Winter Series—Jeff Barnhart. A not to be missed “history lesson” on the growth of jazz! Valley Regional High School Auditorium, Kelsey Hill Road, Deep River. For info www.essexwinterseries.com.

4 pm Essex and the Sea—at Essex Town Hall. Essex Library presents Editor-in-Chief and creator of new quarterly *River and Shore* Erik Hesselberg tells the stories behind the stories from Connecticut’s first coastal-lifestyles magazine. See February 1st for details.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

12 pm Brown Bag Lecture hosted by the Ivoryton Library. Don Malcarne, Town Historian, speaks on *The Depression, Now and Then*. Gather, 104 Main Street, Ivoryton. For info-767-1252 or www.ivoryton.com.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

5:30 pm Super Detailing Your Model Railroad with Steve Cryan. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info and to reserve a spot call 767-8269 or go to ctrivermuseum.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

2:00 pm Ivoryton Library Storytime Reunion. All current or past storytime kids are invited to a Valentine Storytime Reunion in the children’s room at the Library. Strawberry shortcake will be served. To register call 767-1252 106 Main Street, Ivoryton. www.ivoryton.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13-15

Essex is for Lovers. Cozy up with your sweetheart at The Gris and enjoy a special Valentine’s menu offered on three nights (February 13, 14 & 15). Chateaubriand for Two, Wine, Candlelight...and of course, Chocolate! All of the necessary ingredients to set the tone for a romantic evening or weekend! Check out their “Suite” deal! The Griswold Inn, 36 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-1776 or griswoldinn.com.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 & 15

10 am Wood Carvings—Eagles and Birds of Prey. The Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel welcomes back Wood Carver Jim Palmer. Jim delighted the crowds at the 2008 Eagle Festival with his large wood carvings of Eagles and Birds of Prey. Watch as he brings a tree trunk to life with chain saws and carving tools. A site to see! Jim will be located on the Essex Town Green and will be carving from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

1 & 3 pm All Aboard the Eagle Flyer! Vintage Diesel Locomotive #0900 will pull the *Eagle Flyer* out of Essex Station on a 1 1/2 hour round-trip journey along the banks of the Connecticut River to Eagle Landing State Park, Haddam. Enjoy winter views of historic landmarks—East Haddam Swing Bridge, Goodspeed Opera House, and Gillette Castle, and the tidal wetlands of Pratt Cove and Chester Creek. A naturalist will be on board to share points of particular ecological interest and to help spectators sight Connecticut River Valley wildlife. We may even spot a Bald Eagle or two! Adults: \$20.00/ Children Ages 2-11: \$15.00 Coffee, Tea, & Hot Cocoa available on board. Binoculars Recommended! Essex Steam Train & Riverboat. Call 800-377-3987 or visit essexsteamtrain.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

10 am The Big Birds of Winter—Bring your binoculars and learn to identify eagles, hawks and the other big birds on the Connecticut River. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

10 am Ice Fishing Demonstration. Have you ever wanted to learn how to ice fish, but have not had the equipment or knowledge to do so? Then come on out to Sunset Pond to learn the basics of the sport. On exhibit will be ice augers, fishing techniques, fish finders and jiggling rods. Dress warm (especially footwear). We can’t guarantee any fish will be caught, but stop by and be prepared to have some fun! Sponsored by the Essex Park and Recreation. For info 767-4340 x110/x148 or www.essexct.gov.

11 am Eagle in a Tree Chainsaw Carving—watch Kris Connors demonstrate and discuss his carving as he creates an amazing eagle from a section of a tree. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

11 am Exhibit Exploration Gallery Tours with CRM Curator and

Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

12 pm Jewelry Trunk Show. See February 8th for details.

2 pm Connecticut Audubon Society Raffle Drawing. Join the excitement at Griswold Corner. Three prizes—a Volvo C-30, a CT Audubon EcoTravel voucher for \$5,000 and an EcoTravel voucher for \$500. Call 767-0660 or 1-800-996-8747 to purchase a ticket.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

11 am Birds of Prey Wind Over Wings Live Bird

Demonstration at Essex Town Hall for a wonderful up-close experience with four raptors, including an eagle. Sponsored by the Connecticut River Museum and the Essex Garden Club. Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue, Essex.

1 pm Children’s Art and Fun Activities lead by museum education staff from 1 pm to 4 pm. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

3 pm Ivoryton Library Valentine Art Gala Sunday. The cost is \$5. Champagne, chocolates and a special valentine art exhibit. Ivoryton Library Association, 106 Main Street, Ivoryton. For info 767-1252 www.ivoryton.com.

4 pm Essex and the Sea—at Town Hall. Essex Library presents Salem’s Peabody Essex Museum Associate Curator Sam Scott presents an arm-chair tour of the museum’s world-class collection of maritime art, plus previews of coming shows. See February 1st for details.

5 pm Blues on the Rocks. The Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel is proud to present Blues on the Rocks from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Griswold Inn. Shake those winter blues with some great music to lift your spirits. The Griswold Inn, 36 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-1776 or griswoldinn.com.

SCHOOL VACATION OFFERINGS

SUNDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15-22

Train days at the Ivoryton Library. Three train tables will be set up in the children’s rooms at the Library, 106 Main Street, Ivoryton. For info 767-1252 www.ivoryton.com.

MONDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16-20

9 am Virtual Voyages—9 am to 12 pm daily. Hear tall tales, learn to navigate, create your own model ship in these daily workshops for children ages 7 to 11. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. To register call 767-8269.

TUESDAY-SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17-21

Days of Knights. A program for elementary-aged kids to explore chivalry, the Middle Ages, and Knighthood. Each day will focus on a different event— crafts classes, movies, reading groups, etc., ending with a Medieval Faire. There will be two presentations by curators from the famous Higgins Armory Museum, who will display genuine armor and demonstrate combat techniques. Advanced registration strongly advised. For info 767-1560 or www.essexlib.org. Essex Library, 33 West Avenue, Essex.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

6:30 pm An Open Mic. Coffee House. Got a musical talent? Come on out and show us what you got. No music talent? Come out anyway and spend the evening listening to some great emerging artists. At the Centerbrook Meeting House, Main Street Centerbrook. 3rd Friday of the month. Sponsored by the Essex Park and Recreation. For more info 767-4340 x110/x148 or www.essexct.gov.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

1 pm River Quest Eagle Cruise. Join the Essex Land Trust and Potapaug Audubon Society to cruise the Connecticut River. Spot Bald Eagles. The boat departs from Steamboat Dock in downtown Essex. Coffee and tea will be served. \$40 per person. Register with Gudrun LeLash, 767-9763. For more info www.essexlandtrust.org.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

11 am Eagle Optics. Bring your binoculars or scope for a chance to view eagles, build your skills and learn about different types of equipment to enhance your eagle season. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

3 pm Essex Winter Series—Teresa Eickel, Soprano and Brian Cheney, Tenor. Performance of favorite arias and duets from some of the world’s best-loved Italian operas. See February 8th for details.

4 pm Essex and the Sea—at Town Hall. Essex Library presents popular meteorologist Dr. Mel Goldstein of WTNH Channel 8 returns to do a special presentation on *Weather at Sea*. See February 1st for details.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

11 am The Big Birds of Winter. See February 14th for details.

1 pm Polar Bear Lecture and Plunge. Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel presents a Polar Bear Lecture at the Essex Library. Andrew Griswold CAS EcoTravel Director will share photos and stories of EcoTravel's latest trip to Churchill. At **2:30 pm** anyone who dares to take the Polar Plunge will receive a guest pass to the Connecticut River Museum and complementary warm beverages by Essex Coffee and Tea. For info call 767-0660 or email pwood@ctaudubon.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1-TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Essex Art Association Artists Show. Left Bank Gallery, 10 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-0449 or leftbankgalleryessex.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

3 pm Essex Winter Series—String Orchestra of New York City with special guest Thomas Gallant, oboist. The SONYC is a high-energy ensemble with a fresh and innovative approach that performs without a conductor. See February 8th for details.

MONDAY, MARCH 2

12 pm Fine Paintings as Inspiration for Garden Design—Essex Garden Club. The March meeting features speaker Gordon Hayward, a renowned landscape designer, photographer and garden writer. This is a book signing event. Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue, Essex. For info Carol Denham—767-0306 or Linda Levene—767-7263.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

12 pm Brown Bag Lecture. Ken Peterkin of the First Congregational Church in Essex discusses *Godspell*, which is opening March 18 at the Ivoryton Playhouse. See February 10th for details.

6:30 pm Diabetes Today Lecture. Local internist Dr. William McCann will give a special lecture on "Diabetes Today!" Learn what you can do to protect yourself from or cope with, this increasingly prevalent condition. Advanced registration is strongly advised. Please call the Essex Library at 767-1560 or www.essexlib.org. Essex Library, 33 West Avenue, Essex.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

5:45 pm Pacific Northwest Culinary Event. Chef Josh Berry will demonstrate cooking techniques with recipes from the Pacific Northwest, each perfectly paired with wines from Washington and Oregon by Wine Director Alan Barone. The Wine Bar at The Griswold Inn, 36 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-1776 or griswoldinn.com.

7 pm Taste of Ballroom. Join dance instructor Sharyn Farrell in this free series of hour-long dance lessons. We'll sample a different dance style each week. Advanced registration advised. For info 767-1560 or www.essexlib.org. Essex Library, 33 West Avenue, Essex.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

7 pm The Centerbrook Series on Architecture. Centerbrook Architects' partner Mark Simon, FAIA, gives an illustrated lecture on architectural style called *Endearing is Enduring*. See February 6th for details.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

11 am Eagle Photography. See February 7th for details.

6 pm Essex Art Association Artists Show Grand Opening. Left Bank Gallery, 10 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-0449 or leftbankgalleryessex.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

11 am Eagle Optics. See February 22nd for details.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

5:45 pm Pacific Northwest Culinary Event. See March 5th for details.

7 pm Taste of Ballroom. See March 5th for details.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

8:30 am Land-based Eagle Tour departs from the Connecticut River

Museum and includes stops at prime eagle viewing sites in Essex, Deep River and Chester. Participants will provide their own transportation. Advance registration required. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

4 pm Community Photography Contest Awards. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

11 am Eagle Watch 2009 Roundup. Bring your binoculars or scope for eagle viewing and find out about the season's bird count highlights. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

1 pm Children's Art and Fun Activities led by museum education staff from 1 pm to 4 pm. Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

3 pm Irish Singer and Storyteller. Tom O'Connell brings a bit of Ireland to Essex Library, for our annual St. Paddy's concert. Advanced registration advised. For info 767-1560 or www.essexlib.org. Essex Library, 33 West Avenue, Essex.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

4 pm Irish I Were at The Gris. Most "events" on this day will begin around 4 pm and continue through the evening. There will be an Irish menu and music. The popular Tuesday night "house" band, The Shiny Lapel Trio, will be performing in the "back room" with plenty of room for dancing. The Griswold Inn, 36 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-1776 or griswoldinn.com.

7:30 pm The Marvels of Wind Power. Sponsored by the Essex Land Trust. Join Chuck Hinckley for a discussion about the growth of wind power in the U.S., and learn how wind can help us all reduce our carbon footprint. Refreshments will be served. Essex Library, 33 West Avenue, Essex. For info www.essexlandtrust.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

7 pm Taste of Ballroom. See March 5th for details.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

6:30 pm An Open Mic. Coffee House. See Feb. 20th for details.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

1 pm Cooking School Package. This brand new event features a two hour hands-on cooking class with Executive Chef Josh Berry, a Wine Tasting with Wine Director Alan Barone and an exclusive dinner (which includes the food that each student prepared in the classroom). The evening concludes with an overnight stay in one of The Griswold Inn's historic rooms. The Griswold Inn, 36 Main Street, Essex. For info 767-1776 or griswoldinn.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

3 pm Menahem Pressler, Piano with the American String Quartet. Pressler, one of the world's most distinguished and honored musicians is joined by The American String Quartet, also recognized internationally as one of the finest chamber music ensembles today. See February 8th for details.

MONDAY, MARCH 23-THURSDAY, MARCH 26

6 pm A Conservation Education/Firearms Safety Program.

Sponsored by the Essex Park and Recreation. Open to the public and free of charge. Participants must be at least 11 years of age. Three hour program 6 pm to 9 pm for four events. And...Saturday, March 28 at the Barn at the Franklin, Connecticut Shooting Range. Must pre-register. Classes will be held at Essex Elementary School, 108 Main Street, Centerbrook. 767-4340x 110.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

7 pm Taste of Ballroom. See March 5th for details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

4 pm A CROSS-STITCH PUZZLE; The Samplers of Abigail Tooker and Susan Parker, and the Stories They Tell. In honor of Women's History Month, Eve Potts and Deb Weinstein of the Essex Historical Society present this fascinating look at the intertwined lives of two 19th century ladies, through their diaries, letters, and samplers. Advanced registration advised. For info 767-1560 or www.essexlib.org. Essex Library, 33 West Avenue, Essex.

Events

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WEEKLY WINTER EVENTS

SUNDAYS

9 & 11 am Connecticut Audubon Society ECOTRAVEL Eagle Viewing Boat Tours.

1 pm Eagle Quest Boat Trips. Connecticut River Museum.

MONDAYS

1 pm Petit Dejeuner. All levels welcome. Whistle Stop Café, 108 Main Street, Deep River. Sponsored by the Ivoryton Library Association.

TUESDAYS

1 pm Intermediate French with Ann Landers. Intermediate, grammar and conversation. Ivoryton Library Association.

3 pm Watercolor Painting for Children. All levels and ages are welcome. Ivoryton Library Association.

3 pm Discover the Flying Dinosaurs called Birds! Explore Eagles, Osprey, and other local birds and how they are connected to dinosaurs! Build a bird feeder and learn about birds and their songs. Join the bird watching adventure, take digital photographs and learn how to use binoculars. For kids ages 6 thru 9. Meets from 3 to 4 pm all five Tuesdays in March. Cost is \$50 per student. Max registration is 10. Program will be held

at Essex Elementary School, 108 Main Street, Centerbrook. For info and to register, call 767-4340 x110/x148. The Instructor is Bill Yule a Connecticut River Museum Naturalist Educator.

3pm Free-Knit for adults and tweens with Elizabeth Alvord and Crystal Clarkin, with guest demonstrations. Ivoryton Library Association.

WEDNESDAYS

10 am Italian Classes with John LaDonne. Ivoryton Library Association.

10: am Storytime at the Ivoryton Library. Drop-in stories and songs for all ages.

11 am Eagle Quest Boat Trips— February 18 & 25. Connecticut River Museum.

12 pm Beginning Spanish with Crystal Clarkin. Ivoryton Library Association.

2 pm French Grammar with Jim Rourke. Intermediate class. Grammar only. Ivoryton Library Association.

THURSDAYS

10 am Connecticut Audubon EcoTravel Eagle Boat.

1 pm Watercolor Painting for Adults. All

levels are welcome. Ivoryton Library Association.

FRIDAYS

2 pm French Literature with Jane Bernbach. Advanced, history of French literature. Ivoryton Library Association.

SATURDAYS

9 & 11 am Connecticut Audubon EcoTravel Eagle Boat. 12 pm Open Sugar House. February 14 to March 14. Maple Sugar Products. Bushy Hill Nature Center, 253 Bushy Hill Road, Ivoryton. For info 767-2148

1 pm Eagle Quest Boat Trips. Connecticut River Museum.

Connecticut Audubon

1-800-996-8747

www.ecotravel.ctaudubon.org

email ecotravel@ctaudubon.org.

Connecticut River Museum

67 Main Street, Essex

767-8269 or ctrivermuseum.org.

Ivoryton Library Association

106 Main Street, Ivoryton

767-1252 or www.ivoryton.com