

# Somers man pleads guilty in Medicaid scheme, feds say

**By Josh LaBella**  
STAFF REPORTS

**BRIDGEPORT** — A licensed drug and alcohol abuse counselor from Somers has pleaded guilty to stealing thousands of dollars in a Medicaid fraud scheme, officials say.

In a release, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut's office said Dennis Tomczak, 73, has pleaded guilty in federal court to a false statement offense stemming from his role in a Medicaid fraud scheme.

The U.S. attorney's office said Tomczak offered substance abuse treatment and related counseling services through his business, Pathway to Peace, LLC. It said he accepted Medicaid insurance and cash payments for his services.

In 2019, it said, a medical provider asked Tomczak to use his own provider number to bill Medicaid for patients that the provider was allegedly seeing for psychotherapy sessions. In exchange, it said, he would retain 25 percent of the Medicaid claims paid and he would turn over 75 percent of the payments to the provider.



Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

The U.S. Attorney's Office said Dennis Tomczak, a 73-year-old drug and alcohol abuse counselor from Somers, pleaded guilty last month to Medicaid fraud in U.S. District Court in Bridgeport.

Tomczak agreed to do so, the U.S. attorney's office said, and from April 2019 through October 2022, based upon a spreadsheet provided to him by the provider, he billed Medicaid for psychotherapy and related services allegedly rendered by the provider as if he had personally rendered those services.

"Tomczak never met any of the provider's clients and did not review records and treatment notes for any services allegedly rendered by the provider," it said.

The U.S. attorney's office said Medicaid paid Tomczak about \$338,000 for around 53 clients that the provider had allegedly treated. It said he retained about \$84,000 of the claims money received from Medicaid per his agreement with the provider.

On Aug. 21, the U.S. attorney's office said, Tomczak waived his right to be indicted and pleaded guilty before to one count of making a false statement relating to a health care matter, an offense that carries a maximum term of imprisonment of five years. It said his sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 13, adding he is released on bond pending sentencing.

# State offers Stone Academy students pathway to nursing degrees

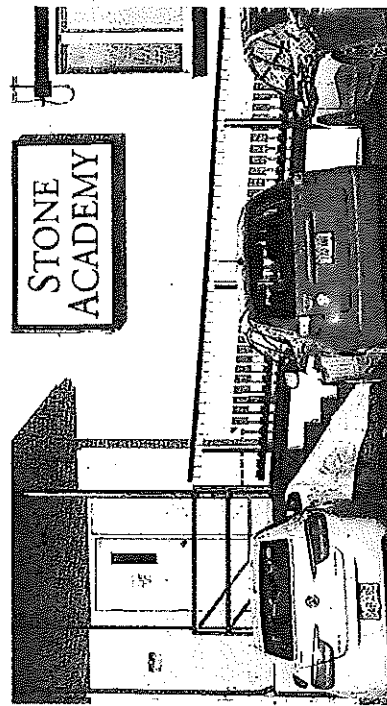
**By Eric Bedner**  
STAFF WRITER

More than 100 students left in the lurch after Stone Academy abruptly closed will be offered a pathway to complete their nursing

In order to be eligible, students must have completed a minimum of 40 percent of their practical nursing program at Stone Academy, as determined by the transcript audit completed in July. Eligible students will also be required

holds for the remaining 72 Stone Academy students affected by the sudden closure.

OHE Executive Director Timothy Larson, a former state representative from East Hartford, said that students have been patient



**Enfield Crafter & Vendor Market,** Enfield Town Green, 820 Enfield St. Through Oct. 29. Sundays only, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

## MUSIC

**Enfield Community Chorus begins rehearsals for its 2023 concert season,** Chorus Room at Enfield Annex, 124 North Maple St. Sept. 11, 7-9 p.m. Rehearsals continue Monday nights at the same time. EnfieldCommunityChorus@gmail.com or EnfieldCommunityChorus.org

## MANCHESTER

### BOOKS

**Walking Book Club: "Piranesi"** by Susanna Clarke, Manchester Public Library, 586 Main St. Sept. 7, 2 p.m. Rain or shine. Extreme weather call 860-645-0821, manchesterct.gov/library

**Friends of the Manchester Public Library Book Sale,** Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main St. Sept. 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Fiction, non-fiction adult books, CD's, DVD's, books on CD, children's books and special priced books.

**Recipe Readers Cookbook Club-The Food Lab,** Manchester Public Library, 586 Main St. Club meets monthly on Saturdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Come to the program with a dish in hand ready to discuss. Dishes should be fully prepared and ready to share. Registration is required. 860-645-0821, manchesterct.gov/library

### MUSIC

**"Simon & Garfunkel Tribute with the Guthrie Brothers,"** Little Theatre of Manchester at Cheney Hall, 177 Hartford Road. Sept. 8, 7 p.m., \$35-\$18; Steamroller-Music of James Taylor, Sept. 9, 7 p.m., \$42-\$25. cheneyhall.org

### SPECIALS

**Manchester Emblem Club #251 meeting,** Elks Lodge, Bissell St. Sept. 1, 6:30 p.m. Call 860-986-4383 if you cannot attend.

**Take Great Photos with your Smartphone,** Manchester Public Library Whiton Branch, 100 N. Main St. Sept. 6, 5:30 p.m. No registration required. manchesterct.gov/library

**Ted Johnson of Wildscape Artisans program on "Easy Gardening,"** Manchester Public Library Whiton Branch, 100 N. Main St. Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m. No registration required.

## SOMERS

### SPECIALS

**Somers Knights of Columbus Lobster Dinner,** Knights of Columbus Hall, 236 Main St. Sept. 10. Doors open 1 p.m., service starts 2 p.m. Cash beverage bar available. No BYOB. Tickets available in the lower Lounge, daily after 3 p.m. or call 860-763-0199. No ticket sales after Sept. 6.

### MUSIC

**Fall Concert Series,** Gazebo, 19 Battle St. Through Oct. 7. All concerts 1-3 p.m. Lineup: Agawam Melody Band, Sept. 2; Big Deal Rock Band, Sept. 9; Sept. 16-No Concert due to the Four Town Fair; Cobblestone Road, Sept. 23; Six Pack of Blues, Sept. 30; Acoustic Rick Sings Your Favorite Tunes by request, Oct. 7. Free concert but donations accepted.

### OUTDOORS

**Evening Full Moon Paddle for canoes, kayaks and stand up paddle boards,** Somers Mill Pond, School St. Sept. 1. Registration begins 5:30 p.m. Full moon paddle starts 6:45 p.m. No fee. All participants are asked to donate a non-perishable food item to benefit the the various area Food Shelf's. All participants must supply their own canoe, kayak or paddle board, paddles, PFD'S and flash lights. Glow sticks provided while supplies last.

## SOUTH WINDSOR

### VISUAL ARTS

**"South Windsor Unearthed: Rarely Seen Indigenous Artifacts,"** Nowashe Village, 787 Main St. Through Sept. 7. Mon & Thu 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. nowashe.org

### STORRS

### VISUAL ARTS

**Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry at the University of Connecticut presents "Tradition and Revolution in Indian Shadow Puppetry,"** Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, 1 Royce Circle. Through Dec. 17. bimp.uconn.edu/2023/07/12/tradition-and-revolution.

## TOLLAND

from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fresh veggies, maple syrup, honey, soap, candles, jewelry, wood products, floral arrangements, antiques, bird houses, alpaca wool and so much more. Fresh eggs, cotton candy and exhibits of special interest.

### VISUAL ARTS

**Katie Stargartner is the guest artist,** Arts of Tolland, 22 Tolland Green. Through Sept. Reception, Sept. 9, 6-9 p.m. Refreshments. For information call 860-871-7405 or e-mail artsoftolland73@gmail.com

## VERNON

### VISUAL ARTS

**Friends of Valley Falls Seek Artists for Plain Air Painting Event,** Valley Falls Farm, 345 Valley Falls Road. Artist works will be for an event to be held Sept. 10. Interested artists contact Ann Letendre at annletendr@aol.com or 860-875-4623. friendsofvalleyfalls.org

## WINDSOR

### SPECIALS

**Windsor Library and Wilson Branch events:** Lean on Me, Sept. 5, 1-3 p.m. Make an appointment at 860-285-1839; Walk & Tone on the River Trail, Sept. 7, noon-1 p.m. Registration required; Hallmarks of Customer Service, Sept. 7, 6-7 p.m.; Welcoming Pollinators with John Root, Sept. 9, 10:30 a.m.-noon; Bluey's Back to School Bash, Sept. 9, 1-2 p.m. Register.

## WINDSOR LOCKS

### BOOKS

**Author Visit: Meg Shaffer of "The Wishing Game,"** virtual event hosted by Windsor Locks Public Library, on Zoom, Sept. 6, 6:30 p.m. Register at windsorlockslibrary.org/programs or call 860-627-1495.

### SPECIALS

**Three part physical therapy series by Noah Stein of Access Physical Therapy Windsor Locks,** Windsor Locks Library, 28 Main St. First program-Low Back Pain: Sept. 7, 12:30 p.m. You do not need to attend all three parts. Registration required at

## GOINGS

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### SOMERSVILLE

**Ice Cream Social**, on the Green, Main St. and Maple St. Sept. 9, noon-2 p.m. Hot dogs, beverages and ice cream. Face painting and games. Rain date Sept. 23.

### SOUTH WINDSOR

#### SPECIALS

**Depression and Anxiety Meeting**, South Windsor Community Center, 150 Nevers Road. Sept. 19, 10:30 a.m. Meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month. Free. Call Andrea in Human Services to register at 860-648-6357.

**Abe E. Miller American Legion Post 133 South Windsor meets the third Tuesday of every month**, South Windsor Community Center Room 205-207, 150 Nevers Road. Next meeting: Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Bring a non perishable food item to donate to the SW food. 860-416-5276.

#### VISUAL ARTS

**"South Windsor Unearthed: Rarely Seen Indigenous Artifacts,"** Nowashe Village, 787 Main St. Through Sept. 7. Mon & Thu 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. nowashe.org

### STAFFORD

**Stafford Area Farmers and Crafters Market**, West Stafford School, 153 West Stafford Road. Sept. 17, 9 a.m.-noon. Veggies, jams, beef, honey, wood crafts, sewn items, jewelry, Tye Dye.

### STONINGTON

#### VISUAL ARTS

**Stonington Borough Merchants Association's outdoor art fair, "Art Walk,"** Water St. between High St. and Church St. Sept. 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Music and food. Rain date, Sept. 17.

### STONY CREEK

#### STAGE

**"The Play That Goes Wrong,"** Legacy Theatre, Inc., 128 Thimble Islands Road. Sept. 14-Oct. 1. Thu 7 p.m.; Fri 8 p.m.; Sat 2 & 8 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m. legacytheatre.org

#### VISUAL ARTS

**The Macri-Well Sicilian Puppetry Exhibit**, Stony Creek Museum, 84 Thimble Island Road. On view Fri-Sun, 1-4 p.m. Free. stony-creekmuseum.org

### STORRS

#### FESTIVALS

**Celebrate Mansfield Festival**, Downtown Storrs. Sept. 30, 2-8 p.m. Headliner: The Wolff Sisters, Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation Pavillon on Betsy Paterson Square, 6:30-8 p.m. Opener: Zikina, 5 p.m.

#### STAGE

**Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry at the University of Connecticut presents "Jeghetto's Variety Show"** by puppeteer Tarish "Jeghetto" Pipkins, Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, 1 Royce Circle. Sept. 7, 7 p.m. Adults: \$12, Members/Seniors: \$10, Students: \$8, Kids: \$6 (12 years and under). bimp.ticketleap.com

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### THOMASTON

#### MUSIC

**Jack Lynn's Tribute to Dean Martin and Pals**, Ciao Ristorante, 76 Watertown Road. Sept. 16. 6-9 p.m.

### SPECIALS

**The Mentalist-Jon Stetson**, Landmark Community Theatre, 158 Main St. Sept. 8, 8 p.m., \$25. rmne.org

### TOLLAND

#### OUTDOORS

**Market on the Green**. Every Sunday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fresh veggies, maple syrup, honey, soap, candles, jewelry, wood products, floral arrangements, antiques, bird houses, alpaca wool and so much more. Fresh eggs, cotton candy and exhibits of special interest.

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### UNCASVILLE

#### COMEDY

**Jay Black**, Comix Comedy Club at Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino, 1 Mohegan Sun Blvd. Sept. 7 & 8, 8 p.m.; Sept. 9, 6 & 8 p.m. mohegan-sun.com

**Howie Mandel**, Mohegan Sun Arena at Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino, 1 Mohegan Sun Blvd. Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. mohegansun.com

#### MUSIC

**Mohegan Sun Arena at Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino**, 1 Mohegan Sun Blvd. Lineup: Machine Gun Kelly, Sept. 7, 8 p.m.; Kenny Loggins, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. mohegan-sun.com

**Wolf Den at Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino**, 1 Mohegan Sun Blvd. Lineup: Lowcut Connie, Sept. 8, 8 p.m.; Souls on Fire, Sept. 9, 8 p.m.; Average White Band, Sept. 15, 8 p.m. All Wolf Den shows are free. mohegansun.com

#### SPECIALS

**Jurassic Quest**, Mohegan Sun Resort Casinos Earth Expo & Convention Center, 1 Mohegan Sun Blvd. Sept. 22, noon; Sept. 22-23, 9 a.m. mohegansun.com

### VERNON

#### BOOKS

**"War Torn: Stories of War 1 the Women Reporters Who Covered Vietnam,"** virtual discussion on Zoom, Sept. 20, 1:30 p.m. e-mail Info@artscentereast.org.

### SPECIALS

**Arts Center East, 709 Hart Tpke. events:** Members Exhibit through Sept. 9; Clay Platter Making Sept. 9 & 16, 9 a.m.-noon. \$100 including all materials; Call for Art Center East Annual Holiday I to be held Nov. 9-12 & 16-19. Dead to apply, Sept. 1; Poetry Rocks, Sept. 17, 3 p.m., \$5 suggested donation; Mixed Media Class, Sept. 11-Oct. 16 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays only. \$149.60 ACE members; Pastel Painting on Zoom, Sept. 12-Oct. 24, 1-3 Tuesdays only. \$182, \$164 ACE members; Creative Nonfiction: The Personal Essay, Sept. 28-Nov. 2, 1-2:30 p.m. Thursdays only. \$108, \$97.20 ACE members; Watercolor Basics Workshop, Sept. 30, 1-3 p.m., \$50. Artists should bring their own preferred materials. For information and to apply, visit artscentereast.org or call 860-871-8222.

### VISUAL ARTS

**Friends of Valley Falls Seal**

### SOLUTIONS

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