

US Kids Golf Tour tournament today

By **BRIAN M. JOHNSON**
STAFF WRITER

SOUTHINGTON — Area youth will be coming in swinging at North Ridge Golf Club Saturday for the third of six local competitions on the US Kids Golf Tour.

The tournament, expected to draw more than 100 junior golfers, will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the course at 300 Welch Road. Golfers ages 6 to 14 years old will compete in different age categories, playing between nine and six holes. Those who place high enough will earn a place at the world championships Aug. 3 to 7 at Pinehurst Golf Resort in North Carolina.

"Pinehurst is one of the finest golf resorts in the country," said John Dipollina, PGA Golf Professional and US Kids Certified Instructor. "Each year since 2000 they have hosted the US Kids Golf Tour, which was the subject of the Netflix Movie 'The Short Game.' It is an intense, fierce competition drawing hundreds of kids from around the world."

This Saturday, 13-year-old Christopher Millerick of Southington will be among the competitors. Dipollina said he has been giving him regular lessons and that he is a "good friend with the family."

"I'm really looking forward to the tournament," said Christopher. "I go out and golf whenever I have the chance and I've been doing lessons with John for about a year. He has really helped me to improve a lot. I recently got a hole-in-one at Hawk's Landing. I was really excited, it felt great."

Dipollina said junior golfers competed last week at Goodwin Park in Hartford and that the next stop after North Ridge on the tour is Agawam Municipal Golf Course in Massachusetts. Since he became involved with the US Kids Golf Tour, Dipollina said it has been growing in popularity.

"This is the biggest event that the Hartford tour has hosted so far," he said. "When I first started running it we had 50 to 60 kids. Now those numbers have doubled.



Submitted by John Dipollina

John Dipollina, left, PGA golf professional, with young golfers.

This program has really grown under the guidance of Bob Sparks, the head PGA Golf Professional."

Dipollina encouraged young golfers to enter the tournament during its next stops.

"If you want to play in high school one day, you're going to want experience playing

tournament golf," he said. "It's a lot different than a leisurely round with mom and dad. You're on your own and you make decisions for yourself. If you showcase your skills here and really practice before high school, you have a better chance at a college scholarship."

Dipollina said he has been playing golf competitively since he was 18 and he wishes he had the opportunity to become involved at a younger age.

"They just didn't have programs like this back then," he said. "I was involved in other established programs like Little League and the Boy Scouts, but there wasn't this kind of opportunity for golf. If there had been, maybe I would be an even better golfer than I am today."

Dipollina said learning golf helps to build character.

"We live in a society with so much 'me, me, me' and 'now, now, now' and golf helps to teach patience and critical thinking."

For more information, call Dipollina at 860-42602522, email him at johnd@northridge-golfclub.com or visit uskidsgolf.com. Admission to each course on the tour is \$37 for children playing nine holes or \$47 for children playing 18 holes.

SOUTHINGTON POLICE BLOTTER

Southington police report the following:

Felix Negron, 22, of 1306 East St., New Britain, was charged April 14 with cell phone violation.

Marcus Lee Charles, 28, of 60 Sunrise Circle, Newington, was charged April 14 with cell phone violation and failure to carry license.

Robert J. Mitchell, 28, of 140 Carol Drive, Bristol, was charged April 15 with evading responsibility.

Iris Marston, 45, of 185 Rethal St., was charged April 15 with following too close.

Michael Woodcock, 24, of 12 Taunton St., was charged April 16 with operating a motor vehicle under suspension, evading responsibility and following too close.

Kendra M. Warwick, 37, of 102 Pliny St., Hartford, was charged April 16 with 6th degree larceny, possession of a shoplifting device and operating a motor vehicle under suspension.

Cristino Velazquez Jr., 27, of 341 Stanley St., New Britain, was charged April 16 with failure to drive right.

Michael Derosa, 46, of 289 Glenn St., New Britain, was charged April 16 with failure to insure motor vehicle.

Joann M. Galati, 73, of 82 Holly Hill Drive, was charged April 16 with failure

to obey stop sign.

Christian P. Litke, 49, of 53 Spring Lake Road, was charged April 16 with failure to obey stop sign.

David A. Forgione, 29, of 66 Mount Vernon Road, Plantsville, was charged April 16 with traveling too fast.

Todd A. Wentworth, 57, of 31 Muir Terrace, Southington, was charged April 16 with following too close.

Chayleen Badillo, 21, of 62 Lewis Ave., Meriden, was charged April 16 with operating a motor vehicle without a license.

Melvin Sherr, 73, of 8 Brookside Drive, was charged April 17 with failure to obey stop sign.

Dwayne A. Cameron, 36, of 148 Earl Ave., Hamden, was charged April 18 with traveling too fast.

John L. Lollar, 46, of 14 Ebert Road, Bristol, was charged April 18 with operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle without a license.

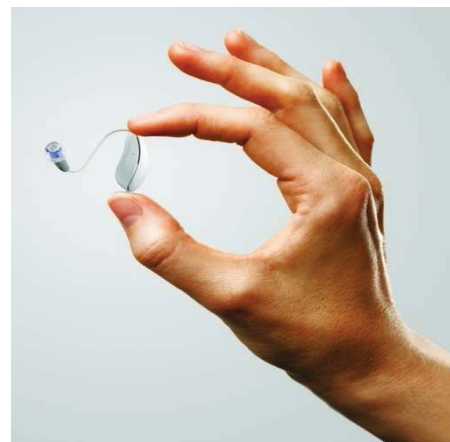
Michael P. Ryiz, 53, of 37 Lawndale St., Kensington, was charged April 18 with operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

Mary E. Bisson, 57, of 66 College Ave., was charged April 18 with operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

Hearing Health &
Wellness Center, LLC

Our Customers Love Us:

Linda Vasile Au.D., CCC/A, FAAA
Doctor of Audiology



Helpful, knowledgeable staff. Also, there was a rep from Starkey there who was a user of the product and added several good points to the presentation. Dr. L. Vasile is very good at what she does and kind.

- Margaret R.

Dr. Vasile was professional, on time and I've never heard better. She is very patient. Thank you!

- Anna B.

Very knowledgeable and nice.

- Roberta G.

Was given much information about how to determine if I needed a hearing aid. Was encouraged to make my own decision about my need for hearing aids. Was taught how to use and care for my hearing aids.

- Shirley C.

060830

710 Main St, Plantsville, CT 06479 860-426-9181