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Shore in the value of the value



OUTDOOR LIFE Fly high in a hot air balloon Page B1



SHORE LIFE

Shoppers line up for Aldi grand opening Page B1



SPORTS

Student-athletes taking their talents to college Page B8

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GUILFORD

After 4 years of trials, class of 2022 graduates under sunny skies

By Sarah Page Kyrcz

GUILFORD — Beau Kellogg beamed with pride as he proceeded to the podium to receive his 2022 Guilford High School diploma.

As he left the podium, he held the green leatherbound diploma high above his head, waved his arms and ran down the center aisle of family, friends and well-wishers gathered for the ceremony.

There was clapping, cheering and a few tears as Special Education Coordinator Jaclyn Hamm guided *See Guilford on A5*



Kelly Goddard / For Hearst Connecticut Media Guilford High School graduates pose for a photo at commencement exercises.



Lisa Reisman / For Hearst Connecticut Media

BHS graduating seniors exhibiting future plans during June 22 commencement exercises on Branford Green.

'Be the change we want to see'

Branford High School class graduates 187

By Lisa Reisman

On a cool evening on Branford Green, senior class president Peyton Giordano praised her classmates in the Branford High School Class of 2022 for "their strength and perseverance." "We are a class that has risen to the occasion time and time again, and this gives me confidence in saying that we have the power to change the world for the better and that we *See Branford on A5*



'People were really liking that vibe'

Old Saybrook mural celebrates diversity, freedom

By Sarah Page Kyrcz

OLD SAYBROOK — There was dancing in the center of town as Latin and rock music played while



ferent connections and we can start talking more and feel more accepted," he said. "It can bring our community together." Essayist Bracho is Latino

Essayist Bracho is Latino and is shown in the mural

applied to the "Just a Piece of Freedom" mural on the south wall of River Mart.

With a playlist from different countries, including French-Spanish singer Manu Chao, Bruce Springsteen and U2, music filled the air as a steady stream of onlookers flocked to the 17- by 74- foot mural, created by international muralist Rafael Blanco.

"I saw how people were really liking that vibe," the artist said, taking a quick break from his 12- to 14hour day.

The artwork features the portraits of six local students, three females and three males, chosen from a pool of 18 essays.

They include Kathleen Goodwin Elementary School's Ariana Netravali; Old Saybrook Middle School's Riya Modhvadiya and Teddy Chacha; Old Saybrook High School's Camilo Bracho and Avery Rueckert and alumnus Davonte Mitchell.

These students were

Arnold Gold / Hearst Connecticut Media

Mural artist Rafael Blanco next to a mural, Just a Piece of Freedom, nearing completion incorporating six Old Saybrook Public School students on the side of River Mart on Main Street in Old Saybrook.

chosen for their diversity. "They told us a little bit about their background and heritage, as well as their talents and accolades," said Hannah Newton, an art teacher at Old Saybrook High School and Old Saybrook Middle School.

The mural is the culmination of high school student Nick Chacha's yearlong school project, combined with his interest in art. "The message is that if you take a little second to recognize each other's different heritage and where we come from, we can all feel more connected," the incoming senior said. "We can find those difwith a butterfly on his left shoulder.

"My story seeks to inspire my entire community to believe in them and show that they can achieve everything they set out to do," Bracho wrote in an email.

Since arriving from Ecuador a year and a half ago, "I set out to give my best, I worked on a project on the Latino community to inspire my community to fight for our dreams and express how we feel and what the reality of our situation is," he wrote.

"Facing new challenges was not easy but working with dedication and focus everything is possible..." he continued. "I have been working daily for a more inclusive and empathetic community."

He wrote about the uniqueness of the Monarch butterfly: "...something peculiarly interesting is that I made the monarch butterfly with blue color in *See Mural on A*3

Students walk to raise awareness of drunk driving dangers

'Making a

difference'

By Lisa Reisman

EAST HAVEN — On a brilliant, late-spring Friday, the student body of Ferrara Elementary School — 157 strong — circled the school track, chanting "M-A-D-D, M-A-D-D."

The chant was in reference to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, which has as its mission "to end drunk driving, support the victims of these violent crimes, and prevent underage drinking," according to its website.

It's the fifth year that Ferrara has engaged in a Walk-A-Thon. This year, the students raised \$2,200. In all, the school has contributed upwards of \$10,000 to the cause, said resource teacher Angela Coughlin who, along with third-grade teacher Lisa *See MADD on A2*





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A2 | Shoreline Times | Friday, July 1, 2022 =

CALENDAR

CLAYMATION WORKSHOP

DEEP RIVER: A Claymation workshop with Nicole from Shell & Bee Studio takes place at Deep River Public Library, 150 Main St., at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 6 (rain date July 24). Participants aged 6 and up will learn the basics of animation through clay and the art of stop-motion animation. Students are welcome to bring their own iPads or use studio provided iPads. To register, call 860-235-9910 or go to https://bit.ly/30xarI8.

OLDIES ROCK 'N ROLL CONCERT

EAST HAVEN: The Elderly Brothers – T-Bone Stankus (guitar) and Brian Gillie (keyboards) - perform at Hagaman Memorial Library, 227 Main St., at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 6. They will perform mint condition oldies rock 'n' roll with pitch-perfect harmonies and

soulful improvisations. For more information or to sign up, go to hagamanlibrary.org or call 203-468-3891.

GRASSY STRIP CONCERT

MADISON: A free concert will be held at the Madison Beach Hotel, 94 W. Wharf Road, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, July 7 (and every Thursday throughout the summer). For more information, go to facebook.com/ madisonbeachhotel.

COVID-19 CLINICS

BRANFORD: Griffin Health will hold COVID-19 clinics for people age 12 and up from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays, July 7 and July 21, at Joe Trapasso Community House, 46 Church St. For more information, go to esdhd.org.

SHORELINE SAILING CLUB

OLD SAYBROOK: Shoreline Sailing Club meets at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 7, at Clark Memorial Field Pavilion, 210 Elm St. Open to singles over 35. New members welcome; no sailing experience needed. Members and first-time guests admitted free, and others are charged \$10. For more information, go to shorelinesailingclub.com and follow them on Facebook.

will hold a Perennial Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 9, featuring day lilies, hostas, sedum, echinacea, lavender, shasta viburnum, bridal wreath spires, limelight and Annabelle hydrangea, and more. Pricing from \$6 to \$35. For more information, call 203-488-0549 or email umcbranford1966@gmail.com.

CLEAN UP, DIAPER DRIVE

EAST HAVEN:Community Clean Up and Diaper Drive will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, July 9, at Stop & Shop parking lot (corner of Messina and Hemingway). For more information, call George Smith, 203-812-8658.

BEECH TREE ART FAIR

MADISON: Beech Tree Cottages will host the first annual Beech Tree Art Fair at 1187 Boston Post Road, from 11

a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 9, featuring a curated selection of artists who will exhibit and sell their work. For more information, call 203-245-2676.

COMMUNITY PICNIC

OLD SAYBROOK: A Community Picnic takes place on the Old Saybrook green across from First Church of Christ, 366 Main St., from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, July 10. Bring chairs and picnic; dessert will be provided. Games, fun, and fellowship. For more information, call 860-388-3008.

FOOD RIDDLE BINGO

DEEP RIVER: Food Explorers will host an afternoon of foodie fun on the lawn at Deep River Public Library, 150 Main St., at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 13. Participants will play Food Riddle Bingo and make Strawberry Shortcake Parfait, which will be nut free but may contain daily and/or eggs. For kids age 6 and up. To register, call 860-526-6039 or go to https://bit.ly/30aGnCj.

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

DEEP RIVER: Watercolor artist Alan James will host a workshop on "Capturing the Essence" at Deep River Public Library, 150 Main St., at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 13. Participants must supply their own materials; list will be provided upon registration. To register, call 860-526-6039 or go to https://bit.ly/3xKdwxB.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

CHESTER: "A Day in the Life of a Chester Resident 100 to 150 years Ago" will be presented from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, July 15, at Chester Museum at the Mill, 9 W. Main St.For

more

informa-

tion or to

register,

call

860-

526-

3018.



DEEP RIVER MUSTER

DEEP RIVER: Deep River Ancient Muster Tattoo takes place at Devitt Field, Southworth St., at 7 p.m. Friday, July 15. For more information, go to deepriverancientmuster.com.

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

HADDAM: The opening night for Anne of Green Gables at Goodspeed Musicals, 6 Main St., takes place at 8 p.m. Friday, July 15: performances run through Sept. 4. For more information, call 860-873-8998 or go to goodspeed.org.

SUMMER BOOK SALE

OLD SAYBROOK: Acton Public Library's annual Summer Book Sale takes place from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 14, and continues Friday, July 15, and Saturday, July 16. The sale features fiction and nonfiction hardcover books, trade, pocketbook paperbacks, current books for Young Adults, and a selection of books for children of all ages, as well as VDs, CDs, and audio books. For more information, call 860-388-9521 or go to actionlibrary.org

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

EAST HAVEN: The Shore Line Trolley Museum, 17 River St., will hold a Christmas in July Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 16. For more information, call 203-467-6927 or go to shorelinetrolley.org.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

MADISON: North Madison Congregational Church holds its Summer Festival on the Madison town green from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 16. For more information, go to Devitt Field. For more information, go to deepriverancientmuster.com.

BROADWAY SPOTLIGHT CONCERT

BRANFORD: Jelani Remv performs in the Broadway Spotlight Concert at Legacy Theatre, 128 Thimble Island Road, at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 17. Tickets are \$35 to \$75. For more information, go to legacytheatrect.org.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

MADISON: Among the Acres performs on the Madison green from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, July 17. For more information, go to madisonct.org/710/Summer-Concerts.

GRAHAM NASH CONCERT

OLD SAYBROOK: Graham Nash performs at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, 300 Main St., at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 18, and Tuesday, July 19. For more information, call 860-510-0453 or go to thekate.org.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

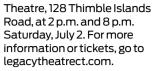
OLD SAYBROOK: Jukebox 45 performs on the Old Saybrook town green from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 20. For more information, call 860-395-3152 or go to oldsaybrookct.myrec.com.

'PIPPIN' OPENS

MADISON: Madison Lyric Stage presents "Pippin," opening at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. July 21, on the grounds of the Deacon John Grave House, 581 Boston Post Road, and running through Sunday, July 31. For more information, call 203-215-6329 or go to madisonlyricstage.org.

SHORELINE SAILING CLUB

OLD SAYBROOK: Shoreline Sailing Club meets at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 21, at Clark Memorial Field Pavilion, 210 Elm St. Members will learn about moveable bridges from Amtrak and US Coast Guard experts. Open to singles over 35. New members welcome; no sailing experience needed. Members and first-time guests admitted free, and



CONCERT ON THE GREEN

MADISON: A free Independence Day Concert will be held on the Madison green, from 6 to 8:45 p.m. Saturday, July 2. For more information, go to madisonct.com.

CONCERTS IN THE GARDEN

CHESTER: Tiny Ocean performs at Leif Nilsson Spring Street Studio and Gallery, 1 Spring St., from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 2. Suggested donation is \$20. For more information, call 860-526-

2077 or go

BRAN-



will be screened at the Legacy Theatre, 128 Thimble Islands Road, as part of its film series, at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 3. For more information, go to legacytheatrect.org or call 203-315-1901.

44TH '4 ON THE 4TH'

CHESTER: Chester Rotary's 44th 4 on the 4 will be held in person, starting at 9 a.m. from Main Street, Monday, July 4. Register on line at https://bit.ly/3MP9pGc.

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

MADISON: Madison's Independence Day Parade steps off from Stop & Shop, at 10 a.m. Monday, July 4. For more information, go to madisonexchange.org.

AUTO SHOW

ESSEX: Essex Auto Club's Annual Car Show will be held at the Connecticut River Museum, 61 Main St. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, July 4. Suggested donation, \$5. For more information, call 860-767-8269.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

OLD SAYBROOK: The U.S.

For more information, call 203-453-5947 or go to guilfordartcenter.org

DROP-IN TECH SESSIONS

BRANFORD: Drop in to the Blackstone Library, 758 Main St., between 2 and 4 p.m. Thursday, July 7, to get a tech question answered. First come, first served. Sessions will be limited to 15 minutes per person. Registration not required. For more information, call 203-488-1441, extension 318, or go to blackstonelibrary.org.

BEER AND FOOD FESTIVAL

CLINTON: The International Beer and Food Festival takes place at Andrews Memorial Hall, 54 E. Main St., from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 8. For more information, go to clintonct.com.

CALL FOR ACTION

BRANFORD: "It's Time to Pivot," a call to action for environmental sustainability, will be presented by New Haven writer and documentary filmmaker Steve Hamm at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 9, at Blackstone Library, 758 Main St. He will show his new documentary, "A River Speaks," which explores the complex relationship between humans and the rest of nature. To register, go to blackstonelibrary.org or call 203-488-1441, extension 318.

BIKE TOUR

OLD SAYBROOK: Saybrook Fort and Pequot War

Bike Tour takes place through historic Old Saybrook, sponsored by the Old Saybrook Historical Society. Starts at 350 Main St., at 9 a.m. Saturday,

July 9. For more information, go to saybrookhistory.org/ events.

AUTHOR EVENT

KILLINGWORTH: Elaine Alexander, author of "Angelfish — The Seadevil of the Deep," will appear at Killingworth Library, 302 Route 81, at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 9. For more information, call 860-663-2000 or go to killingworthlibrary.org.







INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND BEER FESTIVAL

CLINTON: The first annual International Food and Beer Festival takes place from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 8 (rain date July 15), on the grounds of Andrews Town Hall. Presented by Clinton Placemakers, the event features international fare and entertainment from different cultures. For more information, go to Clinton Placemakers on Facebook.

DAY LILY PLANT SALE

BRANFORD: United Methodist Church, 811 E. Main St.,

KID'S GUIDE TO TREE ID

DEEP RIVER: Participants will practice tree identification skills and meet several Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center animals who rely on trees in the wild at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, July 14, at Deep River Public Library, 150 Main St. A leaf rubbing craft will complete the program. Children must be 5 and up. For more information, call 860-526-6039 or go to https:// bit.ly/3Na5hkb.

madisonct.com. **CONCERTS IN**

THE GARDEN CHESTER:

John Martorelli performs at Leif Nilsson Spring Street Studio and Gallery, 1 Spring St., from 7

to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 16. Suggested donation is \$20. For more information, call 860-526-2077 or go to nilssonstudio.com.

DEEP RIVER MUSTER

DEEP RIVER: The Deep **River Ancient Muster steps off** from the corner of Main and Kirtland Streets at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 16, ending at

others are charged \$10. For more information, go to shorelinesailingclub.com and follow them on Facebook.

SUMMER **CONCERT SERIES**

OLD SAYBROOK: Caribbean Vibes Steel Drum Band performs

at Harveys Beach, 29 Plum Bank Road, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 1. For more information, call 860-395-3152 or go to oldsaybrookct-.myrec.com.

'AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS'

BRANFORD: A concert by "America's Sweethearts" takes place at the Legacy

Coast Guard Band performs on the Old Saybrook Town Green from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, as part of the town's Summer Concert Series. For more information. call 860-395-3152 or go to oldsaybrookct.myrec.com.

CERAMICS BIENNIAL 2022

GUILFORD: Guilford Art Center's newest gallery exhibition, Ceramics Biennial 2022 A National Juried Exhibition, runs through July 31 in the gallery at Guilford Art Center, 411 Church St. The exhibition presents contemporary works in clay, both functional and non-functional by American artists from across the nation.

COMMUNITY PICNIC GUILFORD: The Guilford

Community Picnic will be held on the town green, from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, July 9, with live music provided by the Community Band. For more information, go to guilfordparkrec.com.

GUILFORD COMMUNITY FIREWORKS

GUILFORD: Guilford's fireworks take place at Guilford Fairgrounds, Lover's Lane, from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 9 (rain date July 10). Live music provided by Night Shift. For more information, go to

See Calendar on B5

MADD From page A1

Brown, spearheaded the event.

The school is also a sponsor of the annual Branford Walk Like MADD, which this year will take place Saturday, Oct. 8, starting outside the Branford Town Hall, 1019 Main St. on the Branford Green. To register, visit walklikemadd.org/ branford.

Coughlin credited the student council for bringing back the event. "They remembered it from three years ago and asked if we could do it again," she said.

Lori Chamberlain, a third-grade teacher at Ferrara, was handing out knapsacks with toys and educational materials alongside her daughter Michelle, a MADD victim advocate.

Michelle's aunt, Deanne Negri, an art teacher and mother of three, was struck by a drunk driver traveling at 50 miles per hour in December 2013. She still struggles with traumatic brain

IELD DAY

Students Pari Patel, Chelseigh Theodore, Ava Heyward, and Adriana Rodriguez at Ferrara School's walk in support of MADD.

injury. Their family has been involved ever since.

"We're grateful," Michelle Chamberlain said, of the school's support. "This is all really making an impact." Statistics on the MADD CT website highlight the

urgency of the issue. Every two minutes, someone is injured in a drunk driving crash. Every 51 minutes, someone is killed, according to MADD.

Even with a 2014 alloffender ignition interlock



Lisa Reisman / Hearst Connecticut Media

MADD victim advocate Michelle Chamberlain and her mother, Lori Chamberlain, a third-grade teacher at Ferrara Elementary School in East Haven.

law requiring an arrested or convicted drunk driver to blow into a car breathalyzer mouthpiece before driving, and a 2016 child endangerment law that adds penalties for driving drunk with a child passenger, drunk

driving remains the No. 1 cause of death on our roadways.

Funds raised will go towards offering services to victims and their families at no charge, as well as providing education in schools

and in the community, Lori Chamberlain said.

"It's fun, and it's going to help people and keep them safe," said fifth grader Alannah Dudley, as she made her way along the final stretch with classmate Christina Carlson.

"This is about making good decisions," Principal Paul DeBernardo said. "You don't need to be behind the wheel of a car to understand the dangers of drunk driving."

Superintendent Erica Forti agreed. "We believe our students are capable of making a difference," she said.

"With everything these kids have faced over the past three years, we're so thankful that the Ferrara School took the time to make these kids aware of this issue and possibly save lives down the line."

For more information about MADD CT, visit madd.org/connecticut, call 877-ASK-MADD or email michelle.chamberlain@madd.org.

MURAL From page A1

my art class although they are orange, to show that everyone can create their fantasy."

For Rueckert it was her deep family roots in Old Saybrook that made her essay distinctive.

"They owned a tavern back in the 1700s," said Sara Menga, "so she has this true New England heritage, which we felt was really important to include, to make our mural not just be about diversity through race, but again, through their talents and history."

Menga is an art teacher at Old Saybrook High School.

Nick Chacha worked closely with Newton and Menga to bring the mural to the life.

"Along with him being a really strong artist and flourishing in our room, we also saw him as a strong peer within the ELL (English Language Learners) program," said Newton, standing in front of the mural, scrubbing paint off her hands with a white washcloth.

Newton said the ELL program has been growing within the school system.

"It started off with a few families coming to our school from different countries, like just dropping in here, not knowing any English, and Nick has a similar experience where he learned English by starting off in our school system, because he grew up in an Ecuadorian household," she said. "He really became a leader within that group of kids and the art and the culture, it all started really mixing together."

Nick Chacha talked about growing up around art.

"I grew watching my uncle paint and draw and he used to do it a lot and he was really good," this 18-year-old said. "He used to sell his paintings."

It was Nick Chacha's immersion in high school art that allowed him "to improve and to progress." He recalled that it was the suggestion from teachers that he incorporate his art into his senior project.

"Because I am so proud of my heritage and of all my friends, I was like, I should do something to make everyone feel comfortable," the incoming senior said. "I know a lot of people from difference countries and I know it can be hard for them to feel accepted or comfortable, at least for a little while, where they are."

From this idea came the creation of the mural. Blanco was paid, through the school system, a total of \$7,000.

This artist felt an immediate connection with the project.

"Whenever I can I like to focus on diversity," he said, taking a break from his long day of painting. "Why? Because I'm an immigrant. I'm from Spain, my wife is from Mexico, our kids were born here. So, personally it is fascinating to me how beautiful that is, but how complicated. Even at the house we have to find a common ground."

Blanco completed the mural in a week's time, from June 14-21.

He started the work with chalk, moving onto house paint in blue, red, green, yellow, purple and orange and finished with a coat of sealer that "protects the surface for many years to come," he said.

He chose to use vibrant colors and a drip method, so that the faces of the students are multicolored.

"I was interested in leaving the skin color out and bringing (in) all the colors in a way that they are mingling," the artist said.

"Color, for me, is very important," he said. "Part



Arnold Gold / Hearst Connecticut Media

From left, Christine Logiudice, mural artist Rafael Blanco and Old Saybrook Public Schools art teacher Hannah Newton work on the mural, Just a Piece of Freedom, incorporating six Old Saybrook Public School students on the side of River Mart on Main Street in Old Saybrook on June 21.



Old Saybrook High School art teacher Sara Menga works on the mural on June 21.

of my work, I want to express how the color of our skin should not define who you are."

"I think we are forgetting our commonalities of the human race," he said.

Blanco talked about why he chose to portray the students with the drips of vibrant colors.

"Each of us, we are like one of those drips," Blanco said, standing in front of the nearly-finished mural.

"We are unique," he said. "Each of those drips is just different and original and unique, in one way, but also, all those drips, they are similar."

Nick Chacha's brother, Teddy Chacha is featured in the work, forming his hands in a heart shape.

"Teddy is mainly blues and greens, but he also has some yellows and you go to Ariana and its mainly yellow, plus she has blues and greens," Blanco said.

"What I'm trying to say is that we may be certainly different, but we are all part of each other," he said. "We have different cultures and we celebrate that, but we are still human, we still have those commonalities."

Blanco talked about the transformation of the wall within the span of week and the impact it has had on the community.

"I think the most amazing thing about the project, and about public art, is this wall was gray, empty, blank ... maybe ugly, and now it is something special that it has many different layers," Blanco said.

"To me, that something so simple can motivate, can stimulate, can bring the town together," he said. "I've been here for a week now and, in a way, it has been one of the most difficult murals to finish because it has had so much of an impact that it was difficult to paint."

While he admitted it may take a little time to fully comprehend the affect *See Mural on A6*



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BRANFORD

From page A1

will," she told the 187 graduating seniors clad in bright red caps and gowns amid a boisterous crowd of parents, relatives, and friends.

"In the words of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whatever vou choose to do, leave tracks," she said. "That means don't do it just for yourself, but leave the world a little better for your having lived."

She shared a lesson learned during a recent internship with a civil rights and criminal justice attorney.

"We cannot keep waiting for change to come or for others to be better," she said. "We must take it into our own hands and be the change we want to see."



Lisa Reisman / For Hearst Connecticut Media

Joshua Berdon with Superintendent of Schools Hamlet Hernandez.

Superintendent of Schools Hamlet Hernandez recognized the graduating seniors for "a level of grit that is not typically ex-

pected from people of your age." He challenged them to give historians "something See Branford on A6

GUILFORD From page A1

him back to sit with his peers.

Kellogg was in the life skills program at GHS and "had been practicing, I understand, to make a grand show as he got his diploma today," said principal Julia Chaffe.

"We knew he was going to be very excited," she said. "What we didn't realize was that he was going to run all the way down into the aisle where all of the parents were. It was wonderful to see him graduate today and see all of that joy."

The weather cleared up for the 6:30 p.m. ceremony, after a day of pouring rain. As the graduates gathered in the St. George Catholic Church parking lot the clouds parted and blue sky peeked through.

"I am so delighted that we are on the green today, because it was not looking like that was going to hap-See Guilford on A6



Guilford High School graduates during the ceremony on the Guilford Green on June 23.

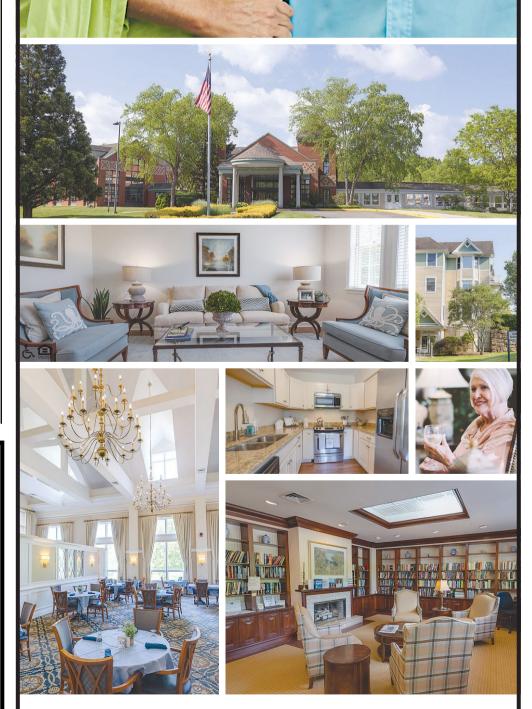


Graduates before the Guilford High School graduation ceremony on June 23.





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Caroline Spaulding with diploma during June 22 commencement exercises on Branford Green.



BHS class officers William Morrow and Ava Cosgrove during the commencement ceremony.

BRANFORD From page A5

other than the pandemic to write about them."

Commencement speaker James Petela, who teaches AP History and founded the BHS Model Congress, drew from "The Lion King," to issue a reminder to the Class of 2022.

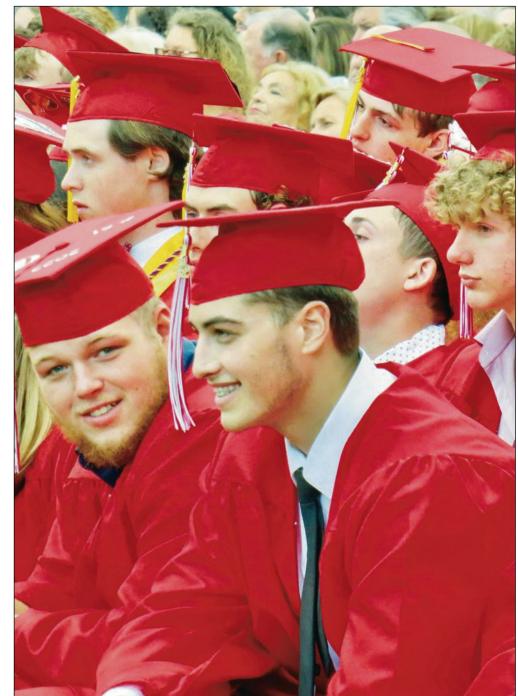
"You are, above all, first and foremost, daughters and sons of your parents and grandparents," he said. "Honor them by being good, by doing good, by being grateful, respectful, responsible, helpful, and friendly, and living up to your potential, and tonight give them all huge hugs for their loving sacrifices."

Petela shared words of wisdom from longtime counselor Marian Montano, whom he called "our guiding light of goodness and gracefulness," on her retirement.

Her message, he said, is to "continue to be courageous, to grab onto opportunities and experiences as uncertain as they may seem, and live your best life."

As the graduating seniors formed a queue to receive their diplomas, Nancy Berdon stood to the side, snapping photos. Her son, Joshua Berdon, will study computer science and business at Lehigh University.

"Just very proud," she said, her voice cracking slightly as she listened for his name.



Lisa Reisman / Hearst Connecticut Media Will Perra, left, and Matt Esposito during the ceremony June 22.

GUILFORD From page A5

pen," said Chaffe. "For the class of 2022 I think it was a fitting end to their four years," she said, "because they had so many ups and downs throughout and today it looked like it was going to be another disappointment, and then the skies cleared."

Dr. Paul Freeman, superintendent of schools, had a message for the students, culled from reading the book, "Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering The Wisdom of the Forest" by Suzzanne Simard.

"When you plant your roots and establish yourselves, wherever that may be, remember that you will do better, you will thrive more, you will grow faster and stronger when you surround yourselves with trees that are not all like yourself," he said. "Surround yourself with others not so much like you," he said. "You will be stronger for it, and more likely to thrive for it." Chaffe used wrestling as an analogy in talking about the graduates' futures. "It occurred to me during one of the matches that the moves the wrestlers make in the ring under those giant spotlights are a lot like life," she said. "Sometimes you have it all pinned down and you emerge victorious. Other times, life has you pinned, your face pressed mercilessly to the floor, your spine twisted in a most unnatural position, as you struggle to release yourself from the pressure." "As a class, you've shown repeatedly that you don't get caught up in this kind of binary thinking about wins and losses," she said. "Life is much more nuanced and interesting than that and you've already

MURAL

had some thoughts.

of the work on him, personally, he

"I think one of the reasons is that

in smaller communities there is more of an impact," he said. "This is really

expecting to see a lighthouse, a land-

Watching the finishing touches

added to the mural, Samantha Walsh

"I just think it's mind blowing,"

different and I think people were

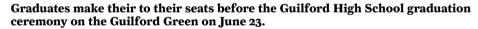
From page A3

scape, a boat."

talked about the project.









The Guilford High School Band plays during the commencement ceremony on June 23.

figured that out."

She encouraged the graduates to "continue to resist the trap of binary thinking."

"As you move into life after high school: improvise, adapt and learn," she said. "No matter where life takes you next, be it college or university, the military, job training, a trade, an apprenticeship, the workforce, a gap year, or travel, no matter where your path leads, let go of the illusion that you are in competition with other people. In actuality, you are only in direct competition with one person - yourself."

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Walsh said.

"It's just beautiful," the 14-year-old said. "It shocks me that a guy can do this, to this scale, to the detail. It's amazing."

Beyond the actual artistry, the incoming Old Saybrook High School freshman said she appreciates the message.

"I just love what it represents for Old Saybrook," she said. "I like how the center is Teddy Chacha with the heart. It really just brings diversity and love into this town."

For Blanco, it was an enlightening experience to be a part of this project.

"For the people to see the process, the progress and to get to meet the artist and that they are involved it in has been a full circle of many different layers that we didn't know we were going to get this far," he said.

"Whenever I go to places, there is an idea and you never know the outcome, you never know how much of an impact, you never know how much a collaboration it's going to be," he said. "You never know how many of the kids were going to help and at the end, it's been overwhelmingly a success because everyone wanted to participate."



An unidentified woman carries flowers and balloons during the ceremony on June 23.



Kelly Goddard / For Hearst Connecticut Media

The procession at Guilford HIgh School graduation on the Guilford Green.



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Shore View



A7 | Shoreline Times | Friday, July 1, 2022

EDITORIAL

Supreme Court puts Conn. in a changed world

By Hearst Connecticut Media Editorial Board

Many Connecticut residents wake up this weekend in a nation that in some ways feels alien. While state lawmakers, with support from voters, have been supporting and passing laws to tighten gun laws and strengthen abortion rights, federal judges have been issuing rulings moving in the opposite direction. Whatever the mood of the country might be, Connecticut appears out of step with prevailing judicial trends.

Fresh off news that a bipartisan group of senators led by Connecticut's Chris Murphy had

No one is going to ignore Washington. But this state and our representatives will also not be silenced. passed the first bill at the federal level to tighten gun laws in a generation came word that the U.S. Supreme Court was taking a different approach. The justices ruled against a New York law that limited people's rights to carry a gun outside the home, and set off a scramble there and in other states to

rewrite laws to meet those new standards.

Connecticut officials were quick to say our state was not among those whose gun laws would be immediately affected. Still, they braced residents to expect more challenges. "We should expect a wave of new lawsuits nationwide and here in Connecticut, coordinated by gun groups like the NRA, challenging our assault weapons ban, age restrictions on gun ownership, prohibitions on guns in sensitive locations like schools, and provisions enabling public safety professionals to review the suitability of an applicant before granting a gun permit," Attorney General William Tong said in a statement.

Abortion is another issue where Connecticut is fighting the national tide. While this state strengthened its laws protecting women's health care this year, the Supreme Court is going against its own precedent by denying its constitutionality, effectively leaving the question up to individual states. Here again, though, the issue is far from settled, and more legislation and lawsuits should be expected.

Then there's criminal justice, where Connecticut last session passed a measure increasing police accountability. The Supreme Court, however, has moved to give law enforcement even more leeway in its interactions with the public.

These rulings do not necessarily reflect popular opinion. Most polls show that majorities support a woman's right to an abortion and are in favor of many gun safety measures. But the Supreme Court is in many ways immune to public pressure, and the pace of change at that level can be agonizingly slow. Rulings the court makes now could stand for generations.

FRANK'S VIEW Finding the bright spots in our lives



All graduation photos of young people that proliferate on social media this time of year gives us a glimpse into the lives of others.

In my day, a photo was something that was shared with a very few who might appreciate the significance of the occasion. Family members, mostly, and perhaps some friends. The photo had a limited audience.

Now through social media, we share these moments with the larger world of our electronic family of friends and relatives and acquaintances.

So these little vignettes allow us a look into places we might not otherwise get to visit. A home birthday celebration, or a wedding, or just a picnic at the beach — these photoshares allow us a firsthand peek into what might otherwise be a very personal experience.

We get to see life unfolding in someone else's universe, and that allows us to see the world in a way, that we might not

otherwise know.

Sometimes we are struck with the universality of these life experiences the prom pictures always show the prom-goer resplendent in formal attire, either the gown or tux, and usually some smiling parents alongside; the birthday cake with candles is always a must, and the communion and confirmation and other religious celebrations give us a sense of rite of passage occasions that may have deeper

meaning. But, occasionally we get to see something more. Some other way that people do the things we do – but differently. And those are the times when we can find out how we both celebrate and mark life experiences in unique or special ways - that's when it becomes more that just looking at the photo. That's when we begin to better understand the differences among us and how we all make things special in our own way.

So, while many think these postings show us more than we need to know about each other, I view them as opportunities to see life through someone else's eyes, and that makes my life a little richer.

It's really difficult, at certain times, to remember how much there is to be

grateful for. Speaking with my friend Stu the other day, he mentioned that he and a friend have decided to focus, each day, on something positive that happened, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem.

That brought me back to my journey to seek tranquility through mindfulness, stopping to think about my life in the smallest segments. Finding something that I can focus on that will bring me to a positive state of mind.

I find now, even though five years have passed, I can still dredge up feelings of sadness over the changes in my life.

Spending a Sunday afternoon alone can drag me back to times when my late wife Angela and I would entertain family or friends for dinner or just to gather by the pool.

I find myself still silently expecting something from my former life to magically happen once again. I suppose it's natural for me to hope, but when I do, my spirits fall.

So what's the antidote? I ask myself from time to time. For me, it's trying my best to find something to be pleased with from my day — perhaps a conversation that I really enjoyed, or the resolution of an issue that had been troubling me, or even giving in to a purchase I had been hesitant about — something just for my own pleasure.

We can change our perception of our lives through our efforts to bring some brightness into our daily routine. So even though our troubles may remain they can be softened through the small pleasures we can find, if we set our mind to it.

My new wrist companion, a gift from my sons, reminds me at the end of each day, to think about something positive as I get ready to retire — go to bed with something pleasant on my mind — and enjoy a peaceful rest.

I always stop to think, when the little message appears, of something to lighten my spirits at that time, and try to make that the final thing I focus as my mind winds down from a busy day.

We all have demanding lives that sometimes steer us into turbulent waters; we need to try to steer clear of the shoals lest we crash.

So, even when life changes and we don't always like it, it's possible to make it better — if we set our mind to it.

You may reach the writer at: F.carrano@att.net.

COMMENTARY Don't have cold feet about wearing socks with sandals



Park, Shelton, where we were non-conformists, who weren't afraid to break the rules.

The fiercest criticism



What can Connecticut do in the face of such intransigence? Practically speaking, the state has no choice but to live within the strictures imposed by the high court, which means limitations on what laws can pass here.

That doesn't mean nothing can be done or we are at the mercy of a hostile judicial branch. Many states, including New York, are meeting in emergency sessions to rewrite their gun laws to abide by the most recent rulings. Connecticut must be prepared to do the same. We may not end up with laws that the state's residents would hope for, but there is much good that can be accomplished.

Connecticut voters have rights, too. No one is going to ignore Washington. But this state and our representatives will also not be silenced. There is too much at stake.



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A HEARST NEWSPAPER

Have your say

Letters should include the writer's name, address and day and evening telephone numbers. Letters may be edited. Letters must be received by noon Thursday to be considered for the next editions and should be original to the Shoreline Times. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Shoreline Times.

Email: sbraden@ctcentral.com

At this time of year, I step outside my comfort zone to make a dramatic fashion statement. It's not my yellow Speedo bathing suit or my pink paisley bow tie or even those latex skintight stretchable doublepleated khakis. It's my lifelong habit of wearing socks with sandals.

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on, it's that no American should be allowed to wear socks with sandals because it violates some regulation drafted by the Centers for Disease Control and its sister agency, the American Fashion Institute.

People in respectable society just don't do it, which is why I venture out cautiously. I'm always looking to see if my neighbors are watching and whispering, "Look at that doofus who's wearing socks with sandals. Doesn't he know the first rule of civilized fashion, as articulated by Anna Wintour and Karl Lagerfeld, is that the plebeian class should not be allowed to wear socks with Tevas and Birkenstocks?"

It doesn't help my case that my socks have holes in the toes. Hey, we're living in hard times, so hard that Americans will probably have to start darning their socks for the first time since the Great Depression to have enough money for gas and heating oil. Entire generations of young Americans in Ivy League schools don't even know how to darn a sock.

I developed this habit growing up in Pine Rock

comes from my daughters, who insist the practice is de classe in a woke society and symptomatic of "toxic masculinity." (They've been throwing a lot of ideology at me.)

I've never seen a woman wear socks with sandals. If one exists, I'd like to invite her to join my passive resistance. However, this seems to be a man issue, and we have few advocates to advance our agenda and even fewer daring enough to be iconoclasts.

For the record, I'd like to offer arguments in my defense. First: Have you ever taken a close look at feet, especially your own? Feet can be horrifying. Our toes are the least evolved part of our bodies, second only to our brains, and they're often more hideous than the claws on those Jurassic Park dinosaurs.

Before you start screaming that I'm "toe shaming" or "foot shaming" and ban me from shopping at the DSW Shoe Warehouse, let me offer a defense. Even though we've accustomed to shouting one another down rather than engaging in reasoned discourse, this is an urgent issue of public health, so please hear me out.

Wearing socks with my Tevas isn't nearly as frightening as men who wear white knee socks with Bermuda shorts, which is a fashion violation worthy of Homer Simpson and Don Knotts ... and yet no one's attacking them, which shows you that justice is applied discriminately in this country.

I urge champions of public health policy such as Chuck Schumer, Michael Bloomberg — mastermind Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

Wearing socks with sandals is like wearing a tie to the beach.

behind the Big Gulp ban and Dr. Marcus Antonius Fauci to confer with the FDA and the American Orthopaedic Association and issue a directive that requires Americans to wear socks with sandals. Here's why:

1. No one should be psychologically scarred by looking at someone's terrifying toes. Spend a few moments studying your own toes and ask yourself, "Do I want to expose the public to that horrifying sight at a time in America's history when we're already experiencing unprecedented social unrest and the likelihood of a recession? Furthermore, do I want to expose my toes to public humiliation? They could be scarred for life and not respond to psychotherapy.

2. There's no denying that feet smell. By wearing socks with your sandals, you'll promote clean air and control global warming. You'll be praised by John Kerry, Greta Thunberg, Leonardo DiCaprio and Al Gore, not to mention Dr. Scholl.

3. Your feet get dirty when you don't wear socks, and with drought conditions in many parts of this nation, the day is coming when you won't be able to wash your feet because water will be as scarce as baby formula and tampons.

4. TICKS. Yes, ticks are very scary. They're everywhere. Plus they bite. A few weeks ago, I found one walking across my pillow and I ran screaming down the hall until I found a tennis racket to bludgeon it. Ticks also spread disease, so be cautious and wear socks even if you intend to spray bug repellent on your bare feet.

If you aren't persuaded by these arguments, at least consider an alternative spray your feet with Lysol and OFF! Then, cover your toes with a face mask, on the recommendation of Dr. Fauci.

Former Stamford Advocate and Greenwich Time Editor Joe Pisani can be reached at joefpisani@yahoo.com.

Are People in Maine and Massachusetts smarter than people in Connecticut?

They certainly are when it comes to their knowledge of high efficiency Ductless Heat Pumps! They know exactly what a Ductless Heat Pump is, how they can benefit from the energy savings, and how to achieve total home comfort. So... how do they know so much?

Maine and Massachusetts were the northeast states chosen to be the poster child for the high efficiency federal programs. Their utility companies were given huge incentives to educate each and every homeowner about the new Heat Pump energy saving technology. That is why Maine and Massachusetts homes are heated and cooled by more Ductless Heat Pumps than any other state in the USA. Connecticut Utilities are trying to get the word out and they are giving great incentives, but that's not good enough. I guess... If I want it done right, I must do it myself.

My job is to educate Connecticut homeowners about the Ductless Heat Pump phenomenon.

What is a Heat Pump?

A Heat Pump provides both Air Conditioning and Heating in one system. How???... It is hard to explain the thermodynamics of it all. It's all in the refrigerant (Freon) flow from the compressor, through all the tubing, through the coils, blah, blah, blah... see what I mean... Hard to explain!

Come visit our CT Home Comfort Showroom where you can see, touch, feel and discover all the latest technology in ductless heat pumps and mini split systems.

How Much Does It Cost to Heat & Cool Your Home with A Ductless Heat Pump System?

A Ductless Heat Pump uses "Inverter Technology" to keep your home at a constant, comfortable temperature while saving you the most amount of money possible on your energy bill.

Ductless Heat Pumps keep the inside of your home at a comfortable temperature, whether the outdoor temperature is greater than 100 degrees or even down to -13 degrees.

The cost to run a Ductless Heat pump is about 75% less than straight electric heat, 40% less than Oil or Propane heat, and 25% less than Natural gas heat. You can still save hundreds of dollars on your annual energy bills when using Ductless in conjunction with any other source of heat.

It does work by electricity **BUT**... The electricity is used only to run a very highly efficient compressor, drawing very little energy. The refrigerant in the system does the rest of the work. Efficiency Ratings are measured in coefficient of performance (COP). A Ductless Heat Pump has an average of 3.0 COP, meaning...300% efficient! No other heating source even comes close. Natural Gas, Oil & LP all have less than a 99% efficiency rating.

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Many high-efficiency Ductless Heat Pumps meet the requirements for the Energize Connecticut rebates. Rebates from \$300 to \$4,000, depending on the BTU and Efficiency ratings.

There is an additional rebate of \$700, if you heat your home with only electric

There are several brands of indoor units (Wall Hung Air Handlers) to choose from to match the décor of your room(s). There are many ways to design the perfect Ductless Heat Pump system for your home.

There are also indoor units that can be hidden away in your attic or basement.

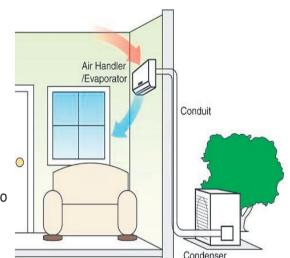
Our Comfort Advisors will go over all options when you set your In-Home No Obligation-Free Estimate with us.







Ductless Heat Pumps consist of one outdoor unit and one or more indoor units. Each room is independently regulated by its own remote-controlled thermostat. You can set the temperature of one room at 72 degrees while setting another room at 60 degrees. You can also use your smartphone to control each unit from anywhere, using Wi-Fi and the ductless app.



Time to Take a Vacation!

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8 Benefits of a Ductless Heat Pump:

- Energy Efficient

heat and you had a home energy assessment done (HES).

Let the Fights Begin!



Ductless Heat Pump

Ductless Heat Pump in the green corner, weighing in at *\$1.60, pound for pound against any other fuel. Using its powerful Inverter Technology, it has remained undefeated in the HVAC industry. Light on its feet and quiet as a whisper, you can barely hear it working. The Ductless Heat Pump is a really "Cool" cat as well.

*Compared to a gallon of oil

vs Electric Heat

Electric Heat has been defeated over and over again. In the 1960's, electric heat was at its prime. It was cheap and created a lot of heat. As time went on, the price to pay was very steep and nobody wanted it anymore because they were losing way too much money on that bet.

vs Oil Heating

Oil in the black sooty corner, weighing in at over \$2.50 a gallon. Stats: Price fluctuations, misfiring and causing puff backs, unexpected breakdowns, gives off a bad smell and running out of oil at the worst time.

vs Propane

Propane (Nickname "LP") is like the cousin of oil. It hangs out in the same corner as oil, watching every move it makes. If oil goes up, propane does the same. If oil ducks low, well there you go. Propane always carries that big tank with it and it's always getting in the way. You never know when it will run out of gas and leave you hanging.

vs Natural Gas

All "Fracking" aside. Natural gas, like the energizer bunny, keeps on going. Always ready and never runs out of gas. It has a very clean record and doesn't play dirty. Natural Gas weighs in at a bit more than Ductless Heat Pumps, but that Ductless Heat Pump still packs a punch.

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Shore Life

B1 | Shoreline Times | Friday, July 1, 2022



Shoppers browse in the produce aisle, left, at the newly opened Aldi grocery store in Branford. At right, shoppers wait in line to check out.

'Passionate about grocery stores'

Shoppers line up for Aldi grand opening

By Susan Braden

BRANFORD — The scene outside the new Aldi looked more like a line for tickets to a rock concert than a supermarket grand opening Thursday morning.

A line of more than 250 shoppers with carts snaked around the building and one customer had waited outside since 5 a.m. June 23. The lot filled quickly as cars continued to stream in while a Branford cop directed traffic.

George Demayo of East Haven had stood in line since daybreak to be one of the first 100 customers who would be eligible to get a \$100 store gift card.

"I hope so," he said about his chances. Demayo who headed the line, got an early start because he learned from experience.

"When they reopened in New Haven. I got there at 6 and there were 40 people in line," he said.

Alexa Laroque, Aldi district manager expressed her amazement at the early morning crowd.

"It's crazv isn't it?" she said. Residents were stopping by the store days before it opened, Laroque said. "It broke our hearts to have to turn them away," she said. Aldi has its devoted fans on social media, noted customer Jeaniene Durso, who was among the early birds. Durso, a New York resident, came from her campsite at Hammonassett State Park in Madison. When home in New York, she shops at Aldi in Danbury, Conn. some 20 minutes from the state line. "There are online Facebook groups, where there's like hundreds of thousands of people," Durso said. Aldi Nerds of Connecticut is one of the fan group pages. But a special aisle called "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow" has a nearly cult-following on social media, to hear Durso describe it. "They call it 'aisle of shame' because you mean to go in for eggs and you come out with spending \$200 on ... like I got this chair at Aldi," she said pointing to the camp chair she was sitting on.



Arnold Gold / Hearst Connecticut Media

Kim Ainsley of Madison shops with her 4-month-old son, Wyatt, at the newly opened Aldi grocery store in Branford.

Aldi is a German-owned cousin of Trader Joe's known for its low prices, high-quality store brands, no-frills style and growing selection of natural and organic foods. Its U.S. base is in Chicago.

Aldi stores are "designed to make grocery shopping smarter, faster and easier," according to Chris Daniels, South Windsor regional vice president for AL-DI. He noted that the company has been "voted the price leader for five years running" by Dunnhumby Retailer Preference Index Report.

Aldi has been a trendsetter and a cost-cutter. The company was one of the first to eschew plastic bags - having never had them in the first place.

Shopping carts are "loaned" to customers who pop in a quarter to unlock them and they get their quarter back once they return it to its proper place. Shoppers are also asked to bag their own groceries. These measures cut down labor costs.

And, Aldi is growing nationally.

"The store is part of the rapid expansion we have going on in the U.S. right now," said Mackenzie Logan, regional manager. "Aldi is aiming to be the nation's third largest retailer by store count by the end of this year." Walmart is the top retailer by locations, she said. "When it comes to value we're not going to be beat on price," Logan said. "We aim to ensure customers come in they find great quality products.' Aldi also offers organic produce - from strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes, avocados and apples. "We get fresh produce here every day," she said, with regional suppliers New Jersey, New York for some items. Her favorite section in the store, which Logan calls "The aisle of fun" is the famous "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow" aisle which features "limited time, premium buys." "Over here we have our pet summer options. My dog loved his bucket hat he got personally," she said, pointing to the colorful brimmed hats with chin straps. And as happy as customers were to have the store finally open, Logan said the feeling was mutual. "We're really excited to be here in Branford," Logan said.



In addition to customers, town and state officials wel-



Shoppers enter the newly opened Aldi grocery store in Branford.

comed Aldi to town in a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"This is a site that has been ripe for redevelopment for many, many years, so there's excitement to see it redeveloped," First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove said.

But, he added there is "greater excitement" from people who have been anticipating the store opening.

"There's been a lot of people who've been waiting for this opening and we did receive a few calls – 'Have you heard when it's going to be open?" Cosgrove said. "I also spoke to a number of residents who are familiar with the Aldi experience and the brand and are

Natasha Myers, center, of East Haven shops with her daughter, Ariella, 6, and Malcolm, 8, at the newly opened Aldi grocery store.

excited to have it so convenient in Branford, even waiting in line."

In the store, Cosgrove said he was impressed with the layout and selection.

"I could come through here and fill my basket," he said, adding that he does "95 percent" of the food shopping for his family.

"I'll probably be in here tonight," he said.

State Rep. Robin Comey said the store is a welcome addition to Branford, especially during this period of economic inflation.

"That's their big push - the affordability," she said. "In these days of rising inflation, I think this is going to be so welcome for many of our residents."

She also was amazed at the turnout.

"I'm just really excited to see the line wrapped around the building," Comey said. "I knew people were excited – our little neighborhood Facebook pages were saying 'Aldi is open today!' Quite a buzz."

Comey was also pleasantly surprised by the store's selection.

"I see a lot more items than I've seen in other Aldis," she added, while holding a bag of brioche hamburger rolls.

The Aldi shopping experience



Tyler Sizemore / Hearst Connecticut Media

Visitors ride hot air balloons at the Greenwich Land Trust's 18th annual Go Wild! Family Field Day at the Greenwich Polo Club in Greenwich in 2017.

Fly high in a hot air balloon

By Michelle Bodak Acri CONNECTICUT MAGAZINE

Looking to get up, up and away from it all this summer? Give Jim Regan a call. Regan, who lives in Berlin and is a firefighter for the city of Manchester, also happens to be owner and chief pilot of CT Ballooning, a Kensington-based hot-air balloon company that offers sunrise flights high above the Farmington River Valley all summer long.

Regan got his start in ballooning as a kid when he and his mom would head to Walnut Hill Park in New Britain, a favored landing spot for local balloon pilots. He became such a frequent visitor that at the age of 14 he was invited to join the ground crew and help land the gentle giants. Regan subsequently got his pilot's license in 1991, founded his own fleet in 2004 and is a competitive balloonist who has flown everywhere from Mexico to New Zealand. What keeps him coming back for more? Even after all this time, "no two flights are

ever the same," Regan says.

Hot-air-fueled adventures last about an hour and cover between three and 10 miles depending on wind speed and direction. Farreaching views (which also depend on location and weather conditions) might include the Farmington and Connecticut River valleys, Long Island Sound and mountain ranges all the way into Massachusetts.

Four guests (plus the pilot, of course) fit in each balloon, which can ascend several hundred to several

thousand feet above ground. But no worries: "The flights are really very calm," Regan says. "It's more about watching the world move beneath you as opposed to feeling movement yourself. You honestly feel more movement in an elevator." Better yet, according to time-honored ballooning tradition, each flight ends with a champagne toast. Cheers to new horizons. 860-209-0351

This article originally appeared in Connecticut Magazine.

CT State Silver Bank Rolls up for grabs

Hoard of old Silver Coins issued first by the U.S. Gov't in 1965 sealed in the only State Restricted Bank Rolls known to exist are actually being handed over to Connecticut residents

RESTRICTED BY PRICE: Only residents of CT get the \$19 state minimum - non state residents must pay \$57 per coin

CONNECTICUT - "The phone lines are ringing off the hook," said Laura Lynne, U.S. Coin and Currency Director for the National Mint and Treasury.

That's because beginning at precisely 8:30 A.M. this morning State of Connecticut Restricted Bank Rolls loaded with rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued Silver clad Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars are actually being handed over to Connecticut residents who call the National Toll-Free Hotlines listed in today's newspaper publication.

And here's the best part. If you are a resident of the state of Connecticut you cover only the \$19 per coin state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury, that's 20 scarce Silver clad Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars sealed and protected in brilliant collector condition for just \$380 which is a real steal because state residents and non-state residents who miss the 2-day deadline must pay \$57 per coin which totals \$1,140 if any coins remain.

"National Mint and Treasury recently spoke with its Chief Professional Numismatist who said 'Very few people have ever actually saw one of these Silver clad Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars minted over 50 years ago. But to actually find them sealed away in State Restricted Bank Rolls is like finding buried treasure. So anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these Bank Rolls had better hold on to them," Lynne said.

"But here's the good news. The Bank Rolls themselves have been marked State Restricted by Price which means the state minimum set by National Mint and Treasury is restricted to Connecticut residents only and non-state residents must pay full price if any Bank Rolls remain," Lynne confirmed.

This is important to note, "These are the only Connecticut State Kennedy Bank Rolls known to exist. You can't get them at banks or credit unions or from the Government since they do not produce State Kennedy Bank Rolls. In fact you can only get them bearing the exclusive State Restricted Design and rolled this way directly from National Mint and Treasury," Lynne explained.

"Now that the State of Connecticut Restricted Silver Bank Rolls are being offered up we won't be surprised if thousands of Connecticut residents claim the maximum limit allowed of 6 Kennedy Presidential Bank Rolls per resident while they still can," said Lynne.

"That's because the dates and mint marks of the U.S. Gov't issued Silver clad Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars found inside the State of Connecticut Restricted Bank Rolls



FLYING OUT THE DOOR: Calls are pouring in from state residents who are trying to get their hands on the only Bank Rolls known to exist with the exclusive State Restricted Design sealed away in the secured packages pictured above. That's because residents who beat the 2-day deadline printed in today's publication are cashing in on the lowest ever \$19 per coin state minimum price set by the National Mint and Treasury, which is just \$380 for the full Bank Rolls, but you better hurry because state residents and non-state residents who miss the deadline must pay \$1,140 for each Bank Roll.

Answering Your Questions



Q: How to claim the Connecticut State Silver Bank Rolls?

A: If you are a Connecticut resident read the important information below about claiming the State Bank Rolls, then call the State Toll-Free Hotline at: **1-800-233-5658 EXT: JFR2148** beginning at precisely 8:30 A.M. this morning.



Q: Are these Silver Kennedy Half Dollars worth more than other Half Dollars?

A: Yes. These rarely seen Silver Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars were first minted in 1965. That puts these coins into the collectible category. The vast majority of half dollars minted after 1970 have no silver content at all. In fact, these Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars were the last silver coins minted for circulation. That's why many of them now command collector values of many times their face value so there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value someday.



Q: How much are the State Silver Bank Rolls worth?

A: It's impossible to say, but these Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars date clear back to 1965 and are sealed and protected in brilliant collector condition and there are 20 in each Bank Roll so you better hurry if you want to get your hands on them. Collector values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees. But we do know they are the only Connecticut State Bank Rolls known to exist with the exclusive State Restricted Design. So anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these State Restricted Bank Rolls should hold onto them because there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value someday.

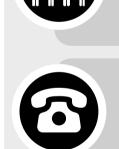


Q: Why are so many Connecticut residents calling to get them?

A: Because they are the only Connecticut State Bank Rolls known to exist with the exclusive State Restricted Design we're bracing for the flood of calls. These are not ordinary Connecticut Bank Rolls. These are full Bank Rolls containing 20 Silver clad Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars dating clear back to 1965. Best of all the Bank Rolls themselves have been marked

have never been searched. But, we do know that these coins date clear back to 1965 and they have been sealed and protected in brilliant collector condition. So, Connecticut residents who get their hands on them will be glad they did," Lynne went on to say.

The phones are ringing off the hook so the only thing readers need to do is make sure they are a resident of the state of Connecticut and call the National Toll-Free Hotlines printed in today's publication.



State Restricted by price which means the state minimum set by National Mint and Treasury is restricted to Connecticut residents who beat the deadline only. That means Connecticut residents cover only *\$19* per Kennedy Presidential Half Dollar, which is just *\$380* for the full Bank Rolls for the next 2 days.

Q: How do I get the State Silver Bank Rolls?

A: The only thing Connecticut residents need to do is call the State Toll-Free Hotline at **1-800-233-5658 Ext. JFR2148** before the deadline ends. Everyone who does is getting the State Bank Rolls for just the state minimum. That's a full Bank Roll of 20 Silver clad Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars for just the *\$19* per coin state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury, which totals just *\$380* for the full Bank Roll. That's a real steal because state residents and non-state residents who miss the deadline must pay *\$1,140* for each Connecticut State Bank Roll if any remain.

IMPORTANT FACTS: The dates and mint marks of the Silver clad Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars found inside the State Bank Rolls have never been searched. Coin values always STATE RESIDENTS OND fluctuate and there are never any guarantees, but any rare, scarce or highly collectible coins, regardless of their value that state residents may find inside the CHARTER sealed Bank Rolls are theirs to keep. OAK UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HARTER OAK STATE ETRUST IN GOD **CONNECTICUT BANK ROLLS**

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Shore Life

LIFE STYLING WITH LISA **Organize your crafts this summer**

ith soaring fuel prices and unpredictable flight options, choosing to stay at home this summer is becoming a widespread option.

Why not carve out some time to finish up that quilt, family scrapbook, or finally paint that old chair you bought at a flea market last year. Whatever your hobby, passion, or craft ability, you'll enjoy crafting and even be more productive with a few tips to help get your craft nook in order this summer!

➤ Make sure you have adequate lighting, good ventilation, and ample workspace. If needed, place a plywood board on top of an old desk or table to create a large worktable. Position the worktable



in the center of the room rather than against a wall, so you can get to a large project from all sides. Near a window, for natural light, is ideal.

✤ Keep all like items together, just as I say for all the other rooms in your house. All your stamping supplies should be in one labeled bin/basket, glue gun supplies in another, etc.

▶ Keep all your craft supplies

handy in open bins or baskets on a shelf for quick grabbing. And label all the containers. ▶ Tape an open paper shopping

bag to one end of your worktable to simply brush in scrap paper or other throw-aways. This is a great idea to do at your kitchen table when wrapping gifts, as well. ✤ For painting big projects, try this: place a large rubber band (such as file bands) around an opened paint can, giving you a tool to rub your brush against for squeezing out excess, drippy paint.

>> Even just one small piece of peg board on the wall near your worktable with hooks and clips or a fabric covered piece of foam board on the wall will allow you a

place to quickly hang fabric swatches or pattern pieces rather than laying them out on your worktable.

➤ Hang a corkboard or a few corkboard squares for pinning reminders, craft instructions or finished photos of your project. ✤ Baby food jars are perfect for keeping samples of various room color paints throughout your home. This makes touch ups very easy. They can be hung on the wall in a spice rack.

▶ Hanging a narrow 2-inch shelf somewhere on the wall near your worktable is good for holding smaller items that might tend to get lost in your project, such as glue sticks or a jar of pins or paper clips, etc.

▶ Be resourceful. Even an old empty pizza box can serve as a quick portfolio, keeping all larger crafting projects in a safe place to store or even dry.

▶ Use a simple accordion file to separate and store scrap-book supplies like background paper, letters and stickers (size them accordingly).

➤ A fishing tackle box works great for small crafting projects...to hold painting supplies, knitting supplies and more. ♥ Work outside on a backyard picnic table and enjoy the fresh air while being creative.

So, get busy and start organizing your craft supplies today for a very creative and productive summer.

Lisa Lelas is a productivity consultant, book writing and TV/Film acting coach and bestselling author/speaker. www.LisaLelas.com

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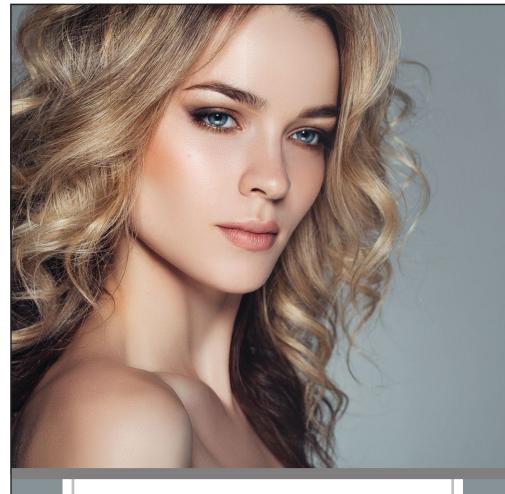
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ACROSS 1. Kitchen boss 5. Churchill's "so few" 8. Epochs 12. "Watch out!" on a golf course 13. East of Java 14. *Pinocchio's state of being 15. Hard currency 16. Emanation 17. TV and radio 18. *Mr. Popper's birds 20. Newspaper piece 21. *Like "Goosebumps Classic" 22. "What?" 23. *Richard Scarry's Things That Go 26. Oxygenate, as in lawn 29. Skin cyst 30. Middle Eastern meat dish, pl. 33. Antonym of "yup" 35. Dispatch boat 37. Female sheep 38. Throat infection 39. Searching for E.T. org. 40. *"I think I can, I think I can...", e.g. 42. *"___ Spot run!" 43. Accounting journal 45. *The Plaza Hotel resident of kids' book fame 47. Long, long time 48. Caffeinecontaining nut trees 50. Off-color 52. *Ludwig Bemelmans' Parisian boarding school resident 55. Middle Eastern porter 56. Movie " Brockovich"

CLASSIC CHILDREN'S BOOKS



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manner 60. Obscenity 61. Middle of March 62. Fringe benefit 63. *Side for Green Eggs 64. Put in the outbox DOWN 1. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr. 2. Obstacle to jump through 3. Great Lake 4. Tiny fox with large ears 5. Two halves of a diameter 6. Like one in isolation cell 7. Evergreen trees

8. *Babar, e.g. 9. Thumb-up catch crime 10. Full of enthusiasm 11. *"The Porthos' and Little Mermaid" Aramis' swords domain 13. Stock or Paddington exchange, in Paris bristle 14. Affair, to Emmanuel nan's sword Macron 19. Michael according to Shel Silverstein Douglas' 1987 greedy role 22. "For _ American purjolly .. ple berry 23. *Clement Clark Moore's famous beginning 24. Live it up

44. Worship-ful 46. Isis' brother and husband 48. Cause and effect cycle? 49. Abhorrence 50. RBG's collar, e.g. 51. Arabic for commander 52. Screen 53. Lymphatic swelling 54. Like certain Steven 55. Senior's fragile body part 58. New York time

SEE SOLUTION ON B5

25. Join forces

26. Aid in

27. Bodies

28. *Athos,'

31. *Corduroy

32. Stiff grass

34. *D'Artag-

36. *It ends,

38. North

41. Give in



57. Karl of politics

59. In a cold

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Shore Life

CALENDAR From page A2

guilfordparkrec.com.

CONCERTS IN THE GARDEN

CHESTER: Parkers Tangent performs at Leif Nilsson Spring Street Studio and Gallery, 1 Spring St., from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 9. Suggested donation is \$20. For more information, call 860-526-2077 or go to nilssonstudio-.com.

FRONTIERS CONCERT OLD SAYBROOK: A con-

cert by Journey tribute band, Frontiers, takes place at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, 300 Main St., at 8 p.m. Saturday, July 9. For more information, go to thekate.org or call 860-510-0453.

BUILDING BLACKSTONE BRANFORD: Bran-

ford town historian Jane Bouley will speak on the architecture and craftsmanship of the Blackstone Library at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, in person at the library, 758 Main St. She will explain the details, big and small, that will inspire a new appreciation for the library and its architectural glory. To register, go to blackstonelibrary.org or call 203-488-1441, extension 318.

MADISON ROTARY CARNIVAL

MADISON: The Madison Rotary's annual Rotary Carnival runs from 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, through Saturday, July 16, at Academy Field. Games, rides, food; proceeds go to the Madison Foundation. Individual tickets, \$1.25; wristband (good for one night), \$25. Details at Face-

book.com/rotarymadisonct.

GUILFORD CRAFT EXPO

GUILFORD: The Guilford Craft Expo will be held from 11 a.m.to 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 15; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 16; and noon to 5 p.m. on

CROSSWORD SOLUTION



SEE PUZZLE ON B4

the Guilford green, featuring 170 crafters and artisans. Activities for visitors



include a Family Art Tent for young visitors, silent auction of exhibitor-

donated work, live music, live craft demonstrations by Guilford Art Center faculty and students, and sale of Guilford Art Center student work, as well as small batch gourmet specialties to snack on or bring home. For more information, go to artwider.com/guilfordcraftexpo2022.

CONCERT SERIES

KILLINGWORTH: Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Department will host The Engine Room at Parmelee Farm, 465 Route 81, as part of its Outdoor Family Concert Series, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 15. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information, go to facebook.com/HKRec or hkrec.com/special-events.

SCRAPBOOKING WITH PLANTS

BRANFORD: Scrapbooking with Plants in the 18th Century will be discussed by Yale Peabody Museum Speakers Bureau at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 19. The talk will follow a graduate student's fraught journey as she attempted to create a herbarium (or book of dried plants) following manuals written by 18th-century naturalists. To register, go to blackstonelibrary.org or call 203-488-1441, extension 318.

TRIBUTE TO THELONIOUS MONK

BRANFORD: The Guilfordbased Shoreline Jazz Quartet will pay tribute to the music of the great Thelonious Monk at Blackstone Library, 758 Main St., at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 23. Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library. To register, go to blackstonelibrary.org or call 203-488-1441, extension 318.

Orthopaedic Specialty Group, PC (OSG) is pleased to announce Dr. Gorelick has joined our practice.

Dr. Gorelick is one of the few boardcertified female neurosurgeons in the state of CT and has more than 20 years of clinical experience. Her practice focuses on the surgical treatment of brain and spinal conditions including tumors, neck, and back pain, degenerative and/ or developmental cervical and lumbar spinal conditions, and spinal deformities. She utilizes state of the art technology to maximize surgical precision and minimize



recovery time. She is a graduate of Cornell University with a BS in neuroscience, received her MD from New York University School of Medicine, and completed her neurosurgical training at The University of Michigan. Dr. Gorelick is respected by her patients and colleagues for her dedicated and compassionate approach to patient care as well as the time she spends trying to educate her patients on the problem they are facing as well as the range of treatment options. She emphasizes that a patient who understands their condition is best able to make informed decisions about their care. Dr. Gorelick has been consistently recognized as a CT Top Doctor, a Castle Connolly Top Doctor, and was recognized by Becker's Spine Review as one the top female spine surgeon leaders to know. She has published many scholarly articles, enjoys teaching medical students as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery at the Frank H. Netter School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University, and holds the position of Chief of the Section of Neurosurgery at Griffin Hospital. Dr. Gorelick also has extensive experience in the area of worker's compensation and has been a member of the medical advisory board for the CT Worker's Compensation Commission since 2014.

If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call (203) 337-2600 x 1180 to speak with a member of our staff.



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Sports

UCONN BASEBALL **Penders to remain with Huskies**

By David Borges

Jim Penders will remain a Husky after all, and the school is in the process of finalizing a new contract for the 19th-year UConn baseball coach. The length of the contract will be five years.

"We're working on something that's going to reward he and his staff for their success and retention," UConn athletic director Dave Benedict told Hearst Connecticut Media. "I think the place we settled is very reasonable for UConn and very fair to Coach Penders. And I think he feels very good that we're doing everything we can."

Benedict and Penders released a joint statement re-affirming Penders' commitment to remaining in Storrs. A Michigan Rivals.com site reported that Penders had interest from Michigan for its currently vacated baseball head coaching job.

"In the summer of 2003, my alma mater took a chance on an unproven thirty-one-

year-old to be the temporary caretaker of our storied program," Penders said in the statement. "At that time, I pledged to get the Huskies back to Omaha. There is still much work to be done and today, thanks to the steadfast support of UConn Nation, and because of the performance of the 2022 Huskies, I'm even more optimistic, humbled, and excited to continue our quest to not just get to the College World Series, but to win it all. I am grateful that President Maric, Chairman Toscano, David Benedict and so many others have placed their trust in our staff and in me. I am thrilled the longest-tenured DI baseball coaching staff in the country will keep bleeding blue in Storrs. I'm not thirty-one anymore, but I still owe UConn, and I renew my pledge today. A great coach once said, 'Those who stay will be champions.' We believe that."

Initially, the Michigan report noted that Penders had interviewed with Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel, who had been A.D. at UConn from 2012-2016. A source close to the situation told Hearst Connecticut Media that the report was "not true." Later, the site instead reported that Penders had had a conversation with Manuel, but no interview.

Penders led the Huskies to a programrecord 50 wins this season. UConn won its second straight Big East tournament title, beat Maryland to win the College Park Regionals and qualified for a super regional for just the second time in school history and first time since 2011. After winning their first super regional game ever, the Huskies dropped the next two games of the best-of-three series with Stanford to fall one game short of their first trip to the College World Series since 1979.

Penders, who is UConn's all-time winningest baseball coach, starred at East Catholic High, then as a catcher at UConn. He graduated from UConn in 1994 and returned to the program as a graduate assistant three years later, eventually taking over as head coach in 2004. His father,



UConn Athletics / Contributed photo

UConn baseball coach Jim Penders will stay on as coach of the Huskies.

Jim, and uncle, Tom, both graduated from UConn and played on the Huskies' 1965 College World Series team.

"You never want to take advantage of his loyalty to the university," Benedict noted. "Sometimes, the squeaky wheels do get oiled, but Jim's just not that way. You feel great to reward someone like him that is as committed and loyal to this program, and has achieved a great deal of success."

david.borges@hearstmediact.com

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL Husky lineup may have different look this season

By David Borges

Dan Hurley had a lot to say about his team at a media availability last week, giving reports on just about every player on next season's roster except recent grad transfer commit Joey Calcaterra (who hadn't signed his financial aid papers at the time, thus preventing Hurley from talking about him).

Here are a few the things Hurley said that particularly stood out, revealing what type of team he plans to run out there in his fifth season at the helm.

"DRE WILL BE ON THE BALL ... A LOT"

Conventional wisdom dictates that Tristen Newton, the high-scoring senior who transferred from East Carolina in April, will be the Huskies' starting point guard. Maybe so, but Newton may be more valuable as an elite scorer who can take the ball to the hole and/or knock down 3's. Hassan Diarra, the gritty New Yorker with the clutch gene, would figure to be Newton's back-up at point. But again, that's narrowing down Diarra's abilities a bit too much.

"The beauty of guys like Tristen and

playing off the ball, letting Dre take it and create in transition, or create in the ball-screen game, where Dre is a really outstanding passer and creator."

Ah yes, Dre. That's Andre Jackson, the versatile, 6-foot-6 wing who can also man the point. He may not match Pistol Pete Maravich, one of his idols, as a ballhandler, but Jackson proved last season that he can facilitate on the fast break, find his big man on the low post and get his team into its offense.

"Dre will be on the ball a lot," Hurley promised. "He'll be facilitating around an outstanding 5-man (Adama Sanogo) and three other guys who can shoot and score. It's going to create driving lanes for him, and passing options."

The Huskies want to play a four-out style where Jackson is the worst perimeter shooter of the four. With guys like Newton, fellow transfer Nahiem Alleyne, a theoretically much-improved Jordan Hawkins and freshman sharpshooter Alex Karaban in the fold (not to mention possible long-range help from Calcaterra and Samson Johnson), the Huskies may have the right combination to do that. And that's impressive, since despite an unorthodox shooting style, Jackson was actually third on the team in 3-pointer percentage last season at 36.1 percent.

AL HORFORD, PT. 2?

Adama Sanogo wants to play in the NBA as badly as any Husky since Ryan Boatright. The latter never got his chance, but Sanogo still feels he will, if he contours his body and his game to the NBA style.

The 6-foot-9 center wants to get his weight down to about 235 pounds and play away from the basket a bit more. He's working on improving his handle, his passing, his ability to face up, take bigger guys away from the basket and drive them.

Oh, and also to knock down a few 3-pointers. He's only attempted one in his first two seasons in Storrs, but expect more attempts this season. And by several accounts, he can make them.

"He saw how Al Horford changed his body," Hurley said of the Celtics' veteran big man, who attempted the second-most 3-pointers of his career this past season. "He's looking to reinvent himself for today's game, be a switchable defender and play out in space."

Sanogo will almost certainly be the Huskies' starting five-man to begin the season, with 7-2 freshman Donovan Clingan backing him up. But the idea of Clingan and Sanogo sharing the floor, perhaps even in the same starting lineup, isn't out of the realm at some point this season. Both players are uniquely skilled big men, but both are also looking to step out and evtend their game to 15 feet — or more

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Samuels is Huskies' third Class of 2023 commitment

By Paul Doyle

The UConn women's basketball program has received a commitment from a Class of 2023 recruit.

Qadence Samuels, a 6-foot-2 guard from Forestville, Md., announced in a Twitter post that she will attend UConn. She is third Class of 2023 player to commit to UConn, following guards Ashlynn Shade and KK Arnold.

Shade is ranked as the No. 6 prospect in the class by ESPN, Arnold No. 7. Samuels is ranked 35th in the class by ESPN.

Samuels, who attended Bishop McNamara in the Washington DC area, reportedly had offers from Alabama, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Kansas State, Miami, Mississippi State, North Carolina, Tennessee, Wake Forest, West Virginia,Virginia Tech and Pittsburgh. In February, ESPN recruiting analyst Shane Laflin rated Samuels among players who "upped their stock" last season.

"Samuels effortlessly runs the floor. She glides baseline to baseline and is a threat to either sprint for an easy layup at the rim or spot up for the transition triple," Laflin wrote. "Her confidence and effectiveness from deep have really improved over the last year. Her improved shot preparation has helped her in all aspects of her shooting, and she attacks the elbows for pull-up jumpers very well.

"Defensively, her frame and length allow her to be a real weapon for her team. Her high school and club (Team Takeover) programs emphasize defense, and she has begun to buy in. As that becomes more of a staple, she can be a lock-down type of defender, and her rebounding will improve as she adds more strength."

Hass," said Hurley, "is they can play on the ball and get you into stuff, create for others, but they're comfortable extend their game to 15 feet — or mor

david.borges@hearstmediact.com

MARTIN From page B8

invites to summer leagues and/or training camps. But Martin was the lone Big East player drafted.

Compare that to the Big Ten, which had nine players selected, or the SEC (seven) or Pac-12 (six). Even the WCC had three (thanks, Gonzaga). The American Conference, much-maligned by UConn fans, had two.

What a difference from the 1985 NBA Draft, when four Big East players were taken in the first round alone, including future Hall-of-Famers Patrick Ewing and Chris Mullin. Or 1996, when seven Big East players went in the first two rounds, including another future Hall of Fame pair: Allen Iverson and UConn's own Ray Allen.

Heck, in 2006, there were four first-rounders from UConn alone — Rudy Gay, Hilton Armstrong, Marcus Williams and Josh Boone and six overall from the Big East.

This year, just one from the Big East. In the second round. Same amount as the Horizon League, MAC and Mountain West. An anomaly, you say? Well, three years ago, the league also produced just one draft pick (second-rounder Eric Paschall of Villanova). And in 2020, there were just two.

So what gives? Why is the Big East still such a terrific league, even if it's not churning out NBA Draft picks? Certainly, the league isn't bringing in the type of highly-ranked recruits, the one-and-dones, that Power Five leagues have been attracting.

Villanova, far and away the class of the league for the past decade with two national championships in its trophy case, never had a one-anddone under recently-retired Hall of Famer Jay Wright. Since Jim Calhoun took over the reins in 1986, UConn has had just one — lottery pick Andre Drummond in 2012.

The one-and-done studs are heading to Duke and Kentucky; the long, athletic freaks who may be raw but ooze potential are going to Arkansas, LSU, Texas, Baylor, or more established basketball powers like North Carolina, Kansas, Arizona or UCLA.

The Big East, instead, largely ends up with talented, top 75-150 recruits who will stay in school for a few years. Maybe even five years, like several recent graduates (Gillespie, Cole, Whaley, Providence's Nate Watson, etc.) have done thanks to an extra Covid-19 season. It makes the league older, stronger and a lot tougher for a freshman to break in and find immediate success. It also makes it a better overall league, even if the talent level isn't necessarily populated by future NBA studs.

Look no further than the upcoming season. The Big East will feature some of the top big men in the country, led by UConn junior Adama Sanogo, who'll likely be the league's preseason player of the year. A pair of 7-footers, Creighton's Ryan Kalkbrenner and Xavier's Jack Nunge, need no introduction for UConn fans, nor does bruising Eric Dixon of Villanova. Qudus Wahab is back at Georgetown after a year at Maryland, and don't sleep on 7-2 UConn

freshman Donovan Clingan, the Bristol product.

But there's a reason why the league has so many talented, experienced bigs.

"Obviously, a lot of those guys made the decision to come back to school," Creighton coach Greg McDermott told Hearst Connecticut Media. "Part of it is that the NBA game has changed, and there aren't as many of those guys on an NBA roster anymore."

That's why Sanogo and Clingan are both working to expand their games, hit a few mid-range jumpers, even a few 3-pointers, and play and defend in space. Both could wind up being NBA Draft picks. In fact, Hurley believes he could lose at least three players to the 2023 draft: Sanogo, 6-6 wing Andre Jackson and 6-5 Jordan Hawkins.

It's all a bit cyclical. Don't forget, the league had four players drafted in 2021, led by lottery pick James Bouknight of UConn. Bouknight probably could have been a late firstround, early second-round pick in 2020, but made the wise choice to return for a second year in Storrs.

In fact, the 2023 NBA Draft could have much better Big East representation. The league could even have a oneand-done next year out of, of all places ... Villanova. Cam Whitmore is a national top-15 recruit who is projected to be a potential lottery pick in 2023.

No doubt, the Big East still has a lot of good players. Most of those players just tend to stick around in college a bit longer, making the Big East an older, bigger and better league than most.

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WOMEN'S From page B8

supporting Connecticut Children's hospital, supporting kids ... we just love to be here and be part of it."

The Huskies have been practicing in Storrs the past few weeks. The summer session has provided an opportunity for players to work on conditioning and some basketball activity, although some have been limited because of health issues.

Bueckers? The rising junior missed much of her sophomore season because of knee surgery, returning to lead UConn to the Final Four in the spring.

She was hampered by an ankle injury after her freshman year and was limited last summer. This summer, she is feeling good and focused on adding muscle.

In fact, she is staying on campus all summer.

"I took a couple weeks off after the season ... just making sure that knee was 100 percent and that I'm mentally and physically ready to go back at it," she said. "I'm good right now."

Fudd missed part of her freshman season with a foot injury. UConn has been cautious with her this summer, so she has been limited.

"It's been good so far, having fun, getting healthy," Fudd said. "It's been a little frustrating because it's kind of been a lot of time and there's nothing I can do to speed up the process, and I hate having to wait for this kind of stuff. It's going slow, but it's picking up, so I'm really happy and feeling good so far. Knock on wood."

Forward Aubrey Griffin, who missed all of last season and has back surgery in January, is easing back. Griffin expects to be ready for the preseason, although she has yet to engage in basketball activities.

Guard Nika Mühl has also been limited by a lingering foot injury.

"But I feel like by the time the season begins it should be all fine. I feel, overall, very healthy," said Mühl, who missed seven games as a freshman and three as a sophomore. "Before, I was always just play [through pain] but it's not fun being out for a month and a half while my team is playing. I feel like I've got to be smarter when it comes to that — when something hurts, say it. So I've been working on that, limiting myself as much as I can. But, also, we have to work."

Mühl returned home to Croatia before returning for the summer session. She'll still be on campus, along with other players who will continue to train.

Sophomore Amari DeBerry, who could have an expanded role this season, said the summer has provided the team with an opportunity to bond. UConn graduated three players — Westbrook, Christyn Williams and Olivia Nelson-Ododa — so there may be a leadership void.

According to DeBerry, Bueckers and Dorka Juhász are seizing that leadership role by being vocal on court. Off the court, it's a collective effort.

"We all are always with each other, always hanging out, always going to each other if we need anything," De-Berry said. "It's pulling us together."

The trip to Mohegan Sun last Friday provided this year's team with a reminder of what they are part of. A day after Bird announced she would retire after the season, the players gathered to watch the Seattle Storm face the Sun.

They also posed for a photo with the alums, including assistant coaches Morgan Valley and Jamelle Elliott along with Sun director of franchise development Morgan Tuck.

Stewart, Williams and Tuck were UConn teammates from 2014 to 2016. Valley and Bird played together at UConn from 2000 to 2002. Elliott played at UConn from 1992 to 1996.

"It's been really fun," Bueckers said. "Just being able to build these awesome memories. We're having a lot of fun."

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Sports

B8 | Shoreline Times | Friday, July 1, 2022

Hamm takes over as Yale coach

By David Borges

Brian Hamm, who just led Eastern Connecticut State to an NCAA Division 3 national championship, has been named the head coach of the Yale baseball team.

Hamm replaces John Stuper, who retired after 30 years at the helm following this past season.

"I am thrilled that Brian Hamm will be leading our storied baseball program at Yale. Coming off winning a national title, it is clear that he is a proven winner," Yale athletic director Vicky Chun said in a statement. "What impressed us the most is Brian's energy, work ethic and passion in giving his studentathletes the very best-in-class experience."

Hamm spent the past four seasons at ECSU, leading the Warriors to the NCAA Tournament in 2021 and 2022. Under his leadership, ECSU went 108-30 (.783) overall and 38-10 (.792) in Little East Conference play. The Warriors were LEC Regular Season Champions in each of the past two seasons, going 15-1 each year and establishing the LEC record for regular season conference wins. They won the LEC Tournament this past year, going 4-0 and outscoring their opponents 35-8. Hamm earned the LEC Coach of the Year Award and the D3baseball.com New England Region Coach of the Year Award for the second year in a row.

ECSU went 49-3 overall this past season.

The national championship was Eastern's first in 20 years. Hamm's Warriors broke the school record for wins (tied for the second-most ever by a D3 National Champion) and tied the school record with a 23-game winning streak to end the year. They were ranked No. 1 in the nation from May 10 through the end of the season. For the second straight year, Hamm's team



Brian Hamm has been named baseball coach at Yale.

had three players recognized with All-America honors.

Hamm, a Terryville product, takes over a Yale program that has won eight Ivy League Championships, including two in the past four seasons, and produced

41 MLB draftees. "I would like to thank Director Chun and the entire search committee for their time and energy they put into this search," Hamm said in a statement. "It is an honor that Director Chun entrusts me to follow legendary coach John Stuper to lead Yale's outstanding studentathletes. At Yale, athletics play a significant role in the overall educational mission while contributing to the vibrant university community. This, combined with the spirit and passion of its student-athletes, is the backbone of a winning culture that I am thrilled to join."

Before coming to Eastern, Hamm coached at Amherst for 13 years. He spent the first four assisting ABCA Hall of Fame coach Bill Thurston. In nine vears as head coach, Hamm oversaw the winningest period in Amherst baseball's 162 year history, posting a 221-113 (.662) record. He led the program to four NCAA Division III Tournaments and two NESCAC Tournament Championships. His .725 winning percentage in NESCAC regular-season play is the highest in conference history. He was named NESCAC Coach of the Year in 2011 and 2018.

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HAND STUDENT-ATHLETES TAKING THEIR TALENTS TO COLLEGE



Bill O'Brien / Contributed photo

The following recent graduates of Hand High School expect to play sports in college: Front row, from left: Abbigail Chemacki (Loyola), Skyler Skarsten Dooley (WPI), Sophia Coppola (Roger Williams), Karleigh Kokoruda (Trinity), Grace Sweeney (George Mason), Ali Ciotti (New Hampshire), Megan Hart (Bryant) and Natalia Nolan (Williams). Middle row, from left: Kacie Wines (Lehigh), Peytyn Gies (Bentley), Riley Kilbourn (Wheaton) and Claire Langille (Union). Top row, from left: Mario Mazzarella (Western Connecticut), Sean Portley (UMass Dartmouth), Danny Hilmer (Bucknell), Morgan Veth (Westmont College), Seth Sweitzer (Choate Rosemary Hall), Brendan Walsh (St Lawrence), Patch Flanigan (Union), Ethan O'Brien (West Point), Jack Gara (Western New England) and Connor Powell (SCSU).

Martin the lone Big East player taken in NBA Draft

By David Borges

The Big East is a very good men's basketball conference.

The league ranked second in overall RPI this past season, bested only by the Big 12 and its national champion, Kansas. It finished fourth in the conference NET rankings.

The Big East sent six teams to the NCAA tournament, including Villanova, which advanced to the Final Four for the third time in the past seven seasons.

It's a damn good league. It's just that the NBA doesn't necessarily agree.

When UConn's Tyrese Martin was selected with the No. 51 pick in the 2022 NBA Draft, it marked the second year in a row the Huskies had a draft selec-



Providence College Athletics / Contributed photo

UConn's Tyrese Martin, right, was the lone player from the Big East to be take in this year's NBA Draft.

tion, and added another feather in the cap to Dan Hurley's staff as talent developers.

It also marked the only Big East player selected in this year's draft. A slew of players, including two-time league player of the year Collin Gillespie and former Huskies R.J. Cole and Isaiah Whaley, either signed twoway contracts or received See Martin on B7

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Huskies show out for Auriemma's charity event

By Paul Doyle

WEST HARTFORD — The social media snapshots have offered fans a glimpse into the summer lives of the UConn women's basketball team.

They were in Brooklyn when Evina Westbrook and the Minnesota Lynx visited the New York Liberty. They gathered at Mohegan Sun Arena to see Sue Bird, Breanna Stewart and Gabby Williams face the Connecticut Sun. They've been around the state for various events and the program's marquee names — Paige Bueckers and Azzi Fudd — mingled with Steph Curry and the NBA champion Golden State Warriors at the TD Garden in Boston.

Last week, they were together at a golf course supporting their coach's cause. Geno Auriemma skipped the media portion of his charity golf tournament because he was not feeling well, but most of his players were at the Hartford Golf Club to meet fans and chat with reporters.

Auriemma' absence Tuesday didn't seem to dampen the mood for an event that raises money for Connecticut Children's Medi-



Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

UConn's Nika Muhl.

cal Center.

Players arrived in two groups, gathering at a court adjacent to a clubhouse in the middle of the course. Bueckers engaged with fans as she took challenges and hit shots.

"It's obviously Coach's fundraiser, anything we can do to support him," Bueckers said. "Obviously him supporting others, *See Women's on B7*