Registrars gear up for election

By ROB GLIDDEN
STAFF WRITER

As this fall’s presidential election draws closer, Southington’s voting registrars are getting the word out about the details of the process.

Political pundits nationwide are predicting a record turnout across America for the contest between Senator Barack Obama, the Democratic nominee, and Senator John McCain, the Republican nominee.

If that forecast holds true, a significant portion of that turnout may be comprised of new voters. Democratic Registrar Ed Malczyk said he had seen a jump in new voter registration throughout the heated primary contest between Obama and Senator Hillary Clinton.

“There have been more Democrats,” Malczyk said. “We’re not swamped, but there were a lot of people joining for the primary.”

Those who have not registered yet have up until 7 days before the election to do so. However, those who wait till the last minute will have to deal with a handful of small restrictions. Normally voter registration can be done in a variety of places, including Town Hall, the library, within unions, or even through mail or over the internet. However, within that final 7 days, registration must be done in person at the registrar office at Town Hall.

Republican Registrar Bob Sherman said that other states were stricter about registration, with deadlines set at 30 to 45 days before the election.

“Connecticut law is very liberal about voter registration,” he said. “We’re getting close to having registration on Election Day.”

Sherman added that students return for their first day

Students return for their first day

By ROB GLIDDEN
STAFF WRITER

With school renovations ready to go and the necessary relocations completed, Southington students went back to school last week.

At South End Elementary School, first-grader Jacob Cardozo returned to class with confidence and excitement.

“Math is my favorite subject because I am very good at it,” Jacob said. “I’m looking forward to getting into the school year so I can learn more stuff.”

Fifth-grader Jessica Gagnon is another fan of math, but she said she was also excited about the social aspects of returning to school.

“I’m looking forward to meeting all of my friends, who I haven’t seen this summer,” she said.

At Flanders Elementary School, first-grader Johnny Simard’s choice for favorite subject was likely shared by many of the students.

“I like recess, because you get to play outside,” he said.

Martino Gonzalez said he was looking forward to planned field trips, but also a chance to run around and play with his friends.

Robert Sirko takes part in a patriotic musical number last week as the Central Baptist Church presented a salute to Southington’s civic leaders.

See the story on page 13.
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School officials concerned with class sizes

We have too many classes with too many students. I’m very concerned.

Patricia Johnson, Board of Education Member

Thiery said that population counts in the lower grades, especially kindergarten, were “volatile.”

"Last minute decisions will likely be made, either towards parochial schools or simply staying home,” Thiery said.

Erardi said that though everyone at the table was distressed about the increased class sizes, this was the card the schools were dealt.

"If the original estimate had been approved, this conversation would not be taking place, but we’re trying to stay within our operating budget,” he said.

Chairman Brian Goralski commented that the board’s concerns about class sizes are sometimes dismissed as empty threats during the annual budget discussion. He and other board members noted that the impact of this change may be seen in the next round of standardized tests.

"It’s never been a ‘threatening’ philosophy,” Goralski said. “It’s a reality. Our kids have performed well because of low class sizes. This is the wrong direction and it can’t continue.”

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The Board of Education expressed grave concerns about the increased class sizes for the coming school year. However, with the budget process hung over and the new fiscal year underway, there is little they can do to improve the situation at the moment.

“Numbers continue to grow,” said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Erardi. “This is not a good thing.”

Erardi and the school board had originally presented a budget proposal of $76.9 million. The Town Council eventually compromised on a budget of $75.3 million. This forced Erardi and the board to cut an additional $1.5 million from their students.

"Because of the budget shortfall, we’ve taken a step backwards,” said Vice-Chair Rosemarie Fischer. “There are areas here that I’m not comfortable with.”

The board members were aware this would be the situation for the school year, but seeing the numbers in print clearly still had an impact.

“We have too many classes with too many students,” said board member Patricia Johnson. “I’m very worried.”

The situation will force elementary school teachers and administrators to be creative in terms of managing their students. Hatton School principal Roberta McAlloon impressed the board with her school’s plan to have four teachers cycling the school’s kindergarten classes, while working to integrate special needs students in these classes as often as possible.

Officials stressed that the current numbers were not final. Assistant Superintendent Howard Goralski commented that the board’s concerns about class sizes are sometimes dismissed as empty threats during the annual budget process.

"It’s never been a ‘threatening’ philosophy,” Goralski said. “It’s a reality. Our kids have performed well because of low class sizes. This is the wrong direction and it can’t continue.”

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"It’s never been a ‘threatening’ philosophy," Goralski said. "It’s a reality. Our kids have performed well because of low class sizes. This is the wrong direction and it can’t continue."
Since voters in general elections can vote for any candidate regardless of their own party affiliation, the registrars don’t expect many residents to change parties. For the primaries, however, it was a different matter. Connecticut voting regulations make it easy for an independent voter to switch parties, with the change going into effect after only a single day. Sherman said that many of these voters had switched to one of the major political parties to vote in the primary, and then had returned to their independent status immediately after. Republicans hoping to switch to the Democratic Party (and vice versa) don’t have it as easy. Connecticut law states that there is a three month wait for those who wish to make a change from one of the two major parties to the other. The rationale for this is to prevent situations where one party crosses over simply to try and influence the results for their opposition’s primary.

Both registrars said they had not seen indicators of the enormous turnout which has been predicted. “There’s always a larger turnout for a presidential election, but generally we do not see an unusually large turnout in Southington for those,” Sherman said. “However, it’s early. A lot of people are still on vacation.” Malczyk said the busiest time for registration was October, as a large influx of new voters was still possible. “It’s starting to get steadier,” he said. “We’re getting a greater number of (registration) cards each day than at other times during the year, so it is picking up. Voters in the 12 different polling districts will vote in the same place and time, they always do, with the exception of one. The renomination at Plantsville Elementary School will make that venue unavailable on Election Day. Voters will have to walk across the street to Plantsville Congregational Church instead.”

The Registrar’s office will hold a voter-booking session on Saturday, September 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cardio Express on Queen Street.
Police Blotter

Michele L. Czy, 38, of 13 Whippoorwill Rd. in Southington was arrested Monday, Aug. 18 on the charges of DUII and failure to drive in the proper lane. Bond was set at $500.

Bruce LeFort, 43, of 50 Gwyndale Road in Southington was arrested Tuesday, Aug. 19 on the charge of second degree breach of peace. Bond was set at $1,000.

Ruth M. Bates, 44, of 48 Birdie Lane in Bristol was arrested Thursday, Aug. 21 on the charges of interfering with an officer, reckless use of highway by a pedestrian, assault officer, reckless use of high-way by a pedestrian, assault and second degree harassment. Bond was set at $10,000.

Dawn M. Pearson, 18, of 10 Pine St. in Bristol was arrested Thursday, Aug. 21 on the charge of second degree assault and second degree breach of peace. Bond was set at $500.

Anthony Leonard, 23, of 860 Farmington Ave. in New Britain was arrested Thursday, Aug. 21 on the charge of first degree failure to appear. Bond was set at $5,000.

James Carroll Byrd, 26, of 119 Cherry St. in Waterbury was arrested Friday, Aug. 22 on the charge of second degree failure to appear. Bond was set at $495.

Lauren R. Liddick, 23, of 26331 Town Walk Dr. in Hamden, was arrested Friday, Aug. 22 on the charge of second degree harassment. Bond was set at $500.

Ronald F. Newman, 36, of 242 Edgewood Circle in Southington was arrested Friday, Aug. 22 on the charge of disorderly conduct. Bond was set at $1,000.

Kendra Comeau, 36, of 242 Edgewood Circle in Southington was arrested Friday, Aug. 22 on the charge of disorderly conduct. Bond was set at $1,000.

Ronald Jordan, 44, of 31-33 Bond St. in Hartford was charged Saturday, Aug. 23 with fourth degree larceny. A court date was scheduled for Aug. 22.

Kyle Craig McFarrin, 48, of 16 Chase St. in Hartford was charged Saturday, Aug. 23 with first degree larceny and conspiracy to commit first degree larceny. A court date was scheduled for Aug. 25.

Guy E. Esposito, 47, of 123 Worx Spring Rd. in Southington was arrested Tuesday, Aug. 26 on the charge of second degree breach of peace. Bond was set at $1,000.

Jonathan J. Bugbee, 26, of 210 District St. in Bristol was arrested Wednesday, Aug. 27 on the charges of driving in the improper lane, having an obstructed view and possession of marijuana. Bond was set at $5,000.

Stephen J. Micalizzi, 27, of 259 Loper St. in Southington was arrested Wednesday, Aug. 27 on the charges of possession of marijuana and possession of marijuana with intent to sell. Bond was set at $5,000.

Nicholas C. Hutton, 20, of 200 East St. in Southington was arrested Wednesday, Aug. 27 on the charges of third degree burglary, possession of burglary tools, fifth degree larceny and possession of a controlled substance. Bond was set at $5,000.

This Week in History

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By several accounts, the latest chapter in the quest for the next police station site reveals the favorite parcel this week is on Lacy Lane.

The 7.4 acre parcel, owned by Joseph Adams, is located adjacent to the site that AES Global Power Company announced last week as the proposed property for a new power plant.

Sports: “Decision time looms for Peterson”

It’s getting toward decision time for Chris Peterson.

The former Southington high school infielder is in his sixth year with the Chicago Cubs organization. According to professional baseball rules, Peterson will be a free agent, unless the Cubs bring him up to the main roster.

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The Oxley Drug Store will close in about two weeks, owners of the downtown landmark revealed.

Marry Ann Derynioski, widow of pharmacist Raymond Derynioski, who purchased the business in 1978, and later bought the landmark store will end on or about Sept. 12.

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Sherry Plantier is ready to take the plunge into the world of swimming.

The former Southington YMCA Stingrays coach will be Don Prigitano’s assistant on the Southington High School swim team.

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They are going to exploit their newfound freedoms as legal—good or bad. The government just steps away from regulating any human behavior because it's illegal. But if we're going to eliminate the allure of a substance, alcohol, but the illegal still captured everyone's attention. Suburban dorm hall dealers. Students could get inebriated on a legal license at the local package store and they would be secure alcohol. All they needed to do was present their driver's license and the dorms at the university are reeked from the pervasiveness of truth to the allure of illicit behavior. Many universities and colleges reek from the pervasiveness of the drinking age. Instead, they want a debate on dangerous binge drinking on campus. The presidents fall short of actually advocating the low drinking age and the college presidents are calling on Connecticut's Fairfield University, St. Joseph College in Hartfort and the University of New Haven, are calling on the college presidents apparently are spending too much time in their ivory towers and not in the dorm rooms. And they apparently didn't spend much time in the dorm rooms 25 years ago either.

The Associated Press recently reported that college presidents from about 100 universities, including Connecticut's Fairfield University, St. Joseph College in Hartford, Trinity College in Hartford, the University of Hartford and the University of New Haven, are calling on lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18. Their argument is that current laws actually encourage dangerous binge drinking on college campuses.

The presidents fall short of actually advocating the lowering of the drinking age. Instead, they want a debate on the issue.

So, we're going to offer our argument against the change.

Simply, the argument is based on a false premise. The presidents say the higher drinking age actually encourages binge drinking because students are driven to illegal behavior. But no one would ever accuse the time period when the drinking age was 18 years old of being chaste and proper. College students simply didn't need their creativity to secure alcohol. All they needed to do was present their driver's license at the local package store and they would be fully supplied—and if they bought a keg they were awarded with a free supply of plastic kegs. But anyone that has set foot on a college campus knows that things haven't changed since then. Alcohol is still prevalent with a free supply of plastic kegs.

There are two things that are going on. A feature is often the most fun type of story for a reporter to write because it is often the type of fare that actively engages the reader. A commentary piece of a feature story is last week's article on several Southington youths setting up a lemonade stand to raise money to aid frogs affected by a fungus. As described above, this is not breaking news, but it does provide a little insight into the minds of people that inhabit Southington. Amy Paul, Alyssa Paul, David McPherson and Codie Coletsos decided to set up the lemonade stand after reading about the threat that chytrid fungus poses to the amphibians.

In the fall off the youths and their lemonade stand. Hopefully they can raise a little money to help the frogs. Another example of a quirky feature story is one that ran in early August about Southington competing in a Nimble of the Wits competition. Southington's senior centers will soon compete with others from across the state for the Governor's Health Net Senior Cup to town. Sponsored by Health Net of the Northeast, Inc., the tournament will include 84 senior centers around the state, in response to the widespread enthusiasm for the use of virtual bowling on the Wii video game system. The tournament is kicking off in the very near future and The Observer staff hopes to have updates. What makes these two examples and the countless other like them that have run in The Observer over the years great is that they help showcase the community. Every community has zoning issues, referendum decisions and sports. But not every town has youthful environmental activists or Wii obsessed seniors.

These are just some of the smallest, quickest examples from Southington apart from the rest of the communities in the state. And there are hundreds of stories like those listed above, just waiting to be told. If you know of any, please feel free to let us know. You can send tips or ideas to editors@southingtonobserver.com or call 860-675-4725. Together we can highlight every- thing that makes Southington, well Southington.

I am too tired for truthful courage

Bill Dunn

Laugh or Death

As a weekly newspaper, The Observer brings Southington residents all the news of the past seven days. While other news outlets may have the information directed at the end of the Observer often has it more in depth and from a multitude of angles. Be it a zoning decision that may impact your home, a new town wide initiative that could take money out of your wallet or a sporting event that that everyone can rally behind, you will find it in the pages of The Observer. The Observer is one stop shopping for all of your Southington news needs.

But behind the bigger headlines, such as zoning or premier football games, are features. A feature story is not intended to cover breaking news. Instead, it provides a little insight into the things that are going on. A feature is often the most fun type of story for a reporter to write because it is often the type of fare that actively engages the reader.

There's an old expression: "Fatigue makes cowards of us all." I also recall another quote that's a part of this quote on the internet, and some websites claim it was first said by Gen. George Patton during World War II. Other websites attribute this quotation to Vince Lombardi, the famous football coach of the Green Bay Packers.

Well, whoever was the first person to think up this quotation, he was probably too tired to bother fighting to take credit for it. There's another old expression: "In vino veritas." This Latin is for "in wine there is truth," meaning when people are drunk they are less inhib- ited and more likely to say exactly what's on their mind.

Some websites claim this quote comes from Pliny the Elder, a first-century Roman military commander and author. Pliny's first memorable quotation occurred in the second grade, when he asked his mother, "Hey Ma, how come you named Pliny the Elder?" Other kids make fun of me. Some other websites attribute this quotation (the vino quote, not the Hey Ma quote) to Alcaeus, a Greek poet from the 7th century B.C. Regrettably, history does not record what he said to his mother while in the second grade.

There is a connection between these two quotations. In many ways fatigue is a lot like drinking. Over the years I've witnessed people say things while tired—often quite truthful—that they never would have said otherwise. Maybe we should call it, "In exhausto veritas." The most memorable occasion was during an evening business meeting that was supposed to end by 9 p.m. However, at 11:30 p.m., the meeting was still going strong, with a lot of endless wrangling over rather minor details. Finally, one mid-level manager stood up, looked the company president right in the eye, and said (I'll try to paraphrase since this is a family newspaper): "Look pal, I'm too (stinkin') tired to give a [poop] any- more. This [gosh darn] project is a total waste of time anyway, so do whatever the [heck] you want. I'm going home!"

Often a bold display of honesty such as this, once the initial shock has subsided, will be viewed as quite courageous. Often the mid-level manager will be seen by upper man- agement as a non-nonsense guy who can get things done. Often such a shocking outburst eventually will result in a promotion and greater responsibilities for the mid-level manager. Maybe. But not this time. The next morning, when the mid-level manager arrived for work, everything from his office had already been shoved into cardboard boxes and left out on the street for someone to pick up. He's probably not going to get a promotion.

Nowadays are getting about 25-per- cent less sleep compared to a century ago. Maybe that's why people seem so quick these days to blurt out whatever is on their minds. So, I'm not sure if fatigue makes us cowardly or if it makes us bold and truthful. We are now head- ing into the home stretch of the presiden- tial campaign and, you might want to see this in action. After all, the can- didates are exhausted, and of course the voters are too. Maybe we should call it, "In exhausto veritas."
Soutington says

What are you expecting in the world of sports this season?

“I expect to see three or four more championships for the Red Sox in the next decade.”

“I am looking forward to NFL and college football.”

“The Eagles making it to the Super Bowl.”

“I expect to see the Yankees stop losing.”

“I want the Dolphins to win the Super Bowl.”

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Southington Library and Museum Board of Directors, Executive Director Susan Sinaya and Susan Reisman, 2008 Taste of Southington Chairman, I would like to thank all the restaurants who participated in the 7th Annual Taste of Southington for providing such a wonderful array of food. My gratitude also goes out to the local media for their excellent coverage before, during and after the event. Thanks to Concert Coordinator Jerry Limmer for making weekly announcements to concertgoers during Southington’s Wednesday night Concerts on the Green. And to the many volunteers who generously gave their time so the museum could be open for tours that evening, a heartfelt thank you. Lastly and foremost I would like to thank all of the people of Southington and surrounding towns who made this event so successful. Thank you for attending and for your continued support without whom we could not have made this our 7th Annual Taste of Southington.

Sincerely,

Marie Secondo
Barnes Museum Curator

Thank you for help with Taste of Southington

To advertise, call (860) 628-9645

Your Views

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Letters

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The ordeal of planning a new business and putting the plan in action, confronted with financing and other things, reaches a tremendous feeling of satisfaction when the day comes to officially open the doors for business.

That was the day on August 14, 1978 when a young man and his wife shipped a red ribbon that was stretched across two new entrance doors. The ceremony was attended by hundreds of well-wishers who had come to see what two years of planning had accomplished. What they saw was the final chapter of hard work, planning, meetings and apprehension.

The ‘78 winter extended construction from three to five months but the new restaurant enterprise was started from the foundation up. The 5,000-square foot cinder block building, built on a slab, was transformed into a unique marketing showroom of sports imagination. When it was enclosed it didn’t look pretty. The exterior got a tan buff. The selected wall called the “Dugout” revealed a special dining section that allowed a sense of fortitude and perseverance. Knowing your market can reduce your marketing expenses. Selecting a media outlet allows you to invest where it can help the most and it doesn’t require a master’s degree in economics to understand that spending money by duplicating your message to the same audience is expensive and a waste of resources.

How many times have you enjoyed a new restaurant or store only to be turned off by a rude or cold staff? When a new business is too large to have each client serviced by the owner him or herself, the reputation of that business is at risk if the server lacks even a portion of the owner’s enthusiasm.

Business ownership demands total dedication and sacrifice. It has its rewards, but the bottom line is that there are too many competitors waiting for your dissatisfied customers. Cultivating new clientele isn’t easy but certainly not impossible. That’s part of the initial planning that must be included besides obtaining financing and dealing with the traditional issues of utilities, taxes and bookkeeping.

Single owners or their investors need to market themselves as well as their products or business. By getting involved in community charity, the large audience of potential customers will come to know you who you are and respect the fact that you haven’t crawled into a comfort zone. By extending their personal energies beyond their front door, owners and managers can utilize the networking of others for their benefit.

Businesses fail for numerous reasons — i.e., health, lack of capital, inconsistent hours, untrained staff, greed and too often — the comfort zone. Knowing when to upgrade cannot be read in a book. Upgrading means being attentive to your customer’s comments, visiting the competition and putting some profits in reserve. The front sign can be changed, the parking lot repaved, the pictures on the wall hung at a different height, carpeting upgraded and finally, a big “Thank You” sign on the front door.

Thirty years ago this columnist cut that ceremonial ribbon. For 72 weeks or 14 years, the Hall of Fame presides, the television, sports bar, lounge and dance club. It was a grueling plan in action, complete with the visual flow crowds would last only so long. Planning for the days ahead required a strategy for bad weather, economics, unexpected maintenance issues and the usual nuisance of unreliable staff.

Marketing a new business does not mean thousands of dollars for advertising. Instead, owners and managers need to concentrate on departing from their comfortable nest to the outside world. Getting out in the public can generate new clients and customers. Sacrificing profits may be essential in attracting people to your front door with special offers. These offers need to be quality related since the public is intelligent on what is a “teaser” promotion or just a good incentive.

Knowing your market

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Gymnastics is more than just a competition

Nancy Bauman Southington YMCA

Gymnastics is a great “gateway” sport, that is, it prepares any child for a higher level of participation in many activities because of the confidence developed and body awareness attained—both attributes of gymnastics training.

There are also different levels of competition that don’t have to lead to Olympic competition or years of grueling training. But it means that opportunities have been opened up for gymnastics training. This has led to the growth of systematic programs with a focus on competition. The key is to build the self-confidence of the athlete, while also giving an opportunity to perform for the enjoyment of the athlete, the family, and the community.

Many gymnastics skills have a takeoff phase, the skill performance, and a landing phase. The takeoff and the skill performance are usually a lot of fun, but the key to enjoy the sport is having the athlete to land safely to prevent injury. Safe landings motivate additional attempts by the athlete, which in turn have a positive psychological impact on the athlete.

Recovery from a fall—Another great benefit of gymnastics training is an increased awareness of the body in activity making recovery from falls a crucial part of training. The key is to build the self-confidence of the athlete, while also giving an opportunity to perform for the enjoyment of the athlete, the family, and the community.

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Community YMCA workshops may be made by Meghan McNicholas and workshops. The Southington Community YMCA and the organization dedicated to the world, who favorite movies? “Happy Feet.” If you could meet any- one in the world, who would it be and why? Sharon Stone. She is an amazing person. What is the best piece of advice you have ever received? Always smile. If you would like to be interviewed for our Faces in the Crowd feature, e-mail rglidden@southingtonobserver.com.

YMCA Notes

Chronic Fatigue and Pain and Understanding Fibromyalgia is pain keeping you from enjoying your life and how you want to live it? Take advantage of this opportunity to learn how to naturally restore normal function to your body, handle stress and its destruc- tive effects on the body and eliminate chemical toxicity in your life and diet.

Monday, October 6, 6:30 p.m.

Reducing Digestive Problems Naturally

This workshop will provide you with facts con- cerning digestive-related conditions and the natural treatment options available to help you make an informed decision regard- ing the steps you can take to restore healthy digestive function.

The Women and Girls’ Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation is presently accepting applica- tions for 2008 grants to area organizations with pro- grams serving women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth/Terryville, Southington and Wolcott.

Applications are due by September 30th and can be downloaded from www.mainstreetfounda- tion.org or obtained at the Main Street Community Foundation office, 200 Main Street, Bristol.

Applicants are encour- aged to contact Jarre Betts at (860) 583-6363 for addi- tional information. Funding will be avail- able for projects that sup- port the objectives of the Women and Girls’ Fund long range plan, “Opening Doors: Keys to a Successful Life.”

The goals of this cam- paign are to assist women and girls in improving their skills in the areas of money management, career planning, making healthy lifestyle choices, parenting, contributing to community activities, and literacy.

Since its inception in 2001, the Women and Girls’ Fund has awarded grants totaling more than $118,000. Last years grant recipients were: Southington Science & Mathematics Initiative- $5, middle school girls attend- ed a daylong mathematics workshop Queen Ann Nzinga Center for Cultural Education and Social Change- essential life skills programs were taught to 20 girls through the use of creative themes.

YWCA of New Britain, Inc.- High School girls attended a teen empowerment group to help over- come the effects of victim- ization.

O’Connell & South Side School Family Resource Center-Funds were made available to continue the playgroup at Greene-Hills School.

Middle School of Plainville- “Girls Only Club” provided meaningful expe- riences that helped girls develop into confident young adults.

Central CT Senior Health Services- “Good Life Fitness” provided fitness and wellness opportunities to women aged 50 and older.

The Family Center’s Imagine Nation Museum- “Girls Night Out” provided programs for girls of ages 8- 13, focused on helping them to lead successful lives.

Neighbors

Faces in the Crowd

Always smile

Diane Catino

Each week we interview a ‘regular person’ like you for our Faces in the Crowd. This week we meet customer service representative Diane Catino.

How long have you had a connection to Southington? 29 years. What appeals to you most about the town? The friendliness. What is one of your favorite movies? “Happy Feet.” If you could meet any- one in the world, who would it be and why? Sharon Stone. She is an amazing person.

YMCA Notes

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Champagne named new coordinator

As the school year drew to a close, 10 seniors from Southington High School will spend their summer continuing a long-running town tradition.

The hostesses for the 2008 Apple Harvest are Caitlyn Shanly, Cristina Volpe, Lisa Petropoulos, Lauren Cwiak, Marissa LaPorta, Kait Hayes, Jordyn Rinkowski, Kristen Johansen, Christen Orriccari and Nicole Flanagan.

Hostesses have been a constant component of the festival during its 40-year existence. Kim Horton, who chairs the fair’s host-ess committee, said that this year there was an above average amount of interest.

“There were a lot more applications this year,” Horton said. “It was tough.”

Those who expressed interest sat down for an interview during which they were asked about why they hoped to become a hostess. They were also asked about their own community involvement and school activities.

Scenes from the 2007 Apple Harvest Festival
Costellos celebrate fifty years together

Tom and Lil Costello celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their family at home. The couple honeymooned at the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania 50 years ago.

They were married on June 21, 1958 at St. Thomas Church in Southington. They have four children: son Thomas III and his wife Yogini from Indiana, daughter Nancy and her husband Randy Smith from Southington, daughter Laurie and her husband Dave Bentz from Middletown, son Michael and his wife Laurie from New Hampshire. They have five grandchildren: Danielle, Jennifer, Veejay, Tyler and MacKenzie. They have spent the last winters at their Florida home. They are still deeply devoted to each other.

D’Angelos celebrate half a century together

On Aug. 16 Richard and Angie D’Angelo celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their family on a Twilight Dinner Cruise around Manhattan.

They began their lives together in 1958, when they were married at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Waterbury.

Richard, originally from Southington, retired from the Meriden School System and Angie retired from General Electric Co. in Plainville, CT.

The couple has two daughters, Enia and her husband Dr. Charles Noonan of Weston and Janine and her husband Mr. Ben Burg of El Dorado Hills, California.

They have two grandchildren, Matthew and Allegra Noonan of Weston and Two step-grandchildren, Steven and Mark Burg of Eldorado Hills.

Above left, the Costellos on their wedding day, fifty years ago. Above right, the couple still happily married.

Send us your milestones

We welcome milestone announcements from all of our readers. Forms for weddings, engagements, anniversaries and birth announcements are available at www.SouthingtonObserver.com. Send your milestones to Editor Ed Harris at eharris@SouthingtonObserver.com, or mail them to The Observer, 213 Spring St., Southington, CT 06489. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week’s edition. The editor reserves the right to edit all milestones for length or grammatical errors.

Births

Molly Marie Votino

A daughter, Molly Marie Votino, was born to John and Kathy Votino of Plantsville on May 31 at Hartford Hospital.

The maternal grandparents are Maria Lotas of East Hartford and John Lotas of Manchester.

The paternal grandparents are Carmine and Sue Votino of Southington.

The maternal great-grandparents are Raymond and Marie Bain of East Hartford and Marjorie Lotas of Vernon.

The paternal great-grandparent is Immacolata (Molly) Salvati of Italy.

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Entries must be received prior to birth date. 3 winners will be drawn at random from all entries. All birthday entries will be listed. Winners will be contacted by phone.

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Church salutes local veterans and officials

By ROB GLIDDEN STAFF WRITER
Southington’s Central Baptist Church kicked off its church school year with a salute to local officials and local veterans.

The pews in the church were filled to the brim as the service began. “This is probably a little more than we expected,” said Pastor Jim Townsley. “It’s nice.”

The church’s students got a chance to show off their command of American history, with a series of short skits based on key moments in the nation’s past. These performances also included props and costumes.

A group of young children dressed up as pilgrims while carrying a cardboard version of the Mayflower ship through the church’s aisles. Later, kids discussed the Declaration of Independence while holding cut-outs of famous faces from American history.

There was also an impassioned salute to the military, with the students singing the theme songs of the various military branches while local veterans were honored.

Shirley D’Agostino, who coordinated the performance, said she was pleased with how the students performed. “The kids did great,” she said. “They only had since Tuesday to practice.”

Townsley told the audience that the students had gone into Town Hall and met with the various department heads while preparing for the event. “One of the things we’ve learned is how important it is to have civic leaders,” he said. “We tend to recognize our more prominent leaders, but these people have had more of an impact on our lives.”

The audience was shown a series of photographs featuring the Town Council, the local legislators and the heads of the town departments. Before the presentation, officials were treated to dinner prepared by the church’s staff.

Accepting certificates in person were Town Manager John Weichsel, Town Council Chairman John Barry, Town Councilors Edward Pocock, III, David Zoni, Art Secundo and Nicholas DePaola, State Representative Joe Aresimowicz (D-30), State Senator Sam Caligiuri (R-16), Police Captain Greg Simone (on behalf of Chief John Daly), Fire Chief Harold Clark, and Voting Registrar Bob Sherman.

After the officials were awarded, Chairman John Barry praised the “wonderful and vibrant” church, and offered thanks for the recognition. “There are a lot of wonderful things happening here,” Barry said. “I would like to extend my deepest gratitude.”

The enthusiastic crowd cheered loudly for each award recipient and officials were in high spirits as they left the church at the end of the presentation. “It’s heartwarming to be appreciated for what you do,” Zoni said. “We take a lot of criticism, so something like this is really nice.”

Many of Southington’s officials were recognized last week by the Central Baptist Church. Above, church pastor Jim Townsley, far right, hands out certificates to town leaders.
Marc Broussard is hoping to bring music back to the days when it really meant something. Broussard's debut album for Atlantic Records, “Keep Coming Back,” will be released Sept. 16. And it's the Louisiana-based singer-songwriter's take on soul music.

Broussard said the album of new material was inspired by his last album "S.O.S. Save Our Soul!" and the tour that followed. "S.O.S." was a collection of classic songs from the likes of Stevie Wonder, Donny Hathaway, Marvin Gaye, and Bobby Womack. Broussard explained, soul music was one hero. He added, "(Bobby) Womack is one of my all time favorites. I love how he puts things together. I love his songs."

"Keep Coming Back," Broussard said was fortuitously growing up a father, legendary guitarist Ted Broussard of the Boogie Kings, who had a huge record collection. So he would hear stuff like Steely Dan, Yellowjackets, and Weather Report and some really off the wall stuff.

Broussard said, "My dad was very hip with what was going on in the urban world." So he would introduce Broussard to artists like Wonder and Womack.

"It was wonderful thing to have a dad who was always hip to what was going on," said Broussard.

Broussard said his father was key to his entry into the world of music as a career. "My dad really allowed me to do this for a living. He put the ball in my hands."

At age 5, Broussard said his dad taught him how to play Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode." Dad also would bring his young son out on stage to play with his band.

At one point, when Broussard was younger, he was considered as a contestant on the old "Star Search" program. "(My parents) really thought about going in that direction," said Broussard. But, his dad said, "Let him do his own thing. Let him enjoy his life."

"If (my dad) pushed any harder than he did, (my career) would have turned out differ-
Cassette does a 360 in LA

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

The big draw for Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York is Sept. 5 to 12 will be the runways under the tents at Bryant Park.

But there's more to Fashion Week than the tents.

For example, there is Style 360, which will feature fashion shows Sept. 7 to 10 at the Metropolitan Pavilion (125 W. 18th St. between 6th and 7th avenues).

On Sunday, Sept 7, the House of Cassette will present its collection at Style 360. This will be the Los Angeles-based independent fashion brand's first trip to New York for Fashion Week.

We recently caught up with Cassette designer Peter Lee James to ask him to give us an insight into Cassette and to review what fashion fans can expect from his journey to New York for Style360.

The line, which ane from the arts scene of downtown L.A. is probably best known for its denim. But James said there is more to his brand than that.

"Our first collection consisted of a full collection, hand-tailored suits, silk ties, merino wool cardigans, mercerized cotton polos and denim. While the collections are mostly black and white, T-shirts are embellished with new prints, including animal, military seals and a Navajo-inspired pattern using step, play and pause symbols."

Although Cassette is in L.A., James said the label is not specifically about L.A. "We could be from NYC or could be from Alaska. The weather is great in Los Angeles but I often design outside of Los Angeles. Hotels rooms in Hong Kong are really good design studios."

Coming to New York, James explained because "New York is the capital of the world."

As for why Cassette picked Style360 to debut its line in New York, James said, "It was more organic than just picking someone to work with... The people of Think PR and Style 360 are good people and at the end of the day, we are a people company. So it was a good match."

And who is the Cassette customer? "I would probably come up well short of trying to describe who I see wearing Cassette. I often get humbled on how stylish the kids that wear Cassette are. They are definitely the crème de la crimé."

For more information, go to HouseofCassette.com.

Above, Peter Lee James, designer for House of Cassette

Designers offer inspirations for their Spring 2009 collections

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

As Bryant Park and its surroundings in New York City prepares for the onslaught of fashionists, gliterati, paparazzi, models, and the international press descending on New York Fashion Week, we caught up with some of the designers and their publicists to talk about what to expect when the flattest spring collections are unveiled.

Rebecca Taylor, a personal fave, said, "The Rebecca Taylor girl for Spring 2009 is a bohemian world traveler. She mixes her inherited couture pieces from her French actress mother with great finds gathered from exotic locations around the globe."

Yigal Azrouel said, through his publicists, that his women's collection for spring is inspired by "luxury, beauty that is broken in and found in unexpected places."

Alice McCall, who will be showing for the first time in New York, said through her publicist that her collection "pays homage to nature and the 1950s. There are cinched waists, short hems and contoured silhouettes with a fresh look. Look for textures of lace... as fragile as a spider's web."

Alexandre Herchcovitch always offers fashion on the edge. For his spring 2009 collection, he reports he is "inspired by the component of wartorn regions from across the globe." His publicist said, "Herchcovitch merges established military attire with characteristics of the countries they have destroyed."

SayaSaya also is a designer who likes to push fashion into art. His collection for spring reported draws from 19th and 20th century expressionists and post-impressionists."

Over at Ports 1961, Tia Cibani's spring 2009 collection is inspired by the British Colonial rainforest as well as expressionsist paintings, totem poles and other artifacts stemming from the culture of the Native people of the Pacific North West."

Mara Hoffman's new collection is inspired by her travels to India. Look for pinks, blues and purples when her clothes glide down the catwalk.

At Araks, the collections public relation representa-tives said, "jockey uniforms and the dress of historical lamenstem serve as the back drop for the season." Look for deep saturated shades of plum and black mingling with pops of hot pink, teal, lemon and light gray."

Designer Gideon Oberson of Gottex swimwear will go for Global Glamour with his spring 2009 Collection, according to Gottex's publicists. "He will take us on a journey inspired by the most luxurious resorts found in Ibiza, Saint Tropez, Mykonos, and Porto Cervo." Oberson said, "For me, dressing for the beach is no different than dressing for a night out. My clientele is able to go from poolside straight to cocktail parties and dinner by simply adding a breathtaking pareo or skirt to complete her ensemble."

Over at Style 360, Caravan will previewing its spring collection as part of the presented by Tide Total Care. Caravan partner Claudine Gumbel said people should expect "Clothes that are less worrisome. Clothes that you can put in the washing machine or give to the hotel and not have to worry about them getting ruined. In today's economy, we need to save money by using more personal washing machines and less dry cleaning. Like my clients, I am constantly traveling and am always on the lookout for high fashion clothes that I can easily pack and easily clean. We're excited to be partnering with the innovative Tide Total Care brand to show everyone that fashion doesn't have to be high mainte-
nance."
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Hole in the Wall immerses its audience

Kellie Lambert McGuire
Observing The Arts

Become a part of the drama.

The Hole in the Wall Theater in New Britain will immerse the audience in its latest production, “The Create-ure,” set for 7 p.m. on Friday.

The production is part of a multidisciplinary performance art series that includes the audience and the performer in the realm of the “create-ure,” a play on words used to describe the inner creative entity of each individual’s unique artistic expression.

With spoken word, vocal and instrumental improvisation, costuming, lighting and yards of fabric, the performers will take hold in the original works of Emily’s Kathryn Pearl, Kate Aset and Ginger Morawski. Each performer will make their mark through the combination of art through musical or poetic expression along with elaborate costuming.

Tickets are $15 at the door. There are no reservations. The Hole in the Wall Theater is located on Main Street in New Britain. For more information, visit www.wwtct.org or call (860) 229-3049.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH: In September, Tina Angelillo will explore “The Places I’ve Been,” an exhibit at the Southington Land Conservation Trust Inc.

The Gallery is open to the public during normal business hours, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, call (860) 673-6791.

NEW SEASON: TheaterWorks in Hartford has announced its new season. The 2008-2009 productions will include some of the hottest contemporary plays.

The season kicks off with Conor McPherson’s “The Seafarers.” The play opens on Christmas Eve, when four Irishmen are celebrating with whiskey and poker when a stranger arrives. The play runs from Nov. 7 through Dec. 22.

“Mauritius” by Theresa Rebeck, from Jan. 23 to March 8, focuses on a battle of wills of two sisters over their late mother’s book of stamps. When three share collectors turn up, the drama continues.

“Dead Man’s Cell Phone,” by Sarah Ruhl, continues the season from April 3 to May 18. A woman in a café finds that the man with the ringing cell phone next to her doesn’t respond when she answers the phone and opens up a Pandora’s box of twists and turns.

David Lindsay-Abaire’s “Wonder of the World,” from June 5 to July 19, follows Bubby Cass, who recently discovered her husband’s other wives. She makes a list of things she hasn’t accomplished in life, packs her bags and heads to Niagara Falls.

HILL-STEAD ACTIVITIES: The “First Sunday Gallery Talk” will focus on “Accoutrements of the Toilet.” A lecture on the grooming instruments of the Pope women. Visitors can see a close look at Theodate’s Toiletries Set and a collection of Dresser Sets on display throughout the house as well as buttonhooks, brushes, rouge pots, hair receivers and other products of the early 1900s.

Also on Sunday, Elizabeth Thomas will give a poetry reading and book singing of her new collection of poems, “From the Front of the Classroom” from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Makeshift Theater.

Thomas has read her theater work throughout the U.S. and has been a member of three Connecticut National Poetry Slam teams. She makes a coach and organizer with “Brave new voices: International Youth Poetry Slams and Festival,” and is the founder of UpWords Poetry, a company dedicated to promoting programs for young writers and educators.

There will also be two walks on the grounds this weekend. A “Fantastic Fall Nature Walk” will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, and a “First Sunday Estate Walk” will be at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The poetry reading is free to the public. Other free programs are free to members with a fee for non-members.

CALL: (860) 4787 or visit www.hillstead.org.

AUTHOR APPEARANCE: Stewart O’Nan, author of 11 novels as well as several works on non-fiction, will host a discussion and book signing for his new release, “A New World.”

Away,” at 7 p.m. Monday at the Farmington Library.


His appearance will feature refreshments, a book signing and a questions-and-answer session. Admission is free, but advanced registration is required.

The Farmington Library is located at 6 Montekett Drive in Farmington. For more information, call Hal Bright, head of Adult Information Services at (860) 673-6791.

Send your arts and entertainment news and listings, including information on local theater, film, books and music, to kelliemcguire@yahoo.com.
Just chillin’, at the XL, with Coldplay

By MIKE CHAIKEN

ADDITIONS EDITOR

Coldplay is one of the biggest bands in the world and plays arenas everywhere they tour.

But Connecticut’s own Amanda Kaletsky, a young singer-songwriter, won the hearts of the members of Coldplay as well as their fans last month.

Thanks to a radio station contest, Amanda had the opportunity to open for Coldplay at the XL Center in Hartford.

The Observer had a chance to talk to Amanda and her bandmate Jonny Rodgers about life on the big stage as well as about Amanda herself.

Amanda just performed at The Space on Treadwell Avenue in Hamden on Sunday, Aug. 3.

Observer: Talk to me about the Coldplay experience. How did that come about?

AMANDA KALETSKY: Coldplay held auditions for our video in five markets across the country, with Connecticut being one of them. Locally, the contest was sponsored by 96.5 WTIC FM. Coldplay set up a YouTube channel for people to upload videos, then 96.5 chose 15 local bands to compete for the spot to open for Coldplay at the XL Center on Aug. 2.

Observer: Speak to the public for about a week, after which the top 3 bands would be presented to Coldplay for them to choose the winner.

Throughout most of the week, I held steady in second or third place until the last day. I finished fourth... although I thought I was out of the competition, I was really proud of all of the support my friends and family showed. A couple days after voting closed, the decision was made for Coldplay to choose from the top five bands, since voting had been so close... a couple days after that, I found out that they had chosen us.

jonny Rodgers: Coldplay chose the final winner. That in itself was very reassuring to us, because they picked Amanda on the basis of her talent.

Observer: How did your reaction when you heard you were tapped for the slot? AR: We were actually at a McDonald’s getting a bite before my show at The Space in Woodbridge. My mom called and just said “You won”... At first, I didn’t know what my mom was talking about, I had put it out of my mind that I could possibly win since the back half of the voting process. Once I realized what she was saying, I lost all appetite for chicken sandwich I had just started to eat and totally flipped out.

JR: I had seen Amanda perform before and so it wasn’t a huge surprise. I was very honored for her. My brother Steve Rodgers, who runs The Space in Hamden was sitting in the audience mic on the evening she won, and since she doesn’t have a usual backing band in Connecticut, they were brainstorming on who would do a good job for her for the evening. She had been contemplating doing it solo, which would have been equally compelling in some ways. But they both thought that what space as large as the XL Center, a band would fill out her sound well. Steve called me, since I have been playing with many groups of talented musicians in Connecticut lately. He put me in touch with Amanda and we put together a group specifically for the event, holding a few intensive rehearsals, with all of the backing musicians doing a lot of “homework” to get up to speed. All in all, we were very pleased (and I think Amanda was pleased as well) at the chemistry we all had when we got in a room together, and it made the show go extra well.

O: How were treated by the “big guys,” the other bands?

AK: From the moment I got to the XL Center, everyone was wonderful. They were all so nice, so helpful, the kind of people who say hello when they walk by, whether you know them or not. That’s how the whole night went.

JR: I am often in confabulations, I’m sure that what I’m in one of the opening bands for a large, I hope the other bands will weep for this event were very cordial and helpful. Coldplay left us at the four corners of champagne and a lovely handwritten note in our dressing room, which was extremely kind; good form.

All in all I was impressed with the production, and the way we were treated as important equals backstage; included in the catered dinner, etc. We did eat dinner with Coldplay in the same room, but we are a reserved bunch, and didn’t want to intrude during their few moments of peace between the show (their show was very high-end, and seemed demand-oriented on them personally) so we didn’t meet them personally.

O: How did the fans treat you?

AK: The crowd was way more responsive than I expected. Unlike most bands, Coldplay lowers the lighting as they open, which automatically sets a mood. When the lights went down, it was like the room was on fire, and when they saw it was me walking on stage, and not Coldplay, they actually continued to cheer.

During my song “Everywhere Lies”, we attempted to get the crowd clapping, and it actually worked. They were so attentive the whole set, and even cheered me off stage. The best part, though, is that I’m still hearing from people who were at the show... just writing to say that they loved the show and are now a fan.

JR: Fans are often lurking warm to the opening acts, but after our first song I sensed they were into the music. Applause was not reserved, and (as can be expected) we had some enthusiastic and surprised locals in the audience, who recognized us and were quite vocal.

O: How did it feel to be performing before such a large crowd?

AK: It was a real rush to be on such a big stage, but incredibly intimidating to know’s someone else’s crowd. But once the set started, I felt totally relaxed and was able to just look around and enjoy the enormity of the whole situation.

JR: This was the largest indoor crowd I’d performed to, and it felt... well... formidable. Easy. Fans.

I’d do it again tomorrow.

Any takers?

O: What was the most memorable moment about that experience?

AK: I’d have to say there were two memorable moments. The first was when we stepped on stage for our sound check. I took a moment to look out at the empty arena and it really sank in that I was actually opening for Coldplay. The second was near the end of my last song, “Please Forgive Me”, when people started cheering and bellowing before the song was even over, and the cheering just swelled as the song finished. We all just looked at each other and smiled.

JR: One memorable moment of the evening was during Amanda’s song “Used”, which breaks down to just violin, guitar and voice. It is a complicated passage that requires us all to be in sync. It was exciting to be on stage in front of thousands of people and have it all focus in to this point of musical synergy. It’s what you make music for in the first place; a communication and immersion, I felt that energy resonate throughout the arena in sound, and I like to think the audience could sense it too.

O: Amanda, you have been working with a lot of significant artists, such as a song being picked on “The Hills” and getting selected for a CosmoGirl concert, how has that helped move along your career?

AK: As a friend of mine says, “Every opportunity is an opportunity.” I think more than just getting these opportunities, it’s deciding to really make something of them that’s moved my career along. I’ve chosen to take every opportunity and get the most out of it.

O: Amanda, how did you get involved in music?

AK: My parents started me with violin lessons at Bethelwood Suzuki School in Woodbridge when I was four years old, and everything else just fell into place. Singing came next, and then I took piano lessons and guitar. I knew pretty early on that my life was going to be spent in music somehow. It wasn’t until just until college that I realized the route I was going to take.

O: Who are your biggest influences, musically?

AK: My dad has given me the 50s, with a lot of soul influences like Sam Cooke, and my mom has given me the original singer-songwriter stuff such as Sarah McLachlan and John Legend.

O: What influences you as far as songwriting?

AK: My goal for the album?

O: I saw on MySpace that you’re working on an album. What’s the status of that album?

AK: I am so excited about the new album. I’ve been working with a good friend of mine at a studio in Brooklyn, and it’s been amazing so far. We’ve completed a couple tracks, and we are currently working on a few more, so things are moving along nicely. The best part is that I’m more involved in this album than I have been in the past, right down to playing all of the strings on every track.

O: What’s your goal for the album?

AK: I want this album to show how I’ve grown as a songwriter and as a musician (for example, how I’m playing and writing all of the string parts myself). But beyond that, I think I’m really finding who I am as an artist and really honing in on my sound. I’m hoping that that all comes through in these new tracks.

O: What’s your MySpace page refers to The Space gig as a special show. Why is that?

AK: We want the show at The Space to serve two purposes. First off, it’s really just a big celebration for getting to open for Coldplay, and a great way for me to share that with everyone that couldn’t make it to the show. It’s also a way for people who were at the XL Center to come see me in a more intimate venue.
However, many gymnastics—Competition is definitely a
ous in sports that have sim-

SATURDAY MARKET.
VENDORS WANTED FOR
in Bristol, $20 per ticket,
prize-2008 Harley Fat Boy,
England Carousel Museum,
BRIST

p.m., taught by local artist
starting Sept. 2, 10:30-12

SAT  10-4
-0484

BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS
of 1960 REUNION.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.,
“Surf’ s Up” rated

VENDORS WANTED FOR
Bristol ARC, 621 Jerome Ave.,
Sept. 20 & Oct. 18,
2008, all local vendors
and crafters are invited to
set up a table and sell their
products, a small fee will

YEARLY CRUISE SAILING.
Community for Residential & Commercial

In Bristol, $20 per ticket,
prize-2008 Harley Fat Boy,
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YEARLY CRUISE SAILING.
Superhero themed party

Apple Valley Worship Center Vacation Bible School recently had a superhero week. The church’s youth group wrote all of the skits themselves, incorporating puppets and live actors. The kids that attended were excited to sing and dance along with the skits.

Above, puppets helped to entertain the crowd.

Above, Jayna Deeb and Madison Johnson enjoy the performance.

Above, Maile Mirmina and Meghan Silva take the stage as their superhero alter-egos.

Right, Caity Silva busts a move.

Photos by Tammi Knapik

Above, Mitchell Bouchard feeds whipped cream to Jayner Bouchard. Mitchell was even able to get some of the whipped cream into Jayner’s mouth.

Left, Jonathan Sargent leads a group of young superheroes.
Students all across Southington returned to class last week, as summer drew to a close. Here, South End Elementary School students make their way back to the school for the first day Thursday.

Above, third grade students Victoria Aldieri, left, and Erica Gerrish work on a word puzzle. Below, teacher Christy Michalak goes over the morning routine with her class.

Above, first grader Caroline Campion, left, with sister Catie and mom Lisa.

Left, teachers welcome students as busses arrive for the first day of classes at South End School.

Photos by STEVE CIESLEWSKI
These are my boys
Mella has high hopes for his fourth year

By JOHN GORALSKI
SPORTS WRITER

ill Mella has little worry that the Blue Knight football team will be looking ahead on the schedule when the first game looms so large. On Friday, Sept. 12, the Knights will spill onto the field at Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands to face a national powerhouse as part of the High School Kickoff Classic.

“It’s the biggest game of the year because it’s our first game, but, yeah, this one has a little more to it,” said Mella. “It’s a chance for us to play against an exceptional football team with national recognition. It’s a chance for us to not only represent our town and our school, but to represent our state.”

Football

When Bergen Catholic officials contacted the local coach, Mella said he jumped at the opportunity. Long before it was tabbed as the Kickoff Classic, and long before it was scheduled to be played on Giants Stadium or broadcast on MSG, Mella loved the opportunity to represent the state on a national stage.

“I’d play them in a parking lot if we had to,” he said. “It was an opportunity that we couldn’t turn down. Any time we get a chance to play against a team like that, I’ll take it.”

It’s easy to see why Bergen Catholic turned to Southington for competition. The Crusaders are one of the top teams in New Jersey, earning 16 state championships and four since 1998. During that time, few Connecticut teams have had as much success as the Blue Knights.

Southington has reached the postseason in three consecutive years with two championship berths in three attempts. The program has risen to the point that, despite a 9-1 regular season and a two-point loss in the semifinals, Mella was left unsatisfied.

“We really kind of look at it like an unsuccessful year,” said the coach. “We let another team get the best of us…That’s a bad season, and that’s how we approached it in the winter. We weren’t nearly as strong as we needed to be, and we didn’t work hard enough. We figured that we would just walk in and win, but that doesn’t happen.”

Mella said that this fall’s senior class took the loss as a challenge. A large number of athletes spent the winter in the weight room. They worked hard over the summer, and hardened into a solid core.

“They’ve bonded very well, and they’re a really great group of kids,” said Mella. “There’s something special about them because this is my senior year here. This is my first class that’s been here for four years, and all they know is what we’ve been doing in the program. That makes it kind of special, and everybody gets it.”

Southington boasts a strong core of experienced players and a number of up-and-coming athletes, but it’s their work ethic that sets them apart.

“I think the strength of the team is their willingness to prepare, and we’ve got good senior leadership,” said Mella. “Our weaknesses are that we lost some talented kids…That’s a bad bouquet yet. I think fans should follow us to see if we can do it.”
Volleyball is a small team with big expectations

We hope to push some more advanced things on this group. That’s why we’re working so hard right now to make sure that we have the basics down. Then we can have some real fun.

Volleyball

“I think that we are going to put a really exciting team on the floor this year,” said Heitz. “The Olympics just gave a little new for the Southington team. Last season the Lady Knights followed a 14-4 regular season with a 2-2 postseason record.

Yes, that’s better than quantity. The USA volleyball national team on the floor this year, and want to follow them.”

Success is nothing new for the Southington team. Last season the Lady Knights followed a 14-4 regular season with a 2-2 postseason record.

Serving, 88 percent or 91 percent as a team. That’s a mental aspect. It might be a small percentage, but it makes a big difference.”

Last year Bristol Eastern cruised through the 23-team CCC conference on their way to a state championship, but Heitz argued that Southington might have been No. 2. The Knights lost twice to the undefeated Lancers and dropped a pair of injury-riddled contests, 3-2, at Maloney and Glastonbury, but Southington easily won both rematches. That’s why Heitz has his sights set on the CCC title.

“We know the competition,” said the coach. “We know that Maloney is going to be stronger, and Bristol Eastern is always quality, but I think that we can be the one, but we have a tough schedule with tough teams.”

The challenges aren’t limited to the CCC schedule. The Lady Knights will face a much tougher non-conference schedule in 2008. The girls will face Bunnell, a team that won four of the last Class LL championships, and Coventry, a team that has won four of the last five state titles in Class S. Heitz likes his team’s chances.

“Staying healthy is a big key,” he said. “I think we have some great talent in a lot of positions. We only have nine players on varsity, which is smaller than in the past, but we only have three seniors. Those years where we have had so few seniors, those teams were a little smaller.”

Southington has experience throughout its lineup. Heitz said that his team is going to be stronger, and Bristol Eastern is is better than quantity.

Nearly every player has returned with club experience and two advanced to the USA volleyball nationals. Heitz said that quality is better than quantity.

2008 Preview

Girls Volleyball

Coach: Rich Heitz
Last season: 14-4
Postseason: The Knights earned a 9th seed for the Class LL tournament. The girls earned a bye in the opening round, but lost at Danbury in the second round.

Key returning players (captains*):
- Elizabeth Nichols*, Lexie Broymann, Brittany Volpe, Lauren Bauchiero, Elyse St.Amand, Katie Byrnes, Colleen Hallaway, Natasha Carlbert, Rachel Volpe.
- Lauren Bauchiero, Elyse St.Amand, Katie Byrnes, Colleen Hallaway, Natasha Carlbert, Rachel Volpe.

Key losses:
- Allie Munson, Liz Piper, Brittenry Carrier, Corey Bernacki, Haley Davis, Danielle Gagliardi.

Outlook:
- Coach Rich Heitz has lofty goals for 2008 as the girls focus their sights on the conference title. “We talked a little about that last year,” Heitz said.

“I think that we are going to put a really exciting team on the floor this year,” said Heitz. “The Olympics just gave a little new for the Southington team. Last season the Lady Knights followed a 14-4 regular season with a 2-2 postseason record.”

The freshmen team went 13-1. Even the postseason loss to Danbury could have gone either way.

“We took a little bit of that last year,” Heitz said. “That’s why we’re working so hard right now to make sure that we have the basics down. Then we can have some real fun.”

The Knights boast a pair of six-footers. Senior captain Elizabeth Nichols will anchor the defense in the middle, and junior hitter Lexie Broymann (6-1) offers height at the net. All but two varsity players are 5-8 or taller, and most have played club volleyball.

See VOLLEYBALL, page 27

Our Athletes

Numbers favor the Knights

By JOHN GORALSKI

SPORTS WRITER

The Lady Knight volleyball team claims that nine players is all it takes, and Coach Rich Heitz can’t wait to prove it. Although Southington is smaller than recent years, numbers can be deceiving. Nearly every player has returned with club experience and two advanced to the USA volleyball nationals. Heitz said that quality is better than quantity.

We hope to push some more advanced things on this group. That’s why we’re working so hard right now to make sure that we have the basics down. Then we can have some real fun.

Rich Heitz,
SHS girls volleyball coach

“Staying healthy is a big key,” he said. “I think we have some great talent in a lot of positions. We only have nine players on varsity, which is smaller than in the past, but we only have three seniors. Those years where we have had so few seniors, those teams were a little smaller.”

Southington has experience throughout its lineup. Heitz said that his team is going to be stronger, and Bristol Eastern is..."
Coach Rich Heitz never hesitated when it came to naming his next team captain. He was looking for maturity, experience, and leadership. Elizabeth Nichols was the obvious choice. “This is my senior season. It’s always been a very mature player,” said Heitz. “If she’s not the most mature, then she’s at least one of the most mature ones to come through this program.”

Over the last three seasons Nichols has been a force in the middle. The six-foot senior’s poise has been a mainstay for the Knights. Last year Nichols led the team in blocks, and Heitz said that she sees the tone for teh offense. “As she’s grown as a player, she’s gotten stronger and smarter offensively,” said Heitz. “She’s not just destroying the ball. She’s looking for spots.”

Nichols’ solid play has earned her the respect of her teammates. At the end of last season, Heitz turned to his Knights for input. Who did they want to lead them? It was unanimous. “They were very high on her, and it was the same thing from the coaching staff,” said Heitz. “We knew that she was a three-year starter on the team and the obvious choice.”

For her outstanding athletic accomplishments, Nichols is our highlighted female athlete of the week.

Elizabeth Nichols
Southington High School girls volleyball

Class: Senior
Reason: Three-year varsity player named as sole captain. Led the Knights in blocks last season.

John Cooke
Southington High School cross country

Class: Senior
Reason: One of the most improved Blue Knight runners, named as captain for his leadership and example.

TOP FEMALE PERFORMANCES

• Sara Stylinski, Rensselaer Polytechnic field hockey: Scored the only goals in a 1-0 victory over Keene State University in the season opener on Aug. 30.

• Jessie Gianatti, C.W Post women’s soccer: Helped lead the defense at the Nike- Crown Place Friendlies tournament and was named to the all-tournament team.

TOP MALE PERFORMANCES

• Garry Coles, Sacred Heart College football team: Had four carries for 82 yards and a touchdown along with one catch for 6 yards in a 42-21 win on Aug. 30.

• Tom Shanahan, Runner: Finished 3rd place overall in the 60-69 age bracket of the MADD Dash 5K race in Stratford on Aug. 23.

The week ahead in Southington High School sports...

Unforeseen schedule changes or weather conditions may cause a change in the schedule. You may call (860) 629-3229, ext. 425 to check the status of a contest. For afternoon contests, call after 1:30 p.m. and for evening contests, call after 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY
Field Hockey vs. Westbrook (V/JV-3:45 scrimmage). Girls Soccer at Conard (V/JV-3:45 scrimmage).

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

MONDAY
No games scheduled.

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY
Coming of age

Hard work is beginning to pay off for the Blue Knights

By JOHN GORALSKI
SPORTS WRITER

S
ow and steady wins the race.
Over the last few seasons, that’s been coach Rich Niro’s message. Now his patience is beginning to pay off. His underclassmen are coming of age.

“I have seven guys that have done the summer training, and I’ve never had a team like that,” said Niro. “I tell you now they’re going to race yet because we’ve still a little young, but it’s great to look at a varsity team and know that every guy has done the work. A lot of years, captain had one or three. Now we have seven guys, plus some more.”

Boys X-Country

Last season the Knights battled to a 4-5 record with a top-heavy team. Former Blue Knight Jim Rosenberger led the way with junior Holland Florian leading a group of underclassmen clustering at his heels. Those underclassmen are ready to make their move.

“We really didn’t have a lot of varsity experience last year,” said Niro. “Obviously, you can’t replace Jimmy. He was a special talent, but this year we have seven really well-trained athletes. It’s really exciting to watch with a lot of young guys behind the scenes.”

Florian and John Cooke, another four-year runner, will co-captain a hungry Blue Knight advanced to the state open.

Holland Florian*, John Cooke*, Bryan McGrane, Zack Albert, Bryan Wilcox, and Chris Monteleone each showed promise last season and it spilled over into the off-season.

“At the top end of the team we have some really well-trained athletes that are training hard,” said Niro. “Coaches for top teams like Danbury and Glastonbury come in on a team full of well-trained guys, but we’ve never had that luxury. We’ve always had some well-trained guys and some with talent, but now we have some well-trained guys with talent.”

That training will be tested early. The CCC North is littered with top teams, but Southington has a good window of opportunity. With the graduation of nationally-ranked distance runner Donn Cabral, Glastonbury could be human again. Southington could match up well with the top teams. Their biggest challenge will be their lack of big race experience.

“IT will be interesting to see,” said Niro. “We have a really tight conference. Simsbury lost a couple of guys, but they have a program that easily replaces guys. Glastonbury lost their top two and three of their top four, but they’ve had a lot of talent in their system. Manchester’s got the veterans, but they are having trouble getting young kids so they’re thin.”

Niro said that Southington has the talent to be competitive in the CCC.

Regardless of their regular sea- son record, Niro already has high expectations for the postseason.

“Our goal is to make the state open,” said the coach. “We haven’t had a team make the open in 10 years, but we have the talent to do it. This might be the best team to make the run at it.”

The Blue Knights are really exciting to watch with junior talent, this could be just the beginning. The hard work is beginning to pay off.

“That’s how you make a living as a cross country coach,” said Niro. “Talent is nice, but it’s not totally necessary. You make it with hard workers.”

To comment on this story or to contact sports writer John Goralski, email him at jgoralski@southingtonobserver.com.

2008 Preview

Boys Cross-Country

Coach: Rich Niro

Last season: 6-5

Postseason: The Knights finished 15th at the Class LL championships with three runners in the top 100. No Blue Knight advanced to the state open.

Key returning players (captains*): Holland Florian*, John Cooke*, Bryan McGrane, Zack Albert, Bryan Wilcox, Chris Monteleone.

Key losses: Jim Rosenberger, Brian O’Meara, Joe Decker, Ryan Wood.

Outlook: This may be the year that Southington’s youth movement makes its move. “We’re still a little young, but it’s great to look at a varsity team and know that every guy has done the work,” said coach Rich Niro. “A lot of years, we’ve had two or three. Now we have seven guys, plus some more.”
Girls are closing the gap
Off-season workouts are paying off

By JOHN GORALSKI
SPORTS WRITER

A small herd of athletes huddle at the edge of the Southington High School track, and cross country coach Rich Niro offers a few tips. He measures the intensity of the faces on the boys, studies their determination with the girls, fields a few questions, and sets them loose.

To most onlookers this pre-season run is no different than previous years, but Niro has seen a key shift. The group is better balanced, and Southington has two equal sized teams. There are just as many girls as boys.

Rich Niro, SHS girls cross country coach

Girls X-Country

“I’m excited that we keep getting such a large number of girls,” said the coach. “This is the third year in a row that we are going to top 25 girls on our team. That shows that our seven-girl team at the start was just a fluke.”

As the girls program continues to grow, numbers aren’t the only difference. This year Niro welcomed a well-prepared squad at the opening practice. Legs were stronger than ever before, and lungs were ready to stretch their limits.

“We have a Blue Mile Award that they can earn for summer mileage, and we will have something like five or six girls earn that award,” Niro said. “We’ve never had more than two or three, so they’re going above and beyond with their summer mileage.”

Niro expects to see the off-season preparation to show on the clock. He said that this team might boast a number of girls that will pare two or three minutes off of their 5K times as the year unfolds.

“Success is measured with improvement in time,” said Niro. “It’s too early to gauge that, but we’re seeing improvement in our effort. We keep putting more time into it, and we look like a serious team.”

“Success is measured with improvement in time,” said Niro. “It’s too early to gauge that, but we’re seeing improvement in our effort. We keep putting more time into it, and we look like a serious team.”

2008 Preview

Girls Cross-Country

Coach: Rich Niro
Last season: 4-7
Postseason: The Knights finished 16th at the Class LL meet with two athletes finishing in the top 100. No runner advanced to the state open.

Key returning players (captains):

Key losses:
Haley Smith-Fries, Jess Fallis, Liz Smith, Malin Sandstrom.

Outlook: Rich Niro said that the Lady Knights are closing the gap with the top teams through hard work. “Success is measured with improvement in time,” said Niro. “It’s too early to gauge that, but we’re seeing improvement in our effort. We keep putting more time into it, and we look like a serious team.”

The Lady Knight captains will set the pace. Taylor LePage is the veteran, four-year varsity runner. Kaila Fazzolari is the dependable constant, and Keltie Reid is the perfect, blue-collar worker that began her high school career toward the back of the pack but improved to one of the top runners through training and hard work.

“Those are the top three, but we have a very good senior class,” said Niro. “We have eight or nine seniors and every one of them gives me something in the leadership category. Last year when we had only three seniors they were already leading us in some places.”

With such a large number of prepared runners, it is hard to predict the top five. Niro expects the top runners to change throughout the season. The top five might shift and change. That’s
AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFE GUARD CLASS—Thursdays beginning Sept. 25, 6:45-9:30 p.m. All ages, weak course. Attendance at each session is mandatory for certification. Participants must be at least 15 years old. Contact Stacey Glaude, (860) 628-5597, ext. 319.

BASIC WOMEN’S STRENGTH TRAINING—Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. This strength training class just for women, creates strength in bones, muscles, and will help in combating osteoporosis.

ZUMBA—Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45 p.m., or Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m., or Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.-9:10 a.m. A cardio class with a fun and easy fusion of Latin, Bally, and Hip Hop dance styles move all levels. A mixture of body sculpting movements with easy to follow dance steps that will burn maximum calories.

YOGA 101—Mondays, 8:45 a.m.-9:30 a.m., or Wednesdays, 6:30 a.m.-7:15 a.m. Basic beginner hatha yoga.

YOGA FOR ENERGY—Wednesdays, 4:45 a.m.-6:30 a.m. Yoga programs that integrate postures and breathing exercises that are designed to give you an extra boost.

POWER YOGA—Tuesdays, 5:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., or Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m. This body to increase overall body while decreasing body fat. This class aims to strengthen and lengthen all muscles.

INTERMEDIATE YOGA—Thursdays, 8 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Yoga poses to balance spirit, mind and body in a faster paced envir

RESTORATIVE YOGA—Tuesdays, 6:45 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Explore yoga postures to restore energy and strength. Practice breathing and body awareness. Class ends with meditation.

HOT YOGA—Mondays, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Hot Yoga is a series of yoga poses done in a heated room, usually between 95-100 degrees. Rids the body of toxins and impurities.

MOM & ME YOGA—Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m. and Fridays, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Introduces moms and kids (ages 4 and up) to the many benefits of yoga. A faster-paced class with yoga games and many partner activities.

PIYO—Mondays, 10 a.m.-10:45 a.m., Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m. or Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m. An all-encompassing blend of Pilates and Yoga to strengthen your body and relax & rejuvenate your mind.

GIRL POWER—Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:15 p.m.-5 p.m. An assortment of aerobics workouts each week to introduce girls, ages 10-14, to a variety of exercise classes. This class offers fun, social interaction, and the ability to develop building muscle and gain self-confidence.

GIRLS STRENGTH TRAINING—Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. An introductory program that introduces strength training utilizing Nautilus and Cybex equipment for girls ages 11-15.

KID’S FITNESS CAMP—Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 p.m.-4:45 p.m. This class focuses on teaching fundamental skills, fitness and developing self-esteem while having fun for kids ages 7-10.

YOUTH STRENGTH TRAINING—Mondays and Fridays, 4:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m. A weight training program consisting of cardio training, muscle conditioning and a fun group activity for kids ages 11-13.

BALLROOM DANCING—Thursdays, beginning 7:45 p.m., at the YMCA Aerobics Studio. Learn the Merengue, Cha Cha, Rumba, Tango, Salsa, Fox Trot, and many other dances. VanDance CT will provide instructors, and partners are not required.

STINGRAY SWIM TEAM—Wednesdays beginning Sept. 17, 5 p.m., at the YMCA swimming pool. New participants can try one free week under the direction of Head Coach Kristen Reader and Assistant Coaches Kevin Reader and Lisa Sonnay. Swimmers will compete in a 13-team Yankee League that represents the YMCA for the National Long Course Meet in August. Contact Barbara Glaude or Kristen Hunter, (860) 628-5597, ext 320.

BRIDAL BOOT CAMP—Get in shape and reduce stress with this new program designed just for you. This 8-week program offers brides the opportunity to work with an individualized, goal-directed exercise program and to train with a certified personal trainer once a week. This program is also available to non-YMCA members.

YMCA SPORTS CONDITIONING—The Southington Community YMCA is offering Sports Conditioning for boys and girls age 11 to 16. This camp will help young athletes reach their goals through the use of drills, body weight, free weights and stretching. This training will increase strength, speed, coordination, balance, agility and cardiovascular fitness. Training will be certified as a trainer in a safe and guided environment. Contact (860) 426-1904 (Boys), John Phillips, (860) 628-5597, ext 320.

LIFESTYLE AND WEIGHT MANAGEMENT—The Southington Community YMCA is offering a one-on-one lifestyle and Weight Management program that combines nutrition, physical activity and lifestyle changes to help you manage your weight. This program is taught by Janice Freeman, ACE certified YMA staff. Contact: Women’s Health and Wellness Center, (860) 426-1904.

PRESCHOOL & YOUTH GYMNASIUM—Participants are ages 16 months and up in a state-of-the-art facility located at 26 Putnam Place, Plantsville. The programs are designed to enhance the child’s strength, flexibility, hand eye coordination, and social and listening skills. The YMCA also offers a competitive gym program where participants compete in YMCA and USA Gymnastics. USA GYM instructors encourage and support children to serve as positive role models. Contact Nancy Bauman, (203) 272-7688.

MISCELLANEOUS

SHS FAMILY PASSES and SENIOR GOLD CARDS—Sports Season Family Passes and Senior Gold Cards for the 2008-2009 school season are available between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Athletic Director’s Office at Southington High School. Cost is $75 for the family passes. Senior gold cards are available between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Athletic Director’s Office at Southington High School. Southington residents ages 62 and over. Those who already have received Gold Cards do not need to receive new ones. Gold Cards are good for all regular season home games.

THE SPEEDWAY LINE REPORT WITH GARY DANKO—Mondays, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., on WATR 1300 or on-line at www.thetopspeedwayreport.com. The call-in radio show focuses on the world of auto racing with in-studio guests. Radio host Gary Danko leads the discussion and provides results from local tracks and periodic vintage highlights.

If you would like to be honored as The Observer’s Person of the Week, please e-mail e-mail information to Gary Danko at danboso01@bellsouth.net. The Observer reserves the right to edit for content and space.
Our Athletics

Football: playing at the Meadowlands

The senior class are my boys, and they are just a great bunch of kids. They get it. They want to win. They want to compete, and they understand fully what it will take to do it.

Bill Mella, SHFS football coach

Volleyball: girls are focused on the conference

Girls across town: building a winner

From page 21
last year, so we’ll have to start some young kids. We have to get them the confidence that they can compete at this higher level.

Josh Lamson will lead the offense as the fourth quarterback in as many years. Mella expects big things from the senior co-captain. “He has an arm that Would not be out of place to (Matt) Kelleher and Paulie (Clements),” said the coach. “He’s got the competitiveness of Clements, and understands the game as well as all three of them, but he adds the component of great speed. He’s got the best of all three with his own approach.”

Lamson will have a strong core of receivers. Anthony Florian (28 catches, 431 yards), Shaun Walocki (26 catches, 389 yards), and Evan Rodrigues (10 catches, 115 yards) have been training for a year and a half in the weight room and on the court. “We’re pretty good. We’ve got some kids with good vertical skills,” said Mella. “They’re all learning how to be that super back. You’ve got to run. You’ve got to block, and you’ve got to know protections and schemes. They’re doing a great job, and I love that they’re improving every day.”

Over Mella’s career with the Knights, Southington has boasted a defensive unit that ranks its high-powered offense. This season will be much of the same, and the Knights will count on the senior leadership.

“The senior class are my boys, and they are just a great bunch of kids,” said Mella. “They get it. They want to win. They want to compete, and they understand fully what it will take to do it.”

Southington fields three cap- tains on defense. Kenny Holstein will lead the linebacker assault while cornerback Matt Roncauti and free safety Ryan Gennarelli will anchor an experienced line of defense.

“We graduated a bunch of kids, and it’s going to be tough to fill some of their shoes,” said Mella. “But I’ve been pleased with the way kids have stepped up. We have some new faces that are contribut- ing nicely.”

Mella expects to shuffle a mix- ture of youth and experience into the game with young kids like juniors John Kelleher, Andrew Potepica, and Jake Rodrigues complementing veterans like senior linebacker Sean DiPinto. Seniors Ryan Charanat, Matt Nalin, and Nolan Rickard will anchor the defensive line.

“We’re back to being senior heavy like we were the first two years, and you want that leader- ship,” said Mella. “We’re going to try to work a lot of guys in to keep them fresh so that, when we are senior heavy, we are not going to get crushed the following year.”

Looking past the opening con- test, Southington’s schedule is prep- ered with CCC North rivals and a tough non-conference schedule. There is no rest after week one. The ultimate goal remains the same—

to capture that elusive state title.

“We’ve got 11 games, and we’re going to take them one game at a time. That’s our approach,” said Mella. “The biggest game is always going to be the one in front of us. We’re not going to look ahead, and we’re not going to look behind us. Once we play, the game is done and over. We just have to learn from any mistakes and move on.”

Will this be the year?

To comment on this story or to contact sports writer John Gonnelli, email him at jgonelli@southingtonobserver.com.
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Our Athletes

Stylistis scores the winning goal

Many talented athletes have passed through Southington High School, and have gone on to succeed at the next level. The Southington Register is pleased to showcase these athletes whenever possible. If you know of any athlete that is excelling in college sports, please contact us by email at sports@lorrainsublishing.com.

TROY, NY—Senior Sara Stylistis scored the lone goal as the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute field hockey team defeated Keene State University, 1-0, at Harkness Field. The game was the season opener for both teams.

Following a scoreless first half, Stylistis, a forward, broke where her left shot found the back of the goal untouched off a penalty corner pass. The goal came at the 42:34 mark.

As a result of her performance, Stylistis was named the Offensive Player of the Week in the Liberty League. Last season, the former Southington High School standout was second on the team in scoring on two goals with four points on four goals and an assist. Playing in all 16 games, she recorded 30 shots (16 on goal) and had a game-winning tally.

The Red Hawks are back in action next weekend when they travel to Montclair State on Saturday (5pm) and William Paterson on Sunday (1pm).

Coles shines at Sacred Heart

FAIRFIELD, CT—On Saturday, Aug. 30, former Blue Knight standout Garry Coles helped lift Sacred Heart University over Assumption College in the business.

Coles starts on special teams for the first half with the second half with a 43-yard kickoff return. Coles saw his first action as a returner, tallying 68 yards on one play to score his first college touchdown.

The former Blue Knight finished with four carries for 82 yards and a touchdown. The Blue Heart pulled away from the second half to up Assumption, 42-21.

The Poison will continue their homestand next weekend when they take on Bentley College. The game is scheduled to start Saturday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m.

Information obtained from the Associated Press and other wire services.

At right, former Southington High School athlete Stylistis scored the only goal during Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s 1-0 victory over Keene State University on Sept. 1.

Support groups

September 4, 2008

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395 Winding Ridge
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BRISTOL- This is not a misprint! 3 bedrooms Colonial in decent condition. Vinyl sided, fenced yard, walk-out basement. Just a little cleaning is all you need to do."NOAH"

$104,900

FARMINGTON: Private, quiet setting on this end unit condo. 2 features 4 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, an additional 400 sqft family room in lower level.

$248,900

BRISTOL: Great house, great location next to schools, shopping, highways. This 8 room Colonial, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, is a must see. First Floor Laundry and family room. Large, private lot.

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FARMINGTON: Very nice ranch home with a full floor family room overlooking the inground pool! 3 rooms, 3 bedrooms, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, finished rec room, 2 car garage.

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PLAINVILLE: Exceptional Ranch style home on ground level. This unit features 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, full basement, balcony off living room, 1 car garage, central air, private setting.

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5 bedroom Ranch with hardwood floors, central air and large family room with cathedral ceiling & 2 or 3 attached garages. Super family room & attached garage.

PLANTSVILLE: Beautiful Ranch in Eastside 3 BR, 2 BA, 1 car garage, central air, open floor plan, living room with fireplace, 1st flr office, 2 full baths, master ensuite., hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, Custom FP, French doors. Located in a nice cul-de-sac street. $212,500

PLANTSVILLE: Great open for the wildlife lover. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 1 car attached garage, hardwood flooring, central air, new roof, new insulation, new ceiling fans, fireplace, deck, granite countertops, new appliances, & fenced in yard. $247,500

SOUTHWIND: Fox Hollow II! Beautiful Ranch with 3 BR, 2.1 BA, 2 car garage, Central Air, Double garage, Large Lot. $299,900

SOUTHINGTON: FOR LEASE: 1st flr office & 2nd flr part finished basment w/ FP. $259,900

SOUTHINGTON: Fantastic 4 BR, 3 BA, 2 car attached garage, open floor plan, living rm w/ FP, 3 story with spiral staircase, Nicely landscaped. $299,900

SOUTHINGTON: Fox Hollow II! 4 BR, 3.1 BA, 3 car attached garage, central air, double garage, eat-in kitchen, finished basment with FP, & deck. $349,900

SOUTHINGTON: Fox Hollow II! 4 BR, 3.1 BA, 2 car attached garage, central air, double garage, eat-in kitchen, finished basment with FP, & deck. $349,900

SOUTHINGTON: Fox Hollow II! Townhouse in Eastside 2 BR, 2 BA, 1 car garage, custom FP, open floor plan, central air, fireplace, granite countertops, new appliances. $224,900

SOUTHINGTON: Fox Hollow II! Single Family 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 2 car garage, 9 ft ceilings. Nicely landscaped. $449,900

SOUTHINGTON: Fox Hollow II! 4 BR, 3 BA, 2 car garage, central air, open floor plan, 9 ft ceilings. Nicely landscaped. $299,900

This Ranch home is a Contemporary Ranch on 3+ acres just minutes to I-91 & I-84. Includes 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 3 car garage, open floor plan & cathedral ceilings. $699,000

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**SOUTHERN GATE**

Putdw, BF/21, 5’10”, 150lbs. Seeks honest, caring, open-minded female for friendship and fun. #5:01 1-840-567-9021

**LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT ONE**

SWM, 75, 5’, 145lbs. N/S, likes bowling, dancing, theater, movies. #5:01 1-506-980-9523

**LET’S GO OUT!**

SWM, 63, 5’10”, Italian, brown/ blonde, enjoys going to movies, dancing, walking, shopping and shopping. #5:01 1-506-980-9523

**LOOKING FOR A FRIENDSHIP**

Young female, 18-20, seeks a male for friendship. #5:01 1-840-567-9021

**SWEET PACKAGE DEAL**

Young lady, likes the outdoors, camping, hiking, and shopping. #5:01 1-840-567-9021

**SAM Removes, 37, 5’11”, 150lbs, N/S, 60, enjoys bowling, movies, hunting, and spending time with his family. #5:01 1-506-980-9523

**LOOKS FOR A FRIEND**

SWM, 51, 5’10”, 175lbs, N/S, enjoys bowling, fishing, and travel. #5:01 1-506-980-9523

**LET’S MEET**

SWFM, 52, 5’, brown/blonde, enjoys bowling, dancing, outdoor activities, and traveling. #5:01 1-506-980-9523

**SWM, 55, seeks to meet a female who can share similar interests. Call #5:01 1-506-980-9523

**SWM, 50, 5’10”, 140lbs, N/S, is looking for a female who shares similar interests. Call #5:01 1-506-980-9523

**LET’S TALK**

SWM, 60, 5’, 160lbs, Italian, brown/blonde, enjoys bowling, dancing, and traveling. #5:01 1-506-980-9523

**GREAT PACKAGE DEAL**

Young lady, likes the outdoors, camping, hiking, and shopping. #5:01 1-506-980-9523

**LOOKING FOR A FRIENDSHIP**

Young female, 18-20, seeks a male for friendship. #5:01 1-840-567-9021