

SHELTON HERALD

SheltonHerald.com



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Pub takes second in Over 35 Softball

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City looks to tech to solve bus issues

New software lets parents track their child's bus on their phone

By Brian Gioiele

School and bus company staffers are beginning training on new software which, when implemented early next year, officials believe will alleviate parents' con-

cerns about student transportation.

Board of Education Vice Chair James Oraziotti, at the board's meeting Wednesday, said that staffers will begin training on the Traversa student trans-

portation software on Sept. 28 at the district's central office. The technology upgrade, which will be implemented in January, has been in the works since July, according to Mayor Mark Lauretti.

"We've been implementing a lot of things. This is going to be a very user-friendly system," Oraziotti

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► Bus company, drivers reach tentative deal. **A3**

said.

Oraziotti said students were the most important thing to consider.

"It's all about safety first when it comes to students. I feel that this new program

will put us leaps and bounds ahead of so many other districts," he said.

This announcement comes days into the new school year, during which time parents have voiced anger toward the city-owned Shelton Student Transportation Service (SSTS) over crowded buses, **See Buses on A6**



Jason Edwards / For Hearst Connecticut Media

Gavin Wulinsky, 7, of Shelton, fishes during American Legion District 13's annual youth fishing derby at Great Hollow Lake in Monroe on Saturday.

Angling for some fun

Youth gather at American Legion's first fishing derby



Young fishers participate in the American Legion 3rd District Fishing Derby.

By Brian Gioiele

Young anglers from throughout the area gathered at Great Hollow Lake in Monroe Saturday to put their fishing skills to the test.

The youth fishing derby was the first held by the American Legion Department of Connecticut's 3rd District, but Legion Committeeman Mike Kellett hopes that the strong turnout bodes well for this becoming an annual event.

"The idea came up at a meeting that I had with Bridgeport Post 177," Kellett said. "Members reminisced about how a Post in Trumbull used to hold a fishing derby as part of the Legion's

See Fishing on A6

SHELTON SCHOOLS

Nearly 90% of staff now vaccinated

By Brian Gioiele

Nearly 90 percent of the school district's staff has received the COVID vaccine, according to Superintendent Ken Saranich.

Saranich said 88 percent of the district's certified and non-certified staff have received at least one dose of the vaccine. In all, the district has 681 (610 full time, 71 part time) staffers, of which 599 are vaccinated, through Tuesday.

"It's great news," Saranich said.

"Our high vaccination percentage shows the great culture and community spirit of Shelton Public Schools."

Carole Pannoizzo, district Chief of Staff

Sept. 27.

Shelton public schools held vaccine clinics on March 6 and March 27, which district Chief of Staff Carole Pannoizzo said "greatly benefited our employees with vaccinations."

Pannoizzo said, in accordance with Lamont's executive order, staff may request a religious or medical exemption in lieu of the vaccination. However, all employees who are not vaccinated, regardless of exemption, must submit to a weekly testing protocol and submit the test results to Human Resources every Monday prior to reporting to

See Schools on A3

Last month Gov. Ned Lamont issued an executive order requiring that all state employees and staff members at all childcare facilities and pre-K to 12 schools statewide must have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by

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Center Stage names new managing director

By Brian Gioiele

Lifelong city resident Carla Supersano Sullivan has been named the first managing director at The Center Stage Theatre - bringing theater, philanthropic and community experience to the organization.



Sullivan

Sullivan will manage the organization, including its strategic planning, fundraising, operations, fiscal management and marketing, according to Center Stage

See Director on A7

Fountain Square work back underway

By Brian Gioiele

Work on Fountain Square - which has remained dormant for more than a year - is back underway.

The site's developers - listed as Fountain Square, LLC, on the zoning application - said in a statement to Hearst Connecticut Media that construction of the 710 Bridgeport Ave. property has commenced.

"The developers of Fountain Square have secured all necessary funding and investors needed to complete the project," the statement reads. "The restart of construction has already commenced and should be in full swing over the next

few weeks."

This update on the site's status comes as many residents have spent months questioning the development's future in letters to the editor and social media posts.

In early 2020, prior to onset of the pandemic, Daniel Witkins, Sr., of DFW Building Co., who has been the construction manager for the Fountain Square project, stated that lease agreements were in place for some 70 percent of what will be the available space at the 19.1-acre site at the corner of Bridgeport Avenue and Parrott Drive - the former UI property.

See Square on A6

RUNNING AWAY WITH A VICTORY



David G. Whitham / For Hearst Connecticut Media

Shelton High scored 28 unanswered points and defeated No. 4 ranked Greenwich 35-14 Friday in a CT Football Alliance game at Finn Stadium. The unbeaten Gaels will visit Trumbull on Friday.

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Celebrate Shelton announces fall edition of Downtown Sounds

One local group is continuing to bring the focus on the city's downtown.

Celebrate Shelton is holding its Downtown Sounds: Fall Edition concert series Oct. 9 at Veterans Memorial Park. Gates open at 12:30 p.m., with musical performances from The Alpaca Gnomes, Tash Neal of The London Souls, and Lee-Ann Lovelace and Tracy Jo starting at 1 p.m. The rain date is Oct. 10.

More than 1,000 people attended each Friday during the three-week Downtown Sounds concert series held this past summer.

"How good does it feel to be together again? We



Contributed photo

The organization Celebrate Shelton has announced its Downtown Sounds: Fall Edition concert series with gates opening at 12:30 p.m., and music beginning at 1 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Veterans Memorial Park in the city, with musical acts The Alpaca Gnomes (pictured above), Tash Neal, who is of the band The London Souls, and Lee-Ann Lovelace & Tracy Jo kicking off the day at the park at 38 Canal St. East, in Shelton. The rain date is Sunday, Oct. 10.

were thrilled to be able to gather, enjoy live music and we sincerely appreciate the support from our community," Nicole Heriot-Mikula, Celebrate Shelton co-founder, said.

"Because of the summer concert series popularity and our desire to continue to make our downtown a destination for families, we wanted to plan a fall edition concert right away," fellow Celebrate Shelton co-founder Jimmy Tickey added.

Celebrate Shelton co-founder Michael Skrtic said the event will also feature local food trucks, a beer garden sponsored by New Belgium Brewing

Company, handmade artisan vendors and children's activities.

Featured food trucks will be Szabo's Seafood, Liquid Lunch, The Melting Truck, The Cinnabomb Mini Donut Factory, and Jim's Ice Cream Truck.

The concerts are free. There is a suggested donation of \$10 to sustain the series efforts in the community. Sponsors are welcome to join the series by becoming in touch at the email address for the event at celebrateshelton@gmail.com.

For more information, visit celebrateshelton.com/.

Shelton doctor arrested for prescription fraud

By Liz Hardaway

SHELTON — A Shelton doctor was arrested Friday after allegedly illegally distributing prescription medication, according to Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut Leonard Boyle.

Law enforcement have been investigating Trum-

bull resident Dr. David Ciancimino, 62, since October 2020. Ciancimino practiced psychiatry and neurology from an office on Corporate Drive in Shelton.

Through the use of undercover federal officers, authorities learned Ciancimino was prescribing benzodiazepines, such as Xanax, and stimulants, such as Adderall, to numerous

individuals in exchange for \$200 in cash, the U.S. Attorney's office said.

These prescriptions typically involved "little to no medical examination of his patients," the U.S. Attorney's office said. Officials said many of Ciancimino's patients used Medicaid to pay for their prescriptions.

From July 2020 to Sep-

tember 2021, Ciancimino allegedly deposited \$356,000 in cash to his bank account. The doctor also received dozens of \$200 payments through his Venmo account, a mobile payment service owned by PayPal, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

Ciancimino was charged with making false statements relating to health

care matters, health care fraud and distribution of controlled substances outside the scope of professional practice and not for legitimate medical purpose.

He was later released Friday on a \$500,000 bond, the U.S. Attorney's office said.

Both Xanax and Adderall are highly addictive prescription medications.

In 2020, 306 people died from benzodiazepine overdoses in Connecticut, according to data from the Department of Public Health.

Those struggling with substance abuse issues can call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration national hotline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for a free and confidential treatment referral or for more information.

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SCHOOL NEWS

The following Shelton residents recently received academic honors.

Kristin Soltis graduated from Hofstra University in May 2021, earning a master of science in accounting. Jafar Vohra was named to second honors on the Clark University dean's list during the spring 2021 semester.

Elmira College Recognizes Annual Key Award Recipients

Diana Stage, Jase Co and Bianca Youd were among 790 students at Elmira College to earn the college's annual Key Award. A tradition that goes back to 1935,

the Key Award is presented to outstanding students in their junior year of high school or preparatory school.

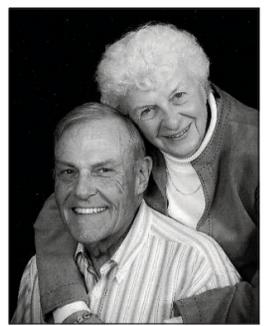
Kathryn Tomasko and Aldo Ortiz made the dean's list at Southern New Hampshire University for the spring 2021 semester. Robert Mongillo, Shannon Mercier and Christopher Reagan each made the President's List for the spring 2021 semester at the university.

Sydney Byron and Mia McLoughlin were named to the President's List at LIM College for the spring 2021 semester.

Shelton couple celebrates 65th anniversary

Bill and Martha McCart of Shelton celebrated their 65th anniversary on Aug. 25.

The couple was married in Cape Girardeau, Mo., on Aug. 25, 1956. They have five children, Peggy (Bill) Harrison, Kathi (Jeff) Remmert, Joe (Ann) McCart, John (Becky) McCart, and Mike McCart. They also have six grandchildren, Cassie (Brandon), Breanne (Robert), Mary (Ethan), Sarah, Meghan, and Lauren; and four great-grandsons, Barrett, Colton, Harlem and Dallas.



Contributed photos

Bill and Martha McCart, of Shelton, married in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on August 25th.

Red Cross seeks blood donations amid 'emergency' shortage

By Ben Lambert

The American Red Cross is seeking blood donations to ensure that hospital and patient needs can be met, as the organization experiences what is said is an "emergency blood and platelet shortage" that has left its supply "historically low" for this time of year.

Donor turnout "reached the lowest levels of the year" in recent weeks, "as many delayed giving amid a return to the workplace and in-person learning, as well as a recent surge in COVID-19 cases across the country due to the delta variant," Red Cross representatives said in a

Monday morning email

The Red Cross' blood reserves are at the lowest they've been "at this time of year since 2015, with less than a day's supply of certain blood types in recent weeks," the agency said.

"Fall is typically a time when the blood supply rebounds as donors are more available to give than during the busy summer months, but this year has presented a unique and serious challenge," said Dr. Pampee Young, chief medical officer for the Red Cross.

"While it's clear the pandemic continues to weigh heavily on our minds, the Red Cross

asks the public to remember donating blood and platelets is essential to the many patients that rely on lifesaving transfusions every day."

The organization "must collect 10,000 additional blood products each week over the next month for the blood supply to recover and meet hospital and patient needs," according to the agency.

Those interested can make an appointment to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), officials noted.

"As a thank-you, all

those who come to donate through Sept. 30 and help tackle the emergency blood shortage will receive a limited-edition football-inspired T-shirt while supplies last, plus a coupon for a free haircut via email from Sport Clips Haircuts," officials said.

Futher, "All those who come to donate in October will receive a link by email to claim a free Zaxby's Signature Sandwich reward or get a \$5 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice."

Among other upcoming blood drives, those interested can come to the Burroughs Community Center at 2470 Fairfield Ave. in Bridgeport from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. today, officials said.

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Two Shelton High students honored as Commended Scholars

High school students Mia Chen and Joseph Ciambriello were recently named Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The pair were among 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation recognized for their academic promise. They placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2022 competition by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.



Contributed photo

High school students Mia Chen and Joseph Ciambriello were recently named Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.

DIRECTOR

From page A1

Board Chair John Corrado, and will report to the board.

"Community has been the heartbeat of Center Stage Theatre since its inception in 2005 through performance, education and fundraising," Corrado said. "Carla's strong history with Shelton, Fairfield and New Haven counties, and Center Stage Theatre, cou-

pled with her years of experience working in theatre and non-profits, gave her the perfect, well-rounded experience we were looking for to steer Center Stage into 2022 and beyond.

"I, on behalf of the entire Board, am thrilled to be tapping into her knowledge, creativity and passion to enter a new, exciting time for our community," Corrado added.

Sullivan most recently served as the vice presi-

dent of external relations for the Shubert Theatre in New Haven, managing all outward facing operations during the coronavirus pandemic.

Prior to that position, she was the theater's director of development, where she grew the theater's donor base and grant revenue funds, onboarded new board members to the theater, and created signature fundraising events for it.

"I am honored and humbled to serve Center Stage

as its first managing director," Sullivan said. "It is the ideal match for my professional experience and my love and passion for theater and arts education."

Sullivan said, as a lifelong resident, she has watched Shelton grow and is proud that Center Stage is such a beloved and respected institution.

"My family and I have been active both as a volunteer and on stage, and I have watched my kids, friends and neighbors

flourish participating in this very special organization's programs," she added. "Following a difficult time for the performing arts, I look forward to welcoming our performers, audiences, volunteers and supporters back to the theater and introducing new patrons and students to Center Stage."

Before joining The Shubert Theatre in 2018, Sullivan served as the theater's director, Fairfield Awards Dinner and Director of

Corporate Relations with Fairfield University, and Director of Donor Service & Grantmaking with Valley Community Foundation in Derby.

LIQUOR PERMITS

LIQUOR PERMIT

Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I, DANIEL BEARDSLEY, 89 PEARMAIN RD, SHELTON, CT 06484-7010

Have filed an application placarded 09/24/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a CONNECTICUT CRAFT CAFE LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 278 LEAVENWORTH RD BLDG B SHELTON CT 06484-1811

The business will be owned by: WHITE HILLS DISTILLERY LLC Entertainment will consist of: Acoustics (not amplified), Karaoke, Live Bands

Objections must be filed by: 11-05-2021

WHITE HILLS DISTILLERY LLC

SENIORS

From page A5

very few people were coming and going from the home due to the pandemic, which helped keep staff and residents COVID-safe.

"We have seen far too

many seniors decline due to being isolated during COVID," she said. "We have never had to isolate."

The drawback to opening during a pandemic is that getting the word out about the new facility took some ingenuity since senior centers and other

facilities were closed.

She said she was forced to social media, and hosted a live interview show four times a week to get the word out. When the home opened last September, there was enough demand to fill all the openings and start a wait-

ing list, she said. This led her to begin looking into expansion.

"We have been searching for another lovely ranch-style home in Shelton to convert to expand the number of seniors that we can accommodate," Virvo said. "There is a

need for small, intimate, memory care housing for seniors. It is comfortable and more affordable and just right for those who want the home experience."

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