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INSIDE
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Kaitlin Olson in 'High Potential'



NEW BRITAIN HERALD

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VOL. 153 NO. 221

NEWBRITAINHERALD.COM WEEKEND EDITION, SEPTEMBER 14/15, 2024 \$2.50



Dan Heary
New Britain police station

Man dies from gunshot wounds in New Britain

CLAUDIA S. HILARIO
 @NEWBRITAINHERALD

NEW BRITAIN — The New Britain Police Department said a man died from gunshot wounds after an early-morning altercation Thursday, and it seems to be related to the shots fired on Kelsea Street. “At some point during that altercation, shots were fired. Officers responded soon after that and located one adult male gunshot suffering from gunshot wounds,” Chief Police Matthew Marino said. “The adult male was transported to New Britain Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries, and the investigations are still very active.” Shortly before 9 a.m., the dispatch center received a call about a possible burglary on Kelsea Street. As officers were en route, they

See MAN ON PAGE 4

Bringing art, entertainment to NB

MAINA DURAFOUR
 @NEWBRITAINHERALD

NEW BRITAIN — As summer comes to an end, so does the Art Happy Hour organized by the New Britain Museum of American Art. The summer-long event performed for the last time Thursday night, which also marked the beginning of fall and new projects. The events took place on

the terrace of the museum coffee shop. It’s a small and cozy spot, located behind the museum, near Walnut Hill Park. The view is pleasant, especially when the sun sets. When getting there, you were driven by the sound of music and improv for the last night. Art Happy Hour started back in June and took place every Thursday. The event was free to attend and offered live music per-

formances and food. Each Thursday, a different artist performed. Daisy Gesualdi is the program specialist at the museum, and she takes care of handling the logistics of the social programming, like the Art Happy Hour. The way the program chooses the artists vary on circumstances. Sometimes, artists will send their contact information

See ART ON PAGE 4



Maina Durafour
The final Art Happy Hour of the year took place Thursday night at the New Britain Museum of American Art.

New Place To Play



Claudia S. Hilario
Lincoln Elementary students listening remarks made at the ribbon-cutting ceremony by Principal Gina Cavallo, Mayor Erin Stewart and Superintendent Tony Gasper.

Playground upgrade for students

CLAUDIA S. HILARIO
 @NEWBRITAINHERALD

NEW BRITAIN — Students from the Lincoln Elementary School premiered their new playground facility on Thursday, along with city and school officials.

Dozens of kids ran to their new playground area, faces lit up with joy and excitement, after remarks made by New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart, Consolidated School District of New Britain Superintendent Tony Gasper and School Principal Gina Cavallo

during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. “We kept it a secret from everybody. This is really a surprise,” Cavallo told the Herald. “So when they came back, the old playground was knocked down, and they were reconstructing this new playground.

We just had a playground that wasn’t safe, and now that we have this safe playground, it’s appropriate for all our students.” “I’m just excited that the kids here at Lincoln have a great place to enjoy,” Stewart added. “A few years ago, principal

Cavallo and I were talking, and she said, ‘We’re in desperate need of a new playground.’” Gasper underscored the importance of providing physical activity spaces to students. “Just looking at how well

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CIRCULATION

For Circulation issues or questions, call 7:30 am to 4 pm. Monday-Friday and 8 am to 10 am Saturdays. 860-423-8466 ext 1 or email our circulation department at delivery@thechronicle.com

We do not publish a print edition on federal holidays. We publish an e-edition in its place.

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POSTAL INFORMATION

The New Britain Herald, pending periodical #25570, is published 6 days per week excluding Sunday. Periodicals postage paid at New Britain, CT. Post office address: P.O. Box 229 Willimantic, CT 06226 Postmaster: Send address changes to New Britain Herald, P.O. Box 229 Willimantic, CT 06226

RATES

Single copy: Monday - Friday \$2.00 Saturdays \$2.50 SUBSCRIPTION: One Year: \$375

Man dies from gunshot wounds

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learned of a car accident and subsequent altercation in the same area. During the confrontation, shots were fired. As a precautionary measure, Smith Elementary School and the Roosevelt Building were placed in shelter-in-place after the New Britain Police Department advised the school administration. The investigation, in coordination with Connecticut State Police and the state's attorney's office, is ongoing. Notifications to the victim's family are still being made, Marino said.

Smith School, which serves children K-5 and has more than 450 students, was placed in shelter-in-place as a precautionary measure, but there was no perceived threat to the public then. "I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the difference between a lockdown and a shelter in place. A shelter-in-place is an emergency response initiated when there is no immediate danger to students and staff," said Tony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools for the Consolidated School District of New Britain.

Plantella Houseplant Expo

NEW BRITAIN — There will be a Plantella Houseplant Expo Sunday at the New Britain VFW with about 30 vendors on hand.

SOUTHINGTON POLICE BLOTTER

Michael Fairbanks, 33, of 31 Goodwin Court, Thomaston, was charged Aug. 21 with second degree criminal trespass, sixth degree larceny and second degree failure to appear.
Gianni Centeno, 38, of 75 Baggott St., West Haven, was charged Aug. 22 with fourth degree larceny.
Jessica Lynn Fitzgerald, 30, of PO Box 808, was charged Aug. 23 with sixth degree larceny.
Gianna Roxie Law Louis-Charles, 20, of 625 Queen St., Apartment 421, was charged Aug. 23 with disorderly conduct.
Kelsey Meenan, 28, of 132 Norton St., Apartment 2, was charged Aug. 23 with disorderly conduct.
Kristin E. Murphy, 43, of 149 London Road, Hebron, was charged Aug. 24 with disorderly conduct.
Christian Jaime Torres, 30, of 56 John St., Waterbury, was charged Aug. 25 with interfering with an emergency call and violation of a protective order.

Lincoln playground

Continued from Page 1
they play and enjoy," he said.

The superintendent stressed a well-maintained playground allows kids to get outside, play freely and invent their games and rules.

"It's been a wonderful partnership between the city and the school district," Gasper said.

The playground is accessible after school hours, providing a place for neighborhood children to play. Stewart said the previous playground was in poor condition and the new one cost over \$200,000.

"Invited the Commission for Community and Neighborhood Development to be here today because the funding came through their allocations that the city



Lincoln Elementary students playing on the new playground. Claudia S. Hilario

receives," the mayor said. "It takes some time to build and save that money up." The funding for the playground came from the Commission for Community and Neighborhood Development, which allocates around \$50,000 annually for neighborhood improvements. After saving and planning, the commission approved the playground project, similar to past school projects.

Art Happy Hour in city

Continued from Page 1
tion and ask the program to take a look at what they do. Other times, it can be a recommendation from other partners in the organization, or bands that work with the museum. It can also be musicians they have had relationships for years and that they love, so they keep making them come back.

"I'm always trying to go to different events to kind of snoop around, see what people are playing, grab a business card if I like what I hear," Gesualdi said.

However, the museum social program does not stop there and always looks for innovative ideas. This year, for the first time, the event also introduced a different specialty cocktail for each night. To put this in place, Gesualdi consulted a lot of people in the field and tried to match the cocktail of the day with the season, and what people might be craving.

"I really try and match it up to the time of the year. Now that we're in September, I'm thinking more of an apple fall drink, whereas back in June and July, it was more summery," she said.

This project started after the COVID-19 lockdowns as way to gather people together again, in a safer way, without compromising on having fun.

"We've just kind of con-

tinued it since then because it's proven to be very popular with people throughout the greater new Britain area," Gesualdi said.

Christa Harrington is a regular to these events and came every Thursday of the summer. She loves the place and thinks it's beautiful, particularly at dusk. As a music lover, the Art Happy Hour has been a great chance to listen to many artists from different genres.

"They have a great variety of music, and it's very relaxing and entertaining, as you can see. And it's a great way to spend an evening outdoors," she said.

Something she also enjoys about the event is the diversity around it, whether it's the age or the location people come from. The museum has successfully gathered people that drove a great amount of time to enjoy the moment and meet new people.

"Last time I was here, there was actually somebody who was from New York City. She heard about the band and the music, and then she made sure she came down and stayed with somebody for the weekend," Harrington said.

She also encountered people from Avon and Simsbury, but also a man who lives near the coast and comes because he likes music.

For the last Thursday of the summer, she brought

with her one of her friends, Louise Bechard. For her first time, she enjoyed the evening and the music a lot. Being here and having fun made her want to take a museum membership like Harrington.

The Art Happy Hour is not the only event organized by the museum. Gesualdi and her team work on other events like First Friday. She said the event "involves a full band, full bar, some snacks and that ticket includes admission to the galleries as well."

The museum also organizes a Halloween after dark party, which also involves music, drinks and food. This year, they are introducing a vendor's market so people can buy goods from local artisans.

These are just a few among many other events organized for the next months.

According to Gesualdi, people should come to these events to get opportunities to look at the artwork, but also to connect with other art lovers, or artists themselves.

"I think it's really important from a collaborative standpoint for our patrons, as well as just creating that connection with us as well. Not just coming and going to see an exhibition, but coming to also enjoy your evening or your day or basically feel at home," she said.

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