

NEWSBITES

» CURTAIN CALL PRESENTS “BYE, BYE, BIRDIE”

Curtain Call’s 28th annual Summer Youth Theatre production of “Bye, Bye, Birdie” will open Thursday.

The show, one of the most-produced high school musicals of all time, will play in the Kweskin Theater on Newfield Avenue through Aug. 11.

The cast and crew for this production is comprised of students age 10 through 21 and totals 75 and they come from all around lower Fairfield County.

GenRe is sponsoring the production.

“This is the second time that I’m working on Birdie, and I’m having a blast,” said Curtain Call executive director Lou Ursone.

Directing this summer’s production is Norwalk resident, Larry Gabbard, who has performed in several shows in Stamford, including as Burt in “Mary Poppins.” This is his first time directing for Curtain Call.

Other members of the creative team, also from Norwalk, are Tony Bellomy as music director and Kristin Ruggieri as choreographer. Set design is by Curtain Call’s resident designer and associate artistic director, Peter Barbieri, Jr. (Fairfield); costume design is by Megan Latte Ormond (Greenwich). Curtain Call education director, Brian Bianco, serves as producer.

Performances will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. beginning this week. There will also be one Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m., Aug. 5, and a Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m., Aug. 11.

The Kweskin Theatre is located at The Sterling Farms Theatre Complex, 1349 Newfield Avenue, Stamford.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$25 for senior citizens and \$17.5 for children. Thrifty Thursday tickets are \$27.50. Box Office: 203-461-6358,



Michael Cummo / Hearst Connecticut Media

SoundWaters junior intern Julianna Velez hugs her sister Jenna Velez, 12, who was awarded the laser class trophy during the Young Mariners awards event at Bocuzzi Park in Stamford on Thursday.

Extension 36, or on the web at [www.curtaincallinc.com](http://www.curtaincallinc.com).

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» STAMFORD RECREATION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Stamford Recreation Services Department launched a new website Monday, designed to improve the way citizens search, explore and register for recreation programming.

The launch of the new website coincides with the release of the fall 2018 pro-

gramming, which is now available to explore online at [www.stamfordrecreation.com](http://www.stamfordrecreation.com). Registration for most fall programming begins online Sept. 5 and in-person Sept. 6.

Previously, residents had to download the department’s seasonal brochure or obtain a physical website. Now the programs are listed under the “programs and events” section of the website. Programs are organized by age group and program type to help citizens find programs relevant to them. Downloads and physical brochures will still be avail-

able for residents who prefer it.

“The new website changes the way we inform and communicate about our programs,” said Superintendent of Recreation Laurie Albano. “With a physical brochure, we had no way to communicating program changes or cancellations with residents who had not yet registered for a program or event. Now we will be able to update our website in an instant to ensure residents have access to the most up-to-date information about programs online — before they register.”

The last time the website was updated was in 2012, before the use of mobile devices and tablets was common. The new website is fully responsive, allowing residents to easily explore programming using any device.

As a part of the redesign process, the department also reviewed user analytics to develop insights to better organize content and improve site usability. They completed a full audit of site content, particularly in the Adult Leagues section, to ensure that the information available was clear, accurate,

and easy to navigate.

The website was built using a free website design template, which will save the City of Stamford thousands of dollars each year.

In the future, the department plans to continue to improve the functionality of their website and processes, including moving to online forms and editable PDFs to better align with resident’s expectations and to reduce the amount of paper waste generated by the department.

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LOTTERY

MONDAY DRAWING CONNECTICUT

PLAY 3 DAY: 6-7-3

PLAY 4 DAY: 0-0-9-1

PLAY 3 NIGHT: Unavailable

PLAY 4 NIGHT: Unavailable

CASH 5: Unavailable

LUCKY LINKS DAY: 1-2-6-8-9-12-16-17

NEW YORK

MIDDAY NUMBERS: 4-4-1 (Lucky Sum: 9)

MIDDAY WIN 4: 0-5-8-8 (Lucky Sum: 21)

EVENING NUMBERS: 7-3-9 (Lucky Sum: 19)

EVENING WIN 4: 8-0-8-0 (Lucky Sum: 16)

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We strive for accuracy. If we make a mistake, we correct it. If you notice an error, please call 203-964-2258.

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Greenwich Education Group donates funds to REACH Prep

By Erin Kayata

STAMFORD — The Greenwich Education Group has donated \$3,500 to Stamford-based REACH Prep, an organization which helps black and Latino students from underserved communities get into and thrive in independent schools.

The funds were a result of Greenwich Education Group’s ninth annual Private Day and Boarding School Fair on May 15, where over 100 independent schools from across the United States and Canada paid for booths visited by local families and students.

Each year, Greenwich Education Group (GEG) donates proceeds from the event to local non-profits. Past recipients include Greenwich Parks and Recreation for scholarships for underserved children to attend camp, as well as the Greenwich Alliance, ac-

cording to Victoria Newman, founder and executive director of the Greenwich Education Group.

“This year, we decided to give 50 percent of (our proceeds) to REACH Prep because we have worked over the years with REACH, providing tutoring and test prep at affordable levels,” Newman said. “It’s an amazing organization. We love their program, we like their mission, we like that they help underserved kids. It’s such an important part of who we are as a company and our values.”

Newman said GEG also provides discounted tutoring services to REACH Prep scholars. Stamford-based GEG also offers their Greenwich office for REACH Prep use if necessary.

“It helps REACH help the student success,” Newman said. “The end game is a win-win. If we get asked to do something where they



Contributed photo

From left, Peggy Hersam, Muffy Fox and Victoria C. Newman, of the Greenwich Education Group, with Gina Lucas, chief executive director of REACH Prep.

are in need of somebody with our teaching expertise, we jump right in.”

The school fair is part of GEG’s educational consulting services. The group assists in boarding and private school placement and the chance to find a school that is the best fit for the student, whether they’re looking for a STEM-focused curriculum, or a drama program or other criteria.

“Parents come with their kids because a lot of schools end in eighth grade and the kids need a high school,”

Newman said. “This is an incredible opportunity for parents and students to meet admissions directors and talk to them and figure out what they’re all about. It’s something we do for the community...It gets on our mission of finding the best fit school.”

GEG operates several Stamford-based schools, including Links Academy, The Pinnacle School and The Spite School.

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State’s food passes safety test

By Ed Stannard

The state’s food supply passed the safety test for pesticide residue with a 98 percent score on a sample of products analyzed by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, the agency reported Monday.

The experiment station’s Department of Analytical Chemistry tested 104 samples of both fresh and prepared foods from across the state in 2017 and found that 58 contained no residue at all, according to Jason White, vice director and chief analytical chemist at the experiment station.

Just two of the samples — fresh sage from Mexico and ground Turkish oregano — had residues that violated standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Those samples revealed residues of pesticides that are not allowed for those spices, White said. “For each commodity that’s sold, [EPA has] a list of pesticides that are

allowed to be used on it,” White said. Those chemicals are registered by the EPA after being submitted by the pesticide manufacturers, he said. “The problem is that some of these commodities, like spices, there are not a lot of pesticides that are ... registered for use.”

The sage and oregano are not a major concern, however, White said. “The actual risk is really low because the concentrations are really low,” he said.

The New Haven-based lab did detect allowable pesticides on 44 samples, White said. “They had pesticide residues but at levels that were allowed to be there” by the EPA, which “determines safety,” he said. No foods tested in 2017 had levels of allowable pesticides that exceeded EPA guidelines, White said.

The “market basket” that the experiment station tests is made up of foods submitted by the state Department of Consumer Protection, which buys them at grocery stores, warehouse

stores and farmers markets, White said. While a wide variety of food is tested, including fresh fruits and vegetables, baby foods, juices, herbs and spices, each commodity tested was limited in scope. For example, one jar of baby food may have been tested, but other brands would not have been, he said. The agency may receive one bunch of bananas or one container of strawberries.

“The nature of this program is it’s a market basket. ... It’s a surveillance of what people are buying, so it’s a random sampling,” White said. “Given everybody’s resources, that’s all we can do.”

In a separate analysis, four of 24 food samples, including baby foods and juices, were found to have total arsenic above 10 parts per billion, ranging from 15 to 518. There are no action levels for arsenic in food, but 10 parts per billion is “the regulatory limit for water,” set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, White said. The FDA has proposed a limit of 100 parts per billion of inorganic arsenic in baby rice cereal.

BREAKING NEWS 24/7

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