



Link between schools and community is addressed, Page 3

Southington's Sons of Italy celebrate 100 years, Page 17

Kenny Hill tennis tournament grows in number, competition, Page 18



A hundred years in the making

TAMMI KNAPIK

The Sons of Italy celebrated 100 years during a weekend celebration at the Aqua Turf. For more photos of the event, please see page 17.

Icon winner working towards recording

By ROB GLIDDEN
STAFF WRITER

While Apple Harvest Festival organizers are planning to bring back the Southington Icon singing competition for a second year, the previous winner has made the most out of the attention following the event.

Jillian Caillouette, of Meriden, placed first in the 2009 competition and earned a chance to perform at local restaurants in addition to some time in a real recording studio.

Based on the reactions of

the staff at Onyx Soundlab Studios in Manchester, she seems poised to become a regular performer there.

"They ended up being really impressed by her talent," said Melissa Ericksen, who coordinates the Southington Icon event.

The studio recently implemented a new "singer/songwriter" program aimed at younger talent, and hopes to work with 10 promising performers each year. When Jillian first visited the studio, producer Adam Von

See ICON, page 8



Photo courtesy of Southington Icon
Southington Icon's first winner Jillian Caillouette is going places after her win.

Saving it for the future

School officials to bank \$1.16 million in federal funds

By ROB GLIDDEN
STAFF WRITER

The Southington schools received \$1.16 million in federal funds from a recent education bill, and officials are hoping it will help the schools withstand difficulties expected in the 2011-2012 budget.

The state as a whole received \$110.4 million. Governor M. Jodi Rell has opted to distribute the money using the same formula used for the Education Cost Sharing grant.

The funding comes with a few rules from the federal government. It must be used to hire or maintain education staff that otherwise could have been cut. That could include teachers, bus drivers, principals, cafeteria workers or others. It can also be used for cost-of-

“We are fortunate. Through planning and good community support, we have held our own.”

— Brian Goralski,
Board of Education Chairman

living pay increases.

It can not be used to lower municipal taxes or for other school spending unre-

lated to jobs.

"There is a tremendous amount of flexibility in how the dollars can be expended in the language of the legislation and the guidance provided to us," said Thomas Murphy, spokesperson for the state's Department of Education.

Despite difficult programming cuts made to the Southington schools in the past few years, the district has faced very few personnel layoffs, especially compared with other towns.

At the "convocation" event at the start of this new school year, Superintendent Dr. Joseph Erardi told the crowd a major priority of his when dealing with budget cuts was to retain jobs. He

See MONEY, page 29

Dr. Seuss to come alive next weekend

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

As the cast explains it, there's great music, a great story, and, oh yeah, there are the magical words of Dr. Seuss.

So, what better reason to go check out the PCS Youth Theater next weekend.

The PCS Youth Theater is presenting its rendition of "Seussical the Musical" on Sept. 10 and 11.

The local theatrical troupe features young actors from ages 8 to 16 from the Central Connecticut community, including Plainville, Bristol, Southington, Avon, Berlin, Burlington, Farmington, New Britain, and Terryville

"Who doesn't love Seuss?" asked Southington's

Reilly Lincavicks of Plainville, 12, who has the role of a Who.

Nicole Fischer, 14 of Southington said she likes "Seussical the Musical" because of the storyline and music. Nicole who plays a bird girl and a jungle citizen said, "The music is enjoyable and catchy. Also the story line is fun since it's all Dr. Seuss characters."

"It goes beyond the unthinkable," said 15-year-old Melissa Cummings of Bristol when asked what she liked about the musical. Melissa, who plays a bird girl. "It teaches valuable lessons and makes you laugh at the same time. What more could you want?"

As an actor, Plainville resident Erica Mikulak (who

plays Yertle) said she likes "Seussical" because of "the dance movements because I can really get myself into it."

Asked what his favorite aspect of this particular production by PCS Youth Theater, Jake Dutkiewicz, 13, of Plainville (General Schmitz) offered a simple answer "learning."

"My favorite aspect... is the actual show because the outfits, props and lights really bring it together," said 15-year-old Abby Negro of Plainville, who plays a Bird Girl.

"It's great to work with kids from other towns that enjoy the same things you do," said Nick Zaleski of Plainville, 13, who plays

See DR. SEUSS, page 4

Step Inside

Arts	14	GoodTimes	13	Milestones	10
Classified	30	Healthy Living	12	Police	5
Editorial	6	Listings	15	Sports	18

ELECT

MECCARIELLO

JUDGE of PROBATE

BRYAN is the ONLY candidate endorsed by the Southington Bar Association* for PROBATE JUDGE

☆☆☆

*unanimously at its annual meeting held on April 29, 2010 by the following local attorneys: Carl J. Sokolowski (former probate judge for the District of Southington), David P. Kelley, John F. Kania, Joseph R. Crispino, Anthony A. Denorfia, Andrew J. Denorfia, Brian D. Zaccagnino, Richard M. Krezel, Robert S. Stanek, Richard M. Bailey, Elizabeth C. Kopec, A. Anthony Sheffy, Valerie A. DePaolo, Louis J. Martocchio, Jeffrey J. Oliveira and Matthew J. O'Keefe.

☆☆☆

Paid for by Meccariello for Probate, 2010, Zaya Oshana, Treasurer