

# New Haven Register

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## THEY FEEL IT ALL

### With both teams in the Final Four, UConn fans savoring every moment

By Austin Mirmina  
STAFF WRITER

When Braylon Mullins' 35-foot prayer sent the UConn men's basketball team to the Final Four last weekend, Huskies fans across Connecticut and beyond erupted in celebration.

Ken Lipshez was cheering, too, just as he had a few hours earlier when the UConn women's team clinched its own Final Four trip. Even in that moment, though, there was a hint of sadness.

Watching UConn hoops together has become a winter ritual for Lipshez and his wife, who are both retired and live in Farmington. "UConn basketball has served as a unifier, almost like a marriage

*Fans continues on A5*

For full coverage and results of the NCAA Basketball Tournament games, go to [ctinsider.com](http://ctinsider.com).



Arnold Gold / Hearst Conn. Media  
UConn women's basketball superfan Carol McKenzie holds her Huskies puppet, Jonathan Jr., at her home in Farmington on Wednesday.

## Geno, players celebrate Mullins' game-winner

By Roger Cleaveland  
STAFF WRITER

PHOENIX — The UConn men's basketball and women's basketball teams are back in the Final Four in the same season for an unprecedented sixth time, but never before has it happened like this.

Braylon Mullins' deep 3-point shot from the logo with 0.4 seconds left in the men's 73-72 Elite Eight victory over arch nemesis Duke last Sunday was a finish for the ages that rever-

Dan Haar: UConn ignites our dopamine-fueled collective moment. **A6**

berated throughout UConn Nation.

While UConn fans throughout the state passionately celebrated the shot that sent the men's team to the Final Four, no one felt more pride or connection to that historic moment than the counterparts in the women's program.

*Braylon continues on A5*



Jim Shannon/Hearst Connecticut Media

UConn's Sarah Strong, left, and Azzi Fudd laugh at a comment by head coach Geno Auriemma at a news conference before the Final Four in Phoenix on Thursday.

## BRANFORD, HAMDEN

## Police investigate sub charged with groping second-graders

By Peter Yankowski  
STAFF WRITER

BRANFORD — A substitute teacher accused of groping two second-grade students at an elementary school in Hamden is under investigation after he was accused of similar abuse when he worked at Mary T. Murphy Elementary School in Branford, according to police and court papers.

The former substitute teacher, Jack Gill, was arrested by Hamden police on March 27 and charged with two counts of fourth-degree sexual assault and two counts of illegal sexual contact. The 24-year-old was released on bond, according to court records.

Arrest warrant affidavits from Gill's charges in Hamden said he was also "accused of a similar incident in the Branford

School System," and identified the school as Murphy Elementary.

In a joint statement Thursday, Branford Schools Superintendent Christopher J. Tranberg and Police Chief Jonathan R. Mulhern confirmed there was an "ongoing investigation" into a substitute teacher without identifying Gill by name.

The statement said the substitute teacher worked at the

school for one day on Jan. 20, and was assigned to the library. The following day, Jan. 21, the district learned of an "allegation of inappropriate conduct involving this substitute teacher," the statement said.

"We understand that a similar report and arrest have happened in another district," the statement said.

The police chief and superintendent said the substitute

teacher has been placed on the district's "do not admit" security list.

Gill was employed in both districts through Kelly Services, a staffing agency. The company did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment Thursday.

A lawyer listed for Gill in the Hamden arrest warrant affidavits did not immediately re-

*Gill continues on A7*

Flamingo is one of the dogs at the Connecticut Humane Society in Wilton.

H John Voorhees III/Hearst Connecticut Media



## Shelter animals staying longer, facing stress

By Tyler Fedor  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Sasha Golovyan, a veterinarian at the Animal Clinic of Milford, said she remembered when a bulldog was surrendered to the clinic's care.

Golovyan said the owner told clinic staff the bulldog had eaten part of their

CPAP machine and worried they couldn't afford the dog's surgery if it happened again so they decided to give it up. The clinic did the surgery and found the dog a home.

"It still comes in as a patient," she said, adding dogs surrendered to the clinic usually find a home

in three to five days.

Her animals could be considered the lucky ones though as other shelters report animals are staying longer.

For the Connecticut Humane Society, some animals can be there for more than three weeks, up from just a few days, according

to James Bias, the society's executive director.

"The animals are going to be impacted because a shelter, while it's a safe haven, it's not a home," Bias said.

Animals staying longer in kennels contributes to crowded shelters and *Shelters continues on A7*

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Weather: Variable clouds, shower in the afternoon.  
High: 66. Low: 43. **Page A12**