

Students taking their bot to world contest

Team of local teens heads to Houston later this month

By **GIANNI SALISBURY**
Day Staff Writer

New London — The Southeastern CT Robotics team, Lumens Cubed, has qualified for the FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship in Houston, which runs April 29 to May 2.

The team will be competing against 339 teams from all over the world as it presents its robot and works its way through many rounds of the competition.

The team is run by Brian McGlinchey, vice president of Southeastern CT Robotics, and is made up of students ages 12-17 from New London County. It is one of three groups that comprise Southeastern CT Robotics.

The other two programs, FIRST

SEE LOCAL PAGE A3



DANA JENSEN/THE DAY

Owner Colin Desmarais inside Mystic Drawbridge Ice Cream in downtown Mystic on Thursday.

Ice cream shop to open second location at former general store

By **KIMBERLY DRELICH**
Day Staff Writer

Mystic — Mystic Drawbridge Ice Cream, which has been in downtown Mystic for nearly 35 years, prides itself on continuing the tradition of making old-fashioned ice cream, according to store owner Colin Desmarais.

The spot on West Main Street has a rich history of ice cream since the 1800s, and the shop makes small-batch, slow-churn, premium ice cream with local ingredients, he said.

Now, the shop is expanding with an additional location at the former Old Mystic General Store space — to be called the Mystic Drawbridge General Store — slated to open this summer.

The new ice cream shop at 47 Main St. in Old Mystic will offer a behind-the-scenes look at ice cream production and a limited, rotating menu of daily flavors, Desmarais said.

"You're going to be able to see us making the ice

SEE MYSTIC PAGE A5

Work on I-95 nears final phase

Project expected to be completed by November

By **GIANNI SALISBURY**
Day Staff Writer

East Lyme — The I-95 construction project here is expected to enter its final phase in July and is expected to be completed by November.

The sixth and final stage of the project will consist of one more traffic shift, which will move traffic into the new permanent southbound traffic lanes, said Andrew Millovitsch, the project engineer from the state Department of Transportation. Currently the lanes are located where the median of the highway will be.

The Exit 75 southbound ramp will also see a change.

SEE I-95 PAGE A3



DANA JENSEN/THE DAY

Tattoo artist Nick Bennett, second from right, of the Salty Sailor Tattoo Co. in North Carolina, talks with attendees at the expo Friday.

SEE TATTOO PAGE A5

Filling in open skin at the New England Tattoo Expo

By **JACK LAKOWSKY**
Day Staff Writer

Montville — The sixth annual New England Tattoo Expo in the Mohegan Sun convention center created a lot of buzz Friday — literally.

The Earth Expo and Convention Center was filled with the beelike sounds of tattoo guns etching designs on "open skin," the grips of artists from around the country firm on the handle. The event, which features about 400 tattoo artists and other vendors, continues today and Sunday.

One tattoo artist, Tyler "Rabbit" Emmons, from Chicago, was part of a traveling studio of tattooists who earn their living inking on the road, called Freestyle Mania Studios.

Emmons said he's always been an illustrator at heart. The job was a natural draw, he said, and he's been working as a tattoo artist for about five years. He felt a surge in confidence after he got his first tattoo, and now aims to boost his clients' self-assurance.

"People are more into color here. They're more into black and gray in

WEATHER

Today, mixed clouds and sunshine, seasonable. High 58. Sunday, mostly cloudy with showers, cool. High 55. **B8**

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COMING SUNDAY

News: The chief of the Yantic Fire Engine Co. No. 1, Robert Allen, talks about the importance of keeping firefighters' morale up and continuing their training even after the City of Norwich shut down the volunteer department and repossessed its fire trucks.

Daybreak: A Mystic author has developed a career writing children's books, and her latest release is about an electric taxi.

Business: In a new novel, local history writer Jim Littlefield gives an intimate portrait of what it was like to live through Reconstruction in the South.

Perspective: Columnist Bill Stanley wonders whether Sen. Chris Murphy and Rep. John Larson can find a better use of their time other than calling for President Donald Trump's removal.

Stepping on the gas



A grasshopper crawls up a pump at a Los Angeles gas station Friday. In New London County, the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline was about \$4.04 on Friday, according to AAA; in Windham County, it was about \$4.11.

DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP PHOTO

FEDERAL JUDGE DISMISSES DOJ LAWSUIT SEEKING R.I. VOTER DATA

Providence — A federal judge on Friday dismissed a Trump administration lawsuit demanding detailed voter data from Rhode Island, a decision that follows similar rulings in a handful of other states.

U.S. District Court Judge Mary McElroy sided with Rhode Island's top election officials and civil rights advocates, writing that federal law does not permit the U.S. Department of Justice "to conduct the kind of fishing expedition it seeks here."

In an emailed response, the Justice Department said it would not comment on ongoing litigation.

McElroy's decision is similar to other rejections by federal judges across country since the Justice Department began seeking detailed voter data from the states. The information includes dates of birth, addresses, driver's license numbers and partial Social Security numbers.

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