

Landmark continues to evolve

As ‘portal to the city,’ Union Station awaits Coast Guard museum opening next year

By LEE HOWARD
Business Editor

New London — Union Station was the site of a July 29 celebration that drew dozens of residents and local officials in recognizing the opening of a new historical tourism kiosk inside the Amtrak station.

The kiosk is designed to promote the “Uncovering New London: One Story at a Time” historical tour group run by Barbara Neff and Gail McDonald.

It’s the latest milestone in the evolution of Union Station, the iconic privately owned historic landmark designed by famed architect Henry Hobson Richardson and now owned by the family of longtime Coast Guard Museum Association Chairman James Coleman Jr., a New Orleans businessman who died in 2019.

The station, which Coleman purchased in 2015 for \$3 million, is currently owned by a holding company, New London RR Company.

Speakers at the July event, including McDonald, noted the history of Union Station, completed in 1887, as well



A history kiosk inside New London's Union Station is seen on Thursday.

DUNESHKA VAZQUEZ/THE DAY

as the well-known attempts to knock it down that gained approval from local business interests, city politicians and even The Day, for a time.

But the event had an even more specific historic tie-in, as efforts to

save Union Station in the 1970s culminated exactly 50 years before during the rededication of the renovated facility in a ceremony attended by Gov. Ella T. Grasso, Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. and Mayor Ruby

Turner Morris.

“The 1970s fight to save the station was a turning point,” McDonald said, “That also led to the creation of what

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‘Intimate’ bridal shop relocates to Putnam

By SARA BEDIGIAN
Day Staff Writer

Putnam — A bridal shop has traded one Main Street for another.

Bridal on Main can now be found on the second floor of the Montgomery Ward building on Main Street, having just last month moved from its former downtown Danielson location.

Owner Felicia Peach said Tuesday she was excited to be in the new spot, which trades space for intimacy and is surrounded by other boutiques and shops.

The store is filled with rows of white gowns along the walls, with lace, satin and tulle dresses hanging neatly beneath soft lighting. A dressing room sits in the corner with white soft chairs for guests in the store’s center.

“This space feels more intimate, which I feel is more us,” Peach said.

Peach, a Putnam native who now lives in Dayville, said the store, which

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Mashantucket Pequot Tribe partners with TVCCA for daycare center

By ALISON CROSS
Day Staff Writer

Mashantucket — The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation announced this week that it has selected Thames Valley Council for Community Action to run its daycare center for tribal members.

TVCCA will now manage operations at the tribe’s Child Development Center, which provides full-day, after-school and summer daycare to more than 100 Mashantucket Pequot children ranging from infants to sixth graders.

“The well-being and future of our children remain one of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation’s highest priorities,” Rodney Butler, the tribe’s chairman, said in a statement. “We were intentional in selecting a partner with a proven track record of excellence in early childhood education and a collaborative approach that aligns with our values. We are confident this partnership with TVCCA will strengthen our Child Development Center while continuing to provide the nurturing, high-quality learning environment our children and families deserve.”

The tribe said TVCCA’s wholly owned education management affiliate, TVCCA Education Solutions, will provide “operational oversight, staff leadership, curriculum development and program support.”

Tribal leaders said they will work closely with TVCCA’s early childhood

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHER MARK RUSSELL

Lisa Schultz, the new principal of Catherine Kolnaski STEAM Magnet School in Groton, is seen outside the school on Thursday.

Catherine Kolnaski STEAM Magnet School has new principal

By KIMBERLY DRELICH
Day Staff Writer

Groton — Lisa Schultz, the new principal of Catherine Kolnaski STEAM Magnet School, said her mission in life is to make school a great place for children to learn, but also to have fun while doing so.

She now hopes to bring that mission to the elementary school.

“I just believe that we have to keep learning and growing and just bring our best self to the table for kids because they deserve that,” she said.

Schultz, who recently became principal, comes to the district with a 24-year career in education, including 14 years in administration.

Schultz said when she was in high school, she played clarinet and was

interested in music and performing. When a music teacher asked her to substitute teach private music lessons while he was on summer vacation, she loved it. She realized she could pursue this for a career and spread the joy of music to kids.

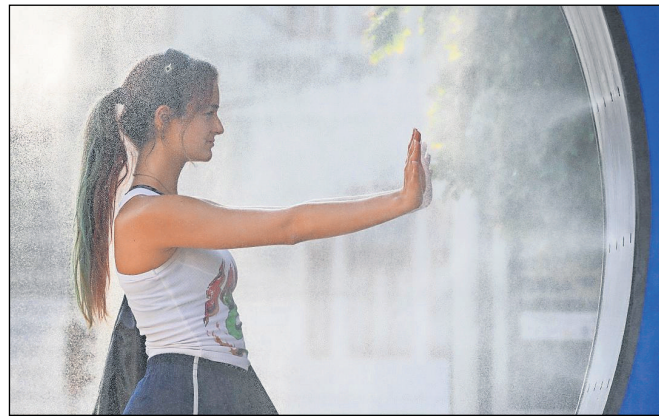
She spent the bulk of her teaching career in Johnston, R.I., where she taught music and was a choir director,

and then became an elementary school principal in Pawtucket, R.I., for five years.

For the past nine years, Schultz was assistant principal, principal, curriculum director, and then executive director of elementary education in Warwick, R.I.

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Great way to stay cool



VADIM GHIRDA/AP PHOTO

A woman pauses while she walks through a water mist machine installed by city administration to assist people in coping with the heat in Bucharest, Romania, Thursday.

CONNECTICUT’S MINIMUM WAGE TO INCREASE BY 54 CENTS IN 2027

Connecticut’s minimum hourly wage will increase from \$16.94 to \$17.48 in 2027, state officials announced Wednesday — a 3% increase that is pegged to a national index.

The new rate, which will take effect Jan. 1, will mark the latest of the annual adjustments to the state’s minimum wage that are required by legislation Gov. Ned Lamont signed in 2019. The increases in the past seven years have kept Connecticut’s minimum level among the highest in the U.S. The current rate is the second-highest statewide minimum wage in the country, after Washington’s \$17.13.

“Nobody working a full-time job should live in poverty,” Lamont said in a written statement. He added, “This is a fair, modest increase, and the money earned by workers will go right back into our own economy.”

— Journal Inquirer, Manchester

U.S. SEN. CHRIS MURPHY, CATHY HOLAHAN DIVORCE

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., and Cathy Holahan divorced in late July, nearly two years after the couple announced their separation, according to a court filing.

Holahan, an attorney, filed for divorce July 20 in Hartford District Superior Court. The divorce was granted that same day by Judge Jason Lobo.

Murphy’s office didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment. When asked on his way to a vote in the Senate whether he had a comment, Murphy said no.

Murphy and Holahan announced their separation in November 2024, less than two weeks after the Connecticut senator won a third term.

— CT Mirror

WEATHER

Today, partly sunny and very humid, chance for a shower or a thunderstorm. High 87. Saturday, partly sunny, chance for a shower or storm. High 85. **B8**

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