

The Recorder

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New Britain Residents Turn to Backyard Chickens Amid Egg Prices

By Mariangelie Montalvo Ramirez
Staff Writer

New Britain residents are raising backyard chickens to combat the recent rising egg prices caused by diseases such as COVID-19 and Bird Flu.

With the effects of COVID-19 and Bird Flu driving up costs, some New Britain residents are beginning to raise backyard chickens for affordable, fresh eggs. Residents are also significantly reducing their grocery bills and dependence on commercial egg suppliers.

New Britain resident Saratu Addy, 55, said she started raising her own chickens to prepare fresh meals for her family.

“I started with just 12 eggs from eBay, and just one egg hatched in [the] incubator,” Addy said. “[I] Bought 10 [more] chicks later from Tractor Supply, [now] I have 14”.

Addy said she decided to start a chicken coop because she wanted to prepare meals for her family. She wanted to do so while using fresh, high-quality ingredients sourced at home.

Stephanie Beam, a New Britain resident, has owned a chicken coop for over five years. She owns 10 hens and one rooster. Beam purchases her chickens as chicks from Tractor Supply in Farmington, and

See *Chicken* on Page 2

On Stage at Central: True West



Photo by Keysa Mateo

By Keysa Mateo
Staff Writer

Central’s theatre department presented “True West” in Davidson Hall’s Torp Theatre from March 26-30. The play was written in 1980 by Sam Shepard and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 and was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play in 2000. In this play, there are two brothers: Austin (Derrick Lopez), a husband and writer

who is house sitting for his mother (Katelyn Webster) while trying to write a screenplay, and Lee (Anthony Cosme), who doesn’t seem as stable as Austin, but somehow shows a storytelling talent that he might have by interrupting Austin and Hollywood producer Saul Kimmer’s (Matthew Riley) meeting. Central theatre major students performed this play and showcased their acting skills.

The stage looked very similar to the kitchen I saw in the video in class, though not identical. The style was precise, detailed and somewhat antique, matching well with its time period. The wallpaper, table, typewriter, telephone, and plants gave it a very homey look. Since I had seen a recording of a performance produced by Digital Theatre in class, it had me comparing and contrasting, and I expected it to be the same way

See *Play* on Page 5

Kristin Caruso Named Women’s Basketball Head Coach



Photo by Tyus Phengkaen

By Marcus Saunders
Sports Editor

Central Connecticut State University announced Kristin Caruso as the next head coach of the women’s basketball team on April 11, making her the seventh head coach in the history of the program.

Caruso helped lead Central to a 9-6 record as the acting head coach in the 2024-25 season. The Blue Devils finished third in the NEC with a

10-6 conference record, which was good enough to host an NEC Tournament game for the first time in 10 years. Her team was led by Belle Lanpher, who was named the NEC Player of the Year, making her the first woman to win the award in CCSU history.

This will be the third head coaching job for Caruso. Her first was at Marist College, where she spent four seasons from 1998 to 2002. Her

second stint was at Longwood University, where she spent three seasons from 2007 to 2010. She was also the associate head coach at the University of Hartford for five seasons, from 2002 to 2007. She helped the Hawks win back-to-back America East Conference Tournament championships in 2005 and 2006 and helped them win their first NCAA tournament game in program history in 2006.

See *Coach* on Page 8

About

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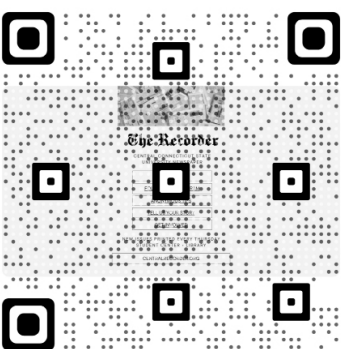
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SCAN FOR OUR LINKS



Chicken

raises them indoors until they're old enough for her outdoor coop.

Beam said her decision stemmed from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I wanted to make sure my family had eggs free from hormones, antibiotics, and other bad things," she said.

Addy said it cost her nearly \$100 to set up a chicken coop, which included a portable heating system to keep the chicks warm and enough feed for a month.

Beam says she pays about \$25 a month to feed her 10 chickens and rooster. She composts to help keep the cost of feeding them low. Beam said she only pays about \$300 a year to maintain all of her chickens.

Another New Britain resident, Emina Efendic, said that she spends around \$130 dollars to feed her 17 chickens and chicks.

Addy said that she gets almost 60 eggs in a month.

"The only downsides are outbreaks of diseases," Addy said. "Immediate isolation of the birds you realize are sick from the healthy ones and apply the appropriate medication."

During the warmer seasons, Beam said that her chickens produce one to two eggs daily. During the colder seasons, she may get zero to one egg a day. And

Efendic gets around 100 eggs a month.

"There are no downsides," Stephanie Beam, said. "I would definitely recommend a proper shelter to help maintain a clean coop, though".

The United States Department of Agriculture states that the national supply of eggs has been limited recently due to "persistent bird flu outbreaks in egg-laying chicken flocks." In Connecticut, the average price of a dozen large, grade-A eggs jumped to reached \$4.42 dollars in December 2024, compared to a large jump from \$3.79 the 3.79 dollars it was in August of the same year, . wWhich

now makes them it an expensive staple for many households.

The regulations to own chickens varies by town. Addy said that with less than 15 chickens there is no obligation to process them at town hall.

Beam also said that she did not have to go through the town to have her chickens. She said that future chicken owners should check with their towns specifically if they allow livestock.

Efendic said that she also did not need to go through the town because she did not have roosters.

According to the New Britain Municipal Code of Ordinanc-

es, there are no clear rules or regulations for maintaining chickens in one's backyard. The code does state that, "No person shall keep any animal in a place or in any manner which is detrimental to human or animal health."

The code also references New Britain's Charter in a footnote that mentions that despite the lack of regulations, the city does have the authority to regulate or prohibit poultry pens and houses to regulate the removal of deceased animals. The Code also states that families may have a Rooster only if they have more than three acres of property.

The USDA estimates

that egg prices will go up another 20% in 2025 due to inflation and the Bird Flu outbreak. As grocery store shelves reflect increased costs due to inflation, the trend of backyard poultry ownership is gaining momentum in the community.



Photo by The Hen House Collection

Have a story that needs to be told?
Tips or ledes that should be investigated?
Email us at editor@centralrecorder.org
or fill out the contact form on our website
centralrecorder.org

Book Bans Raise Concerns among Educators



Photo by Smith Collection/Getty Images

By Allyson LaBarre
Staff Writer

Books concerning sensitive issues of gender identity, sexuality, race and death are still being banned from elementary classrooms, raising concerns about student teaching.

Since 2023, about 10,000 books containing matters of death, gender identity, sexuality, race and death have been banned from elementary schools and classrooms throughout the nation. This raises concern for future teachers, as some say the books contain life lessons and spread awareness to children.

Book banning is a major conflict in schools as the censorship of these sensitive topics is controversial. Some believe book banning offers the promise of keeping our children's innocence untainted from the mature discussions of death or sexuality.

However, others point out the lack of freedom for both the teachers and the students as the ban prohibits teachers from educating their students on topics they say are important.

Book banning, censorship and restrictions are most prominent in the Southern and Midwestern states of the country, with Florida, Iowa and Texas being the top three states where book banning takes place. According to GLAAD, an LGBTQ+ media

advocacy organization, state legislators have proposed 93 anti-inclusive bills and legislation following Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law.

Unite Against Book Bans found that 47% of banned books in elementary classrooms either contain pictures alluding to characters that identify as a member of the

LGBTQ+ or BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and People of Color] communities.

According to Penn State, teaching about diversity helps children learn to celebrate and respect those who differ from them, and that lack of awareness can lead to struggles of empathy and acceptance throughout their lives.

Morgan Rentler, a soon-to-be elementary-level student teacher at Central Connecticut

State University, shares the potential challenges in dealing with book banning in the classroom.

"Book bans take away useful tools for educators to teach children about difficult topics like racism," she said. "For example, with my second graders, I am using a book about Ruby Bridges. If the district were to ban books that teach kids about racism or 'sanitize' American history, then I likely would not be allowed to use the book."

Another student teacher, Skylar Townsend, said books are an

important part of history.

"There's a lot of books on the banned book list that have very important lessons and help people feel seen, understood and related to," she said.

However, some student teachers, like Sophia Ellavsky, see the positives to forms of book banning.

"I think [book banning] is acceptable when the books are promoting hate, fear or anything inhumane or sexist," Ellavsky said.

Teachers and librarians alike have the training and knowledge to deem what books are appropriate for children to read. At CCSU, head librarian Martha Kruey explains her role as a college librarian in addressing the issue of book banning in schools.

"As a college librarian, my role is to inform the faculty members and our education department about issues regarding book bans and challenges," Kruey said. "An example of this responsibility is when the library collaborated with Dr. Turner in April 2024 to present the Pursuing the Truth in Libraries event, during which I displayed books that have been both challenged or banned across the United States. I have also been approached by members of CCSU's English department faculty to collaborate on a banned books event."

Kruey said she is a strong be-

liever in open-mindedness inside and outside the classroom.

"Understanding how inclusion and equity are impacted in any given academic subject, any given community, or mindset requires education and open communication about diverse ideas and cultures," she said. "When fear of change or differences between groups of people rise, for whatever reason, communication breaks down further alienating us from others who are different in any way. I'll add that communication is equal parts speaking and listening."

As book banning and censorship in education remain prominent in college classrooms today, it is essential to note the importance of fostering inclusive approaches to literature that include diverse and sometimes controversial viewpoints.

Dr. Kelly Jarvis, a professor at CCSU, teaches courses for Children's Literature and Young Adult Literature. In both classes she introduces upcoming student teachers to the issues of book banning in the classroom.

"I stand firmly against book banning, but when we read controversial novels and picture books in my class, I try to help my students understand why schools, governments, or parents may object to the content," Jarvis said. "Although I do not object to using controversial books with

children, I do teach my students that sometimes a subversive approach to combatting the resistance to inclusion can be useful, especially in early elementary school classrooms."

Dr. Michael Bartone, a professor in the Elementary Education Department at CCSU, incorporates court cases regarding education in his 212-level class. He said he stands against "book removals."

"If students do not have access [to inclusive books], they are cut off from understanding the world and others [and] to learn and expand one's depth of knowledge," he said. "If one is shielded, then one has a more difficult time understanding society from their limited world view, which can cause one to be more narrow-minded and less open to change and diversity."

Although many are against book banning at CCSU, the topic is common on campus. Student teachers in Connecticut face less exposure to the bans compared to other states. The importance remains the same as policies change daily.

Dorm-Friendly Recipe: Sweet and Spicy Pan-fried Meat

By Jayden Klaus
Lifestyle Editor

There are many delicious meals you can make for yourself while living in the dorms. Dinner won't be an issue with this easy meat dish. And it lends itself well to variation when making it, allowing you to pick your preferred protein while still enjoying the same savory-sweet sauce.

Ingredients:

- About 1lb of either boneless pork chops, boneless chicken tenders or beef round
- Fresh chives
- 1/3 cup of soy sauce
- 1/8 cup of sugar or honey
- 2 teaspoons of garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon of paprika
- Small amount of olive oil or butter (enough to coat bottom of a frying pan)
- Salt (to taste)
- Pepper (to taste)

Directions:

1. Cut meat of choice into 1-inch chunks. Coat with pepper and salt.
2. Heat oil or butter in a medium frying pan on medium heat on a stovetop. Once sufficiently heated, carefully add meat to pan. Wash chives and break into small pieces before adding to pan.



Photo by Jayden Klaus

Serve over a bed of rice (optional).

Enjoy!

Book Review: 'The Locked Tomb'

By Jayden Klaus
Lifestyle Editor

Of the many book series that I have read over the past several years, few have captured my attention the way "The Locked Tomb" series has. Written by New Zealand Author Tamsyn Muir, the series takes place in a sci-fi fantasy world populated by necromancers and their sword-wielding cavaliers. It's wacky and absurd, yet tragic and thought-provoking. There are currently three books in the series, with a fourth upcoming novel. Starting off with "Gideon the Ninth" and followed by "Harrow the Ninth" and "Nona the Ninth," each book follows its titular character as they try to navigate their life and circumstances in the Nine

Houses Empire. With each book, the universe grows and so do its mysteries. There are many interesting aspects to the story and that makes me all the more excited for whatever will come in the final book, "Alecto the Ninth." The so-called Alectopause can't end soon enough.

"The Locked Tomb" is unabashedly queer, with the dramatic, homoerotic situation between Gideon and Harrowhark at the heart of everything. The popular tagline for the series, credited to Charles Stross, is "lesbian necromancers" and while that aspect may be true, there is so much more to how "The Locked Tomb" series employs LGBTQ themes. From sexuality and gender to the various

kinds of relationships that exist, the books challenge the way we think about love and what it does to us. Love is a great, horrible thing that motivates characters to do wild, awful things, and the ways it goes badly for them is incredibly compelling to see play out.

Muir's witty and irreverent tone, paired with lush, elegant prose is very engaging and fun to read. The plot can be a bit dense and difficult to parse at times, especially with "Harrow the Ninth" being deliberately confusing for most of it, but that shouldn't put you off from continuing to explore this world. There is amazing depth and so much consideration put into every aspect of the world that creates room for analysis from any angle. In a

See *Book* on Page 5

APRIL Campus Events

**AcaBellas Spring
Concert, Apr. 23, 7:30 pm
Torp Theatre**

**Spring Concert 2025: Slizzy
SpringFest feat. Cash Cobain,
Apr. 25, 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Welte Auditorium**

**ASO Annual Fashion Show,
April. 26, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Welte Auditorium**

Book

-time of many recent popular books having flat and poorly thought-out worldbuilding, “The Locked Tomb” series’ is so enjoyable to read and think about.

Something important to note is the Christian vibes of the world, which are completely intentional. Several aspects of the series heavily reflect and parallel events from the Bible and specifically the Catholic doctrine. The Emperor of this world is literally called God and worshipped as such. While it may be a bit confusing to initially see, Muir uses this theming to offer a deconstruction of religion and create an even more interesting world. While it is so far removed from our own, it retains a familiarity that can help the reader to understand the story and theorize

more about what the books are doing and where things will be heading next.

I would recommend reading a physical copy or an e-book of the series, but you definitely shouldn’t overlook the audiobooks. The narrator, Moira Quirk, does an extremely good job at making the characters feel emotional and real, giving them distinct voices and extra personality that makes the series even more endearing and gut-wrenching.

“The Locked Tomb” is a standout series with a thriving fanbase of people all in the same boat of agonizing love. This series does hurt to read, but it’s a good kind of hurt. I’ve only had a few books hold me in such a chokehold and make me crave for more. It’s a delight to read and absolutely worth checking out.



Photo by Jayden Klaus



Photo by Keysa Mateo



Photo by Keysa Mateo

Play

or similar, especially when it came to the acting part.

In the Central production, the actors appear younger, which is understandable since they are students. At the beginning, I can see the effort put in by the actors on stage, maybe trying too hard at the beginning for Lee. Lee didn’t seem to convince me as much as the actor in the video I saw in class, but as the play progressed, he did a terrific job. The same goes for Austin. Austin’s outfit at the beginning of the play differed slightly from the ones in the video with Lopez dressed more preppy.

The part where Lee is hitting the typewriter seems incredibly realistic, thanks to Cosme’s acting, attitude and tone. In some ways, it gave me the same attitude that Lee showed in the

video. Although Lee’s shirt did not look dirty at first, it became so afterward, which added to the effect. His violence in the play seemed very realistic, as was when Austin fell off the stool.

When Saul Kimmer arrives, his hair, clothing style and manner of speaking maintain a well-scripted version of Saul, despite being younger. When Lee barges in with a television, the fact that the television was an antique from that time was an exquisite detail.

In one of the scenes, as you hear the crickets or dogs barking outside, it was very intriguing, and when Austin was typing while Lee spoke, the light dimmed, slowly turning down, which went very well with the moment.

Austin’s actions became very erratic when he wasn’t happy about Lee taking over his script. He ends up drunk and comes in with a bunch of toasters that he

had stolen. Lopez’s outstanding acting showed as Austin when he expressed his feelings while lying on the ground and singing while intoxicated. Additionally, the scene where Lee breaks the phone provided the audience with some realistic action, and the smell of bread from all the slices Austin put in the toaster was incredible. I could sense a genuine story unfolding in this play.

As they both sat on the floor, talking to each other and drinking, it seemed like a genuine conversation that brothers would have in real life after a disagreement, and then they ended up working things out, despite their differences.

Although the audience might seem confused at times, whether it’s daytime or nighttime, the performance effectively overcame this confusion. At first, I thought about how they would make

this scene into a disaster; it all looks so lovely, but they did very well in making it a mess. It was funny and very well acted when Austin picked up the toast from the floor and gave it to Lee after it had fallen.

When the mom comes home unexpectedly her outfit and luggage were on point, and her reaction and manner of speaking are very similar to the mom in the video we saw in class, with slight differences. She performed very well overall, and even though she seemed concerned about the brothers, she maintained a calm demeanor, although she still showed a reaction to what was happening in front of her. She could have shown a little more reaction or attitude, but overall, she did very well. She managed well to speak like an older woman, although she is very young.

Excellent acting skills from the boys were once again evident

during their altercation at the end. They presented it all in a way that didn’t look fake at all. The actors in this play knew they were acting upon a Broadway debut play and had to give it their all to maintain the excellence of “True West,” and with those familiar with it. And so did the people who set up the stage and everyone in the team who made this play happen. It is fair to say that they did not disappoint. The reputation this popular play has and can continue to maintain the good reputation it has had all these years through the actors in this play.

Wellness Spaces on Campus

By Jayden Klaus
Lifestyle Editor

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Photo by @ccsu_wellness

From Florence to New Britain: South Carolina at the heart of CCSU



Jordan Jones against Fairfield on Dec. 18, 2024.

Photo by Steve McLaughlin

By Marcus Saunders Sports Editor

Although Jordan Jones and Patrick Sellers hail from the same area of South Carolina, it wasn't until a few years ago that their basketball journeys crossed paths – in New Britain.

Sellers, the head coach of the Central Connecticut State University men's basketball team, and Jones, a senior guard for the Blue Devils, are both from Florence, South Carolina. Jones transferred to Central in 2023, and Sellers was named the head coach in 2021.

Sellers comes from a large family. Although he was born in South Carolina, much of his family lived in New York City, where he often spent his summers. He said this gave him the best of both worlds—experiencing a slower-paced lifestyle during the school year and a fast-paced one in the summer.

Sellers played for the Blue Devils from 1987 to 1991 and was named East Coast Conference Defensive Player of the

Year in his final season. After earning a degree in accounting from Central, he returned to the Blue Devils in 1999 as an assistant coach, helping the team win Northeast Conference regular-season and tournament championships in 2000 and 2002.

In the four years since being named head coach at Central, Sellers has already made a significant impact on the program, improving the team's record each season. In 2022, he guided the Blue Devils to their first postseason win since 2011, led CCSU to an NEC regular-season co-championship in 2024 and led Central to a regular-season championship and an NEC Championship game appearance in 2025. He was also named the Jim Phelan NEC Coach of the Year in 2024 and 2025.

For Sellers, it's been a full-circle moment—not only leading the team he once played for but also coaching one of its most important players who hails from the same hometown.

Growing up in the South,

Jones said that Connecticut was a far cry from what he was used to—whether it was the fast-paced lifestyle, the never-ending traffic, or, most importantly, the greater sports media coverage. He noted that this lack of exposure means that many talented basketball players in South Carolina go under the radar and must work harder to be recognized.

“You have to get everything out the mud down there,” he said.

Jones has been playing basketball his whole life, a passion heavily influenced by his parents, who even named him after one of the NBA's all-time greats.

“My parents named me Jordan after Michael Jordan,” he said. “They always had this dream for me to play ball.”

Jones started his high school career at South Florence High School before eventually transferring to Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate, a private school in Darlington, South Carolina. There, he played against future NBA stars Ja Morant and Zion Williamson.

Jones had visits and work-

outs scheduled with Division I schools during his senior year, but they were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, he committed to Coker University, a Division II school in Hartsville, South Carolina. Over three seasons, Jones played in 64 career games for the Cobras, starting 48 of them, and averaged 10.1 points and 4.2 assists per game before entering the transfer portal.

Sellers was familiar with Coker University, and when he saw that Jones, a Florence native, had entered the transfer portal, he knew that he had to act quickly in recruiting him. Sellers called his best friend from high school, Larry Johnson, to see if he knew anyone connected to Jones. Johnson then provided him with Jones' father's phone number. Once he reached out to Jones' father, Sellers said that they felt an instant connection.

Jones said what made Sellers such an appealing coach to play for was that he never made any promises from the start. He

also noted that Sellers building a strong relationship with his parents was an important factor in his decision.

Sellers said that when he watched Jones on film, his quickness and athleticism stood out, and he knew those qualities could fit into his system. He was also impressed by Jones' stats at Coker, where in his final season, he averaged 15.6 points and 6.5 assists while shooting 48.2 percent from the field.

Sellers attributed Jones' successful transition from Division II to Division I basketball to the college experience he gained at Coker. He added why that experience was so important.

“Those guys have been coached for three, four years, and that's what Jordan was,” Sellers said. “You're not getting a high school senior; you're getting a grown man, so to speak.”

In Jones' first year at CCSU, he averaged 13.1 points, 3.6 assists and 3.5 rebounds per game. He was named to the All-Northeast Conference Second Team and





Photo by Tyus Phengkaen



Photo by Tyus Phengkaen

Coach

Caruso played basketball at UConn from 1986 to 1990 under the legendary head coach Geno Auriemma. During her time, she averaged 11.3 points, 5.1 rebounds and 2.7 assists per game in 110 games. She made the Big East All-Freshman team and was named Big East Rookie of the Year in the 1986-87 season, made All-Big East second team in the 1988-89 season and made All-Big East third team in the 1989-1990 season.

The 2025-26 season marks the 40th season that the women's basketball team will participate as a Division I program and will be the team's 55th overall season. The Blue

Devils shared a regular season title with Bryant in the 2014-15 season and are still looking for a Conference Tournament Championship and an NCAA Tournament appearance. Central will look to build on their previous season, but different players will have to step up for Caruso in her first season as the head coach, with reigning NEC Player of the Year Belle Lanpher graduating.



Photo by Tyus Phengkaen



CCSU SCHEDULE

Softball

April 18 – vs. Stonehill at 1 PM
 April 18 – vs. Stonehill at 3 PM
 April 19 – vs. Stonehill at 12 PM
 April 23 – vs. Brown at 2 PM
 April 23 – vs. Brown at 4 PM
 April 26 – @ LIU at 1 PM
 April 26 – @ LIU at 3 PM
 April 27 – @ LIU at 12 PM

Baseball

April 18 – vs. Quinnipiac at 2 PM
 April 19 – @ Quinnipiac at 1 PM
 April 22 – vs. Stony Brook at 3 PM
 April 25 – vs. Norfolk State at 3 PM
 April 26 – vs. Norfolk State at 1 PM
 April 27 – vs. Norfolk State at 12 PM
 April 30 – vs. Yale at 3 PM

Men's Track

April 18 – UConn Invitational (All Day)
 April 19 – UConn Invitational (All Day)
 April 24 – Penn Relays (All Day)
 April 25 – CCSU Blue Devil Invitational (All Day)

Women's Track

April 18 – UConn Invitational (All Day)
 April 19 – UConn Invitational (All Day)
 April 24 – Penn Relays (All Day)
 April 25 – CCSU Blue Devil Invitational (All Day)

Women's Lacrosse

April 19 – @ Mercyhurst at 1 PM
 April 26 – @ FDU at 12 PM