

# THE RECORDER

VOLUME 118 | ISSUE 13

## Vigil And Rally Held For Transgender Lives



Freshman Adam Gwara puts a candle down at the Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil in the Student Center Circle.

KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF



Pride President Armando Osorio speaks at the Transgender Day of Remembrance rally.

KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

It may have been nighttime, but Nov. 20's Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil was about stepping out of darkness.

"While there are so many candles, they have millions of people who support them. We have never met any of these people, but we are crying and mourning their deaths," Central Connecticut Pride President Armando

Student Center Circle.

Volunteers read off the names and causes of death of transgender individuals killed in anti-transgender violence, placing a candle for each one. CCSU's all-male acapella group Divisi performed as well.

By the end of the vigil, the circle was illuminated, but not big enough to hold a candle for each one of the 369 people killed between Oct. 2017 and Sept. 2018, according to the Trans Respect Versus Transphobia

Osorio said at the vigil at the

project's November report. At least 22 of those murdered were in the United States, with most transgender women of color, according to the Human Rights Campaign. The numbers may be larger, as the HRC suspects the number of deaths is largely underreported.

"It's horrifying that this happen. So many trans individuals live in fear and it's a fear that people don't always understand because many are afraid of trans people themselves," Osorio said. "Through vigils like this, we're showing the vulnerability of the trans

CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

### FOOTBALL



Jacob Dolegala (above) ended his CCSU career with the most passing yards and touchdowns in school history.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

## Dolegala Leaves CCSU As A Champion, Record Holder

BY DANIEL FAPPIANO  
LAYOUT EDITOR

When quarterback Jacob Dolegala made his first career start for Central Connecticut, the true freshman threw for just 93 yards in a 38-9 loss. Fast forward four years, 8,129 passing yards, 48 passing touchdowns and one Northeast Conference Championship later, Dolegala has cemented his place in the school's history.

As Dolegala's college career ends, he leaves Central holding numerous school

and conference records. He now holds the record for most passing yards and passing touchdowns in school history. He is also just the fifth player in NEC history to pass for more than 8,000 yards.

Despite ending his career with a loss to Duquesne, Dolegala says he has no regrets.

"I've been through a lot on this field," Dolegala said, "I'm going to cherish every memory I've had here, it was a great four years and I wouldn't have

CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

### LOCAL

## New Britain Schools Implement Gun Safety Measures

BY ANGELA FORTUNA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

While towns allow teachers to carry guns in the classroom, the Consolidated School District of New Britain (CSDNB), Connecticut is taking extra precautions to make schools a safer environment without the use of weapons.

Twenty-six years ago, Paula Cormier, then a teacher at Northend School in New Britain, was more scared for the safety of herself and her students than she is today.

"At the beginning of my very first year teaching, there was a shooting at New Britain High School," Cormier said. "I was working at Northend School, which is about a mile from the high school. As a brand new teacher, I was worried about safety. I cannot recall a time since then when I have been worried about safety."

Cormier, who now works at Jefferson School in New Britain teaching K-5 project-based learning classes, feels confident in the safety measures taken as the CSDNB.

"I believe New Britain's safety precautions are ahead of other districts.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

### COMMUNITY

## CCSU And DACA Recipient Fight Against Immigration Policies

BY SARAH WILLSON  
MANAGING EDITOR

When Jose Diaz came to the United States with his family for the first time at the age of 10, Deferred Action for

Childhood Arrivals had not even been created yet. Now, 16 years later, he's fearing the immigration policy could uproot his entire life.

The Barack Obama-implemented policy, which came to light in

2012, allows children who came to the U.S. with their parents to apply for two-year renewable periods of stay without facing the fears of deportation. For two years, President Donald Trump has threatened to

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

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# Having A Hedgehog 'Reset Button'



Hedgehog Ozzy is SGA Treasurer Kristina DeVivo's emotional support animal.

KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

Central Connecticut student Kristina DeVivo's panic attacks began after a concussion during a flag football game. Since early into her sophomore year, the junior will sometimes wake up in the middle of the night in a sweat and her body aching all over and "freaking out," feeling like she's "going to die."

"It feels like I'm under attack, like something is hurting me," DeVivo explained. "I am full tunnel-vision. When you're in that tunnel, you think that there's no way out and you think that this is the end. That's what's terrifying and it's a hard thing to get over."

For a while, finding an effective way to manage the attacks, which happened out-of-the-blue for no reason, seemed almost impossible. DeVivo's therapist prescribed her medication that she said didn't work, and neither did things like taking walks or drinking water. The attacks began interfering with her school life, preventing her from functioning well in class or making it through Student Government Association meetings. Though she received support from family and friends,

the attacks were taking their toll mentally.

"I felt so lonely like nothing could take me out. It's the loneliest place I've ever been in in my life," DeVivo said. "It's still scary every time, but when I know that Ozzy is [here], it's so helpful."

Hedgehog Ozzy—named after Ozzy Osbourne because he's "goth" with his dark quills and snout—is DeVivo's emotional support animal. He lives in a cage in the corner of her dorm's living room, fitted with a wheel and a cup that he "loves to put his entire body face-forward [into] and just sit in for hours."

For DeVivo, Ozzy is her "reset button," as she describes him. She'll go to him during her attacks and let him run around and over her. He'll allow her to touch his quills and enjoys settling onto her shoulder "like a bird." Because he's nocturnal, Ozzy is always there for DeVivo in the night, and the sensory touch element brings her out of the tunnel.

"He takes my mind off what's going on with my body. It slows down, I'm able to relax and I can breathe. He takes me out of that tunnel vision. Reset," DeVivo said. She added that Ozzy's presence alone and watching him do "crazy" things like rearranging

his entire cage brings her comfort.

Without Ozzy, DeVivo believes she wouldn't be able to live on-campus, let alone finish school or go about her daily life. It's why getting him approved to be in her dorm through CCSU's Student Disability Services (SDS) had been so important.

"An emotional support animal is one that would be an accommodation provided under [the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)]. It's treated as any other accommodation," SDS Director Joanna Milke stated.

Housing providers must offer people with disabilities a "reasonable accommodation" for emotional support animals under both the Fair Housing Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, according to a 2013 notice by HUD.

The law includes dorms, which are considered dwellings "associated with a university or other place of education." Animals cannot be denied based on breed, size or weight, but can be refused residence if they're deemed a threat through "objective evidence about the specific animal's actual conduct," the notice says.

Additionally, the Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA) considers colleges and universities as places of public accommodation and covers "housing at a place of education," according to the Department of Justice. This means that service, therapy and emotional support animals are acceptable accommodations for students.

A CCSU student seeking an on-campus emotional support animal must provide medical documentation and fill out self-report forms to determine that the need is there.

"This is not a pet. This is part of a therapeutic plan for somebody with a therapeutic need determined by a therapist, psychologist or psychotherapist," Milke emphasized.

Additionally, the SDS takes into consideration whether the emotional support animal will be a disturbance to roommates and the campus, as they are not required by law to have the same training as a service animal must undergo.

The plan to care for the animal, including food and waste, is also looked at. Moreover, as the animal is under HUD's jurisdiction, it cannot leave its owner's dorm like a service animal would be able to.

Obtaining authorization for Ozzy was easy, DeVivo said, because her therapist was quick in compiling the necessary documentation. It's been life-changing. DeVivo is now a double major, the SGA's treasurer and heavily involved on campus. With eyes on her, she hopes that others in similar positions like her will see that there's a way out.

"If I tell my story, it'll make at least one more person feel more comfortable about what they're going through to see someone like me who's in the limelight all the time," she said.

## SGA Briefs

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Student Government Association meets every Wednesday at 3:05 p.m. in Bellin A and B in the Student Center. These briefs are from the SGA's meeting on Nov. 14. There was no meeting Nov. 21 on account of Thanksgiving break.

- The Academic Affairs Committee will be following a previously-failed proposition in the Faculty Senate to make CALC 2 a prerequisite to University Physics, with Chair Johanna Zukowski saying the requirement will put students in a "difficult" position.
- The Student Life Committee will bring all "Competition for a Cause" donations to Maria's Place.
- The SGA's retreat is planned for Jan. 4 to 6.

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# Disability Discussion Experiences Low Turnout

BY JOSHUA ROSARIO  
STAFF WRITER

Barely anyone decided to show up as Director of Student Disability Services Joanne Milke began talking about the benefits of professors integrating the guidelines for Universal Design for Learning (UDL) into their classrooms.

Rocio Fuentes, a Spanish professor, and Elena Koulidobrova, a professor of linguistics, were the only two individuals in attendance of the demonstration. With the incredibly low turnout, the discussion was planned to be canceled, but then instead transitioned into a formal conversation.

Milke began talking about how 405 students with various disabilities and needs were registered with Student Disability Services. Milke also stated that, even though students are not required to register, accommodations are usually made for those who need them.

Milke also recommended that when professors have students who have not disclosed what their disabilities are,

they should not ask what they have and instead ask if that specific student has received services in the past. In the event the student discloses what they have, then it would be best for the professor to then refer them to the SDS office, Milke stated.

"We don't provide accommodations for English as a second language, but it would be nice to consider," Milke stated.

Professors could do more to help students with disabilities, Milke stressed, such as by being more willing to allow certain students to record classes or to allow the integration of Blackboard Ally, a program which helps students who are unable to see images by providing a description of the image; it works for PDFs as well.

Another point that Milke brought up was that "teachers should understand that some students will have trouble advocating for themselves." Possible methods of helping students were discussed, such as allowing students to request PowerPoint slides from teachers, though Milke understood that some would be



Only two professors showed up to last week's Universal Design for Learning discussion.

JOSHUA ROSARIO | STAFF

unwilling to do so.

Milke thanked the two professors who came and encouraged them to, in

the event another meeting was held, come in and discuss further integrating UDL into classrooms.

## CCSU And DACA Recipient Fight Against Immigration Policies

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

abolish it.

"Suddenly, 2016 came along, and that was the year where it was either [Trump] being elected or [Hillary Clinton] being elected," Diaz, a 2017 Central Connecticut graduate said in reference to the last presidential election. "I knew I didn't want [Trump] because [he is] obviously talking bad about immigrants and taking away DACA and work permits for students."

For Diaz, the idea that Trump could win the presidency was almost too much at times. The then 24-year-old said that, despite his protected status, he was living in constant fear.

"It started taking a bit of a toll on me," Diaz said. "I remember that fall of the elections. I was not doing good in school. That's when it all started. I had anxiety, [I was] not feeling good, not sleeping well, not eating healthy, not eating at all. At that point, I didn't know what was going [to happen]."

Because of the terror Diaz said he lives in, he made it his mission to stand up and fight for what he believes in, starting on the CCSU campus.

"After the election happened, the very next day, that was the first time I organized a rally here at CCSU. I was able to contact presidents from the other organizations and clubs on campus," he said. "We marched all across CCSU. It was very successful, and a lot of people had my back and listened to me."

Diaz, however, was not alone in fighting against Trump's immigration policies.

Alongside Diaz and other allies, CCSU student and former C.H.A.N.G.E. club president Victor Constanza began not only organizing rallies on-campus, but going beyond the borders of Central to fight for undocumented families facing deportation.

"C.H.A.N.G.E. itself had a giant rally a year ago in the Student Center Circle for two students. It was about DACA because it was actually being canceled [at the time]," Constanza said. "That sprung [multiple] immigration rallies

and helped us make people aware of what the problem was."

According to Constanza, one of the best things a community can do is rally around those facing deportation, which is why he aimed to organize so many.

But for Constanza, his work did not stop at CCSU students, as he began helping Malik Naveed bin Rehman and his family—Pakistan natives who are now seeking sanctuary in a church—fight to stay in New Britain.

"We wanted to create pressure and unity and show ICE [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement] that this family is here to stay," Constanza continued. "We're united and we want them to be here."

Aside from the rallies Constanza helped orchestrate, he also worked alongside the city of New Britain in hopes to better its immigration policies, specifically for Rehman and his family.

Collaborating with U.S. Representative Elizabeth Esty and Senator Richard Blumenthal, Constanza worked to create a resolution that would allow the family to stay.

"The aim was to have them pass it to show that the whole city wanted [the family] and then we would have a whole letter signed by the Aldermen to give to ICE as well," Constanza said.

Despite this, the family was set to be deported a week after the Board of Immigration Appeals (BA) reviewed their case. According to both Constanza and Diaz, this is not an unusual situation. The family, however, was granted a stay by ICE earlier in the month of October.

"Let's say you have a deportation date, [the BA] might not give you an answer [on your status] probably until like a week after you leave," Constanza said.

Diaz, who recently submitted his DACA status for renewal, knows this better than anyone.

"[Your status] might expire before you get the new one because it takes that long," Diaz stated. "The whole process varies between six weeks to four months if you're lucky. For others, it takes about

six months."

When it comes to the BA's decision on whether or not to grant a DACA recipient stay for another two years, Diaz said something as minor as a traffic ticket could cause the board to reject someone's status.

"If they do find something in the background check, as minor as it is, they will use it as an excuse," Diaz said. "[Even a] speeding ticket, any type of ticket could be a reason to not accept it. It's to their discretion."

And as long as Diaz wishes to stay in the U.S., he will have to continue renewing his DACA status every two years as there is currently no path to citizenship for dreamers.

"We cannot get a visa, we cannot apply for citizenship, we can not get any other type of status," Diaz said. "That's the way they designed it."

Had it not been for the support of the CCSU students around him, Diaz said that he may have never felt as safe and protected as he does at CCSU.

"I realized that if I were in another campus, I don't know what would have happened," he said. "But I saw that as a start of the things CCSU could do to support students like myself."

Diaz credits his safety to CCSU President Dr. Zulma Toro and what he said is her willingness to fight for undocumented students on-campus.

"From the conversations I've had with President Toro, she's said that if an ICE agent came to the CCSU campus and tried to detain someone on campus, they would not be allowed to unless they first spoke with her," Diaz stated. "That's something that gives me some hope because it's not like I'll be walking on campus and something will happen."

Since taking over as CCSU's president, Dr. Toro, who hails from Puerto Rico, has let it be known to all students that DACA students have her full support.

In the past, she's stated that the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system has a protocol to use in handling all ICE-related issues.

"I realize the uncertainty at the federal level is extremely distressing to them," Dr. Toro said. "I hope our DACA [students] find some comfort in knowing that CCSU police will not inquire about a person's immigration status or detain them based on an ICE agent's request."

Dr. Toro also said that her office handles all ICE agent requests and inquiries in consultation with University Counsel, adding that students, faculty and staff have been instructed to report any ICE agent activity on-campus to her office immediately.

In order for Dr. Toro to continue that support, Constanza and Diaz said that both the city of New Britain and CCSU should aim to become a "sanctuary city" and a "sanctuary campus," an idea that calls for limited cooperation with federal immigration enforcement agents.

"New Britain can definitely become a sanctuary city," Diaz said. "It doesn't even have to be called that, but they can put some things in place to help become that."

Constanza is also a strong advocate for this idea, saying that it would help both CCSU students and New Britain residents feel safer.

"We've tried to push that Central was an actual sanctuary campus," Constanza continued. "[But] if Central does declare itself a sanctuary campus, [the university fears it] would lose funding."

When asked about making Central a sanctuary campus, Dr. Toro said that as a state university, she does not have the authority to declare "sanctuary" status. However, the campus is considered but a "sensitive location."

More than anything, Diaz said that he just wants people to understand that he and other DACA recipients are no different from U.S. citizens.

"We are students as well, just like everyone else. Just human beings overall," he said. "It would be good to talk to someone who is a DACA recipient to find out more about their story. You might relate to them more than you think."

# New Britain Schools Implement Gun Safety Measures

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

Safety is a huge priority in our district and has been for decades," Cormier said.

Across the country, more and more tragedies continue to take place without warning or necessary preparation, killing hundreds of innocent people caught in the crossfire. As a result, Newcomerstown, Ohio and Harrold, Texas have begun allowing teachers to carry guns in the classroom.

The number of total mass shootings in the United States varies depending on one's definition of it. According to an analysis conducted by The Washington Post updated on Oct. 30, roughly 1,125 people have died in major shootings, with many more injured, since 1966 based on their definition of a mass shooting, in which at least four people are killed. This year alone, 45 deaths have resulted from mass shootings.

One of the deadliest major mass shootings occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012, where 27 people were killed—20 children, six adults and the shooter. This incident took place just 40 minutes West of New Britain.

Incidents like school shootings are hard to prepare for, as it is nearly impossible to tell where or when the next one will take place. However, some school districts, such as the CSDNB, are taking steps to ensure students and faculty are prepared in the case of an emergency.

"Knowledge and skill create safer environments for everyone. Our goal is to provide the safest environment possible for all of our staff and students. We will continuously review our safety procedures and continue with proactive social-emotional supports for all of our students," Nancy Sarra, superintendent of the Consolidated School District of New Britain, said in a written statement.

The CSDNB has a few existing safety measures in place and has presented some additional initiatives within the past few months.

Some of the existing safety measures in the CSDNB, presented by Matthew Cannata,

communications manager for the Office of the Superintendent, include: Campus safety officers and administration investigating all internal cases at the secondary level; students and staff practicing lockdown and fire drills dependent on the circumstances; the use of operational, expanding security cameras and alarm systems; visitor logs and Raptor ID scan technology, used to flag unsafe visitors and registered sex offenders, utilization in all buildings.

The district is constantly evaluating its safety measures, according to Cannata.

"Over the past year, we have held meetings specifically aimed at assessing current safety practices and determining what additional measures need to be in place in the event of a violent school incident," Cannata said.

Cormier believes the CSDNB has enforced safety measures for a longer period of time than other schools in the area to be prepared in the case of an emergency.

"Safety measures have definitely increased over the past several years," Cormier said. "However, New Britain instituted safety measures before the start of school shootings. Our buildings have been secured with increased safety measures for well over 15 years."

Initiatives introduced to the CSDNB in the past few months include: Staff receiving comprehensive critical/violent incident training which will continue over the next few months; a mass text message service launched in March 2018, allowing parents and staff to opt in and receive notifications straight to their phones; and an anonymous online portal developed as a way for families, students and staff to communicate suspicious activity. The portal is available at [www.csdnb.org](http://www.csdnb.org).

As a part of these new measures, all teachers were required to take the Active Shooter Response Training (ALICE) in New Britain.

ALICE aims for every school to include courses of action that will describe how students and staff can respond



New Britain High School was put on lockdown earlier this month.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

in the event of an active shooter's presence in the most effective way to minimize the amount of lives lost. Teachers and administrators have the responsibility of anticipating potential dangers and taking precautions to protect their students from these dangers, according to the training's website.

"In response to the increase in school violence nationwide, we have increased our vigilance in our schools and have established a staff critical/violence incident training for all CSDNB staff. We continue to work closely with the New Britain Police Department to ensure continuity in safety measures and protocols between the schools and the police department," Sarra said.

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recently announced a plan to use federal grant money to arm teachers. However, she agrees that it should be up to individual states to decide whether its teachers should be armed or not. Some Connecticut senators have openly expressed their concerns with DeVos' plan and are trying to counteract her plan with an amendment that would prevent her from using any federal funds to arm teachers, according to FOX 61.

Cormier believes keeping guns out of public schools is the best option.

"It would be totally unrealistic for a teacher to carry a gun on his [or] her person," Cormier said. "I believe teachers with weapons creates a climate of fear. I am a Republican who is fiscally conservative and socially moderate, and would feel less safe with teachers carrying guns."

Cormier says this is particularly crucial in New Britain.

"I do not think New Britain would consider allowing teachers to have guns. Many of our students have experienced some sort of trauma in their lives, be it abuse, neglect, witnessing violence, having parents who are incarcerated, living in poverty, etc," she said. "School is their safe place. I have felt safe in all three of the New Britain schools where I have taught [Northend, Lincoln and Jefferson]. Teachers with guns would make me uncomfortable."

Other towns and cities across the U.S. do allow teachers to carry guns in the classroom. In parts of Ohio, including Newcomerstown, teachers are turning to the nonprofit organization Faster Saves Lives. The nonprofit has taught more than 1,300 willing school staff members how to properly use firearms. Classes are provided to school districts at no cost.

Harrold, Texas, is another school district that allows

teachers to carry concealed guns as "the last line of defense in the event of a shooting on campus," CNN reported. Salt Lake City is another example of a city with teachers who wish to be armed, hoping to prevent further mass casualties.

Similar sentiments have been brought up in Kent, Connecticut, however discussions have been tabled after the idea came to the surface in 2016.

Not all teachers and school districts will agree on whether a teacher should be allowed to conceal a gun in the classroom. However, the likelihood of arming teachers in the CSDNB is slim to none, according to Cormier.

In 2011-12, roughly 76 percent of public school teachers were female, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. This statistic, Cormier says, makes her even more uncomfortable about allowing teachers to conceal guns in the classroom.

"The majority of teachers are female. How could they possibly carry a gun?" she said. "If they chose to conceal carry in a purse, it would be very challenging to secure the gun."

"I think it would be easier for male teachers to conceal a weapon," Cormier continued. "In my building, most teachers do not even have a place to lock their purse."

## What's New, CCSU?

BY SARAH WILLSON  
MANAGING EDITOR

- The English Department will host a "Latinx Fall Film Series" in the Blue and White Room of the Student Center on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m.
- Chromachord's concert for the Fall of 2018 semester will take place on Thursday, Nov. 29 in Torp Theater in Davidson Hall starting at 4:30 p.m.
- The Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society Induction Ceremony is on Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. in Founders Hall.
- "Devils Den @ 10 p.m." is hosting "A Night in Africa" on Nov. 29.
- The Women's and LGBT plus Center will host Aids Awareness on Friday, Nov 30 at 11 a.m. in the Student Center Lobby.
- The Pride Drag Ball is happening on Nov. 30 at 9 p.m. in Semesters in Devil's Den.
- A 12-hour dance marathon to raise money for Children's Miracle Hospital is happening on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. in Alumni Hall in the Student Center. Booths, activities and food will be available.
- The "Brothers of Divisi" will perform songs by Jon Bellion, Hozier, Imagine Dragons and more on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Torp Theater.

# FBI Agent Shares Her Story At Central



FBI Specialist JoAnn Benson speaks to Central students about her career.

**KELLY LANGEVIN | STAFF**

**BY KELLY LANGEVIN**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Now fell in front of JoAnn Benson's eyes as she sat in her car outside the courthouse when the call she'd been waiting for suddenly came.

"I picked it up and I hear, 'Hi JoAnn, this is Mary Jane Soles from the [Federal Bureau of Investigation] in D.C. and we would like to know if you would like to pursue a career in the FBI and begin your background investigation,'" Benson recalled. "Right then in that one hour,

everything had changed for me."

Now a training specialist at the New Haven Field Office of the FBI, Benson shared her experience at Central Connecticut and what a career in the FBI entails.

Benson never imagined being in the FBI. In college, she got a degree in business and later focused on accounting. After Benson met up with a friend at lunch who convinced her to apply for the FBI despite her lack of military background, her life completely changed.

"Who thinks that they want to join

the FBI?" Benson asked the room full of Central students. Hands rose and heads bobbed up and down. As arms lowered, Benson leaped into what the students were mainly interested in.

"What degree should you pursue if you want to join FBI?" Benson questioned. The answer to that, she said, is simply to do "what you love doing." The reason is getting into the FBI is extremely difficult, having to fill out intense applications and go through multiple background checks and interviews.

Benson's first job was a financial operations specialist and she soon moved up with her skills and dedication.

"I worked directly with the agents. Bad guys have a lot of money and they try to do everything to continue their life of crime, so we have to have just as much money to catch them. We would use the money to pay sources for information. If it was a drug case, we would have sources purchase them, things of that nature," Benson stated.

Students' arms rose up for their interest in the FBI earlier stayed focused on Benson as she spoke about her career in the field. Some were eager to know what they had to do to get accepted and what their future may look like down the road.

Minimum qualifications for the application process include being a U.S. citizen, being able to obtain a Top-Secret Clearance and processing a valid driver's license.

Some automatic disqualifications include non-U.S. citizenship, conviction of a felony, failure of an FBI-administered

urinalysis drug test and failure to file federal, state or local income tax returns.

There are 56 field offices located around the U.S. Even a smaller office like New Haven is always in direct contact with headquarters in case of further questions or for necessary actions that need to be taken.

The FBI prioritizes things like counterterrorism, counterintelligence, cyber crimes, public corruption, civil rights, combat criminal organizations and many more.

The FBI needs people skilled in science, technology, engineering and math to work on cybersecurity, electronic surveillance, among others. Foreign language skills help fight and protect the nation against threats. Medicine and counseling background information help aid operations and ensure FBI personnel to make sure they are prepared physically and mentally for tasks. Other backgrounds and skills also include law, police and military as well as public accountants.

Employment statistics in 2017 included 13,538 special agents. Approximately 20 percent of the agent workforce is female and 2,252 are from different minority groups.

Although getting into the FBI is a long and difficult process, Benson stated that "you have to keep your eyes and ears open your whole life because you never know what's going to happen."

"I'm working for the best law enforcement organization in the country. I really love what I do," Benson said.

## How Will CT Tolls Affect CCSU Students?

**BY KELLY LANGEVIN**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Governor-elect Ned Lamont campaigned on trying to limit tolling on out-of-state trucks only. When tolls come to Connecticut, this is how CCSU students would feel:



**JAMES ANGELOPOUS**

"I think having tolls is a good idea. If you want the state of Connecticut to make money, I think this is a nice short-term plan may be in the long term the tolls might have to be coming down but the short term this is a proper plan for the state of CT. It's just at the end of the day we're trying to keep the state and the city of Hartford afloat while we figure out how to keep businesses in CT and bring them back to the state."

**BY BRENDAN SULLIVAN**

"I believe that putting tolls on our major highways in Connecticut will upset many people who live in the state. Even though they may be 95 cents like Massachusetts, many people are going to be upset that now they have another sort of bill to pay. Some people may look at it as another form of CT tax adding too many reasons why people want to leave the state in the near future. Although the construction of the toll booths will potentially add more hours to construction workers who are installing the cameras and EZ pass scanners, it may also require more employees to hire which could be looked at as a positive."



**ROSHANAY TAHIR**

"I don't know how I feel about the tolls being in-state and having your commute being even more of a hassle, however, I feel like having them around the state is a good idea for a way to boost the economy slowly. I feel like it would be a good thing for CT to adopt like MA and New York do when leaving and entering the state."



**JOSEPH SYRYLA**

"I strongly advice against the idea of toll booths. As a Connecticut resident, my daily [work] commute from Danbury to Bristol takes one hour each way. The toll booth project may take years to be in full effect. With that being said, highway construction will further impact commuting times across the state in a negative manner. In previous years, state officials increased road fuel costs. With the implemented fuel tax and the addition of tolls, Connecticut residents will be taxed twice for the same cause. Connecticut is the sixth highest taxed state in the country, would be exercising an unfair financial burden on its citizens. The increased stress on the drivers may have led to prior fatalities on Connecticut highways."



**AMANDA KING**

"Initially, I did not like the idea of implementing tolls throughout the state. The plan that is being proposed right now is not the one I originally supported. The only way for it to make sense to have tolls in a state where taxes are already high would be if they were placed on the borders of the state where most out-of-state vehicles come in and out. It's similar to the concept of in-state patrons paying no fee or a lesser fee than out-of-state patrons to state parks, or even state colleges and universities. I appreciate the idea of commuters receiving a discount on tolls, but paying \$5 to drive back and forth to work every day can become a heavy fee pretty quickly. I hope interstate tolls can be reconsidered so that there are less of them and in-state citizens do not have to pay as much."

# Vigil And Rally Held For Lost Transgender Lives

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

community and the humanity of it.”

Management senior Katie Robucci cried as she placed candles, remembering her brother's gender non-conforming best friend who experienced homelessness after being kicked out of their family home.

“It's just mortifying to know that even being where they are on their own, the only way that they can be happy is being at such huge risk,” Robucci explained.

Earlier in the day, the LGBT Center hosted a rally where students, staff and others shared stories of being in the transgender community and called for awareness to the killings.

“We always hold it outside no matter what type of weather is because we really need to interrupt our daily routines in order to take time to think about this violence,” rally organizer Nicole McCarter, an LGBT Center university assistant, said. “It's very easy to stand inside a bubble of safety especially on a campus when we have administrators who care about our safety.”

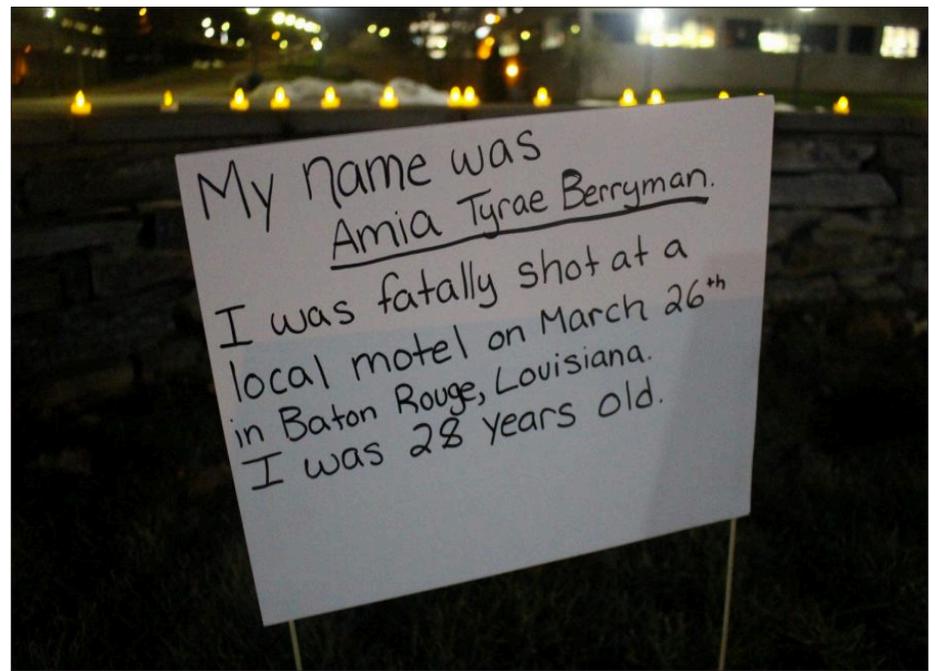
Anastasia Marco, who leads CCSU's Transgender, Non-binary and Trans-Questioning Support Group, told the rally's crowd that the deaths are “unacceptable.”

“When I walk home at night, I don't wanna have to wonder whether I'm



Allies like President of the Marxist Student Union Joseph Donnelly, middle, came to support the Transgender Day of Remembrance rally.

KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF



The Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil honored those killed by violence.

KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF

gonna be person #370 this year. I don't wanna be here tomorrow reading the name of my girlfriend who is too scared to transition where she is now,” Marco said.

“But there's hope,” Marco went on. “Our voice is growing louder and louder every single day and that's just amazing.”

Myles Place, Pride's secretary, echoed sentiments of other speakers that going home for the holidays meant going into hiding, but shouldn't have to be.

“I'm going to have to not be myself and wear a nice dress and be a good daughter, but I'm not a daughter. I'm a son. A future without transphobia

could look like young trans kids getting to have families that tell them that they love them,” Place said.

The message of the rally and vigil was clear: transgender people should live equal and safe like everyone else.

“I won't ask for a moment of silence today. We have silenced trans lives for a very long time,” President of the Connecticut Transadvocacy Coalition Natasha Lombardi said during the rally.

CCSU Pride meets Tuesdays in the Sprague Carleton at 8 p.m. The LGBT Center is located in rooms 304 and 305 of the Student Center.



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## News In Brief

BY SARAH WILLSON  
MANAGING EDITOR

### Lamont Preps For Office:

Connecticut is gearing up for Democratic Governor-Elect Ned Lamont, who will be sworn into office on Jan. 9, 2019. Now, New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart, a Republican, is on his radar.

Just before Thanksgiving, Lamont said he wanted to expand the search for top agency heads, adding that he wants a “fresh start” for the state and advocating for a “different group of folks” from “different backgrounds,” which includes a bi-partisan Steering Committee.

Other members include educators, doctors, business executives and others.

### Chaos Unfolds On US-Mexico Border:

A “major” United States-Mexico border crossing in San Diego, California was closed over the weekend after a group of asylum seekers attempted to cross from Mexico, prompting U.S. Border Patrol agents to fire tear gas, CNN reported.

According to BBC News and CNN, the group of about 500 were trying to cross the border “violently” and “illegally.” Now, Mexico is saying it will deport those who attempted to cross the border.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection claimed the asylum seekers threw projectiles, striking several agents, CNN said.

Tensions have been high ever since groups from Central America began arriving in Tijuana, Mexico in hopes to

enter into the U.S.

Those hoping to cross over into the U.S. said they are fleeing from persecution, poverty and violence.

Despite this, President Donald Trump has said he will keep those seeking asylum on the Mexican side of the border until “courts have decided their case,” BBC said.

### Syrian Chemical Attacks Spark Russian Air Strikes:

Chemical attacks in Syria have prompted Russian air strikes on the government-held city of Aleppo, BBC News reported.

Around 100 people, according to Syrian and Russian allies, have been injured by shells carrying toxic gas. According to the Observatory for Human Rights, the victims, which include children, are being treated for “breathing difficulties.”

Over the weekend, the Russian Defense Ministry said that its planes had carried out strikes on “the identified positions of terrorist artillery in the area that shelled civilians in the city of Aleppo.”

In the past, Western countries—including the U.S.—have accused the Syrian government of carrying out chemical attacks on its people.

This is the first major offense in northern Syria since Russia and Turkey created a “buffer zone” that divides government forces and rebels, BBC said.

## EDITORIAL

## Teargassing Is A New Low

What began as a peaceful protest from hundreds of migrants at the southwestern United States border turned for the worst when an overwhelming number rushed at the border fence to illegally enter the country.

According to the CBP, migrants threw projectiles that struck several border patrol agents, though no agent was injured. Most likely done out of pure desperation, those attempting to storm the border said they are fleeing from persecution, poverty and violence in their home countries.

Because of this, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers were forced to shut down both the south and northbound traffic at the San Ysidro border crossing south of San Diego for nearly six hours. Furthermore, in even more defense, they began teargassing the migrants in order to push them back from the border's fence.

While violence is unacceptable from both sides and the CBP has the obligation to defend our borders, what should be concerning is the fact that groups of men, women and children are risking their lives in hopes to find better realities free from persecution on U.S. soil. Seeking asylum is not a crime and this country has long been a safe haven for those in danger.

But what is more alarming is that U.S. officials resorted to using tear gas. Banned in warfare yet used to dismantle protests, the teargassing left migrants choking and gagging in anguish, with photographs surfacing of even children, including babies and toddlers, fleeing from the swirling cloud, sobbing and in pain.

Officials and authorities in the Trump Administration responded by saying they needed to show force after the migrants had rushed to the border. However, force can be expressed in a different manner. The Reuters photos showing children running are horrendous, with one of a little barefoot girl in only her diaper and t-shirt, weeping as she bolts with her mother, particularly despicable. The little girl was running from the tear gas and from a country that has effectively told her that her safety is not important.

Tear gas is an aerosol compound. It was first used by France in WWI to lure enemy soldiers out of trenches and caused everything from difficulty breathing to temporary blindness, according to the University of Kansas Medical Center. It is particularly harmful to kids.

Today, it is considered a chemical weapon and nearly every nation on Earth, including the U.S., has outlawed it in warfare, according to The Washington Post. However, it is still permitted as a riot-control agent. That doesn't make it right.

Yes, force was needed, but was pitting even children against a substance considered too diabolical for war appropriate? Absolutely not.

The migrants are not enemy soldiers. They are asylum seekers. Be they men, women or children, they are frightened for their lives and teargassing them as if they are democracy's enemy is not what this country stands for.

# More Legislation, Less Gun Violence

BY ISABELLA CHAN  
STAFF WRITER

Dec. 14 marks the six-year anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting, where 20 students and six staff members had their lives taken just days before the holidays.

Just two years prior to the Newtown shooting, a mass shooting in Manchester, Connecticut also occurred, killing eight employees from the Hartford Distributors by a former co-worker.

On the state level, laws have been implemented across the country to reduce gun violence. States, such as Connecticut, Florida and California, have made major changes.

These laws have included universal background checks, a waiting period, ban on bump stocks—which are used to make legal semi-automatic weapons fire like a machine gun—and permitting police officers to take guns from potentially violent or unstable people.

These efforts to make a change by states have made

a small difference, but not enough on a larger, federal scale.

As of Nov. 19, there have been 316 mass shootings in the United States this year, coming close to last year's number of 346.

President Donald Trump claims to have plans to change gun control laws in the U.S. He states he supports the idea of arming teachers, raising the gun purchasing age limit, strengthening background checks and banning bump stocks, but these are not the solution to the problem.

Creating more guns to fight guns will only create a bigger issue. Laws that should be passed are bans on weapons of war and reducing the flow of guns.

The massacres in Las Vegas, Virginia Tech and Pulse Nightclub in Orlando were possible because the shooters used semi-automatic weapons that didn't require them to reload.

AK-47s, AR-15s and high capacity magazines are some of the most common assault

weapons used during shootings, yet they're easily accessible to the average person.

Allowing such weapons to be used for personal use is unnecessary and not safe for the general public.

In 1994, Congress passed a legislation outlawing such weapons, in hopes to reduce the number of deaths in mass shootings. Although the ban expired in 2004, it showed potential for success.

If Congress was to attempt to implement a similar legislation with better policies, it would likely make a substantial impact on today's society.

Reducing the flow of guns to the public will likely have a positive impact as well. Some states have already done just that by limiting the purchase of one handgun a month.

According to a Gallup poll conducted in Oct. 2018, 61 percent of adults would support stricter gun laws.

Other countries have shown stricter laws make for a safer environment.

During the 1990s, Australia

spent almost \$500 million collecting back 600,000 guns across the country, subsequently reducing their gun death rate, and they have not had a mass shooting since.

But those that should be held most accountable are gun manufacturers and dealers. According to the Small Arms Survey, the U.S. has almost 400 million civilian-owned firearms, which could equip every person in the country with a gun and then some.

There is no need for there to be more guns than people in a country. If the government was to regulate the distribution and selling of these weapons, it is likely that gun casualties will reduce immensely.

Upholding the Second Amendment is not an issue; people have the right to keep and bear arms. But this right has been taken advantage of by those that want to abuse this power.

Frequent mass shootings and other gun violence acts need to come to an end and stricter laws are the only way to do so.

## Gift-Giving Is Becoming Lazy-Ridden



*This holiday season should include more personal shopping.*

MICHAEL KORS

BY KELLY LANGEVIN  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Let's face it: the words "this reminded me of you" when being handed a gift will trigger sentimental emotions inside of us. Whether you begin to laugh, cry or just feel happy overall, it's an amazing feeling to be given a gift.

With Thanksgiving in the background, Christmas is approaching and although it seems far, it will be here before you know it.

Online shopping has become increasingly popular over the years with Amazon

becoming a huge influencer in the way people shop. Now, with Amazon Prime, you can get almost anything delivered right to your doorstep in two days.

Efficient? Of course. Amazon is great for sending gifts to family and friends who might not live nearby. Personally, I love Amazon and shopping on other online websites like Target, Zaful and a ton of stores that take up way too much of my time. However, I have become lazy when I shop for people now.

Cyber Monday is the Monday after Thanksgiving dedicated to online shopping

when stores drop prices and have exceptional bargains, sending everyone to hover over their keyboard and search for everything and everything they may need.

Of course, saving a ton of money and not damaging your wallet is always a plus. But maybe we lose the personal connection of buying gifts for family and friends.

I know for me, not having a ton of family was always something I took to heart, so I wanted to make the ones around me happy. I have always wanted to give my friends something sentimental as well. I have always felt

holidays, birthdays and other occasions deserved a special gift.

Whenever I go on vacation or go shopping, even if it's just another place, I love the feeling of looking around and seeing something in the store which makes me think of a certain person. Yes, online shopping can do that too, but I feel that going into the store and taking time to find the right gift for family or friend beats anything online.

Going on a trip and bringing something back for someone can mean the world to them. In a society filled with online days and social media, we lose connections and just become lazy. We're too lazy to actually take the time to find something meaningful and have become so lazy that we just buy something because it can be on our doorstep as soon as night turns into day.

Online shopping has just become a way of life. And since it is not going away, I believe we can at least become more human and sentimental. I believe we have to look at the people around us and appreciate them to spend a little extra time on them so when we hand them a gift, we can use the words, "When I was in this store, I thought of you."

It is the holiday season. There is no denying that we are lazy, but let's make the most out of shopping for our family and friends as we can.

# Editor's Column: Don't Be A Grinch



BY ANGELA FORTUNA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The holidays are filled with decorations, shopping, food, memories and much more. But with all the excitement the holidays bring, it is important to be happy, for yourself and for those around you.

The day after Thanksgiving, everything starts getting decked out in the holiday spirit. Aisles in department stores are adorned with red and green Christmas decorations, people go crazy shopping for Christmas gifts and everything seems rushed.

Whether you are celebrating the holidays with family and friends or by yourself, it is important to greet those around you with happiness and cheer.

While you're shopping for the perfect Christmas gifts for your loved ones and friends, make sure you treat others the way you want to be treated.

While the holidays are a great time of the year for most, there are people who could use the occasional cheering up. Whether it be a compliment on one's appearance or a small act of kindness, anything can make all the difference in someone's attitude toward the holidays.

Christmas is always associated with

being "the most wonderful time of the year," but unfortunately, that's not the case for everyone. There are people who have gone to great lengths to provide for their families, with little to no means to do so. There are people who have experienced hard times during the holidays, ones who will associate such a cheerful time with something so negative.

Throughout my childhood, I was very lucky. I grew up in a nice neighborhood with great friends and a loving family. Christmas was my favorite time of the year and I wasn't afraid to show it. However, with time,

my expectations of waking up on Christmas morning with dozens of presents were no longer.

There comes a time where everyone struggles with something; whether it be mourning the loss of a loved one or overcoming financial difficulties, unexpected things happen every day. When the recession hit in 2008, my family lost a lot. My mother and I lost our home and have been renting in different towns ever since.

While I know my situation doesn't even compare to what others have to overcome, I know that things can change with the blink of an eye. When

I was going through something so hard, I was lucky enough to have my family and close friends by my side, but not everyone has that.

I know how difficult times can get and I know how meaningful a simple smile or kind gesture can mean, especially to someone overcoming something so difficult.

It is impossible to truly understand exactly what is going on in someone's head. That is why it is so important to keep that smile plastered on your face no matter the circumstances. One smile or small, kind gesture can completely transform someone's day.



Holidays are meant to be about joy and family, regardless of the traditions.

MONEY CRASHERS

## The Uncomfortable Narrative Behind 'To Kill A Mockingbird'



Harper Lee's novel "To Kill A Mockingbird" depicts racial undertones.

CHIEFESSAYS

BY SHELBY WILLIAMS  
STAFF WRITER

The novel "To Kill a Mockingbird," written by Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Harper Lee, is a black American narrative of unfortunate situations that occurred during the depression era of the deep South.

In summary of the novel, the narration follows a black man's battle with the criminal justice system in being falsely accused of rape. As the protagonist, Scout follows the trial, she encounters internal challenges in her continuous developing interpretation of white America.

In depiction of the internalized

struggle of the black community, the novel is an accurate and creative expression of the United States' systemic and historical political oppression towards its black and brown communities. A theater production of this play would be a physical presentation of the historical realities and struggle of black and brown communities during a time of socioeconomic strife and hardship.

Granted, the novel itself has performed a major part in developing a discussion regarding oppression, as well as in providing American literature with another text that is inclusive of representing the living experiences of minority communities. Yet, the novel

itself does not depict all of what the black community is inclusive of being in both socioeconomic placement and living expression.

In a production of the novel in film, playwright or acting, it must be understood that it is a relic of the black American experience. It is not all of what the black community is in living, existing and being a driving force in the United States. There must be a more accurate representation of the community's development and personal achievements. More representation in the black community's most modern socioeconomic placement and living expression is needed.

The depiction of the black community

being nothing more than an oppressed minority group that has slave ancestry furthers the narrative that we are not deserving of socioeconomic mobility and that the black and brown community is nothing more than a slave. Artistic expression in any format should be eclectic in its presentation and expressive in its international presence.

The black and brown community is diverse in its existence and deserving of a better narrative of its population within the African-American diaspora. The consequence of continuing the narrative that black Americans are nothing more than slave ancestry is a false perception of what is to be understood of the community today.

Today, we are engineers, artists, novelists and performers. Today, we are congressmen, doctors, professors and Supreme Court justices. Today, the modern black American is a citizen with rights and liberties that should and is treated equally to that of the rest of this country's citizens. Today, the Black American is a multi-talented and educated body of people that are bilingual in vernacular and culture. Today, the Black American is a dominating presence in both music, culture, and political presence.

In acknowledgment of all of its components, the Black American is the embodiment of all things intellectual and creative, especially in the root of our struggle, but we are more than what "To Kill a Mockingbird" portrays us as.

# How To Survive A Stressful Finals Week

BY NATALIE DEST

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Now that Thanksgiving break has come to an end, it's time to push through the last few weeks of the semester. And with these last few weeks comes the most dreaded time in a college student's school year: finals.

Over the course of finals week, students typically have two goals in mind: to ace their exams and to keep stress to a minimum. Students are usually spotted in the late hours of the night at the library double-fisting their caffeinated beverages, munching on vending machine snacks and shuffling around their books to find a place to lay their head. It is not uncommon to run on three hours of sleep if you're lucky.

It is the stress of having to stay on top of final projects, studying for tests and writing essays that can start to take an effect on your health, such as a lack of sleep, lack of nutritious meals and taking time for yourself. Carol Moran-Brown, senior director of the Counseling Center at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont, explains how trying to find the right stress level during finals week will leave you with better results.

"Staying stress-free is important. But there is an ideal level of stress for each one of us, which helps motivate us to do

our best," Brown stated. "When we are functioning at that ideal level, we are sufficiently pushed to do our best, yet not paralyzed by the results of excessive stress. The goal is to find the ideal stress level and then try to stay there."

Finding the right balance of stress and taking care of your mental and physical health is what's most important during these few weeks. Below is a list of tips that you can partake in that will help guide you to be successful, motivated and healthy during this stressful time.

## 1. Exercise

Short exercise breaks can help relieve stress and burn off the extra sugary calories you may consume during your stress eating. Taking a jog around campus, doing yoga, play pick-up basketball or even hitting the on-campus gym can help get your fitness on. A 15 to 25-minute exercise a day can do just the trick.

And if exercising is not typically your thing, a muscle relaxation is a technique that many students can find useful as well. Whether that be stretching your legs, arms, upper back or shoulders for 15 minutes a day, any physical activity can help ease your mind from the stress of studying and make you feel better physically and mentally.

## 2. Staying on top of a healthy diet

It can become quite easy to lose track of a healthy meal plan during finals week. It is rather easy to forget to eat three meals a day and eat sugary snacks from the vending machine as a substitute. However, this is a big mistake for any student. Junk food can give you instant energy or even a sugar high, but it can affect your concentration and memory.

Eating nutritious foods will help energize you and increase your retention. Canceling out the vending machines and fast food restaurants around you is for the best, despite their convenience. If you're choosing food from the dining hall or your kitchen, fruits and vegetables are the right choices, full of vitamins and nutrients that will prevent you from getting sick and give you the energy you need.

## 3. Stay hydrated at all times

Although it's easy to stick to caffeine thanks to the energy it gives you to continue working, it actually dehydrates you faster.

Your brain works its best when it is hydrated, and water is the answer. Dehydration causes fatigue and headaches which will ultimately distract you from your work. Make sure you have a full water bottle during your studies and that you are

actively drinking. You will eventually see the best results in your focus.

## 4. Strict sleeping schedule

Sticking to an actual, planned sleeping schedule is the best thing a student can do for themselves during finals week. Although it is easy to think you can pull an all-nighter the night before a big exam, it's these crucial hours of sleep that can leave you more concentrated and able to retain more information during your test the next morning.

Sometimes less is more. Sleep will improve the quality and retention of your studying, even though you may have less time to study.

## 5. Give yourself breaks

Studying non-stop is not helpful nor healthy, no matter how much you may be worrying about a certain project or exam. After a long period of studying, your concentration will be broken and it will become increasingly more difficult to be able to retain any information.

Whether you take a stroll through your dorm, visit a friend or just browse the web for fun, any short break or activity can help you re-focus later and give your brain the rest it deserves.

## Central Faces



BRANDER VEGA  
GRAPHIC DESIGN

"CCSU has given me an opportunity to become a better designer. I've been doing graphic design for multiple clubs and am the only designer working for the Student Center. Central has also allowed me to try something new, as I was recently able to model in the fashion show."



DARYL LAPUEBLA | CONTRIBUTOR

## REVIEW

## Broadside Gives A Taste Of 'Paradise'



Pop-punk group Broadside delivers fan with "Paradise," a record built upon chasing your dreams and happiness.

VICTORY RECORDS

BY NATALIE DEST  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Virginia natives Broadside and the release of their sophomore album has only helped make their name within the pop-punk music scene. More infectious and gripping than ever before, "Paradise" is a record that fully showcases Broadside's ability at making a permanent mark.

The group released their debut album "Old Bones" to much acclaim back in Sept. 2015, opening the door for much success and praise from fans. With having to make a stronger comeback after their first album anthem "Coffee Talk," Broadside ended up creating a slightly new sound and approach with their newest record in the best way possible.

2017 release "Paradise" is an album built upon a pop-punk formula that eludes the idea to chase your dreams and happiness.

"We often put our dreams and desires

to the side believing they're unrealistic, but this record is about building a bridge to reach your goals, your dream, your... 'Paradise,'" lead-singer Ollie Baxxter explains. This message is continuously spread throughout the record within an accumulation of musical styles, grown musicianship and sing-along punk choruses.

Kicking off the album is the track "Hidden Colors," a perfect opener to set the energy for the rest of the record. The immediate bouncing guitar riffs help for a perfect backdrop for Baxxter's anthemic singing, boasting a chorus made for a live crowd. On top of a driving, fast-paced drum beat, Baxxter's vocals meet the chorus with the lyrics, "Self-doubt in her mirror now, but it doesn't reflect how / She's perfect, on more than the surface."

The following track, "Paradise," hence the album title, relies heavily on electric guitars and subtle backing electronics. Being ridiculously catchy, the song includes clean and raw vocal delivery

from both Baxxter and guitarist and backup vocalist Dorian Cooke. "Paradise" hits the record's meaning through the lyrics, "Go chase your paradise into the waves, this tide will carry you, don't run away. / Light a fire that burns through the whole night. / You will shine brighter than the sunrise."

"Lose Your Way" is one of the more guitar-driven tracks, but hits home lyrically. Urging listeners to push through obstacles to achieve their goals, Baxxter is heard to sing the lyrics, "You've gotta believe in what you want, you gotta put faith in who you are. / Do you believe in your self-worth? / You've gotta make this work."

The track "Laps Around a Picture Frame" fully embraces the brand of pop-rock by opening with budding synths that eventually far to black as the track builds with raw, emotional vocal delivery that makes this song a memorable one. Being a song centered around how to deal with one's anxiety, this track gives the album an emotional, stripped back feeling yet to be heard.

"Tunnel Vision" takes the record back in full swing to a more aggressive and bass-driven sound. Baxxter's vocals are almost perfectly highlighted in this track, and show how diverse his vocals can sound. This song is definitely one that is hard-hitting, a track that any pop-punk fan will find difficult to resist.

Following track "Summer Stained" is opened solely with an acoustic guitar, a style yet to be heard on the album. Met with a laid back drum line by the second verse, this song gives listeners a softer tone that touches on loneliness and desire for acceptance. Driving to the climax of the song, the end of the track ignites in

higher vocals and a heavier guitar, leaving "Summer Stained" as one of the more notable songs on "Paradise."

Directly in the beginning, "Miss Imperius" gives avid pop-punk listeners the delighted "woah-ohs" that make any punk-anthem worthy of listening to; immediately intriguing, this track is one that is easy to tap your toe to. With numerous instrumental techniques all in one track, from slower to faster paces, varying guitar work and different drum rhythms, this is a track that more than shows the overall musicianship of the band.

Ending the album is "I Love You, I Love You. It's Disgusting," a stripped-down ukulele anthem. This track feels like a sweet and tropical song that beams with color. Almost meant for a summer night on the beach, this track is meant to tug are your heart strings. Baxxter's vocals land delicately on the vibrance from the ukulele as he sings the lyrics, "Though the distance grows between us girl, our love won't fall apart. / I'll take care of your heart, no matter where we are," ending the album on a bittersweet feeling.

"Broadside" is seen to explore countless sonic and lyrical journeys throughout this record, providing their fans with an incredibly diverse and dynamic product. Although the pop-punk genre can tend to become stagnant, the group never falls into those typical songwriting patterns, but constantly pushes through boundaries and creates their own sound.

"Paradise" is a breath of fresh air that shows the band wearing their hearts on their sleeves. Reinventing the wheel, this album is meant to be a powerful pop-punk record that doesn't lose luster no matter how many times it's listened to.

## REVIEW

## More Movie Magic For J.K. Rowling

BY SHAINA LAPUEBLA  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Before Harry Potter destroys Ollivander's Wand Shop or turns the Wizarding World on its head, Newt Scamander wreaked havoc — while surprisingly saving the world — with bizarre creatures and critters hiding in the world hidden in his briefcase.

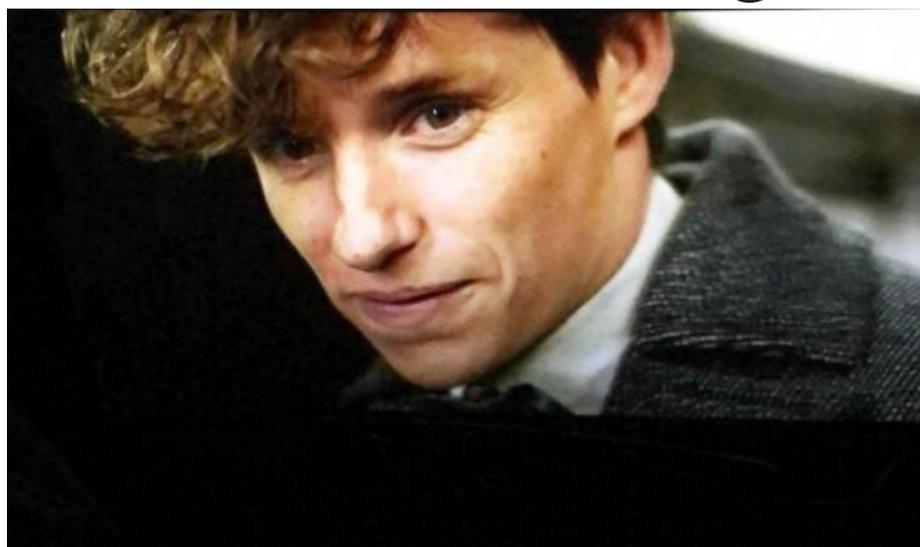
Mooncalfs, Thunderbirds, Billywigs, oh my.

The Wizarding World is spellbound with the newest addition to the J.K. Rowling's series. "Fantastic Beasts: The

Crimes of Grindelwald" is the second part of the Fantastic Beasts saga.

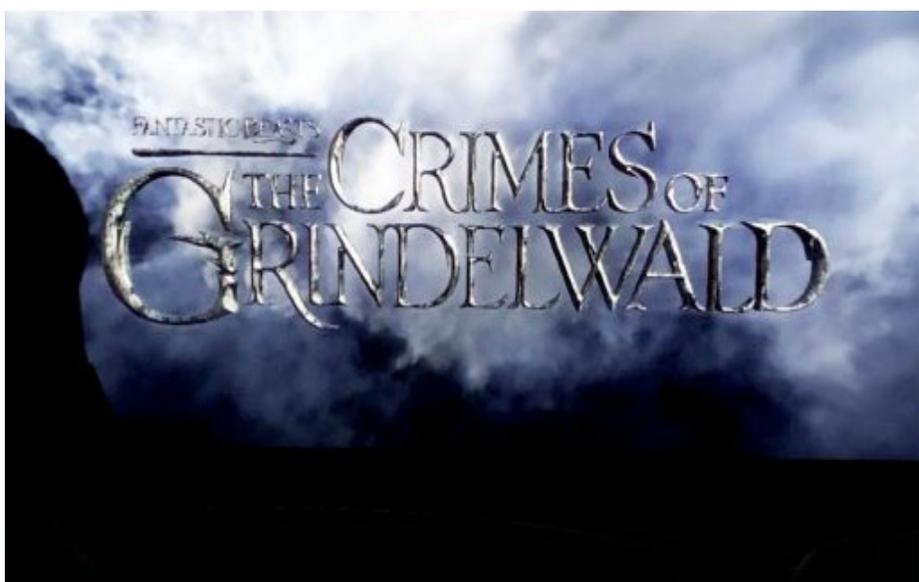
The movie franchise spared no expense casting Jude Law to play a young Dumbledore and Johnny Depp as Grindelwald, while reuniting all of your favorite characters from the first movie — including Nifflers and Bowtruckles.

"The Crimes of Grindelwald" continues on the story from the first movie, following Newt in his endeavors to thwart the evil plans of the dark wizard, who plots for pure-blood wizards to rule over all beings — sounds strangely similar to Harry Potter's nemesis, Voldemort.



Main character, Newt Scamander battles the villainous Grindelwald in the newest installment of the Harry Potter spin-off "Fantastic Beasts."

SHAINA LAPUEBLA |  
STAFF



"Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" premiered on Nov. 16. SHAINA LAPUEBLA | STAFF

Ley lines are drawn as the Wizarding World is made to choose allegiances to either side.

Newt (played by Eddie Redmayne) and his muggle sidekick Jacob Kowalski (played by Dan Fogle) work their "who dunnit" magic across the Atlantic, braving their journey from New York to London and Paris.

The film dabbles in its share of love, friendship, loyalty and of course magic in the second leg of the Fantastic Beasts voyage. Dark truths are unveiled and the audience is left with more questions than answers as the door is kicked wide open for the next installment.

The whimsy and awkwardness of Newt is a stark contrast to the courageous and unruly main characters in the Harry Potter series. This has many critics condemning Fantastic Beasts, who use Harry Potter as the benchmark for its protagonists in the franchise.

However, being able to separate both Harry and Newt leaves the audience immersed in a different area of the vast Wizarding World — dreamt up by the enchanting J.K. Rowling — that is sure to satisfy young and old wizards alike.

Overall, I give "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" four out of five wands up.

## REVIEW

## Galaxy Nails Is Out Of This World



PHOTOS AND STORY BY SHAINA LAPUEBLA  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Everyone thinks their nail technician is the best until they encounter the stellar job Galaxy Nails performs on my usually sad and pathetic fingernails.

But before I tell you about the miracles they perform, let me tell you a little about myself.

I first got my nails done almost three years ago for my trip back home to San Diego in honor of my godson's first birthday, but truthfully I barely even brush my hair in the morning. Best part, I now semi-run my beautiful and dagger-like nails through it each morning.

Even better than that, it is just a hop, skip and a jump away from Central Connecticut so you do not have to travel far for award-winning nails.

Anyhow, back to the talent located on the Berlin Turnpike. I frequent Helen when getting my nails done every four weeks, but in all honesty, every one of the employees can turn your nails from drab to fab.

Each technician specializes in a handful of services and the owner Katie can do it all, which guarantees all your nail inspirations will be met; you will not have to fear getting haphazard imitation nails.

On top of nails, Galaxy Nails offers pedicures, lashes, waxing, microblading, and microchanneling.

Do not just take my word for it, the salon has recently won Best of Hartford 2018 and Top CT Nail Salon.

Galaxy Nails is located at 3089 Berlin Turnpike in Newington. It is open Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# The Importance Of Loving Yourself

BY SHWAR ZAIDI  
STAFF WRITER

Self-love is an action, not a state of feeling good.

Unfortunately, this world does not care enough to show us how we should love ourselves. We must do it on our own. It may be a big commitment and a long process, but it is worth it in the long-run.

You will find peace within yourself when you secure your walls. You can love a person as much as you love yourself. You start to realize your worth and allow people to treat you with respect because you are worth it.

Once you love yourself you no longer need to fill a void with anything toxic like smoking, alcohol or meaningless love. That hollowness will be filled with confidence, knowing your purpose in this world.

This world will not bloom flowers engrossed with love because the sad truth is that this world simply does not care.

You do not need that boy who has been rejecting you. You do not need to go back to the friends who harm you emotionally. Get out of that abusive relationship you are in. Stop settling for someone because

you think you do not deserve better.

There are people out there who will love you, but you will never find them until you love yourself.

Here are some steps on achieving self-love:

## 1. You must get to know yourself first.

You cannot fall in love with yourself if you do not know who you are. You could get yourself a journal and each day ask yourself a question to get to know yourself. You will need to take the time out of your day to have some alone time for this. Alone time is key to self-love. When you love your own company, then you will not feel the fear of being alone.

## 2. Self-love becomes mindfulness.

Once you get to know yourself, you can acknowledge what you want, what you need and how to get it. You start to understand yourself and no longer need the approval of others or unnecessary attention. Once you get to know yourself, other people's labels will not matter to you because you know yourself better than anyone else. It will give you a peaceful

mind and make yourself more secure.

## 3. Mindfulness morphs into truly liking yourself.

Once you take the time to get to know yourself, you will start to actually like the person you see in the mirror. Now you have not accomplished loving yourself yet, but you will be more focused on what you are doing than what others are doing. By focusing on yourself, you start turning away from behaviors and patterns that get you into trouble and keep you stuck in the past. You learn to forgive yourself from past mistakes while learning and growing from them. Once you love yourself more you start taking care of your basic needs, like nutrition, exercise, proper sleep, intimacy and healthy social interactions.

## 4. Loving yourself requires boundaries.

You start to limit or say no to work, love or activities that harm you physically, emotionally and spiritually in relation to who you are. Start by getting rid of the negative people in your life. You will start to respect yourself more, which will lead you to happiness. Loving yourself will

begin the process of forgiving yourself for past mistakes.

We humans can be really hard on ourselves. We punish ourselves way more than how others would. We tend to see the bad in ourselves and judge harsher. By loving yourself you accept your humanness, remembering that you are not perfect and you will make mistakes.

## 5. Love fights the fear.

When you love yourself, you stop being afraid of putting yourself out there in the world. You start making connections and getting to know people despite the fear of rejection because you no longer let other people determine your self-worth. Your intentions start to become pure and humble.

You do not look for your flaws. There becomes no need to bring others down to feel better about yourself. You do not get jealous of what others possess because you are satisfied with who you are as a person. Love stops the envy and starts the appreciation for others. You find yourself raising them up contrary to wanting to tear them down. Now it is time to focus on your goals and accomplish something new.

## REVIEW

## Box Office Contender 'Creed II'

BY GABRIEL ANTON  
STAFF WRITER

This year's Thanksgiving season at the theaters delivers the thrilling and emotional sports drama film "Creed II," the sequel to the debut to the Creed franchise in "Creed" back in late Nov. of 2015.

Although the original writer, director and producer Ryan Coogler ("Black Panther") is not returning in any capacity for the making of this film, director Steven Caple Jr. ("The Land") has his blessing with the continuation of this franchise alongside returning cast members Sylvester Stallone, Michael B. Jordan and Tessa Thompson. "Creed II" was released on Tuesday, Nov. 21 on a \$50 million budget and it's expecting to profit by the end of the week, continuing strong in the next month.

Branching off the first "Creed," Michael B. Jordan's eponymous character is still finding himself stuck reliving the events of his father's death and having to deal with his part in the legacy he left him. "Creed II" takes a natural course of action as it brings the death of Apollo in the boxing ring at the hands of Ivan Drago, the powerful and dangerous Russian boxer from "Rocky IV," into the limelight of Adonis's career.

The film sees Rocky's washed out Russian ex-rival, played by veteran actor Dolph Lundgren, still suffering from his brutal defeat at his hands about 20 years ago, who returns to seek a vengeful victory over the new heavy-weight champion and son of the man he murdered. And this vengeance comes in form of his burly, intimidating and dangerous boxer son, Viktor Drago. The sons of these two legendary boxers meet in the ring for the first time to either repeat or rewrite history.

What this movie does well handles



Michael B. Jordan stars along with Sylvester Stallone and Tessa Thompson in the new blockbuster "Creed II."

GAMESRADAR

the old events from "Rocky IV" with care and precision, and uses them to give Adonis Creed the biggest obstacle he has ever faced. When looking at what these new "Creed" movies are trying to do, it is very reasonable to continue the story this way, albeit being a paint-by-the-numbers storyline with predictable climaxes. The emotion was highly present. This test would allow Adonis Creed to prove to himself that he wasn't going to stay in his father's shadow for the rest of his life, but to start his own legacy.

This was something that Adonis had been struggling with in "Creed." It is something that gives startling realism to his character, without following any movie tropes or clichés. "Creed II" can very well be a real life story and the pace and emotion of this movie allowed it to be a very good representation of so.

Both sides of the battle were facing tough times. Ivan Drago was facing disgrace in his country after his loss. His wife had left him, and the respect that

accompanied his name for his entire career was gone. He is under immense pressure to reclaim the heavy-weight belt with his own son, who is at the tail-end of Ivan's own fury and pressure.

Adonis, knowing too well the circumstances of his father's death and the toll it took on him and his mother Mary Anne, played by returning star Phylicia Rashad ("The Cosby Show"), now has a new family to provide for after his daughter was born. What he faces in the ring would carry all the emotional weight from his father, mother, Rocky, his lover Bianca, played by returning star Tessa Thompson and his new-born daughter.

Rocky is what held this movie together. His presence in Adonis's life is powerful and moving, always there to provide an essential piece of wisdom that would help propel him in the right direction. And we see in the movie that when Adonis doesn't "know what he is fighting for," he loses sight of his abilities.

Rocky is there to assure that Adonis's

full potential is fulfilled and that he doesn't fall to his own pride like his father had when he didn't want to give up against Drago and was subsequently beaten to death in the ring.

A great piece of imagery from this movie (which is wonderfully shot and choreographed) is seen in Apollo Creed's old sparring gym, where Adonis Creed, injured with a broken spirit, is lying beside an empty boxing ring as he introduces his newborn daughter to the punching bag and to what his life has always been about. What's on screen is the span of three generations of Creed, and the essence of their accomplishments. Rocky, Apollo, Bianca, Mary Anne, Viktor, Ivan and the whole world stood still surrounding the most real part of the movie, where the story that began in Rocky I had now developed into an inspiration for every generation.

The "Creed" movies have solidified themselves as a modern-age "Rocky" franchise, rich with the history of the past six movies, written and directed in ways that make it feel like this was happening in real life. "Creed II" was more of a movie about relationships, family, history and self-determination than a pure fighting movie.

The Max Kellerman commentated, very realistic and analysis prone, brutal, visceral and entertaining fights in this film are used as tools to propel these themes and develop these characters. The performances were top notch, the Sylvester Stallone-written script was well realized and emotionally engaging, the imagery was magical, and the gripes of the movie were few. Sitting with an 82 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, "Creed II" does not disappoint, enriches an already prosperous franchise and is the movie to see this holiday season.

## Word Search: November 28

R N E S G N E D L A M O N T M  
C Y B E R M O N D A Y K C O R  
K I M M I G R A T I O N C L Z  
P F M A N A L M E D X K W L C  
R G N J D P L I A A I G A B K  
U E M D E A U A R N G N Y O K  
F K T M L T E A G C G I H O C  
W C K F W T D B A E A L L T Q  
P U W Y A E I Q S N L W F H K  
J Y N L L R S K S T A O H T P  
P C E L D S D N I R X R D R H  
S J D L T O A T N A Y R B Q F  
K C U H G N O I G L G K L F V  
X D R M M A R S H A L L C J M  
U M G P T Z B Z Z E J J O O D

Bryant  
Kohl  
Marshall  
Dolegala  
Bagley  
James  
Patterson  
Rafter  
Gruden  
Grindelwald  
Broadside  
Rocky  
Galaxy  
Dancentral  
Rowling  
Cyber Monday  
Immigration  
Mockingbird  
Ned Lamont  
Teargassing  
Toll Booth

## Five Football Players Named First-Team All-NEC



The Blue Devils had the most representatives on the first and second teams.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

BY TREVI ALICKOLLI  
STAFF WRITER

Following a season that saw them finish second in the Northeast Conference with a 4-2 record, the Central Connecticut football team was well represented on the All-NEC lists, with 11 players on the first and second teams, five being named to the first team. No other team had more than nine.

Jacob Dolegala was awarded as the best quarterback in the conference as he finished his collegiate career as the leading passer in school history with 8,129 yards.

Aside from the career accomplishment, Dolegala had a strong senior season, setting new career-highs during the season in completion percentage (61 percent), touchdowns (16), efficiency (145.5) and had a career-low six interceptions.

Dolegala was able to set new career highs in part because he had three offensive linemen who were selected to an All-NEC team.

Tackle Connor Mignone and guard J'Von Brown were selected to the first

team while guard Cole Phelps was selected to the second team.

Mignone, Brown and Phelps were part of an offensive line who helped CCSU dominate the line of scrimmage, setting records and keeping their quarterback off the ground, as Dolegala was only sacked eight times all season. Central averaged 289.3 rush yards per game in conference play thanks to their offensive line play.

Their strongest performance was blocking for Aaron Dawson against Wagner when he rushed for a new school and NEC record 361 yards and five touchdowns.

The last two Blue Devils to earn first-team nods were members of their secondary: sophomore strong safety DJ Exilhomme and the versatile defensive back Tajik Bagley, who played both safety and cornerback this season.

Exilhomme led the team in tackles with 74 while also forcing four fumbles to go with an interception.

Bagley, not to be outdone, also had a pick while finishing fifth on the team in tackles with 50 while playing the two positions.

Bagley also served as the teams return specialist on kickoffs and punts, with one touchdown, the only one of the year for Central.

The Blue Devils landed three more offensive weapons on the second-team.

Dawson, who exploded onto the scene late in the season with his performance against Wagner, was the leading rusher on the team with 896 rushing yards and 13 touchdowns. He was second in all-purpose yards with 1,019 yards.

Courtney Rush, Central's leading receiver, finished the year with career highs in catches and yards, recording 27 catches for 567 yards and four touchdowns. The senior deep-threat recorded 56.7 yards per game (21.0-yard average per catch).

Tight end Arthur Gilmore Jr. was also selected to the second team after recording 16 catches on the year and a career-high 223 yards, all while bringing in four touchdowns.

The last two Blue Devils to get the second team nod were senior defensive starters Chris Tinkham and Tymir Hinton.

Hinton made the team as a linebacker, though he is officially listed as a safety. He recorded 41 total tackles, one sack, a fumble and an interception.

Defensive lineman Tinkham finished his college career with 31 tackles and two sacks for his senior season.

Though the Blue Devils will bid farewell to Dolegala, Rush, Tinkham and Hinton, they will still return seven players who received two first team honors, boding well for the team's future.

## Cross Country Caps Off Season

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

The successful season for the Central Connecticut men's and women's cross country teams came to a close last weekend when they traveled to New York to compete in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships, where both sides had strong showings. The event is considered one step below the NCAA meet.

On the Northeast Conference champion women's team, sophomore Angelia Rafter continued to lead the way, finishing in 16th place out of 153 competing runners, completing the five-kilometer course in 17 minutes and 30 seconds.

Crossing the finish line just nine seconds later was sophomore Megan Brawner, taking home 24th place.

The top five for the Blue Devils was rounded about by senior Dawn Hubbell, NEC Rookie of the Year Ashley Dana and sophomore Sabrina Chesters. These three finished in the top five in every meet with the exception of the NEC Championships.

"The women's team had another solid performance. [I'm] really impressed with our consistency," head coach Eric Blake said of the team's performance.

Blake added that while winning the NEC was a "highlight," he once again pointed out the consistency in the fact that his team had "a lot of good meets too."

On the men's side, it was once again junior Roberto Piotto crossing the finish line first for the Blue Devils, finishing the 10-kilometer course in 23:30, good enough for 20th place overall out of the 157 competing runners. Piotto has stepped into the role of the top finisher for the Blue Devils since senior Alex Norstrom was shut down due to injury with the hopes of him being fully recovered for indoor track season.

Blake was pleased with Piotto's performance on the season but feels the best has yet to come.

"Roberto has improved a ton in his time here but I still know he can run faster," Blake said.

Within 30 seconds of Piotto's finish, junior Richard Grudzwick came across the finish line, placing in 38th overall.

The next highest finisher for the Blue Devils was sophomore Julio Arredondo, placed in the top 100, finishing the course in 24:46, shaving nearly four seconds off his time from the NEC meet.

Freshman Robert Moore, who made the NEC All-Rookie team, completed the course in under 26 minutes, just seconds before senior Patrick Halloran, whose score counted towards the Blue Devils' totally.

Also notably, freshman Shaun Oushana competed in the first meet of his career, coming in 144th place overall with a time of 26:27.

Blake called it "good experience" for some of his younger runners who had not competed much on the year.

Though the cross country season is over, many of the runners are also members of the track and field team, who will begin competition on Dec. 7, when senior McKenna Killian will compete in the Pentathlon at Connecticut. The entire team will first compete Jan. 4 at Wagner.

## Week 13 Fantasy Football Picks

BY THE RECORDER SPORTS STAFF

In what is likely the last week of your league's regular season, here is The Recorder sports staff's take on the week 13 landscape.

### Who is your sure thing for the week?

**Daniel Fappiano- Layout Editor:** Andrew Luck (QB, Indianapolis Colts)- Despite playing what should be a tough Jags defense, Luck has been on a roll, throwing for at least three touchdowns in each of the last eight games. That streak will continue in a win on Sunday.

**Patrick Gustavson- Sports Editor:** Eric Ebron (TE, Indianapolis Colts)- Ebron saw seven targets in the Colts' Week 12 win against the Dolphins and with fellow tight end Jack Doyle expected to be placed on injured reserve, he is a top-five tight end for the playoff run.

**Ryan Jones- Assistant Sports Editor:** Aaron Jones (RB, Greenbay Packers)- The 23-year-old has made the most of his new role as the lead back in Greenbay. Jones leads the league in rushing yards per attempt (six) and takes on a Cardinals defense that has allowed the most touchdowns (14) and total yards (1,454) to opposing running backs.

### Who is your sleeper for the week?

**Fappiano:** Marcell Ateman (WR, Oakland Raiders)- Ateman saw 10 targets against the Ravens week 12 and take on a questionable Kansas City defense. Likely playing from behind, the Raiders will have to throw the ball to someone.

**Gustavson:** Austin Ekeler (RB, Los Angeles Chargers)- Though he was out-carried by Justin Jackson last week, Ekeler

appears to be in line for the bulk of the carries with Melvin Gordon out with an MCL injury. He should also be heavily featured in the passing game, as Phillip Rivers targeted him a whopping 10 times.

**Jones:** Tyler Lockett (WR, Seattle Seahawks)- Lockett had another strong showing against the Panthers in week 12, setting a season-high of 107 yards. He goes up against the 49ers this week, who gave up 116 yards to Mike Evans last week and have allowed the fourth most touchdowns to wide receivers this season (14).

### Who is going to bust this week?

**Fappiano:** James Conner (RB, Pittsburgh Steelers)- Conner only had 13 rushes against an inferior Broncos run defense and failed to find the end zone. He now takes on Chargers defense on the rise. Expect a down week for the Steelers back.

**Gustavson:** LeGarrette Blount (RB, Detroit Lions)- Despite finding the end zone twice on Thanksgiving, Blount was averaging under two yards per carry in his four previous games. Faces a stout Rams front seven, expect Blount to come back to earth.

**Jones:** Rob Gronkowski (TE, New England Patriots)- In his first week back from injury, Gronk was able to find the end zone against a struggling Jets team. Despite this, he was still limited to just three receptions on the day (none coming in the second half) and faces a Vikings defense that have given up only three touchdowns to tight ends this season.

# Volleyball Knocked Out In NEC Semifinals

BY RYAN JONES  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Just five points away from advancing to the Northeast Conference finals, the Central Connecticut volleyball team dropped two straight matches against rival Bryant.

Neither team shied away from the pressure in the first set. The Blue Devils tied the game nine separate times, most notably after trailing 16-12. A kill from Eline van Heijningen would tie the game at 21, which was the first of five unanswered CCSU points that won them the first set.

The first set loss lit a fire in the Bulldogs, who quickly jumped out to a 5-0 lead. Four Bryant errors and an ace from Emma Henderson helped Central take a 6-5 lead. Bryant would take the lead again by way of another five-point run, but the Blue Devils stormed back and tied the set at 16 after a kill from Madelyn Kaprelyan. The Bulldogs lead the rest of the way, narrowly winning 25-23 to tie the match.

The two teams continued with more back and forth action in the third set. After Bryant tied the game at five, CCSU again took advantage of errors from Bryant, using three en route to a run that put them up 10-5.

A Bryant timeout proved critical, as they went on a 7-1 run that put them back into the lead. Trailing by five late, the Blue Devils did not go down without a fight. Two kills each from Henderson and Kaprelyan would seal the third set, taking another close set 25-23.



Madelyn Kaprelyan (above) was named NEC Player of the Year.

CCSU ATHLETICS

Fighting off elimination, Bryant quickly held a 7-3 lead in the fourth set. The Blue Devils would tie the game at eight after a Henderson kill, but three straight errors from Central would hand Bryant the lead back.

Not ready to throw in the towel yet, the Blue Devils would rip off a 7-0 run that put them back into the lead with a 17-15 score, highlighted by two straight aces from senior Kaitlyn Kushman. Both teams exchanged points after this, setting

up a tie game at 20. Just five points away from advancing to the championship, the Blue Devils would give up five straight points, losing them the set and forcing an overtime fifth set to 15.

Still rolling from their run to end the fourth set, Bryant took a 5-1 lead in almost an instant. With their backs to the wall, the Blue Devils would score four straight to bring them to within one. The score would not come closer than this, as Bryant was able to close out the set and

match with two straight points, winning the match 15-11.

The Blue Devils finished the season with a 13-13 overall record and a 10-4 in-conference record. Kaprelyan took home NEC player of the year, posting career highs in kills (308), digs (134) and points (359.5). Junior Gala Galabova put together a monster season on defense, leading the NEC in blocks per set (1.26).

Henderson served up aces all year, finishing with 42 on the year.

# Women's Basketball Struggles Offensively



Emma McCamus (above) scored a career-high 16 points against UMass.

CCSU ATHLETICS

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

The season is off to a familiar start for Central Connecticut's women's basketball team. On the heels of a season where they failed to win a non-conference contest, the Blue Devils find themselves winless through four games on this young season.

They were unable to get off the snide when they traveled to Rutgers and Massachusetts last week. Both losses shared a common theme: a lack of offense.

In the contest against Rutgers, all 13 Blue Devils saw minutes, but only six

of them scored, with only three of them making field goals. Senior guard Kiana Patterson had a strong game, scoring 25 points on 9/16 shooting.

Senior center Denisha Gardner scored six points and two made field goals. And while fellow senior forward Andi Lydon also had six points of her own, she failed to connect on eight field goals, with all her points coming from the free throw line.

All in all, the Blue Devils connected on just 13 field goals, shooting a meager 27 percent, prompting the 73-44 defeat.

The team showed better in their game against UMass, managing 59 points. This all happened with Patterson scoring only

nine points. Though not finding the hoop as often, Patterson still found a way to contribute to the offense, dishing out seven assists. As a team, the Blue Devils had 18 assists on the game compared to just six against Rutgers.

The star of this game was sophomore guard Emma McCamus, who scored a career-high 16 points on 50 percent shooting, including two threes. Lydon also bounced back with 16 points of her own while bringing in six rebounds.

Though only contributing six points, sophomore center Ashley Berube had her most effective game since the season opener against Brown. Berube stuffed the

stat sheet, bringing in 12 boards with five of them coming on the offensive glass. She also dished out two assists to go with two steals and a block.

Sophomore forward Ashley Forker also connected on two threes, scoring more points than the previous three games combined.

Though they improved, the Blue Devils still shot just 31 percent from the floor and 22 percent from beyond the arc. Following four games, they are shooting just 32 percent from the floor and 25 percent from three.

Though Northeast Conference games will ultimately determine the team's fate, head coach Beryl Piper and Patterson entered the season with high expectations for the non-conference slate.

"I think we want to compete and win some non-conference games and get our confidence up and have a good record and good chemistry going into conference games so it's that much easier for us when we're playing the games that are really important and that will decide our fate," Patterson said prior to the season.

The Blue Devils' next contest was held on Monday, Nov. 26 going up against Morgan State. When the two teams met at Detrick Gymnasium last year, the Bears bested the Blue Devils by a score of 61-41, a season-low for the team. What was perhaps most notable about that game was that the first points were scored with just over four minutes remaining in the first quarter.

The team will look to improve on their overall offensive output and secure their first win on the season.

## OPINION

## What MLB Contenders Must Do To Return To Postseason

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

Though it has been just a month since the Boston Red Sox hoisted the Commissioner's Trophy, the hot stove is in full force as all 30 teams look to bolster their roster in the hopes of winning the Fall Classic.

Perhaps the most compelling team this offseason is the New York Yankees. With money to burn, they could be in on the biggest free agents like outfielder Bryce Harper and shortstop Manny Machado. But the priority seems to be starting pitching. Having already acquired lefty James Paxton, they are still major players for fellow southpaw Patrick Corbin.

Another team with the ability to spend big is the National League champion, the Los Angeles Dodgers. After locking up ace Clayton Kershaw, their rotation is set, but they still need relievers to go with Kenley Jansen. While they could turn to the open market for the solution, they have a surplus of position players that could be traded and have the defensive flexibility to do so. Outfielders Yasiel Puig and Joc Pederson seem most likely to be moved.

The Cubs are in a similar position to the Dodgers in terms of offensive surplus. They certainly have the money to sign Harper or Machado, but would need to make corresponding moves to accommodate. Slugging outfielder Kyle Schwarber seems to be a prime candidate to be moved to a team in need of a big lefty bat. They're also going to need consistency from starting pitchers Yu Darvish and Tyler Chatwood, who were nothing short of horrible in their first season with the club.

After re-signing Steve Pearce, the Red Sox lineup is likely set in stone, identical to that of their championship team. Their biggest need is the bullpen, as Craig Kimbrel and Joe Kelly could depart in free agency. This leaves them with Ryan Brasier and Matt Barnes to hold down the late innings. Re-signing Kimbrel and Kelly is the easy solution, but they could also turn to Andrew Miller, Adam Ottavino or David Robertson.

Another team with a desperate need in the bullpen is the Indians, who were the third-worst in the AL in 2018 in that category. They could possibly lose Miller and closer Allen, leaving them incredibly thin behind lefty Brad Hand. The Tribe's expected unwillingness to spend could mean this hole remains for another year.

While the Astros are set in the late innings, they will turn their attention to the rotation. They will likely lose Dallas Keuchel to free agency and possibly Charlie Morton, in addition to Lance McCullers, due to Tommy John Surgery. Though they could stretch out relievers Collin McHugh and Brad Peacock, who have started in the past, the Stros may also look to the market to fill this void.

Another team that will surely look to shore up their rotation is the Brewers, who were just one win away from the Fall Classic. Though Jimmy Nelson will return from injury, they seem likely to make a splash, with Keuchel, Corbin, Nathan Eovaldi and JA Happ being in play.

But with teams like the Phillies and White Sox having money to spend, a new challenger to the playoff sphere could emerge.

## Dolegala Leaves CCSU As A Champion, Record Holder

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

done it any other way."

Prior to coming to Central, Dolegala had to battle through a shoulder injury that forced him into attending a prep school. With the injury limiting his appeal, Central was the only school to offer him a scholarship.

Dolegala remains grateful that the Blue Devil coaching staff took a chance on him.

"I'm just very lucky," Dolegala said, "I'm blessed the coaches thought I was good enough to play here. I think I made the most of this opportunity."

When the six-foot-six-inch quarterback first committed to CCSU, head coach Pete Rossomando said he was impressed with his arm and his ability to make any throw necessary. After spending four years in Rossomando's system, the coach says he couldn't have asked for anything more from Dolegala.

"I can never say enough about Jake, he's been one of the greatest I've ever coached, not only as a player but as a person, he's just a joy to be around," Rossomando said, "He exemplifies what it is to be a Blue Devils football player. I'm so proud of him and I know he's probably going to go to the NFL."

During Dolegala's tenure at CCSU, the team won their first NEC championship since 2010. Despite



Dolegala threw for 8,129 yards and 48 touchdowns, both school records.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

not playing in the team's Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoff game, Dolegala says the run to the playoff is something he'll never forget.

However, while he'll remember the games and memories he made on the field, Dolegala says he is proudest of the connections he made with his teammates.

"I can't be prouder of these guys," Dolegala said, "Those are my guys until I die, those are some of my best friends, they play their tails off all the time, I can't thank them enough."

With Dolegala's departure, the Blue Devils will be tasked with finding a new starting quarterback next season. After spending four years in the role, Dolegala thinks he set the blueprint for whoever wins the job.

"I think I did a half-way decent job here, I think I've set a guideline for

these younger quarterbacks coming up that they can follow," he said, "I want those guys to go above and beyond of what I did, and I think they can."

Even with the change of quarterbacks, Dolegala thinks the Blue Devils will continue to be winners going forward.

"My class and the class before mine started to build a winning culture, these guys need to keep the bond," Dolegala said, "They have plenty of talent on this team and they just have to keep doing what we were doing. I think these guys will be just fine."

Four years ago, Jacob Dolegala entered CCSU as an unheralded prospect eager to make his mark on the program. While his career may be over, he has left his mark both on the field and in the record books, in addition to the connections he has made with his teammates and coaches.

## OPINION

## How Gruden's Raiders Shaped 2018 NFL Season

BY RYAN JONES  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

A snap was not played by the Oakland Raiders during Thursday's Thanksgiving games, but their mark could be seen on the field by way of two of their former players.

After the 10-year, \$100 million signing of head coach Jon Gruden, the team did a complete 180, going from potential contenders in the weak AFC to a team in a complete rebuild. Gruden and the Raiders began stockpiling picks, clearing cap and trading away their stars, seemingly hitting the restart button on the team for 2018.

The two most noteworthy stars shipped out of Oakland (Khalil Mack and Amari Cooper) have already made positive impacts on their new teams, as demonstrated perfectly by the annual turkey day games.

Cooper put together a career game in a battle between his Cowboys and the Redskins, netting 180 receiving yards on only eight receptions. Cooper's monster performance comes only four games after being traded to Dallas for a first round pick. As impressive as Cooper's game was, it shouldn't come as a surprise. The 24-year-old has already picked defenses apart in his four-year career.

In only his second season in the league, Cooper ranked in the top ten amongst receivers in total yards (1173) and receiving yards per game (72.1). Though questioned at first, the Cowboy's trade for Cooper seems to be the perfect fit, and the move to put Dallas over the top in the struggling NFC East.

To Gruden's credit, the first round pick given in return for Cooper is heavy-handed compared to the deals for his

peers. Demaryius Thomas was sent packing from Denver in exchange for Houston's fourth-round pick this year. Josh Gordon, though controversial off the field, was traded for only a fifth-rounder to the Patriots.

Though he did not stuff the stat sheet, Khalil Mack led the Mitchell Trubisky-less Bears on the defensive side against the Lions, as he has all season. Mack leads the NFL with five forced fumbles, and despite usually being double teamed, has been a nightmare for opposing offensive coordinators.

After seeking a better contract, Mack was traded to the Bears alongside 2020 second and fifth-round picks for two first rounds picks as well as a third and sixth-rounder over the next two drafts.

The trading of Cooper and Mack were not the only moves made by Gruden's Raiders this year. Receiver Ryan Switzer was traded to Pittsburgh before he played a snap. The deal swapped Oakland's sixth-round pick next year for the Steelers' fifth. Safety Shalom Luani was sent to the Seahawks for a seventh rounder, last of the Raiders' 10 picks in the 2019 Draft.

The 10 picks in 2019 have many Oakland fans watering at the mouth. However, with the help of Mack and Cooper, respectively, the Bears and Cowboys' picks in this year's draft continue to decrease in value as the teams find more success. Originally projected to be high picks, they seem increasingly likely to be outside of the top 20.

The Raiders sit at 2-9 on the season, and their struggles look far from over. How the Raiders handle their draft capital and cap space this upcoming offseason will decide if their chips were in the right pile, but as for this year, all bets are off for a playoff push.



After falling to CCSU last season, Duquesne was able to capture the NEC title.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

## Football Fumbles Chance At NEC Repeat

BY TREVI ALICKOLLI  
STAFF WRITER

The Central Connecticut football team failed to finish the 2018 season strong and cost themselves the chance to repeat as NEC Champions when they fell to Duquesne 38-31. A miraculous 56-yard touchdown pass will less than 30 seconds to go in regulation was the Blue Devils' undoing.

The Blue Devils finish the season with a 6-5 overall record and a 4-2 record in the NEC. In the last two seasons, Central had a 10-2 record in NEC play, but failed to repeat as champions and appear in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) tournament.

Though not trying to make excuses as to why they lost the game, head coach Pete Rossomando was not happy with how the game was officiated.

"Just the way it is. We're playing against Duquesne. We're playing against the

officials. It's a tough way to play a game I can tell you that right now," Rossomando said.

Senior quarterback Jacob Dolegala led his troops into battle for his final stand as a Blue Devil and did not disappoint with his performance. Dolegala had 219 yards through the air in his final collegiate outing with three touchdowns and two interceptions. In addition, he rushed for 29 yards and found the end zone once.

He finishes his CCSU career atop multiple school records, as he is now the all-time leader in passing yards with 8,129 yards, a mark that is also good for fifth all-time in NEC history. On Saturday, Dolegala also eclipsed the school record for passing touchdowns with 47.

His head coach could not have been any prouder of what he has been able to accomplish as a player and how he has grown a person. Rossomando did not hold anything back.

"I could never say enough about Jake, he's been one of the greatest I've ever coached, not only as a player but as a person," Rossomando said. "He's just a joy to be around and he's everything we ask for in a football player. He exemplifies all that it means to be a Blue Devil."

But Dolegala needed someone on the other end of his passes and his number one target on the day was Tyshaun James.

The sophomore quarterback turned receiver saved his best performance for last and had four receptions for 96 yards and two touchdowns, one of which he outraced everyone to the end zone for a 62-yard score.

"Incredible. Incredible, he played really well," Rossomando said of James' performance. "You could see him coming along through the whole season and today was really a breakout for him."

The defense as a whole did not have a great day, allowing 38 points and the game

winner, but two standouts come in a pair of defensive backs DJ Exilhomme and Tajik Bagley.

Exilhomme recorded 16 total tackles, forced three fumbles and has two pass breakups. Bagley recorded six tackles and the lone interception for the Blue Devils while shutting down anyone lined up across from him.

Aaron Dawson had another productive outing as he gained 126 yards of total offense (81 rushing, 45 receiving) and caught a touchdown.

The season is over for the Blue Devils, who will now put their focus toward the offseason and training to get better in hopes of playing at the highest level of competition next season.

They will have key departures who will be tough to replace but have young key pieces in place, giving them the hopes of being a winning program going forward.

## Men's Basketball Finds Depth In Five-Game Stretch



The Blue Devils averaged 83 points in the five games.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
& RYAN JONES  
SPORTS EDITORS

It was a busy two weeks for Central Connecticut's men's basketball team, including trips to Jamaica and California, as well as two home games. All in all, the Blue Devils won three of their five contests, with the exception of two two-point losses on the road.

The leader of the team was senior forward Tyler Kohl, who averaged 22.2

points, 7.8 rebounds and 5.5 assists in the five-game span, leading the team in scoring in all five. Kohl was named Northeast Conference player of the week for his efforts.

But what Marshall believes makes this team different from last year is their options outside of Kohl. Freshman Ian Krishnan has continued to impress, scoring 22 points against UMass Lowell and leading the team with 20 points against Austin Peay.

Following a slow start, junior forward Joe Hugley has reached double-digits in each of

the last four games, including a season-high 22 in a loss to Loyola Marymount.

Junior forward Jamir Coleman scored 19 points against Florida A&M and is shooting nearly 70 percent from three on the season.

"It's good because 'who do you prepare for?' If you look in the past, year one it was if you take Austin away, where do we get our points from? Year two, if we take Tyler away, who can beat you? This year, we have other guys who can actually score," Marshall said.

"Last year, not to knock any of those guys, it was hard because we really didn't have too many guys, besides myself, that can go get a bucket," Kohl said following the UMass Lowell game. "Really everybody can create for themselves. Now we're like eight, nine, 10 deep."

But one issue that plagued the Blue Devils over the span was surrendering big leads. Against Austin Peay, they had a nine-point lead with six minutes remaining in the first half. But the Governors went on a 17-8 during that time, heading to the half tied at 39. The Blue Devils were unable to pull away in the second half, leading to the two-point loss.

But it wasn't just losses where they could not maintain leads. In the UMass Lowell

contest, they led by 17 at the half and by 22 early in the second, but the Riverhawks cut it to 12 in six minutes. They again found themselves up 20 with four minutes remaining, but the Riverhawks ended the game on an 8-0 run.

"We settled. We got up 22 and we thought they were going to old. Good teams don't do that," Marshall said following the game. "We've got to play all 40 minutes."

Their 14-point win against Florida A&M was not characteristic of the dominance, as they led by 20 multiple times.

They even struggled in the second half against Division III opponent Pine Manor, who went on a 17-4 run out of the gate.

"You have to realize when you're on the other end when you're down, you're going to try to come out with a sense of urgency," Marshall said of the performance. "Other teams are going to do that to you as well. If you want to be a championship-caliber team, you've got to come out there at the half the same way you did as the start of the game."

The Blue Devils will be back in action when they travel to North Carolina A&T on Thursday where they will look to defeat the Aggies for the second year in a row. They will then travel to Virginia Tech looking to upset the ACC opponent.