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Austin Baker

Southington man arrested after allegedly stabbing victim in head

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SOUTHINGTON — A Southington man was arrested by the Wolcott police department after stabbing a victim in the head.

Austin Baker, born July 29, 1994, of 287 Rockwood Dr. was charged Thursday, Sept. 5 with first degree assault, reckless endangerment, criminal trespass, threatening and breach of peace. He was held at the Wolcott Police Department on a \$100,000 bond.

According to the Wolcott Police Department, last Thursday at 7:30 p.m. officers received a report that a party on Saddle Road had been stabbed in the head and that the suspect had fled the scene on foot.

“Upon arrival we learned that the victim had a small laceration on the back of his head,” officers

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Giving a taste of art in Newington

MAINA DURAFOUR
@NEWBRITHERALD

NEWINGTON—Whether you are passionate about art or not, a young adult or an elderly person, the Newington Art League is eager to promote art for all through events and demonstrations.

On Wednesday, the NAL is hosting a free painting demonstration with artist Susanna Dalponte. During this event, she will create a painting and

talk through the different processes involved in the creation of an artwork.

According to the former president of the league, Patricia Tanger, the NAL’s purpose is to promote art in Newington and the surrounding areas. They host multiple events, such as art demonstrations, which happen about six times a year, since 1983.

Anyone involved in the league can suggest an artist for these events, and the choice

depends on if the artist feels comfortable doing a demonstration, and if their schedule aligns with the NAL.

Tanger is the one who suggested Dalponte after seeing some of her work at the Lime Art association show.

Dalponte is a pastel artist, which is a dry medium.

“It is a pure pigment that’s been pressed into a block. Some people think of chalks. Chalk is a little different,” she

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David Penfield

Artist Susanna Dalponte with her award-winning pastel painting “Sunset Stroll to the Sea.”



Maina Durafour

Agnieszka Perkowski, right, with her son, Edward Perkowski, middle, and Hanna Deja, left, who is a choreographer at Polanie, during Dozynki festival.

Polish Traditions

NB community celebrates Dozynki

MAINA DURAFOUR
@NEWBRITHERALD

NEW BRITAIN — Months ahead of the traditional American thanksgiving, the Polish community celebrated Dozynki, a long-established farmers festival. The program included music, dance, food

and a sharing of a tradition to future generations.

On Saturday, a bit of that Poland tradition took over the Polish Falcon “Polanka” Field and filled the place with joy. According to the Dozynki Harvest Festival, this tradition began in the 16th century and was meant to celebrate the

year’s labor after the crops were harvested.

This festival has been taking place for 41 years and has faced numerous changes and challenges.

Richard Kokorsky, chairman of the Polish festival in New Britain, has been doing this for about 30 years. His job

at the festival is to organize all the festivities and gather the different associations for this one particular day of the year.

The purpose of the festival is to try to get people together, but it’s become harder for the organizer to put on the festival, he said. Despite the will of keeping up with this

tradition, most of the people that get together to organize Dozynki are of age.

“It’s just somebody really has to do it because, unfortunately, we don’t have a lot of younger people coming up trying to help,” he said. “So, we’re always at a risk of not

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Barbara Ernst Prey will give a lecture on her work in “Handled With Care: Shaker Master Crafts and the Art of Barbara Prey.”

Barbara Ernst Prey to visit, give lecture at NB museum

CLAUDIA S. HILARIO
@NEWBRITAINHERALD

NEW BRITAIN — As the month progresses, the New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMAA) will invite community members to enjoy a new season. The museum will

offer a variety of social and educational programs for all.

One of the most significant events on schedule is the Barbara Ernst Prey visit for a lecture on her work in “Handled With Care: Shaker Master Crafts and the Art of Barbara Prey.”

“Prey specializes in creating intricate watercolor paintings at monumental scale. Working primarily on-site, often out of doors, she captures the built and natural environments with a vibrancy that belies the challenges of translating

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NBMAA to host events this month

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light, temperature, and space into two dimensions," the NBMAA said. "Prey draws inspiration from a diverse range of sources: her work chronicles not only the shifting physical environments of Long Island, Western Massachusetts, and rural Maine, where she regularly works, but also the architectural and natural sites encountered on her travels through Asia, Europe and across North America."

September Events and Programs

Gallery Talk | The Cycle of Terror and Tragedy

Commemorate the day by joining docent Mona Cappuccio on Wednesday, September 11, at 1 p.m., for a gallery talk on Graydon Parrish's *The Cycle of Terror and Tragedy*. After the 2001 collapse of the World Trade Center twin towers due to a terrorist attack, Graydon Parrish was asked to submit a proposal to commemorate the tragedy.

Walk-In Tour | Museum Masterpieces

Dive into highlights of the NBMAA's permanent collection on this hour-long Docent-led tour, available on Saturday, September 14, and Sundays, September 22 and 29, at 1 p.m.

Film Series | Native America - Part 4: New World Rising

On Sunday, September 15, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30

p.m., join the museum and enjoy the film, which travels through 15,000 years to showcase massive cities, unique systems of science, art, and writing, and 100 million people connected by social networks and spiritual beliefs spanning two continents.

Homeschool Day

On Thursday, September 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., visit the museum for a special day of learning how to tell stories through art on a day designed for homeschool families while exploring various activities for students and educators.

Lecture and Book Signing | "Artists Explore The 9/11 Terror Attacks"

On Thursday, September 19, at 6 p.m., Dr. Matthew Warshauer, professor of history at Central Connecticut University, will host a discussion on how artists confronted 9/11.

Adult Studio Workshop | Portrait Painting with Antony Zito

On Sunday, September 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., join Connecticut artist Antony Zito, who will guide you through creating an in-depth portrait using acrylic paint on canvas.

Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut | Vladimir Rumiantsev

On Sunday, September 22, at 3 p.m., enjoy an evening with the internationally renowned pianist Jerome Lowenthal, who will present the works of Fryderyk Chopin and other musical masters.

Dozynki Festival

Continued from Page 1
having the festival."

To him, one of the reasons the younger generation is not involved is because they don't feel the need to participate to these kinds of events. Partly because many don't feel the necessity to get help from their community, whether it is economically or socially, because they can rely on government or social services programs.

However, Kokorsky believes there is also a matter of transmission that needs to be addressed.

"The issue is how much do people want to participate and really share in the culture and the history that their parents have or their grandparents. And there is a sense that it's not as important anymore as it was in years past," he said.

The president of the festival, Roman Nowak, is an 80-year-old man who has been part of the organization since its beginning. The festivities are organized solely through donations from the community.

One of his favorite things about the event is to see the different folkloric dances performed by new generations of kids from Polish families. But he has also noticed young

people are harder to get to be involved.

However, he believes this the result of children becoming more educated and going off to college. This is what happen to his three girls. They studied, got good jobs, but it sometimes means you have to leave your roots.

According to Nowak, the Polish culture will not disappear, despite the community becoming more scattered.

Agnieszka Perkowski, a Polish mom, came to the festival from Bridgeport with the Polish traditional folk-dance group "Polanie." They were invited to perform at the festival, and they presented three groups from children to adult.

They have been invited to participate in this event a few times and they love to come here because of the important Polish community.

The dances they practice are the same their ancestors used to dance for fun, and they try to transmit that to new generations. During the dances, they also wear traditional costumes, imported from Poland, which are authentic.

For her, it's important to preserve these traditions, and she tries to apply that to her own family. Among other children from Polish fami-

lies, her son performed at the event.

"I want them to know where they came from. That's why we are one of the few families where the entire family dances in the group," she said. "My son dances. My husband and me and my daughter, we all dance in the group, and we all try to keep up with it."

Children also believe learning this tradition is important. Still in his beskid slaski, the traditional costume he wore for the performance, Edward Perkowski said learning this is really cool to him.

What he likes is "to learn about the history and how it originated, because the camp or teacher sometimes tells us what songs are about and how it originated. So, it's really cool."

Lots of the songs are about farmers stories, and talk about chickens, pork and the pastures. What he likes about the songs he dances to is that there are always funny.

Although the festival faces some difficulties, the Polish community still work to keep Dozynki traditions alive and transmit this part of their history to their children, hoping this will stay within them to be transmitted again to the following generations.

Man arrested in Wolcott

Continued from Page 1

wrote in a report shared on the Wolcott Police Department Facebook page. "He was conscious and alert. We learned that the victim and the suspect had a earlier dispute via text

message and the suspect said he was heading to Saddle Rd.

Upon the suspects arrival words were exchanged, when the suspect pulled out a knife and struck the victim in the back of the head. The suspect

then fled."

After searching the area, Wolcott Police Officer Steven Leitao located the suspect, who was identified as Austin Baker, on Deer Run Lane and took him into custody.

NAL brings art to town

Continued from Page 1

Dalponte has painted all her life. It all started with paint-by-number kits. Being a high energy kid, her mom realized these kits helped Dalponte sit at a table and be calmer. But it soon became a passion.

"Through that process, I became really infatuated with how little spots of color placed in an organized pattern could represent something," she said. "So that just kind of kicked me off."

She first discovered the use of pastel when gaining her master's degree in fine art, after painting watercolor for years. However, the paper available at the time was not the best material for pastels.

Years later, an encounter brought her back to pastels.

"Somebody suggested that I might want to combine watercolor with pastel. And that got me revisiting what I had learned about pastel and discovering that since I had used them originally, there was a new paper that had become available," Dalponte said.

Dalponte specializes in painting outdoors and landscapes.

"When I think about my art, I think about how I love nature and how mother nature is the greatest artist, and we as humans are attempting to capture, in two-dimension, what she presents all around us in nature every day. And that's really what motivates me," she said.

Some might believe the best way to capture nature is photography, and Dalponte believes it is an amazing medium. She uses it frequent-

ly to continue the painting she is doing, because she loves to represent sunrise and sunset scenes, which are quick.

But painting brings another dimension to photography for her as an artist.

"It's what my mind and my eye and my memory combine to interpret that into a piece that I could bring inside a building and hang on a wall," Dalponte said.

When the NAL reached out to her for the presentation, she thought this could be a good opportunity to share her art with people and, possibly, inspire them. She also believes the work of the art league is important in promoting local arts, even though these demonstrations can be challenging for the artist itself.

"One thing that I really admire about the art community is the willingness to share, not only knowledge about the materials, but to encourage people at any stage of their path in artwork, either as artists or as art lovers," Dalponte said. "It's really exciting to show people what happens behind the scenes."

This will be her first art demonstration, and she hopes "everybody who attends is going to take away something really positive."

For the demonstration, Dalponte plans on introducing pastel and the material available, as well as showing some samples to give an idea of what you can create with it, and how to start using it.

After that introductory phase, she will proceed to demonstrate an actual painting.

and demonstrate is I'm going to start with a piece of this sanded paper, and it's just a plain white sheet of paper, and I will begin the painting," she said.

Tanger believes these events are a good way to introduce people who are not familiar with arts to it. Either to appreciate looking at it, or to push them to learn how to do it.

Every artist was, at some point, a novice. And seeing people who have no experience in art coming to these events is important for Tanger, because one of the goals of the NAL is to help people explore their creativity.

"We want people who don't have a clue to come and learn. It's a learnable thing," she said.

One of the things Tanger prefers about these demonstrations is the fact they always bring new faces to the league. But it's also about the possibility to share a private moment with an artist and interact with them.

"Just because they're doing a demonstration, talking and doing their artwork doesn't mean you can't ask them questions. And that's great," Tanger said. "There's been some fabulous questions asked of artists about their process."

One of the goals behind these events is also to push people to join the NAL, no matter their level in art.

Tanger is convinced art is good for mental health and a good way to relax. She sees it as a therapy for when you need to "lose the rest of the problems of the world."

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