



SUBMITTED

Back in the good ol' USA

Corporal Mike Sakowski of Bristol, a member of Plainville-based Charlie Company, The First Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, returned home on Jan. 13 from a tour of duty in Afghanistan. He is seen here with Brooke Schreiner upon his arrival back in the United States.

Coach Calhoun joins in regional fund raiser to benefit Autism Speaks

By ROB GLIDDEN
STAFF WRITER

Southington's Cardio Express gym is preparing to partner with UConn men's basketball coach Jim Calhoun for a brand new fundraising event.

Along with the Cardio Express in Manchester, the gym is inviting the public to gather on Feb. 26 for the first-ever "Jim Calhoun CardioRaiser."

"It's one of the biggest honors we could get," said Lacey Pedrini, general manager of the Southington Cardio Express. "It's amazing that they considered us to host this event. It's a first-time event and I hope the turnout is good enough for us to do it every year."

Calhoun is involved with a number of various charity events, and the funds from the CardioRaiser will go towards the Autism Speaks organization.

In a prepared statement, representatives of Calhoun explained that "the dollars raised will be used to fund global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments and

cure for autism, to raise public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families and society, and to bring hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder."

During the event, guests will be invited to work out in a variety of different ways. The cardio machines will be available and there will also be Zumba and spinning. Different events will be available based on a person's fitness level.

"We want people to know that fitness can be fun and to do it for charity is great," Pedrini said.

In the weeks leading up to the CardioRaiser, the gym will also be accepting donations on a website devoted to the event. The site is located on the Autism Speaks website, though it can be found quickly by typing "CardioRaiser Southington" into a search engine.

Those who raise more than \$500 for the cause will be rewarded with a free year of membership at Cardio Express.



Boukus, legislators participate in Secret Santa for veterans

Rep. Betty Boukus (D-Plainville, New Britain, Bristol) hosted a press conference in the Legislative Office Building capping off the collection for the 9th annual Secret Santa

Collection for the Rocky Hill Veterans Home and Hospital. Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs Linda Schwartz and a number of legislators spoke



Above, Rep. Jack Hennessy, left, Rep. Claire Janowski, Donte and Domenic Chambrello, Veterans Commissioner Linda Schwartz, Sen. Paul Doyle, Alex Santini and Rep. Betty Boukus (D-Plainville, Bristol) load a van to deliver gifts to The State Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. At left, Boukus (D-Plainville, Bristol), along with Sen. Jason Welch (R-Bristol, Plainville, Plymouth, and Harwinton) and Rep. Frank Nicastro (D-Bristol) at the press conference for the 9th annual Secret Santa Collection for the Rocky Hill Veterans Home and Hospital.

at the event.

In addition to personal items, gift cards and clothes, this year's donations included Wii video game consoles and a flat-screen TV. After the press conference, the

donations were loaded into a van for delivery to the veterans' home. Donations were provided by lawmakers, legislative staff, visitors to the capitol and many others.

Schools: Redistricting

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the release said, adding that the data will help the board, school officials and staff, and the public on what is considered during redistricting.

Between the beginning of next month and April, the board is scheduled to hold a series of meetings, all open to the public and all being held at Bristol Eastern High School, to work on the redistricting. Officials say parents should know where their children will go to school by April.

The other meetings scheduled for Feb. 13, March 6 and March 22 con-

sultants will present maps, discussions will be held on school paths for the students, and the meetings on Feb. 13 and March 22 allow for public comment. On April 4, redistricting is expected to be an item on the board's agenda, which could possible take action.

All of the meetings begin at 7 p.m., with the exception of the March 22 meeting, which begins at 6 p.m. The meetings will be held at Bristol Eastern High School. For a detailed timeline, visit the Bristol schools website at www.bristol.k12.ct.us, and click on the link where it says 'Redistricting Info.'

Project: Call for Photos

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line of 2014. However Shackett said she's trying to get all of the photos for the seven names sooner. She has been trying to contact some family members of the names she has, one of which was a husband who died in battle, just a few days after being married.

In addition to the Call for Photos project, Shackett is also involved in a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans ceremony, which will be held on March 31, at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Armory in Hartford. She said the cere-

mony will be "a really nice tribute to the veterans." The evening will include USO entertainment, music and readings from letters and diaries of the Vietnam War Veterans. Tickets are \$10, and free for veterans, and need to be purchased in advance because tickets won't be handed out at the door. The event begins at 7 p.m., and anyone needing more information should visit www.ccsu.edu/welcomehome or call (860) 832-2978. For more information on the Call for Photos project or the virtual wall, visit www.vvmf.org/photos.

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