

BCHS student takes up Al Gore's climate change torch

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

Since seventh grade, Christopher MacNeill has been spreading the word about global climate change. Three years later, MacNeill is still working to spread that message, only now he does so with the influence of a Nobel laureate.

MacNeill, who is entering his sophomore year at Bristol Central High School, was selected as one of two dozen or so teenagers to attend The Climate Project's international presenter training held at the end of June in Nashville, TN.

The Climate Project is former vice president Al Gore's climate change leadership program. Gore has become renowned for his

work on the issue of climate change, which includes his acclaimed documentary on the subject "An Inconvenient Truth."

In 2007, Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their work.

As part of the program, Gore trained the hundreds in attendance, including the teens, in his presentation on climate change from the documentary. The training is meant to allow those in attendance to go out and spread the message.

"It was really, really great to be able to meet Al," said MacNeill, who described Gore as one of his role models. "He's a really nice guy and it was just a real great experience."



SUBMITTED

Christopher MacNeill, right, at The Climate Project's International in Tennessee.

MacNeill first became interested in the issue of climate change as a seventh grader in Chippens Hill

Middle School.

At the time, MacNeill explained, he was beginning to get involved in poli-

tics. As he began to delve into politics, MacNeill said the issue of climate change stuck a chord with him. He felt the issue was flying under the radar.

"It seemed like so many people were overlooking it and it needed to be addressed," MacNeill said.

So, MacNeill put together his own slide show on the issue and presented it to his classmates at Chippens Hill. He put together fliers on the issue to spread awareness, and was invited to other schools to give his slide show.

Over the years, MacNeill stayed dedicated to raising awareness about climate change, and he received an invitation to apply for the presenter training earlier this year.

To MacNeill's delight and surprise, he was chosen to attend.

"It was probably the best experience so far in my life," said MacNeill.

Now that MacNeill is trained in Gore's presentation, he has to give ten presentations a year on the topic to help spread the message. He wants people to know that climate change is a serious problem that shouldn't be overlooked.

"It's a threat to our global environment and our global civilization," said MacNeill.

Anyone interested in scheduling MacNeill to give a presentation on climate change can email him at macneillchristopher@live.com.

Bond commission approves funds for riding center, Boys Club

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

Two city organizations received a helping hand from the state to help make improvements to their facilities.

The state Bond Commission approved money for the Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center, and the Bristol Boys and Girls Club.

"These investments will improve the quality of

life in Bristol," said Rell in prepared statement prior to the bonds approval. "The Bristol Boys and Girls Club is a hub of activity, and we want it to continue to thrive. We also want to help Shepard Meadows improve its facilities and service more children."

Shepard Meadows received \$120,000. Shepard Meadows, located on Hill Street, provides therapeutic horseback riding to people

with special needs with a focus on children. The state money will be used to help the center make changes to improve handicap accessibility and build an indoor riding facility to accommodate riders during inclement weather.

The Boys and Girls Club received \$180,000, which will go towards building and playground improvements to the Laurel Street club, and the Imagine Nation

Children's Museum.

"These are wise investments that will pay large dividends over an extended period of time," said state Sen. Thomas Colapietro (D-Bristol), in a prepared statement prior to the money being approved. "The Bristol Boys and Girls Club is a fantastic resource for children in town, providing organized sports, homework help, and other enriching activities.

Shepard Meadows provides many challenged individuals, and children in particular, with an affordable and enjoyable physical therapy. Both of these projects will add a great deal to the lives of children in Bristol and the surrounding area."

The bonds were approved during the commission's July 13 meeting. City Councilor Kevin McCauley announced the approval during the City

Council's meeting on the same day.

"This funding will help both organizations to increase their outreach and provide improved services, physical therapy, and programs for children and disabled individuals throughout Bristol and the surrounding area," said McCauley.

Man accused of sexual assault

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

A Bristol man was charged with sexually assaulting a minor by state police.

According to a press release issued by state police, Henry Collin, 39 of 40 Broad Place, was arrested July 12 after a two-week investigation into a complaint filed by the victim's

father.

On June 27, the release stated, the father filed a complaint that Collin sexually assaulted his 14-year-old daughter. The investigation revealed, the release stated, that Collins was involved with a sexual relationship with the 14-year-old girl. State police said the sexual assault happened on Collin's boat,

which is docked at a marina in Chester.

Collins was charged with sexual assault in the second degree, and risk of injury to a minor. He was released on a \$50,000 non-surety bond and is scheduled to appear in Middletown Superior Court July 26.

transferred the money requested.

Police are asking that anyone who comes across this scam contact the Bristol Police Department at (860) 584-3011

FamilyWize helps save cash

United Way and FamilyWize are proud to announce that their partnership has saved the people living and working in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville and Plymouth more than \$60,000 on everyday prescription costs in less than ten months.

The free FamilyWize drug discount card is distributed by United Way of West Central CT. "No one should be forced to choose between paying for food, rent or medicine because of the high cost of prescriptions. That's why we've partnered with FamilyWize to distribute free prescription discount cards to everyone in our four communities", said Donna Osuch,

President of the United Way of West Central Connecticut in a press release

Distributed through United Ways, the FamilyWize card lowers the cost of medicine by an average of 30% or more for people without insurance or who take medications not covered by their plan. It's easy. It's just like a coupon you can keep using every time you need to fill a prescription. All you have to do is present a FamilyWize card at a local pharmacy to get the savings.

These cards can be used by everyone in the community, not just people without insurance. They can even be used by people with health benefits, including Medicaid or Medicare.

FamilyWize cards can be found locally at CVS Pharmacy, Beacon Prescriptions, Wal-Mart and ShopRite. People with internet access can go to www.uwestcentralct.org/prescriptionprogram.html to print a card.

Police issue warning about rental scam

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

Police have issued a warning to residents to beware of a house rental scam.

According to police, the scam involves an advertisement on the internet marketing a home for rent. The potential victim contacts someone via email, claiming to be the homeowner who is living in another

country, police said.

As the scam progresses, police said, the person claiming to be the homeowner requests the victim transfer money to an address. Police said the houses marketed for rent are actually homes for sale by legitimate homeowners.

Police said about a dozen complaints have come in over the past two months regarding this scam, and some people have



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