



STORRS

Spring Weekend Measures Outlined

By **KATHLEEN MEGAN**
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With the University of Connecticut's spring weekend about to start tonight, university police and administrators, state police, and Mansfield emergency officials are buttoning down plans to try to make it a safe one.

In a letter to the university community, UConn Police Chief Robert Hudd wrote that students and visitors to the Storrs campus should be aware that there will be closed roads, blocked parking lots and numerous patrols and checkpoints looking for drunken drivers on campus and on nearby roads.

"Students — as well as visitors planning to travel to UConn this week — should be aware" of these measures, Hudd wrote. "Certain roads and parking lots on campus will be blocked or closed sporadically throughout the weekend; and parking on campus will be restricted during this period."

Maj. Ronald Blicher of the university police said, "The intent of these measures is to provide for the safety of the university community. ... These measures are likely to have little to no impact on UConn students, particularly those who reside at the university, but may have a significant impact on anyone intending to attend spring weekend from outside the university."

Blicher said, however, that visitors attending other functions on campus — for instance, performances at Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre — should not have any trouble getting on or off campus or parking.

In the past, the three-day event, which is not university-sanctioned and is held mainly at off-campus apartments, has swelled to more than 20,000 people on certain nights, leading to fights, overturned cars, dumpster fires, injuries, sexual assaults and dozens of arrests.

In recent years, the weekend has been more subdued. Last year, however, university police reported 89 arrests while state police recorded 30. Blicher noted that in past years 70 to 90 percent of the arrests have involved people with no affiliation with the university. For that reason, much of the security effort is aimed at controlling who comes onto campus.

Thomas Haggerty, who is president of

SPRING, B2

ON-AIR NEWSSTAND



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ROSIE MORLINE checks on Adora, her guide dog, as she runs the control panel for Jim Castro, left, and Rick Peterson as they read news items for CRIS Radio. The station, which moved into new headquarters in Windsor last year, enlists volunteers to read daily newspapers, magazine articles and news digests 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

CRIS RADIO FOR BLIND READY TO TAKE ON HIGHER PROFILE EAR TO THE WORLD

By **DAVID DRURY**
 Special to The Courant

Retinitis pigmentosa long ago took away Ann Kramer's ability to read a newspaper, but it hasn't stopped her from staying up to date on local news, stock market reports and the latest menu offerings in the food pages.

"I have friends who say, 'How did you hear about that?' I say, 'I have wonderful friends who read to me,'" said Kramer, 85, one of the thousands of devoted listeners of the Connecticut Radio Information System, popularly known as CRIS Radio.

Now in its 31st year, CRIS promotes

itself as Connecticut's "Talking Newsstand for the Blind and Print Handicapped." Its 400 volunteers provide 24-hour, seven-day-a-week broadcast service to listeners, reading daily newspapers, magazine articles and news digests, opening a window into the world that would otherwise be closed to them.

Beginning with its inaugural broadcast on Nov. 26, 1979, from the basement of what was then the headquarters of the Connecticut Board of Education and Services for the Blind in Wethersfield, CRIS maintained a decidedly low profile. Few outside its community of listeners, longtime volunteers, dedicated foundation supporters and civic groups, such as the

Lions Club, were aware of or understood its mission.

That is beginning to change.

As baby boomers continue to age, the audience for CRIS Radio is expected to expand beyond the estimated 50,000 state residents who now qualify to receive broadcasts. Those broadcasts, over FM sideband, can't be picked up by ordinary radio, but on free, specially tuned portable radios, cable television receivers or telephone readers. Soon they will be streamed live on the Web.

In January 2009, CRIS moved into its brand-new broadcast center and studio headquarters at 314 Windsor

CRIS RADIO, B2

YOU CAN VOTE

Time To Pick Our 'One Book'



HELEN UBIÑAS
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It's that time again. Time to pick the One Book for Greater Hartford.

When I was on the selection committee last year, we chose "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" by Junot Diaz.

It was a huge success. In fact, Hartford Public Library's chief executive director, Matt Poland, said it was the library's most successful One Book program since its start nine years ago.

No doubt because it was a great book. But mostly because the community really owned the whole process that culminated in hundreds of people waiting more than an hour to get their book signed by Diaz at the library.

Awesome, but I bet we can make this year's One Book program even more successful.

To refresh your memory, the One Book literary program is about engaging the community in the shared experience of reading one book by a living author. A citywide book club, if you will.

As a returning selection committee member, my assignment is to read all four books in contention before the committee meets in June to pick this year's One Book.

But just like last year, I want your help. Read the books, and let me know what you think. Vote at courant.com/onebook for your top pick.

Our choices this year are:

► "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," by Mark Haddon. This book deals with a topic that's getting a lot of much-needed attention lately: autism. It's described as a murder mystery told by an autistic 15-year-old whose parents are struggling to cope with their child's condition.

► "People of the Book," by Geraldine Brooks sounds meaty. Written by a foreign correspondent-turned-novelist, it tells the story of the Sarajevo Haggadah, a rare,

UBIÑAS, B2

QUICK TAKE

Memorial Service For Ex-Vernon Mayor

A memorial service will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Vernon for former Mayor Frank J. McCoy Sr., who died April 6 at his home in Naples, Fla. He was 87.

McCoy, grandfather of Mayor Jason L. McCoy, served two terms with the Vernon Town Council and as mayor for four terms in the 1970s and '80s.

He was a graduate of Yale

University and the University of Connecticut School of Law and practiced law for more than 50 years.

He earned the rank of sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II and served in Europe. After the war, for 40 years, he was the service officer for the state's Soldier Sailor Marine Fund. He served as a president of the



McCoy

Connecticut Conference of Mayors and as a legal adviser to the review board at Whiting Forensic Institute in Middletown.

He pushed the formation of the Vernon Midget Football League in 1960 and in 1965 he organized the Vernon Orioles baseball team in the Hartford Twilight League.

Sacred Heart Church is at 550 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon.

— **Joseph A. O'Brien Jr.**

Trail Advocates Fight For Funds

Three groups are urging Gov. M. Jodi Rell to release funds to link the Charter Oak Greenway in Manchester to the Hop River Linear Trail in Bolton. **Page B3.**

Sex Charge Against Student Teacher

A student teacher at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford has been arrested after a 16-year-old New York girl alleged that they had had a sexual relationship, New York State Police said. **Page B4.**

JIM SHEA

Look on the humorous side of life,
 Saturdays in **LIVING.**

