

# Record-Journal

Thursday, April 26, 2018 | [myrecordjournal.com](http://myrecordjournal.com)

## MERIDEN DAFFODIL FESTIVAL

### Miss Daffodil, honor escort named

By Bailey Wright  
Record-Journal staff

MERIDEN — Eighteen children and their adoring families packed into a tent Wednesday night, out of the rain, for the crowning of Little Miss Daffodil and her honor escort.

When Kira Sorensen heard her name called as Little Miss Daffodil, her eyes widened and a satisfied smile appeared on her face as she was escorted to the stage in a bright yellow dress, shiny gold shoes and tiara.

She seemed to already match her honor escort, Malachi Felton, who was wearing a suit and tie and whose jaw dropped when he was selected.

For the first time in the Meriden Daffodil Festival's 40 years, the two winners came from the same school and are in the same grade.

Sorensen, 7, and Felton, 6, are first-graders at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School.

Sorensen said she was excited to be named Little Miss Daffodil and was eager for her "whole family to watch (her) walk in the parade" on Saturday.

The ceremony began by lining up all 18 finalists, one boy and one girl from each of Meriden's nine public and parochial elementary schools. Each of the children's names were called and they walked to the stage to applause while family and friends took pictures and cheered.

Sorensen and Felton took to the stage and, surrounded by daffodils, were adorned with ceremonial sashes. Sorensen was crowned with flowers.

Doreen Roddy, a festival committee member, said the Miss Daffodil event is how the festival first got started, and it's a nice event she enjoys every year.

"(The kids are) really adorable ... it's well deserved," Roddy said. "(The event) gets city representation as well, mixed in with the kids, people from the board of ed, it's nice."

Mayor Kevin Scarpati was joined at the event by two city councilors and several mem-



bers of the city's Board of Education.

"It's one of my favorite events here at the Daffodil Festival," Scarpati said.

After the ceremony, the families and friends of the finalists enjoyed a picnic-style meal of hot dogs, hamburgers and chips served by Board of Education members.

Sorensen and Felton will be joined by the other finalists as they appear in the Daffodil Festival parade Saturday, starting at 11:30 a.m.



Kira Sorensen, 7, of Meriden, is crowned Little Miss Daffodil on Wednesday at Hubbard Park in Meriden. Left: Her honor escort, Malachi Felton, 6.

Photos by Dave Zajac,  
Record-Journal



## Meriden involved in 108 lawsuits

By Leigh Taus  
Record-Journal staff

MERIDEN — The city's top legal advisers presented a list of all pending litigation involving Meriden to the City Council finance committee this week in hopes of retaining a legal clerk position to help handle the caseload.

The \$70,413 legal clerk was cut from the law department's budget last year, along with an attorney position. City Attorney Deborah Moore said earlier this month that "the work doesn't go away unfortunately just because one position got eliminated."

Despite being cut from the budget, the legal clerk continued to work in the department at the discretion of the former city manager, Guy Scaife. The finance committee voted Tuesday to put the clerk back into the budget and a motion from the minority caucus to cut the job failed.

"I think they've proven more than once that the position is needed," said Councilor Cathy Battista, who voted to retain the clerk.

Restoring the position will require approval of the full City Council when the budget is voted on May 7.

Finance committee Chairman Brian Daniels said he voted last year to cut the clerk, but he felt the position was necessary after Scaife continued to retain it up until Scaife's termination in December.

To clarify the department's workload, the City Council requested a list of all pending litigation, revealing a total of 108 active legal matters involving the city. The cases include several lawsuits involving the police department, a discrimination suit against the school system by a former teacher, ongoing disputes with the Carabetta Cos., an appeal of a 2016 Freedom of Information Commission ruling in a complaint filed by the Record-Journal, and dozens of assessment appeals.

The list breaks down legal cases by type: 37 assessment appeals, 28 civil suits, 25

See **Lawsuits, A5**

## Senators' bills offer aid for foundations

By Susan Haigh  
Associated Press

HARTFORD — Connecticut's Democratic U.S. senators announced Wednesday they've introduced federal legislation to help state homeowners with concrete foundations crumbling from the presence of an iron sulfide.

One bill would provide \$100 million in federal funding over five years for states like Connecticut that have created pools of money to help homeowners pay for repairs to their damaged residential structures. A second proposal would create a similar grant program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Democratic Gov. Dannel P. Malloy previously sought financial assistance from FEMA for the homeowners but was told the issue didn't constitute an emergency or major disaster.

"We simply can't wait for them to recognize their responsibilities," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, referring to FEMA. "The governor was right to request (assistance). We're going to change the law to force them."

An estimated 30,000 or more homes and condominiums built in eastern and central Connecticut from the mid-1980s to 2016 could have failing foundations because of the presence of pyrrhotite. It reacts naturally

See **Foundations, A4**

## SEEKING RE-ELECTION IN 22ND

### Petit won't pursue Esty's seat

By Ashley Kus  
The Citizen

PLAINVILLE — State Rep. William Petit will seek re-election to his seat in the 22nd House District, he announced Wednesday.

"I thought long and hard about running for Congress in the 5th District and all that would entail," Petit, a Plainville Republican, said in a written statement. "But family considerations and my deep seeded commitment to the people I now serve won out."

Petit, whose district comprises Plainville and part of New Britain, said he plans to continue working on issues important to residents and the state.

Petit was the sole survivor of a 2007 home invasion in Cheshire

that killed his wife and two daughters. His nonprofit organization, the Petit Family Foundation, honors their memories.

Petit ran for public office for the first time in 2016, winning the 22nd House District seat.

Petit acknowledged earlier this month that he was considering a run for the 5th Congressional District after U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty, a Cheshire Democrat, announced she would not seek re-election in November. Esty made her announcement days after reports detailed her mishandling of complaints against her former chief of staff.



Petit

Before her time in Congress, Esty represented the state House district that includes Petit's former Cheshire home. Esty held the seat for one term, from 2009 to 2010, before losing to Al Adinolfi.

Esty's 2009 vote to abolish the death penalty in the wake of the incident is cited as one of the reasons she lost that election. The legislature approved the bill, but then-Gov. M. Jodi Rell vetoed it. The legislature did eventually end the death penalty prospectively in a decision that the state Supreme Court pointed to in overturning existing death sentences, including those

See **Petit, A5**

#### TRUMP WIN LIKELY



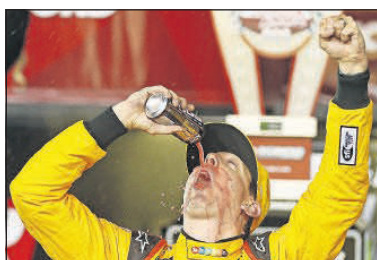
Supreme Court seems poised to uphold travel ban. **A7**

#### SOUTHLINGTON HOTEL



State labor department orders contractors to stop work. **C1**

#### NASCAR THIS WEEK



Three things we learned, and three things to watch. **D1**



High 67  
Low 45  
Weather: **A2**

151st year, No. 116  
\$2.00



#### INSIDE

Abby, **D2**  
Business, **C5**  
Classified, **D3**  
Comics, **C6**  
History, **D3**  
Lottery, **A3**  
Nation & World, **A7**  
Obituaries, **C2**  
Opinion, **C4**  
Public Notices, **D4**  
Television, **C3**