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Donovan talks to Esty: A step toward unity?



Donovan



Esty

By Mary Ellen Godin
Record-Journal staff

House Speaker Christopher Donovan contacted former state Rep. Elizabeth Esty Saturday morning to discuss a meeting with the Connecticut Working Families Party this week, a possible first step toward healing an intra-party rift that could affect the Democrats' chances of winning in the 5th Congressional District.

"I told her to call them," Donovan said from the steps of his Meriden home Saturday afternoon. "There is a process and I take it very seriously, I

was their endorsed candidate."

It is the first time Donovan and Esty have spoken since she won the Democratic primary in the 5th District on Aug. 14. Donovan had the Democratic Party's endorsement and had been the front-runner in the primary race until a federal investigation led to the indictment of close aides. His public silence for the past 10 days had led many to wonder if he would remain on the ballot as a candidate of the Working Families Party and risk throwing the race to the GOP.

Immediately after the primary, Donovan took a family vacation, bring-

ing his daughter to college and attending family functions in Philadelphia. He returned home Thursday evening.

Donovan said Saturday that the Working Families Party and Esty will discuss issues before the party decides on an endorsement. The issues include those that he and the party see as vital: Social Security, Medicare and others affecting working families, he said.

Esty's campaign spokesman, Jeb Fain, said Esty was positive about the conversation with Donovan and looks forward to building party unity before the November election, Fain said.

"It was a very good conversation and

she appreciated the speaker reaching out to her," Fain said.

Esty has a meeting set with Working Families Party leaders on Tuesday.

Last week, the Connecticut AFL-CIO, a strong supporter of Donovan over the years, gathered the votes of 80 different unions to support Esty in the general election against Republican Andrew Roraback. Esty also picked up the endorsement of fellow Democrat Gov. Dannel P. Malloy this week.

Donovan's hometown, a Democratic stronghold, has yet to formally throw

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More inside

► Ties to Christopher Donovan had been a boon, and little has changed. **Page A3.**

Results mixed in efforts to save historic buildings

By Jesse Buchanan
Record-Journal staff

After a temporary court injunction was granted last week to prevent tearing down a historic house, Southington YMCA expansion plans have been put on hold.

The YMCA is the latest group to have demolition plans blocked by concerns about historic preservation — a common issue in New England. Opinions vary on how development should be balanced against keeping buildings with architectural or historic significance.

In Wallingford, an injunction against the destruction of the American Legion building has kept it unused for years. In Cheshire, an old stove shop was demolished earlier this year after it was condemned by town officials, but not without criticism from outspoken preservationists who wanted to save the building.

On behalf of the town, Wallingford Mayor William W. Dickinson Jr. bought the American Legion building next to Town Hall at a foreclosure auction by Dime Savings Bank in December 1994. Though the mayor had his sights set on razing the structure, it was protected as a part of the downtown historic district, having been put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993.

The Wallingford Town Council voted to demolish the building in 2002, but local preservationists contacted the Connecticut Historical Commission. Representing the commission, then-Attorney General Richard Blumenthal challenged the council's decision, obtaining an injunction.

The town spent years preparing for a 2010 court case against the state, in which a New Haven Superior Court judge finally ruled in February 2011 that the house could



Christopher Zajac / Record-Journal

THREATENED: Jesse Olney House, Southington. Built around 1800 by Samuel Andrews Sr., a Revolutionary War veteran. Jesse Olney, a geographer and author, moved to Southington in 1833 from Hartford. The house is the only example of a brick Federal building in Southington.

not be demolished.

Earlier this month, the Town Council voted to issue another request for proposal for the purchase or lease of the American Legion building. Two bidders who had been approved to purchase the property dropped out in the last year.

Jerry Farrell Jr., a former board member of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and now a member of the group's advisory council, said court decisions on his-

torical structures usually hinge on the significance and condition of a building. In Wallingford's case, he said, the court was convinced that the building was viable and that the town hadn't exhausted the options to use it.

Farrell said the trust uses similar criteria before it attempts to preserve a building.

"They don't go in lightly. They go in if the facts are favorable," he said.

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Dave Zajac / Record-Journal

SAVED: American Legion building, Wallingford. Built in the 1890s and owned by Roger Austin, the town's tax collector. The American Legion took over the building in 1920.



LOST: The George Keeler Stove Shop, Cheshire. Built in the 1870s by George Keeler, a Civil War veteran who moved from Waterbury. Razed in 2011.

File photo
Record-Journal



Dave Zajac / Record-Journal

Richard Terino, right, new assistant principal at Southington High School, talks with incoming freshman Matt Natelli on Wednesday.

New school year, new phase of his career

After teaching for 36 years, Terino becomes an administrator at SHS

By Farrah Duffany
Record-Journal staff

SOUTHINGTON — Summer vacation is almost over and the first day of school is right around the corner. For Richard Terino, the first day of school Thursday will mark the start of his new position as an assistant principal at Southington High School.

Terino has been an English teacher at DePaolo Middle School for the past 36 years. He is looking forward to the next phase in his career as an administrator.

"It has gotten to the point where I'm nearing the end of my career and I said, 'You know, that would be a nice

direction to be able to leave that legacy of impacting other teachers and other classrooms other than the 120 kids that I get yearly,'" Terino said. "It sure would be interesting to leave that kind of mark before I say bye to education."

Terino succeeds Dave Germano, who retired after 38 years in the school system and had a huge hand in developing the freshman academy — a way to help students make the transition from middle school to high school. Terino hopes to continue Germano's work and add some of his own visions and ideas.

Terino wants to start academic teaming at the freshman level, similar

to what's done at the middle schools. This would mean that the freshmen would have the same core teachers each year. Teachers would be able to review students' academic achievements and brainstorm on ways to improve the next year. He also hopes that students will be able to make a connection with the school, through sports, clubs, or establishing a relationship with one of the adults at the school.

"In making that connection I think the student says, 'Hey, I think this place cares about me,'" Terino said.

The 21 years serving as president of

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Partly sunny and warm; cloudy later. Highs in 80s, lows in 60s. Forecast, **Page C5.**

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Cutest TOTS TODDLERS

Submit your pictures

► Today is the last day to submit your photos in the Cutest Tots, Toddlers & Kids contest: Myrecordjournal.com/Tots.



Presidential politics

► Republican officials in Tampa, Fla., bowing to a threat posed by Tropical Storm Isaac, postponed the start of the GOP national convention until Tuesday. **Page A4.**

► Connecticut's delegates to the GOP convention aren't the party's most conservative, so they won't be getting the best seats or staying in the most convenient hotels. **Page A4.**

► In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, President Barack Obama said Republican challenger Mitt Romney has locked himself into "extreme positions" on economic and social issues. **Page A5.**



Neil Armstrong dies

► Neil Armstrong, who made his country believe that anything was possible with ingenuity and dedication when he became the first person to walk on the moon in 1969, died Saturday. **Page A2.**

ESPN's early years

► When Cheshire resident Dennis Dening began his career at ESPN, the sports entertainment company was a shadow of its current self. Dening came on as one of the early-years producers of SportsCenter in 1982, when the hit show was young and "everyone was thinner and had more hair," he said. **Page E1.**



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