

WESTERLY

THE SUN

Sunday, December 17, 2017 | thewesterlysun.com

CARVING THEIR NICHEs



Sculptor Serena Bates, in her Westerly studio on Thursday.

Photos by Harold Hanka, The Westerly Sun



Melissa Koseski, regional vice president for the Wingate Cos., points out the frosted glass on a door leading to the back patio of a Churchwoods unit.

Harold Hanka, The Westerly Sun

Housing complex opening this week

Tenants chosen by lottery for Charlestown units

By Catherine Hewitt
Sun staff writer

CHARLESTOWN — It's been a long wait but future tenants of Churchwoods will finally be in their new homes this week.

"We vetted everyone by the middle of September and they've been waiting," said Melissa Koseski, regional vice president of the Wingate Companies of Newton, Mass., the management company for the complex, who was at the site Friday.

The \$6.3 million low-income rental complex for senior citizens 55 and older had its ribbon-cutting on Nov. 6 and was scheduled to accept tenants on Nov. 15. But unacceptable results from water testing halted the process. After a month of exploration, a leak in a well casing was repaired, water tests came back clean on Tuesday of last week and the certificate of occupancy was granted the next day.

Koseski said she was making appointments with tenants to have them sign their leases, pay the first month's rent, and sign up with National Grid for electrical service.

The 24 tenants were chosen by lottery, subject to financial qualification. A maximum of two people can live in each of the units, which are all one-bedroom.

"We had 150 people were interested and not all qualified," said Koseski. "We had 66 applications that qualified for the lottery."

Rent is based on how much the tenant household earns compared with the area's median income, which was \$55,836 in 2014. Those who earn 50 percent of the median income pay \$590 a

See Complex, A5

ARTISTS NEW YORK-BOUND

Experimentation and hard work pay off for Bates and Brown

By Nancy Burns-Fusaro
Sun staff writer

For two local artists, the year is ending in fine fashion, and the next will begin full of promise.

Sculptor Serena Bates of Westerly and painter Diane Brown of Stonington, two well-established and well-known area artists, have had a year filled

with accomplishments and awards. Next month, both of them will head to New York together to display their work at the show opening at Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club, the oldest women's art club in the country.

Their work will be on display at the 121st Annual Juried Exhibition at the National Arts Club in Gramercy Park from Jan. 9 through Jan. 26.

See Artists, A2



Artist Denise Brown, in her River Road studio in Pawcatuck on Thursday.

Conn.: Millstone profitable through 2035

Spokesman for plant says it is operating on a 'very low' margin

By Mark Pazniokas
CTMirror.org

State energy officials have concluded in a preliminary report that the Millstone nuclear power

station in Waterford will be profitable through 2035, undercutting its owner's assertion that Connecticut must change how its electricity is sold or face the early retirement of New England's largest source of carbon-free power.

But the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority conceded in a dense, 32-page assessment of the state's deregulated energy market that the nuclear industry generally is under stress because of its high fixed costs and a market in which prices are set by relatively cheap natural gas.

The report, released Thursday,

made no predictions about the plant's future, other than concluding that its owner, Dominion Energy, was unlikely to close it before 2022, the end of its current contractual obligations to produce power. The soonest it could begin the complex retirement process is

See Millstone, A5

POSTSCRIPTS

Passing fashion: Boston Stores, from here to Milwaukee



By Steven Slosberg
Special to The Sun

December's downtown strolls are a wrap, but I find myself lingering outside one shop in particular, a store that came in a variety of sizes and was shuttered long

ago in Stonington Borough, in Westerly and in Norwich; in Milwaukee, Chicago, and Erie, Pa., in Indiana, Arkansas and Iowa.

The Boston Store.

They were massive, as in occupying downtown blocks in Milwaukee and Chicago, and

they were modest, as in the 20-by-70-foot space on Water Street in Stonington. And what they shared, apparently, was just the name.

Rummaging through different sources, I've gathered that the Boston Store had little to do with Boston, as a rigorous city and port, home

to Back Bay and Beacon Hill as well as Dorchester and Roxbury, and more to do with its Brahmin airs. To wit, as one story goes, when Elisha Mack bought the bankrupt Erie Dry Goods Store in that lakefront Pennsylvania city in 1885, he renamed the store after Boston because it was then the

"perceived ... center of fashion and culture."

In Milwaukee, the tale was similar. From the Urban Milwaukee website: "According to the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission, the Boston Store had its origins with dry goods merchant Julius Simon. City directo-

ries list his business as 'Julius Simon, Dry Goods' until 1900 when its name was changed. One account says the Boston Store name was chosen because the city of Boston was then considered the center of American fashion and commerce, but

See Fashion, A6

Nation & World



Trump defends tax plan, says the economy 'ready to rock.' D2

Easy Chair



We sit down with retired librarian Barbara Clark. C1

Sports



Stakes high for the Patriots in showdown with Steelers. B1



High 32
Low 23
Weather: A2

125th year, No. 112
\$2.50



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Artists

From A1

Banner year

"Things have really been happening for me this year," said Bates, cheerfully, from her studio — in a "wonderful barn" owned by her partner, Richard Mann — one afternoon last week.

Bates, a Westerly High School graduate and Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts alum who has work exhibited in collections around the world, has received a number of prestigious awards for her work over the years (most recently she was awarded the "Hello Dolly" Alpheus P. Cole Award at the 109th annual Salamagundi Thumb Box exhibit) and belongs to dozens of associations and clubs. But just this year, she was selected to become a member of the oldest nonprofit art association in the United States, which has a reputation for

being difficult to get into.

"I was accepted into the Copley Society in Boston," said Bates, whose works will be on display in the holiday "Small Works" show at the society's Newbury Street building through Dec. 24. "I am so proud ... even though I am an official newbie."

Bates, whose mother, Serena Massaro Bates, is a Westerly native whose family includes members of the Lupica clan, moved to town when she in ninth grade.

"I'm a bit of a braniac," she said with a laugh. "I loved science and Latin and art in high school ... so, I've always known I'd be in science or the arts."

Bates said her sculptures "incorporate a symbiotic mixture of ideas and visions from people around me, the environment and materials where I'm working," and works in mediums from

bronze and stone to copper, resin and ceramic. Using the centuries-old Japanese process called Kintsugi, she explained, she creates her pieces by breaking them and putting them back together with powdered gold.

Bates said she has a special affinity for animals — marine life, especially — and portraits. Her "Beached Whale Fountain" is the centerpiece of the main entrance courtyard at the Mystic Marriott Hotel, and one of her sea lions is prominently placed at the entrance of the Westerly Animal Hospital. Bates calls herself a storyteller and a hard worker.

She is also a business owner. She and her ex-husband, Mike Barca, own Pete's Grocery in Bradford, a popular local grocery and grinder shop.

"I work really hard," Bates said. "But the only person

who works harder than I do is Diane Brown ... she is making such great strides."

"Serena is one of those incredible hard-working artists whose work also happens to be exquisite," Brown said Thursday afternoon from her studio on River Road in Pawcatuck.

It was Bates, Brown said, who sponsored her for membership in another prestigious art club, New York's Salmagundi Club, and the Catherine Lorillard show.

'Life is good'

Brown, who has painted primarily with oils over the years, has recently begun working with oil and cold wax, a process she called "very exciting."

"It's like frothy whipped cream," said Brown with delight. "It's like frosting for a wedding cake and it's fun

... I love it .. everything I do now is oil and cold wax."

"I couldn't be happier," said the 70-year-old "basically self-taught" painter who has been a member of the Artists Cooperative Gallery of Westerly for years. "It's exciting to have so much happening late in life."

In March, Brown was awarded the Overall Excellence Award at the Mystic Museum of Art's juried show.

Brown said her work is "inspired by the natural, organic formations, surface patterns and texture."

"The process of painting is my focus," she writes in her artistic statement, "not trying to make a specific statement. I often begin in one place and end up in another with no idea of how I got there or how to do it again."

"My love of bold colors is evident in all of my work," said the Long Island native. "Outcomes can be surprising, but never dull."

Brown, who "loves commission work" and teaches classes regularly in her Pawcatuck studio, said when you discover something that

works for you, that "strikes an inner chord," then it's best to "go with it."

When she finished her first classes in the oil-and-cold-wax technique with a teacher in North Carolina, she said, she got up early in the morning the day after school ended and drove straight home to Connecticut.

"I was so enthused and so excited," said Brown, "I drove all the way home to my studio and have been painting from that day on."

"It changed me in a very powerful way," said Brown, who is married to former Stonington First Selectman Bill Brown.






"I was never really recognized for my oil paintings," she said, "certainly not in the same way as for my oil and wax."

"I couldn't be happier," she added. "Life is good."

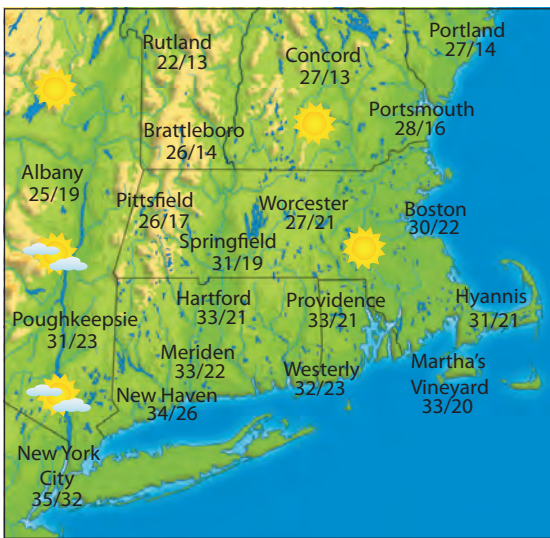
For more information about Bates, visit serenabates.com. For more information about Brown, visit dianebrownct.com.

nbfusaro@thewesterlysun.com

Five-day Weather Forecast

Today	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
				
Mostly sunny and chilly. Highs 30 to 35. Mostly cloudy, a period of light snow possible late at night. Lows 20 to 25.	Chance for a light wintry mix early then mostly cloudy. Highs 40 to 45. Mostly cloudy at night. Lows near 35.	Mixed clouds and sunshine, milder. Highs near 50. Partly cloudy at night. Lows near 35.	Partly sunny, windy and colder. Highs near 40. Partly cloudy and cold at night. Lows near 25.	Partly sunny and chilly. Highs 35 to 40. Mostly cloudy at night. Lows near 30.

Regional outlook



Marine outlook

Eastern LI Sound to Point Judith		
Winds:	Northwest at 10 to 15 knots	
Waves:	2 to 3 feet	
Visibility:	10 miles or more	
Weather:	Partly cloudy	
Block Island Sound		
Winds:	West at 10 to 20 knots	
Waves:	3 to 5 feet	
Visibility:	10 miles or more	
Weather:	Partly cloudy	
Tides		
	High	Low
Mystic River	8:05 a.m.	2:24 a.m.
	8:31 p.m.	3:04 p.m.
Ston. Harbor	7:55 a.m.	1:51 a.m.
	8:21 p.m.	2:31 p.m.
Watch Hill	7:44 a.m.	1:03 a.m.
	8:02 p.m.	2:01 p.m.
Westerly	8:06 a.m.	2:35 a.m.
	8:32 p.m.	3:15 p.m.
Point Judith	7:12 a.m.	12:44 a.m.
	7:35 p.m.	1:36 p.m.

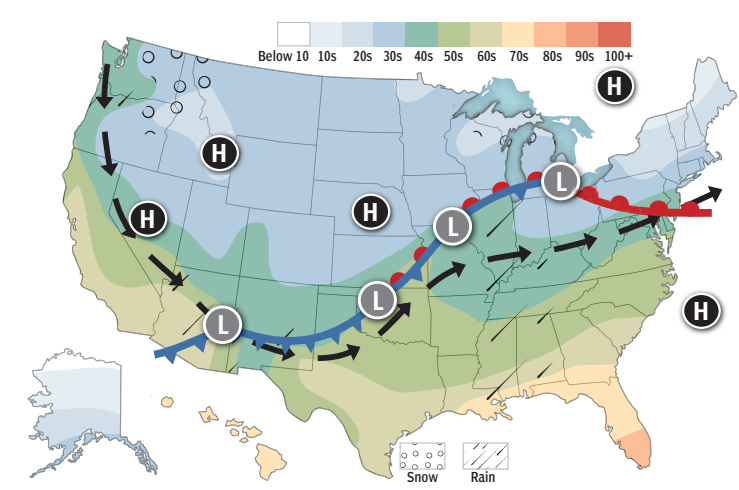
In the skies

Sunrise Today:	7:07 a.m.
Sunset Today:	4:19 p.m.
Moonrise Today:	6:17 a.m.
Moonset Today:	4:16 p.m.
Temperatures	
Yesterday high / low	37 / 18
Normal high / low	42 / 27
Record high:	62 in 1971
Record low:	7 in 1989
Precipitation	
Yesterday by 4 p.m.	0.06
Month to date	1.23
Year to date	43.12
Normal for the month	3.76
Degree days since July 1:	1183
Degree days normal:	1474
(Data recorded at Westerly Airport)	
Today's comfort levels	
Air quality: 31 (Good).	
UV index: 1 (Low).	
Wind chill at 7 a.m.: 5.	

National forecast

Albuquerque	50	33	ps
Anchorage	29	15	c
Atlanta	53	48	c
Atlantic City	44	32	ps
Baltimore	45	32	ps
Billings	38	32	ps
Birmingham	52	46	sh
Bismarck	43	23	ps
Boise	37	26	c
Charleston	65	53	ps
Charlotte	56	41	c
Chicago	43	33	c
Cleveland	40	34	c
Dallas	54	41	c
Denver	43	24	ps
Detroit	37	32	c
Honolulu	79	67	ps
Houston	70	58	ps
Indianapolis	41	33	sh
Kansas City	49	32	sh
Las Vegas	59	38	ps
Los Angeles	72	50	s
Louisville	48	38	c
Miami	80	70	ps
Milwaukee	40	30	c
Minneapolis	31	24	c
Mobile	69	64	sh
Montpelier	19	8	ps
Nashville	51	38	sh

National outlook



New Orleans	76	66	t	Portland, OR	47	43	sh	Tucson	53	41	sh
Norfolk	54	42	ps	St. Louis	47	43	sh	Tulsa	53	39	c
Omaha	39	23	c	Salt Lake	36	23	ps	Washington	49	39	ps
Orlando	77	59	ps	San Diego	69	49	s				
Philadelphia	41	35	c	San Juan	83	75	ps				
Phoenix	67	47	c	Seattle	49	46	sh				
Pittsburgh	41	33	c	Tampa	78	64	ps				

s=sunny, ps=partly sunny, c=cloudy, f=flurries, sn=snow, sh=showers, r=rain, i=ice, w=windy, t=thunderstorms

World forecast

Amsterdam	41	36	sh
Athens	66	46	r
Baghdad	70	43	s
Berlin	37	30	sn
Bogota	68	45	s
Brussels	41	39	c
Cairo	75	54	ps
Geneva	37	27	s
Hong Kong	71	52	ps
Jerusalem	66	57	ps
Kabul	43	28	c
Lima	69	63	ps
Lisbon	55	39	s
London	45	39	s
Madrid	50	28	s
Mexico City	70	46	c
Montreal	12	7	ps
Moscow	41	32	r
Nassau	82	72	ps
New Delhi	68	46	s
Oslo	27	26	ps
Paris	45	37	c
Perth	68	55	t
Reykjavik	37	34	c
Rome	50	32	c
Seoul	28	25	s
Sydney	81	70	ps
Vancouver	45	43	r
Vienna	39	30	s

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 2017. There are 14 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

On Dec. 17, 1967, Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt, 59, disappeared while swimming in the ocean off Cheviot Beach in Victoria state; despite an extensive search, his body was never found (Holt was succeeded as premier by John McEwen).

On this date

In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1865, Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 8, known as the "Unfinished" because only two movements had been completed, was first performed publicly in Vienna 37 years after the composer's death.

In 1903, Wilbur and Orville

Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful manned powered-airplane flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

In 1925, Col. William "Billy" Mitchell was convicted at his court-martial in Washington of insubordination for accusing senior military officials of incompetence and criminal negligence; he was suspended from active duty.

In 1957, the United States successfully test-fired the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time.

In 1979, Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance executive, was fatally injured after leading police on a chase with his motorcycle in Miami. (Four white police officers accused of beating McDuffie were later acquitted, sparking riots.)

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SEASON BY THE SEA

HOLIDAY EVENTS

CHRISTMAS IN SONG
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22
COMPLIMENTARY

SANTA CHECKS IN AT OCEAN HOUSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31







For all holiday events and details,
please visit www.OceanHouseEvents.com or call 844.204.4317

WEEKAPAUG INN

WEEKAPAUG, RHODE ISLAND

Named one of the Best Resorts in
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SEASON BY THE SEA

HOLIDAY EVENTS

BRUCH WITH SANTA
DECEMBER 17

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER
DECEMBER 25

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER
DECEMBER 31





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