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More of the Best of the Valley

Getting crafty - and fuzzy - at Lizzie's Corner in Seymour

By Patricia Villers

SEYMOUR - If you'd asked me six months ago what needle-felted fuzzies were, I'd have given you a blank look.

But now I know. I've created two of the cute fuzzies under the tutelage of needle felter extraordinaire Kayleigh Mihalko of Shelton. She is a great instructor.

Daughter Allegra and I have attended two classes she led at Lizzie's Corner, 36 Bank St.

In the first class we created cacti in tiny clay pots, and the second go-round featured a sheep. (See photos.)

And I can attest that everyone in the group had a lot of fun. You could call it a "needle-felted fuzzy" girls' night out.



Lizzie Anderson, owner of Lizzie's Corner, enjoys having the classes at her shop on Friday nights.

"We are so lucky to have Kayleigh sharing her felting talent at Lizzie's Corner," she said. "She is an excellent instructor and the pieces are adorable!

We have two classes coming up. On June 29 we will be making *Felt Bees*, and on July 20 we will be creating a Christmas-themed piece as we celebrate Christmas in July all month at Lizzie's Corner."



See more needle fuzzy art on Page 2







In these classes, I felt both prickly and sheepish at the same time! - Patricia Villers





The True Story of Needle Felted Fuzzies

By Needle Felted Fuzzies

I first learned about needle felting while taking a puppetry class in college as a part of my Acting minor. We made eight different types of puppets over the 16 week semester, one of which was a needle felted puppet. Being a busy college student, I filed away the knowledge but couldn't take it up as a hobby then.

Five or six years after graduation, I took a video production class at my local access studio. Our final project was to shoot a local event with the field equipment and produce a 30 minute episode that actually aired on their channel. I happened to pick a needle felting class that was being taught at a local art studio.

Soon after that, I found myself buying all the supplies I needed in order to make my own pieces. One of the first creatures I made was a tiny foxtato, based off of the meme. I ended up making about a dozen of these foxtatos to give away to my friends for presents and to a couple of friends who needed some encouragement.

What started out as something I did for fun has become a bit of an obsession. Needle felting is my hobby of choice and to my amazement, other people really seem impressed and even want them as their own.

And that is how Needle Felted Fuzzies came to be.

Click on the pic to see a Needle Felted feathers tutorial by Kayleigh Mihalko







Ansonia K-9 officer is recognized

Congratulations to Officer Paul Smith and his K9 partner Kane for being recognized by the Connecticut Police Work Dog Association as second runner up for 2017 Daniel Wasson Memorial K-9 Award.

Pictured with Officer Smith and Kane are Chief Kevin Hale and Sgt. Alex Barreira.

*Shared from the Ansonia Police Department Facebook page.

Downtown Ansonia landmark reopens on a sweet note

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - The grand re-opening of Eddy's Bake Shop last week was celebrated with scrumptious baked goods offered to all who visited.

The remodeled bakery opened Jan. 6 without any fanfare.

A long table in the center of the 317 Main St. shop was covered in sweet treats of every description. There were brownies, cupcakes, cookies, doughnuts, Danish, fruit tarts, cake with chocolate mousse, and more. A second table was filled with breads, rolls, and bagels.

Mayor David S. Cassetti cut the ribbon surrounded by bakery employees. "Congratulations on the re-reopening of Eddy's," he said.

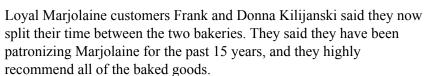
Cassetti officially welcomed the owners, Raul and Arlene Cardenas, to Ansonia. They also own Marjolaine Pastry Shop at 961 State St. in New Haven.

The couple purchased the downtown landmark from Paul and Mike Ciocca, who retired in August. The Ciocca family had owned the business for more than a half-century.



Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce President Bill Purcell said, "Eddy's is one of the Valley's most iconic businesses, and to see it get a new lease on life is wonderful."

Cassetti said he was happy the bakery still sells his favorite treat, poppyseed Danish. "The poppyseed Danish is out of this world," he said.

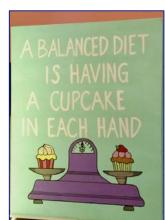


"We've been to a French bakery in Epcot and their stuff doesn't even compare to what the Cardenas do," Frank Kilijanski said.









ARMS holding shredding fundraiser Saturday in Ansonia

By Ralph Villers

I would encourage as many people as possible to attend and donate to this Saturday's Document Shredding Event to benefit ACDRA / ARMS.

Of course in today's world where identity theft is rampant, the ability to destroy sensitive documents on-site to keep these thieves from doing harm is a good reason.

However, my reasons for attending are more personal. As a wheelchair user, ARMS has assisted me a few times when I needed it. They have always arrived in short order, were very courteous and reassuring and quickly assessed the situation.

These events include <u>my van accident in November 2016</u>, A wheelchair transfer incident in June, 2013 and other related wheelchair issues over the years. Of course, we have documents to shred...



And I, and so many community members, truly appreciate their unselfish and caring service.

