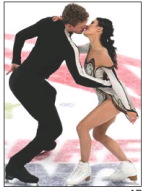


# The Bristol Press

Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut



Madison Chock and Evan Bates, Team USA

## U.S. to get gold medals in the wake of Russian doping scandal

EDDIE PELLIS ASSOCIATED PRESS

International Olympic officials have told counterparts in the United States that their figure skating team will receive gold medals now that Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva has been disqualified for doping.

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee received word Monday night that the IOC received word from skating's international federation that the U.S. team will be declared the winners.

The Associated Press saw an email sent from

See RUSIAN ON PAGE 4

## Plainville Middle School reno

BRIAN M. JOHNSON @BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLAINVILLE — The Town of Plainville has launched an informational website for the new Middle School of Plainville project, and projects a town wide referendum date of March 19.

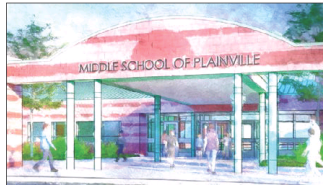
The website, plainville.ct.com/mspbuildingproject, includes the following information from Town

Manager Michael Paulhus and Superintendent of Schools Brian Reas:

"The renovation of the existing middle school will transform the space into a state-of-the-art learning facility," the website reads. "This building project is designed to meet the State of Connecticut's 'Renovate as New' criteria, making 65% of the project cost eligible for reimbursement.

Participating in this state project allows Town of Plainville taxpayers the opportunity to tap into state-wide funding dedicated to improving educational institutions, and ultimately, reducing the overall cost burden on Plainville taxpayers."

The website also includes an architectural rendering of the new building and states that future updates See TRACK ON PAGE 4



Architectural rendering of the entryway to Plainville Middle School. Log onto the new website to track its progress.

# Foundation Grants



Main Street Community Foundation worked hard with nonprofits to sync grantees with programs that needed their help and will benefit from their impact.

## Improving lives through generosity

BRIAN M. JOHNSON @BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The Women & Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation awarded \$50,500 to 11 nonprofits working to improve the lives of local women and girls.

The grants were awarded Jan. 25 at the Women & Girls

Fund's Annual Meeting & Grant Reception, which celebrates the accomplishments of the fund and the organizations it supports.

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship & program officer at the Main Street Community Foundation, said that all grants will impact the residents of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth,

Southington and Wolcott.

"This event facilitates conversation between representatives from grantee organizations and the Women & Girls Fund donors and volunteers about the programs being supported and the impact they are having on the community," Rajotte said.

This year, a total of

\$50,500 in grants were awarded to 11 organizations:

Boys & Girls Club of Bristol — \$7,500 to support the SMART Girls: Giving Girls Confidence program for girls ages 8-12.

The program teaches responsibility and works to develop a healthy attitude and lifestyle by engaging

in discussions and activities that reinforce positive behavior.

Bristol Family Resource Centers — \$5,500 to expand the Girl Up! program, a targeted small-group intervention to build leadership skills in girls ages 6-12 in three Bristol Public Schools: Greene-Hills

See COMMUNITY ON PAGE 4

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Proposed bill is the subject of controversy after police pulled over a black lawmaker without giving him a reason.

## Officers would have to list race, after traffic stop flap

ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The New York City Council is expected to override a mayoral veto of a bill to require police officers to document basic information whenever they question someone. The issue was

thrust into the national spotlight when NYPD officers pulled over a Black lawmaker without giving him a reason.

Mayor Eric Adams argues that requiring officers to document low-level stops would be too time-consuming. New York City Public

Advocate Jumaane D. Williams sponsored the bill.

He says the reports would take less than a minute and would inform the public about how officers are policing the city.

Should police have to file a report any time they stop a See RACE ON PAGE 4





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# Russian doping cost them gold

**Continued from Page 1**  
The IOC to the USOPC saying it "is now in position to award the medals in accordance with the ranking, which has to be established by the International Skating Union."

Members of the U.S. Olympic figure skating team learned late Monday they will receive gold medals now that Russian skater Kamila Valieva has been disqualified for doping at the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing.

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee received word that the IOC would award the gold to the U.S. for the team competition, which was thrown into turmoil after Valieva's positive test from six weeks before the competition was revealed.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of an email sent from the IOC to the USOPC saying it "is now in position to award the medals in accordance with the ranking, which

has to be established by the International Skating Union" — the federation in charge of running the event at the Olympics.

The USOPC confirmed that CEO Sarah Hirshland had received the news that the Americans were declared the winners.

The IOC said it had "great sympathy with the athletes who have had to wait for two years to get the final results of their competition. The IOC will contact the respective (national Olympic committees) in order to organize a dignified Olympic medal ceremony."

Still uncertain is how Valieva's disqualification will affect the silver and bronze medals. Japan finished third and is likely to move to second. Depending on how a scoring rule is interpreted, Russia could still finish third — ahead of Canada — even after deducting Valieva's points from the two events she skated in during the team event.

# Track Plainville Middle School renovation online

**Continued from Page 1**  
for the project will be posted there.

Additionally, the website states that a projected referendum on the project will be March 19 at the Plainville Fire House at 77 W. Main St. Residents would have

the ability to vote on the project between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. that day.

Residents are also welcomed to attend the Town Council meeting on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Center at 1 Central Square to share their thoughts.

# Community grants

**Continued from Page 1**  
School, South Side School and West Bristol School. **BristolWORKS!** — \$3,500 to support the Women's Workforce Empowerment Series program, a series of workshops to empower women to be confident, successful, and healthy within the workplace and develop skills for both in and out of the workplace.

**EdAdvance** (Plymouth Family Resource Center) — \$1,500 for the Girls Lunch Bunch: Social Emotional Support Groups, a program featuring activities to increase girls' confidence, self-esteem, social skills and positive development.

**Girl Scouts of Connecticut** — \$5,000 for the Girl Scout Starter Troop program to sustain and expand the three Girl Scout troops in the Foundation's service area by removing financial

barriers for both new troop leaders and members.

**PARC** — \$6,000 to Golden Gang Senior Women's program for senior women with developmental disabilities residing in the Foundation's service area.

**Plymouth Parks and Recreation** — \$3,000 in support of the Financial and Health Lunch and Learn program for senior women in Plymouth to educate and reduce social isolation.

**Shepard Meadows Equestrian Center** — \$5,500 to support the Equine Gestalt Coaching Series program to strengthen mental health, well-being, and self-esteem.

**St. Vincent De Paul Mission of Bristol** — \$5,000 to be used for unrestricted support for women and girls.

The Children's Law Center — \$5,000 to support the Legal Representation

program for girls in the New Britain Family Court.

The New England Carousel Museum — \$3,000 awarded to the Sunday Afternoon STEAM program for women and girls.

These grants were funded by the Women & Girls Fund, the John & Gloria DiFrancesco Fund for Women and Girls, the Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women, and the proceeds from the annual Wonder of Women (WOW) event.

Main Street Community Foundation has awarded a total of \$780,000 in grants from the Women & Girls Fund since the Fund's establishment in 2001.

For more information on the Women & Girls Fund, call the Main Street Community Foundation at 860-583-6363 or visit [mainstreetfoundation.org/women-girls-fund](http://mainstreetfoundation.org/women-girls-fund).

# Race issue in the spotlight

**Continued from Page 1**  
person on the street?

In New York, the question has divided local government as the City Council pushes to pass a bill, over the objections of Mayor Eric Adams, that would require officers to document basic information whenever they question someone.

The issue was thrust into the national spotlight in recent days when NYPD officers pulled over a Black council member without giving him a reason.

The How Many Stops Act was headed for a final council vote Tuesday. Adams vetoed the legislation this month, but council members expect to have enough support to override the veto and force through the bill's passage.

The legislation would give police reform advocates a major win in requiring the nation's largest police department and its 36,000 officers to document all investigative encounters in a city that once had officers routinely stop and frisk huge numbers of men for weapons — a strategy that took a heavy toll on communities of color.

It would require officers to record the apparent race, gender and ages of people they stop in low-level encounters, where police ask for information from people who aren't necessarily suspected of a crime.

Officers also would have to report the reason for the interaction and the circumstances that led to stopping a particular person. The data would be made public on the police department's website.

"All the How Many Stops Act does is, it says whenever the NYPD is engaged in an official investigative encounter, they document it," said Michael Sisitzky of the New York chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

But the mayor, a Democrat, has said the reporting requirements for low-level stops would be too time-consuming for officers, forcing them to fill out forms every time they speak to a person rather than focusing on solving a crime.

"When you talk about one individual incident, no, that doesn't take a long time. But when it's the accumulative of many different incidents in times it impacts that officer doing his job. It drives up overtime. It becomes duplicative," Adams, a former NYPD captain, said Monday during an interview on WNYC radio.

The city already requires officers to document instances in which they have ask someone "accusatory" questions as part of an investigation, detain or search someone or arrest them.

New York City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams, who sponsored the bill, says expanding that reporting to other types of encounters wouldn't consume much time. It could be done in less than a minute on an officer's smartphone and inform the public about how officers are policing the city, he said.

"It's not interrupting police work. It is police work," Williams said Monday.

In 2013, a federal judge ruled that the NYPD had violated the civil rights of Black and Hispanic residents with its use of the tactic known as "stop and frisk," which was part of an effort

to get guns and drugs off the street by frequently stopping and searching people.

Since then, the department has reported a large decline in such encounters, though an ACLU report found people of color were still the targets of the vast majority of stop-and-frisks in 2022.

After the council first approved the How Many Stops Act in December, Adams and the NYPD went on the offensive to publicly campaign against it.

On Friday night, the mayor hosted a police ride-along for council members in an effort to sway some lawmakers from voting to override his veto.

But the event was overshadowed that same evening when an officer pulled over Council Member Yusef Salaam, an exonerated member of the "Central Park Five" who with four other Black and Latino men were falsely accused and convicted of raping a white jogger in Central Park in 1989. Their convictions were eventually overturned through DNA evidence.

In the very brief encounter, an officer asked Salaam to roll down his windows and identified himself.

Salaam told the officer he was on the City Council and asked why he was pulled over, according to audio of the encounter published by The New York Times.

The officer told Salaam, "Oh, OK. Have a good one" before walking away, body camera footage showed.

The NYPD later released a statement that said Salaam was pulled over for driving with dark window tints beyond the legal limit.

Adams praised the conduct of both the officer and Salaam in his WNYC interview.

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