Chronicle, ECSU to co-host a debate

WILLIMANTIC — In cooperation with Eastern Connecticut State University, the Chronicle will host a debate between the candidates for state representative for the 49th House District and candidates for the 29th state Senate District on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

State senate candidates Rep. Mae Flexer, D-Killingly, and John French, a Willimantic Republican and member of the Windham Board of Education, will discuss issues facing the state and the 29th Senate District. State Rep. Susan Johnson, D-Willimantic, and challenger Ernest Eldridge, mayor of Windham and a Bottom Line Party candidate from Windham, will discuss who can best serve the 49th House District.

The candidates night will be held in the Betty Tipton Room in the ECSU Student Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

ECSU speaker was wrongly convicted

WILLIMANTIC — On Wednesday, Oct. 15, Fernando Bermudez will visit Eastern Connecticut State University to discuss how he was wrongly convicted of murder in 1992. This University Hour event will take place from 3-4 p.m. in the Student Center Theater.

Bermudez served more than 18 years in New York State prisons for allegedly shooting and killing a 16-year-old boy outside of a nightclub. The main evidence against him was eyewitness identification by a group of the boy’s teenage friends.

There was no forensic evidence that linked Bermudez to the crime. In 2009, Bermudez was proven innocent with the assistance of pro bono attorneys.

A few years after he was released from state prison, Bermudez worked with Connecticut legislators to abolish the death penalty.

Bermudez is now a guest speaker for the Innocence Project, which is a non-profit organization that attempts to exonerate those who have been wrongly accused. He currently resides in Connecticut and is working toward completing his bachelor’s degree.