

Courtney, DeLauro, Hayes, Himes endorsed

Democrats in 4 districts tap incumbents for reelection

By Paul Hughes
STAFF WRITER

WATERBURY — Democrats in the 5th Congressional District endorsed an unchallenged U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes for a fifth time Monday evening at Kennedy High School in Waterbury, where the former National Teacher of the Year had taught before being elected to Con-

gress. “Accepting this nomination feels like a full-circle moment for me. It’s personal. It’s familiar,” Hayes said in her acceptance speech. “I still get butterflies at this event because I still know what an awesome responsibility it is to be the congresswoman from the 5th Congressional District.”

There was the possibility of a contested conven-



tion, but film and television producer Jackson Waite, a first-time candidate who announced his candidacy on April 9, did not press Hayes for the Democratic Party endorsement on Monday. Hayes thanked Waite without naming him and asked for his help in the campaign.

But the endorsement of Hayes did not go completely unchallenged. A lone woman momentarily disrupted the proceed-

ings protesting the conduct of the convention and the lack of other nominations. She was escorted out of the convention without incident.

The 274 Democratic delegates for the 5th District convention gathered at Kennedy High School, where Hayes, 53, the 2016 National Teacher of the Year, was a history teacher for 15 years before becoming the first African-American woman elected



U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-3, left, and U.S. Rep. Jim Himes, D-4, hold a shadow hearing in New Haven with U.S. Rep. Joseph Morelle of New York on May 4.

‘A political earthquake’

Ex-Hartford mayor Bronin defeats Rep. Larson in 1st District

By Alex Putterman
STAFF WRITER

EAST HARTFORD — A tense Democratic convention Monday night ended in an upset in Connecticut’s 1st Congressional District: Former Hartford mayor Luke Bronin, not 14-term incumbent U.S. Rep. John Larson, will be the party’s endorsed candidate in a primary later this summer.

“We just saw a political earthquake in this convention,” Bronin said in a brief acceptance speech.

Bronin prevailed narrowly over Larson on the second ballot, 214 votes to 204, after an earlier count

Bronin continues on A7

A political unicorn among horse trading



Dan Haar
COMMENTARY

EAST HARTFORD — In the minutes before voting started at the 1st Congressional District’s Democratic convention Monday night, Jenette Lawrence held out as a rare delegate in a Goodwin University auditorium brimming with signs and shirts for the four candidates.

She was undecided. And the race was too close to call.

Would she cast her vote for U.S. Rep. John B. Larson, seeking his 15th term in Congress, who held

Haar continues on A7



Yankee Doodle Doggie stands outside the Greenwich Art Council’s building Friday.

A giant red, white and blue dog is popping up around Greenwich

Yankee Doodle Doggie is out to help celebrate America 250

By Tyler Fedor
STAFF WRITER

GREENWICH — There’s a good chance residents and visitors to Greenwich might see a star-spangled dog that is almost as tall as a person.

The statue, called Yankee Doodle Doggie, serves as the town of Greenwich’s mascot for the country’s 250th anniversary. Maintained by The

America’s 250th Greenwich Commission, the statue is moved to different locations around town. It has a QR code on its collar that when scanned can show information about other events in Greenwich centered around the anniversary.

“I don’t find any debate from anybody that this dog is a super cool and unifying agent in this 250th anniversary,” said Tom Galvin, co-chair of The

America’s 250th Greenwich Commission.

The statue has been in front of Town Hall and the Greenwich Arts Council’s building. However, Alexis Zuniga, marketing and communications manager for the Greenwich Historical Society, which manages the statue, said she encouraged town residents to search for the dog, rather than reveal where it would be next.

Sneak peeks of where the dog might be next can be found on the group’s websites and socials.

CT Humanities, which is involved with the 250th celebrations at the state level, said the group was not aware of other municipalities having a mascot for the semiquincentennial.

The statue originally be-

Doggie continues on A4



CTtransit buses wait for passengers at the State Street station in Meriden on July 23, 2024. Under a recently passed bill, high school students would be eligible for free passes to ride CTtransit buses.

High school students may soon get free passes to ride CTtransit buses

By Ignacio Laguarda
STAFF WRITER

High school students in Connecticut may soon get access to free public bus transportation under a recently approved bill that the governor was expected to sign into law.

The General Assembly approved an extensive bill last week that included a number of items, including a plan to hand out free

bus passes on the CTtransit system to students in grades 9 through 12 and to military veterans.

CTtransit runs the bus systems in Bristol, Meriden, New Britain, Wallingford and Waterbury as well as in Hartford, New Haven and Stamford.

The plan would require the state Department of Transportation to administer the program, and it

would set aside \$2.5 million for the upcoming fiscal year to fund it.

Jay Stange, a consultant with the New Haven Coalition for Active Transportation advocacy group, called the bill a big win for public transportation.

“Bus passes aren’t handouts, they are investments,” he said in a press release from the organization. “Each bus pass provided to a high school stu-

dent or veteran is a ticket to opportunity, a chance to play afterschool sports, go to the doctor, work a job, participate in nonprofit programming or be more connected to the community.”

In February, Gov. Ned Lamont announced that his budget proposal to the General Assembly included \$3.5 million in funding to provide free bus passes

Buses continues on A4

