

Experts discuss federal budget's impact on education in state, U.S.

Senate's proposal rejects cuts pitched in plans by Trump, House

By Natasha Sokoloff
STAFF WRITER

From federal funding freezes to diversity, equity and inclusion directives, Connecticut education officials have consistently described the Trump administration's actions surrounding K-12 education as

fueling uncertainty in schools. Now, educators and officials are facing a new unknown: how the federal government will fund education across the country and in Connecticut for the next fiscal year. Discussions about the shuttering and downsizing of the U.S. Department of Education,

immigration policy impacts, school choice and the federal government's role in curriculum and instruction have all been looming across Connecticut education circles since President Donald Trump took office, but education funding at both the state and federal level has remained top of mind. With the state budget passed, eyes are now on Congress, which has a Sept. 30 deadline to pass a fiscal year 2026 budget.

The education impacts in Connecticut will depend on what ends up being signed into law, according to experts at a Sept. 12 forum hosted by the state legislature's Education Committee in Hartford. Multiple Connecticut lawmakers, including both Republicans and Democrats, asked state education officials and experts about the Trump administration's impact on the Connecticut budget. **Budget continues on A6**



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media
Connecticut Commissioner of Education Charlene M. Russell-Tucker said any education budget reductions from the federal level certainly would be felt across Connecticut.

'A top priority for the city'

New Haven passes 10-year comprehensive plan as officials seek more housing

By Brian Zahn
STAFF WRITER

NEW HAVEN — By the time New Haven is projected to be the highest-population city in Connecticut in 2034, local officials want to ensure there's enough housing to support the need. The Board of Alders approved Vision 2034, the city's 10-year comprehensive plan of conservation and development and a successor to the Vision 2025 plan, on Monday. The 220-page document will serve as a guide for city officials on the development and planning priorities. **Housing continues on A4**

Officials: Stay in your car after a crash

Warnings come after New Haven pedestrian killed on Merritt Parkway

By Peter Yankowski
STAFF WRITER

After a New Haven driver was fatally struck on the Merritt Parkway this week after he got out of his minivan following a crash, state officials said drivers should stay in their vehicles and call 911 if they find themselves in a similar circumstance. State Police said the driver, 50-year-old Salvador Castelan-Flores, had initially struck a wooden beam guardrail Monday morning. The crash occurred in the southbound lanes along the parkway near Exit 21, previously called Exit 42. **Car continues on A6**



Dan Haar/Hearst CT Media
UConn Health Board Chairman John Driscoll in Farmington's John Dempsey Hospital emergency room critical care area in March. Driscoll has said that expansion could help the system increase its revenue.

Lawmakers question \$500M bid for Waterbury Hospital

By Liese Klein
STAFF WRITER

Concerned about who will take on up to \$500 million in debt, six top Connecticut lawmakers issued a statement late Monday about UConn Health's proposed bid to buy three cash-strapped hospitals, including one caught up in the bankruptcy of Pros-

INSIDE: Bills top \$60M in Prospect Medical bankruptcy. **A4**
pect Medical Holdings. UConn Health would buy Waterbury Hospital from Prospect under a plan that could also include Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam and Bristol

Hospital as part of an expanded government-funded health system in the state. The deal for Waterbury Hospital alone is estimated to cost between \$400 million and \$500 million, according to state lawmakers who viewed documents on the proposal. Leaders of both parties in the state **Hospital continues on A6**

Experts: Allergy seasons getting longer, climate change may be cause

By Eric Bedner
STAFF WRITER

As the state sees more mild winters and waits longer for the first winter frost, those with allergies are suffering from symptoms for longer periods of time, with climate change likely a contributing factor, according to experts. "Those who suffer from allergies in recent years can certainly expect that it's just a longer

season," said Pamela Sherman, a registered nurse at the University of Connecticut Health's Department of Otolaryngology. Having worked in her department for about eight years, Sherman said she regularly hears from people who have said this has been a particularly bad year for their allergies. "It does seem to gradually have been getting a little worse for people ev-

ery year," she said. "I think that has a lot to do with our winters being so mild." Warmer winters cause trees to start pollinating earlier, and seasonably warm weather in the fall leads to flourishing ragweed later in the year. A decade ago, pollen more commonly started in April, but now it can be as early as late February due to mild winters, Sherman said. Ragweed tends to peak

around mid-September and will last until there is "a really good frost," which could not come until November, she said. "It certainly seems that climate change does factor in," Sherman said. "It just makes the pollen season even longer." Sherman's belief is supported by an analysis released in March showing that human-induced climate change contributes to longer and more **Allergies continues on A4**



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Allergy seasons are getting longer in Connecticut, likely due to climate change, an expert says.

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