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'Bipartisan as it can get'

Redistricting less contentious in Conn. than in Texas, Calif.

By Jordan Nathaniel **Fenster**

STAFF WRITER

Democrats in Texas fled the state in an effort to stop a Republican-led plan, proposed by President Donald Trump, to create more congressional districts. On Monday, they ended their walkout, allowing the new map to move for-

California Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed an amendment to the state's constitution called the "Election Rigging Response Act," which would create new, temporary congressional districts.

Republicans in Missouri also said they would redistrict. Democrats in New York are trying to change the law so they can do the same. Wisconsin Democrats are filing lawsuits, and lawmakers in Maryland, Florida, Ohio and Indiana have all talked about the possibility, among other states.

Despite the national hubbub and pressure from both parties, many say anything similar is Connecticut.

"Connecticut can't do what Texas and California are doing," said state Republican chairman Ben Proto.

Count Proto among those who doesn't love the shape of all of Connecticut's five congressional districts. Take, for example, the 5th District "lobster claw." The disunlikely to happen in Redistrict continues on A6



Jordan Nathaniel Fenster/Hearst Connecticut Media

House GOP staffer Pat O'Neil sets up the various proposals for congressional redistricting.



Al DiGuido, owner of Saugatuck Sweets, in front of his store in Fairfield Thursday with a banner supporting the Fairfield National Little League baseball team. At bottom, catcher Jimmy Taxiltaridis, left, and his twin, pitcher SJ Taxiltaridis.



Ex-Fairfield National Baseball presidents Michael Broderick and Dante Gallucci and former player Zach Broderick.

By Scott Ericson STAFF WRITER

I rom the moment Dante Gallucci put on a uniform in 1966 to his 23-year run as league president, Fairfield National baseball has been woven into nearly every year of his life.

Fairfield Little League team captures heart of CT

Now, with his beloved program shining bright on the national stage, Gallucci beams with pride as Fairfield National prepares to play in the U.S Championship of the Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, Pa. on Saturday.

Gallucci stepped down

3:30 p.m. Saturday on ABC

as Fairfield National president in 2021, but hasn't stopped cheering for the program.

"I never got a team to Williamsport, and I am so thrilled and proud for all those kids," Gallucci said. "It is silly, but seeing the kids make it to the World Series was a little bit of a relief. I feel like I can now die in peace."

Gallucci has lifetime ties to the team, but the boys from Fairfield National have captured the

hearts of people around town, across Connecticut and na-Town continues on A4



Commentary

Meet the 'miracle twin' preemies

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. The Taxiltaridis brothers celebrated Fairfield National's latest victory at the Little League World Series with their preferred cuts of steaks Wed-



→ More coverage in Sports, B1

nesday evening in a downown Williamsport restaurant. As always, catcher Jimmy ordered a New York strip and pitcher SJ opted for a sirloin.

Family dinners are rare hese days. The twins are

Twins continues on A4

Jared Freed/ Associated Press

Sherman scrap yard loses 3-year fight with modern zoning

By Rob Ryser STAFF WRITER

SHERMAN — A mom-and-pop scrap yard that has avoided a cease-and-desist order for three years by arguing that construction activities on the property predate Sherman's 1937 zoning code has exhausted its last hope to continue operating as a grandfathered busi-

Joel and Roberta Judd, a community-minded couple at the center of a complaint about junk, noise and unpermitted commercial activity at their home business on Spring Lake Road, saw their last legal option thwarted last month when Connecticut's Appellate Court refused to hear their case.

That means the Judds must comply with a 2022 order by Sherman's zoning enforcement officer to remove "multiple storage trailers, multiple 55-gallon drums ... (a) house trailer, construction supplies, various equipment material piles, and other items.

"We have asked town officials to begin immediate enforcement action," said Dan Casagrande, a lawyer who represents a Sherman homeowner involved in the case and who serves as Danbury's chief legal officer.

It was the Sherman homeowner whose complaint about the construction yard's non-conforming activities sparked the three-year land use battle in Fairfield County's smallest town.

After the zoning enforcement officer ordered stockpiling and storage activities to cease, the Judds took their case to Sherman's five-

member Zoning Board of Appeals. The appeals board tried to find a balance between modern property rights and respect for preexisting conditions. The result was a 2023 decision to permit some activities, including gravel and mulch storage, and heavy equipment and truck storage. The appeals board denied other uses, including heavy equipment repair, school bus storage and shipping container storage.

Neither the Judds nor the homeowner who made the original complaint agreed with the compromise decision. Both parties filed an appeal in state Superior Court.

In May, Superior Court Judge Loses continues on A6

Brookfield fabric store launches studio for sewing lessons

Under 'Project Runway' alum Sam Donovan

By Tanya Babbar STAFF WRITER

In a world of fast fashion, trend cycles and mounting landfills, a small Brookfield quilt store is opening a studio for those interested in something a little more permanent and personal — with the help of a "Project Runway" alum.

Cotton Candy Fabrics, located at 450 Federal Road, is launching its new apparel studio, a years-long dream born out of demand from the store's loyal sewers.

Sam Donovan, who was the runner-up of "Project Runway: Under the Gunn" in 2014, and the fourth-place winner of "Project Runway: All Stars," said among all the corners of the fashion world he's been in, teaching apparel sewing at Cotton Candy has been the best.

Donovan has grown from driving to the Brookfield store from his Boston home a few times a year to a few times a week since 2019 to lead apparel sewing classes to an "eclectic mix" of locals, driven by everything from fast fashion frustration to a hobby for sewing garments for grandchildren.

"People are super excited about this idea of making clothes for themselves and putting their personal stamp on their wardrobe," Donovan said. "It was the right time to make it bigger, and so now we have this big, beautiful room that's filled with all these beautiful apparel Sewing continues on A6

Advice/puzzles..... ...A8 Classified/Public notices.**B6**

...B10 Nation/WorldB7 Obituaries.....A6 Opinion..... Television.....B8





