

Connecticut storms carved beaches, flooded roads

By Peter Yankowski
STAFF WRITER

In a matter of hours Tuesday afternoon, thunderstorms unleashed heavy rainfall on Connecticut, prompting a flash flood warning for some communities, and knocking out power for thousands of residents.

In West Haven, stormwater carved channels several feet deep at two beaches. At the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, a worker handling a

chain-link fence was shocked by the discharge from a lightning strike. And on Iranistan Avenue in Bridgeport, floodwaters rose to the bumpers of cars parked along the side of the street.

In Westchester County, New York, radar showed a weak tornado likely touched down Tuesday afternoon in Purchase and Rye Brook near the Connecticut line. Radar showed debris was lifted thousands of feet into the sky and enough rotation to sup-

port a weak tornado.

Rainfall totals showed more than 4 inches of rain came down on parts of southwestern Connecticut Tuesday. While the totals were less than what the state experienced during the flash flooding of 2024, the thunderstorms still delivered the equivalent of more than a month's worth of rainfall to parts of the state.

While it's unclear exactly how much climate change may have affected the latest

storms, warmer air holds more moisture, which can lead to heavier rainfall in areas that typically see rain, and drier conditions in arid places.

As of Wednesday morning, power outages mostly were resolved around the state. CTRoads, the state Department of Transportation's traffic monitoring site, reported no widespread closures on state roads.

The site reported the right

Storms continues on A4



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media

Cars drive through standing water caused by flooding from a storm on Boston Post Road near the intersection of Red Bush Lane in Milford on Tuesday.



Rob Ryser/Hearst Connecticut Media

An industrial property at 16 Taylor Ave. in Bethel, where a stonemason proposes to knock down a garage in the rear of the property and construct industrial condos.

Bethel stonemason seeks contractor units

By Rob Ryser
STAFF WRITER

BETHEL – A stonemason's plan to knock down a barn in the back of his property and construct contractors' units is the latest investment for an industrial corridor south of the downtown that has been in the headlines.

"They're going to remove the barn

and construct a new large building towards the back for storage for equipment and materials ... and some office space on the second floor," said Jeremy DeCarli, Bethel's interim town planner, during a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. "It is a site plan use. It is not a special permit. So it does not require a hearing."

DeCarli is referring to a half-acre

property across the Metro-North train tracks from Ring's End on Taylor Avenue, where investors have made headlines in recent years with plans to revitalize old industrial properties.

Next door to the property in question at 16 Taylor Ave., for example, is a 3-acre corner property vacated by

Units continues on A4

Connecticut isn't as blue as it looks



Philip Bump
COMMENTARY

Early voting begins soon in Connecticut's primary elections, which seemed like a good opportunity to raise an underappreciated point about the electorate: it isn't as blue as we usually think.

This is not to say that Connecticut doesn't consistently vote for Democratic politicians. It does. It is, instead, to draw a distinction that has become particularly acute — and at times problematic — for the political left. While a lot of people in Connecticut *vote* for Democrats, a plurality of registered voters *aren't* Democrats, much less Republicans. And that's true across the country, not just here.

Let's start by recognizing that the state's pool of registered voters doesn't

Bump continues on A4

Workers at state children's psych hospital call for funding

By Liese Klein
STAFF WRITER

Unionized workers at a state-run children's psychiatric hospital in Middletown rallied in the rain Tuesday asking for more state funding to hire more staff and add new programs.

The workers are asking for at least \$20 million in new state funds in the next budget to hire more workers and restore programs and services for their teen patients, speakers said at the rally. Another \$3 million in additional funding a year is needed "to create an environment that reflects the quality of care these children deserve," union leader Becky Simonsen said.

"This is just the breaking point. We can't allow this to continue to be a conversation without action, investments, and those resources and services," said Darnell Ford, a supervisor at the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center.

A 50-bed treatment center for children ages 13 to 17 with severe mental health and behavioral health issues, the Solnit Center is funded by the state Department of Children and Families and run by UConn Health as of earlier this year.

Additional programs that deserve funding at Solnit include a neural be-

Funding continues on A4

Colorado mass shooting victims' families seek \$90M to settle lawsuit against Conn. gunmaker

By Richard Chumney
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — The families of six people killed in a mass shooting in Colorado five years ago are proposing to settle their Connecticut lawsuit against gun manufacturer Ruger for \$90 million, court records show.

The plaintiffs sued the

formerly Fairfield-based company more than three years ago, arguing the manufacturer was liable in the March 22, 2021, shooting at a King Soopers grocery store that left 10 dead.

The lawsuit claims Ruger designed the pistol used in the deadly shooting to function like a rifle and evade federal regulations.

It also alleges the company's marketing efforts "promoted lone gunman assaults."

"Ruger's marketing glorified the military design, functionality and appearance of its AR 556s," lawyers wrote in the complaint, referring to the weapon. "Ruger's marketing promoted its AR-556s

for mass casualty assaults."

Lawyers representing Ruger in the ongoing lawsuit did not immediately return a request for comment Tuesday.

Law enforcement officials have previously said the assailant, then-21-year-old Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa, legally purchased the pistol

Lawsuit continues on A6

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 **Weather:** Mostly sunny and less humid.
High: 80. Low: 60. **Page A12**

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