

Roxbury makes its case

Town opposes local couple’s paid hiking, dog-walking business

By Eric Bedner
STAFF WRITER

ROXBURY — First Selectman Patrick Roy is making Roxbury’s case to prevent a couple from having hikers and dog walkers on their private property, saying they are in violation of zoning regulations designed to be fair to all residents.

and Elizabeth Copley — still have options to amend town regulations, but have chosen to not yet pursue those avenues and instead attack the town through attorneys and the media, Roy said.

The Copleys have said they would litigate the matter if they can’t work things out with the town first.

“Going to court is not

our first objective here,” Charles Copley told CT Insider on Thursday. “We just want to be able to use our property peacefully and be able to look after this forest.”

In a lengthy statement issued on behalf of the town on Tuesday, Roy said he was responding to “inaccurate claims made publicly regarding the town’s enforcement of its

zoning regulations.”

The Copleys have been charging visitors \$10 to hike and walk their dogs on their property in what they say is an effort to tamp down unwanted vegetation and maintain the forest.

However, “recent correspondence and media coverage have mischaracterized the town’s lawful

Roxbury continues on A6



Courtesy of Charles and Elizabeth Copley

Charles and Elizabeth Copley are battling Roxbury officials for the right to have visitors hike and walk dogs on their private 50-acre property.



Danbury senior quarterback Jake O’Keefe at a summer practice heading into the 2026 CIAC football season.

Danbury QB O’Keefe enters final run after historic season

By Will Aldam
STAFF WRITER

Last year was a landmark season for the Danbury High School football team.

The program reached the CIAC Class LL playoffs, its first postseason berth in 23 years. The most successful season in recent program history largely ran through starting quarterback Jake O’Keefe, who now enters his senior year.

O’Keefe has found success everywhere he has gone. He helped lead the Danbury Trojans Pop Warner football team to back-to-back National championship tournament runs in 2021 and 2022, which was also the first time in over 20 years that program reached such heights.

O’Keefe’s youth reputation followed him to high school, where he earned the starting quarterback job midway through his freshman season.

In his first career start, O’Keefe

Danbury continues on A4



Fall football

Check out today’s Gametime high school football preview. **Inside**

NEW MILFORD

Firm will ‘not pursue’ big battery farm plan

By Rob Ryser
STAFF WRITER

NEW MILFORD — Plans for a large-scale battery farm that prompted concerns about fire and toxic releases among town leaders and neighbors are being dropped for a 10-acre residential site that straddles the West Aspetuck River, the mayor said.

“Flatiron has decided not to pursue the battery storage project at this location,” Mayor Pete Bass said in a social media post. “The company does have lease and option rights currently on this property, but no applications for any other type of project on this property.”

Battery continues on A4

Tax breaks roil campaign for governor

By Paul Hughes
STAFF WRITER

Republican candidate Ryan Fazio is trying to use Gov. Ned Lamont’s past support for recruiting data centers against the two-term Democrat in Connecticut’s campaign for governor.

Fazio is campaigning on repealing tax exemptions for qualifying data centers that Lamont got fast-tracked through the Democrat-controlled legislature in 2021 with overwhelming

Campaign continues on A6

New Milford mother’s 1991 acquittal set Conn. precedent for postpartum psychosis defenses

By Kendra Baker
STAFF WRITER

The high-profile murder trial of Lindsay Clancy offers a point of comparison with a decades-old landmark case in her home state of Connecticut,

where a mother charged in the 1989 death of her 5-month-old daughter was acquitted on a postpartum psychosis defense.

Dawn March was 18 years old when she threw her 5-month-old daughter, Shawna, into the Housa-

tonic River in New Milford in September 1989.

A News-Times article published shortly after March’s arrest said she initially told police her baby had been kidnapped from her car the night of Sept. 28, sparking “a ma-

jor search near the center of New Milford and along the Housatonic River.”

March told police that her daughter had been with her when she dropped off her husband for night classes at New Milford High School, but

she noticed the baby was missing after stopping at a store and driving several more miles.

As March recounted to police what happened that night, the article said her story “changed several

Defenses continues on A4

Dawn March was 18 years old when she threw her 5-month-old daughter, Shawna, into the Housatonic River in New Milford in September 1989.

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