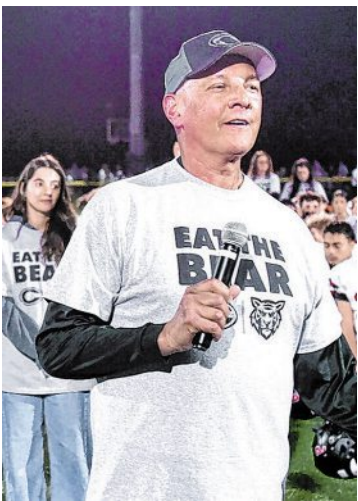


RepublicanAmerican



ALL FOR ONE

The Cheshire and Hand High School football teams pay tribute to long-time coach and mentor Mike Ciotti.

Page B1

SALES IS BACK

Nykesha Sales is excited about her return to the UConn women's basketball team.

Page B1



HOT PROPERTIES

Cheshire has listed two former schools for sale and developers are already showing strong interest.

Page A3

UConn LAWSUIT

Attorneys representing the University of Connecticut have until Nov. 8 to file a motion to dismiss a lawsuit brought by UConn parent Billy Joe Contreras over the university's decision to phase out its blue-light emergency phones.

Page A3



COMMUNITY NEWS

Read news from your neighborhood, including the Susan B. Anthony Project receiving a grant from a bank foundation.

Page B7

TRAGIC ANNIVERSARY

Bristol marks four years since an ambush cost two policemen their lives and a memorial in their honor is taking shape.

Page B7

Unassigned riders crowd buses

Students boarding Waterbury buses fill routes, leave classmates waiting

By Michael Gagne
STAFF WRITER

WATERBURY — Students boarding the wrong buses are causing school transportation headaches in Waterbury just over a month into the new school year, district leaders said.

Students riding buses as-

signed to friends instead of buses on their own routes has resulted in some buses reaching the full capacity of 71 passengers before the drivers reach all of the scheduled stops, officials told the Board of Education during an Oct. 1 workshop.

"The issue is students: They don't all get on at their stops.

They want to go down with their friends. And then that bus is overloaded because technically (the driver) cannot stop students from getting on the bus that's going to school. You cannot do that. That's a law," said Edwin Ellington, the district's assistant bus-

ing and crossing guard coordinator. When students at subsequent bus stops can't board, the driver must request another vehicle be sent for them, he said.

At the same time, Waterbury's primary bus provider, Durham School Services, is looking for more drivers. The company has 118 drivers and 150 buses.

Waterbury oversees buses that transport all city students, not just those who attend its district schools. Other schools the buses serve include Brass City Charter School, Children's Community School and the city's Catholic schools, Ellington said.

Buses continues on A5

BEAR NECESSITIES?



Getty Images

More than 60 black bear home entries have been reported in Connecticut so far in 2026, according to Department of Energy and Environmental Protection officials.

State showing residents how to build electric 'unwelcome mats'

By Jordan Nathaniel Fenster
STAFF WRITER

The ingredients are a rubber mat, preferably one with holes. Add galvanized metal hardware cloth, zip ties, wire cutters and an electric fence energizer. The recipe says to cut the metal so it sits flat against the mat, leave a narrow buffer around the edge, attach the clips, and test the voltage.

The finished product is intended for a doorstep, but it's not meant for wiping shoes. It's meant for bears.

The advice to keep bears at bay used to sound simple: Bring in the bird feeders, secure the trash, clean the grill. Those steps still matter, and the Connecticut



A tagged black bear on a porch in Torrington.

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection still emphasizes them. But as bears push farther into developed areas and some become more comfortable around homes, the state is also telling people how to build physical and electrical barriers.

DEEP is now telling Connecticut residents how to build electric "unwelcome mats," portable bear deterrents designed to deliver a brief shock to a black bear that steps near a door, window, deck or shed.

If you don't feel comfortable building your own, DEEP can lend you an unwelcome mat.

"It has been successful," said DEEP spokesman Bill Flood.

Bears continues on A5

★★★ ELECTION 2026 ★★★

Fazio's record defines candidacy

Five years in Hartford reveal conservative record and bipartisan work

By Alex Putterman and Paul Hughes
STAFF WRITERS

In the next few weeks, Connecticut voters are likely to learn a lot about Greenwich state Sen. Ryan Fazio and where the Republican candidate for governor stands politically.

Fazio faces an uphill battle in the Nov. 3 election against two-term Gov. Ned Lamont,



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media

Greenwich state Sen. Ryan Fazio is the Republican candidate for governor.

who describes himself as a moderate Democrat and who benefits from strong approval ratings in a solid blue state at a

time when the political climate appears to favor Democrats.

Fazio continues on A4

State road hazards trigger rapid alerts

By Jordan Nathaniel Fenster
STAFF WRITER

The room is kept dark on purpose with the ambient light mostly coming from the dozens of highway camera feeds stretched across the wall.

Each one shows a different part of Connecticut's road network. Cars move through interchanges; trucks pass under signs; every screen is watched by operators whose work most drivers never see.

The state Department of Transportation's Highway Operations Center in Newington is one of two places where a crash on Interstate 95, a disabled vehi-

Hazards continues on A8

