

RepublicanAmerican

★ ELECTION 2026 ★

*Candidates hit the trail on the final days,
trying to get their message out before Tuesday*

Nearing the finish



PIGSKIN CRAZY

Gilbert School senior Michael Lai, of China, finds a love for American football with the GNH co-op team.

Page B1

CRUSADERS ROLL

Holy Cross' Dae'Sean Graves nears another state record in the team's win against WCA.

Page B1

WOMAN PLEADS NOT GUILTY

Brianna Marie Pecoraro of Waterbury, accused of arranging to meet someone she believed was a minor in Newtown, has pleaded not guilty to the charges against her.

Page A3



HALLOWEEN HOT SPOTS

See the best trick-or-treat spots in Connecticut, according to the data.

Page A4

DCF RECOVERS OVERPAYMENTS

The Connecticut Department of Children and Families so far has recovered nearly \$1 million in overpayments to foster care parents and continues to uncover new examples of overpaying providers, according to reports sent to state auditors.

Page A4



MY RIDE

Wayne Sandford of East Haven owns five Chevrolet models from the 1940s. His collection is made up of a variety of styles and they're all running models.

Page B7

ALDI HAS NEW STORE IN AREA

Aldi, the discount grocery chain, has opened its second store in Bristol.

Page A11



Gov. Ned Lamont sits next to state Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Platform at Naugatuck on Monday.

Lamont highlights housing, healthcare as race nears finish

By Ken Dixon
STAFF WRITER

About 120 people filled the white tent, with some spilling out into the sunny parking lot at a ceremony that marked a new chapter for Naugatuck.

The ribbon had been cut, but Mayor N. Warren "Pete" Hess still had one more thing to say. Turning to Gov. Ned Lamont, Hess thanked the governor "from the bottom of my heart" for helping

ONLINE

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to bring 60 affordable apartments to the borough.

It was just one scene from one of the final days before the Nov. 3 general election as Lamont attended events and traveled about Connecticut.

Lamont continues on A7

INSIDE

- Dan Haar writes about Dr. Amy Chai's AI-driven campaign and her long-shot bid in the 1st Congressional District. **A3**
- Candidates across Connecticut are competing to fill 20 open seats in the General Assembly. **A3**



Photos by H John Voorhees III/Hearst Connecticut Media
State Sen. Ryan Fazio talks with Harry Chiappone while campaigning for governor in Waterford on Wednesday.

Fazio hears support, skepticism and a couple of surprises

By Ken Dixon
STAFF WRITER

Nothing illustrates the political season in Connecticut quite like a candidate knocking on doors in neighborhoods bright with fall color, hoping to engage with voters on their front porches about the issues.

Republican candidate for governor Ryan Fazio hit the trail in Waterford, stopping at a home with a Mercedes sports car in the driveway.

The resident who answered said they were "neutral" and don't vote. Undaunted, Fazio stood on the tall front step and said that if elected, he hoped to do a good job for the entire state.

"I don't hold out any hope," the nonvoter replied. "Thanks for stopping by."

Fresh off his final debate with Gov. Ned Lamont at Mohegan Sun the previous night, Fazio was making multiple stops Wednesday

Fazio continues on A7

HARWINTON MURDER TRIAL

Defendant's cries fill court

Video captures Cooper Ouellette learning of his girlfriend's death

By Bruno Matarazzo Jr.
STAFF WRITER

NEW BRITAIN — The jury heard the voice of Cooper Ouellette for the first time on Friday from a video of when he first learned of his girlfriend's death.

The body-worn camera footage of Connecticut State Police Detective Tyler Botas played for the jury showed Ouellette, 21, of Harwinton, crying after learning about Sophie Ringquist's death hours earlier on May 21, 2023.

The video was only shown for the jury but the sound of Ouellette crying filled the courtroom during the second day of testimony.

Ouellette is on trial at state



Jim Shannon/Hearst Connecticut Media

Cooper Ouellette of Harwinton, right, looks over photos being displayed during his manslaughter trial Friday at state Superior Court in New Britain. Ouellette is charged in the 2023 death of Sophie Ringquist of Burlington.

Superior Court in New Britain on charges of manslaughter and delivery of alcohol to a minor.

The trial began Thursday with testimony from Ringquist's mother, father and older brother, followed by police who investigated the

girl's death.

Ringquist died on May 21, 2023, hours after she attended a party the night before in Terryville.

Ouellette later told police that Ringquist had jumped out of black Chevy Silverado

Trial continues on A8

Charges dismissed against Torrington bondsman

He was in pursuit of defendant in N.Y.

By Bruno Matarazzo Jr.
STAFF WRITER

TORRINGTON — A Connecticut bondsman who was arrested in New York last March while trying to apprehend a woman who skipped out on her court date while free on \$5,000 bond had his case dismissed, according to his attorney.

Case continues on A8

