

# Record-Journal

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## Trump administration sues CT, New Haven

Lawsuit filed over immigration enforcement policies

By Alex Putterman  
STAFF WRITER

President Donald Trump's administration has filed a lawsuit against the state of Connecticut and the city of New Haven over what the Justice Department describes as "sanctuary policies that interfere with the federal government's enforcement of immigration laws."

The lawsuit, filed Monday in federal

court, also names Gov. Ned Lamont, Attorney General William Tong and New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker as defendants.

Trump administration officials have previously criticized Connecticut for the state's Trust Act, which limits local law enforcement's coordination with federal immigration authorities, as well as other immigration-related policies.

Now, the U.S. Department of Justice is

asking a federal judge to invalidate certain provisions of the Trust Act, state policy guidance around immigration enforcement, and an executive order Elicker issued in 2020.

"The conduct of officials in Connecticut obstructing and refusing to comply with federal immigration laws over a period of years has resulted in countless criminals being re-



Lamont



Trump

leased into Connecticut who should have been held for immigration removal from the United States," the suit says.

In a statement Tuesday, Tong defended the Trust Act, rejected the "sanctuary" label the Trump administration has attempted to apply to Connecticut and promised to "fight this lawless attack with every fiber of our be-

**Lawsuit continues on A7**

### SOUTHLINGTON

## Flying carpets to Cave of Wonders



Photos by Jim Michaud/Hearst Connecticut Media

Above: General manager Tony Papahristou in the Aladdin display at Cava Restaurant in Southington on April 9. Below: Trunks are filled with jewelry at the display.

### Cava Restaurant unveils 'Aladdin' themed rooms

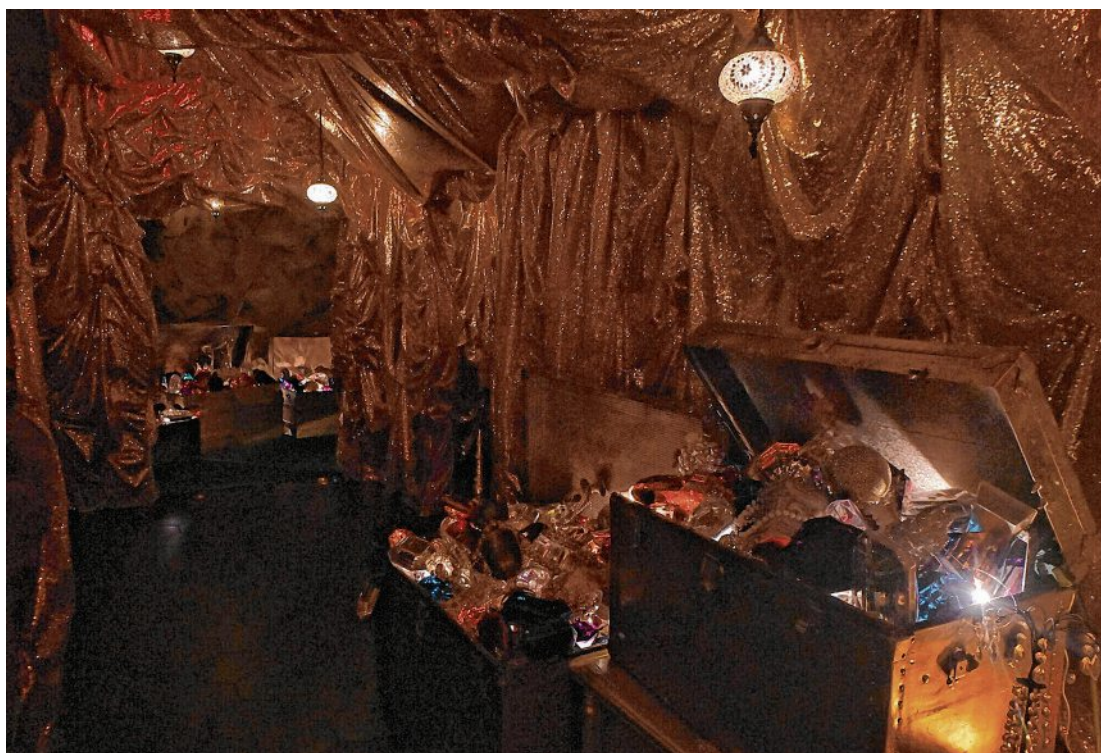
By Ciara Hooks  
STAFF WRITER

SOUTHLINGTON — Cava Restaurant is trading in the magic from its journey back to Oz for that of the Genie and Agrabah with its latest decor inspired by "Aladdin."

The restaurant has garnered a reputation for its elaborate displays that started with different themed dining rooms around Christmas and have since expanded to the rest of the year.

Planning for the Aladdin experience began in mid-January, followed by prop building.

**Cava continues on A9**



### SOUTHLINGTON

## Companies behind \$90M retail, hotel, gas station project proposal unknown

By Steven Goode  
STAFF WRITER

SOUTHLINGTON — A \$90 million retail, hotel and gas station project has been proposed for 38 acres in town — but the identity of the companies remains a mystery.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is considering an application for a zone change that would facilitate the construction of the development. The applicant is identified as Southington 2 LLC.

If approved, the applicant plans to construct a 172,000

square-foot retail space, a 20-bay gas station, a 100-120-room hotel, 100,000 square-foot industrial facility and two industrial buildings totaling more than 300,000 square-feet.

According to the application, the project would create 360 full-time-equivalent jobs and gener-

ate about \$2.1 million in property and other taxes annually. The development is also expected to generate approximately \$773,000 in one-time permitting and development-related fees.

The proposed zone change covers 37.4 acres of land on un-

**Project continues on A7**

### CHESHIRE HIGH SCHOOL

## ICE arrested CHS student while trying to rearrest his father, records say

By Joshua Eaton  
STAFF WRITER

A Cheshire High School student was riding in a car with his uncle and younger brother the morning of April 6, when three vehicles filled with masked immigration agents boxed them in, according to a court filing by his attorneys.

The agents weren't there to

**ICE continues on A7**

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### ELECTION 2026

## Roundup of candidates running for key state offices

By Paul Hughes  
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — While the competition to see who will represent state Republicans in the race for governor is heating up, another is shaping up for the No.

2 spot atop the ticket.

Eight-term Coventry legislator Rep. Tim Ackert became the latest GOP candidate to declare for lieutenant governor when he registered as a candidate with the State Elections Enforcement Commission on April 9.

Manchester businessman Matthew Corey was the first candidate to file his paperwork last May 7. After winning a primary challenge, Corey was the losing Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in 2024, and he previously ran for U.S. Senate, los-

ing in 2018. He was also ran unsuccessfully for a state Senate seat in 2022.

A third candidate, Michael N. Walker, a Bridgeport Republican, registered on Jan. 16. Walker indicated in campaign filings

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