

Is Lamont running?

All signs point to governor seeking a third term as Conn. GOP race heats up

By Ken Dixon
STAFF WRITER

When the Labor Day weekend of 2026 signals the traditional start of the fall political season, the race for governor will become clear. But a full year away, that race is already taking shape. While Gov. Ned Lamont says he's still considering a third, four-year term, political observers say he'll certainly run again. They say that his engagement

and energy, with daily public events organized by his office, such as ceremonial bill signings for legislation actually signed weeks earlier, are sure indicators. Lamont has signaled as much. "If Lamont were to run, it's his election to lose because of the power of the incumbency," said Gayle Alberda, political science professor at Fairfield University. "The perks are his achievements and record. He has a built-in infrastructure, credibility and

prestige, plus high levels of name recognition before even engaging again with voters." "Everything is lined up for him for a third term," said Gary L. Rose, a scholar in-residence at Sacred Heart University. Recently returned from his summer home on a Maine island that's been a family property since 1917, a reporter tried to finally get a straight answer. "You've been off two weeks, you gonna *Lamont continues on A6*



Dave Zajac/Hearst Connecticut Media
Experts say if Gov. Ned Lamont is running," it's his election to lose."



Icon Sportswire/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images
Fans react during a WNBA game between the Washington Mystics and the Connecticut Sun on May 18 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville.

Following the Sun

Fans share thoughts on WNBA team's possible relocation, future in state

By Maggie Vanoni
STAFF WRITER

Allana Holmes has been attending Connecticut Sun games at Mohegan Sun Arena since she was a teenager. These days, the Norwich mother of four brings her kids to Sun games. She has pictures of her kids as babies, bundled in her arms, standing next to the Sun's mascot,

Blaze. There's the photo from 2015 with the family standing next to former Sun guard Alex Bentley. And a couple years later, there's another one with her husband and her kids standing next to former Sun forward Brionna Jones during her rookie season. Holmes' daughter also spent three years dancing on the Sun's Junior Dance Team. She's among the many fans

who have been devoted to the Sun during its 20-year-plus tenure in Connecticut. Christine Pattee is another. The 83-year-old doesn't like driving at night, yet she makes an exception for Sun games. "It's the only place I drive at night, because I love being at the energy of the games," said Pattee, from Coventry. The Sun has called Con-

necticut home since 2003. Not only is it the state's lone major-league professional sports team, but it's also the only professional women's sports team in Connecticut. While the Sun routinely fills Mohegan Sun Arena during the summer, its impact far outreaches the small landscape of Uncasville. The Sun inspires young athletes, *Sun continues on A4*

Stamford Hospital demolishes final home to make room for more parking

By Robert Marchant
STAFF WRITER

STAMFORD — Twelve years ago, Stamford Hospital undertook an extensive expansion of its facilities and campus, expanding from 20 acres to 30 acres. As part of the expansion, it took over a number of residential properties on Wright Street, in an often contentious process. According to hospital and city records, the hospital spent \$30.7 million for 42 properties

on Wright Street in the early 2000s. The average sale price was \$700,000 during the hospital's acquisition campaign to acquire the residential properties on Wright Street. The last remaining private residence on Wright Street was torn down earlier in the year, and the demolition of the old home and a garage there will now allow the reconfiguration of two large parking fields used by the hospital. The house was built in 1922, according to real

estate records. As part of the process of merging the parking areas, the hospital administration applied for a zoning change, to change the zoning designation of the lot at 31 Wright St. from residential to hospital complex. That change was approved by the city Planning Board recently, and an approval for a general development plan was also granted. Attorney William Hennes- *Hospital continues on A6*



Robert Marchant/Hearst Conn. Media
A home at 31 Wright Street was recently torn down to improve parking at Stamford Hospital. The owners did not sell the house during the hospital's expansion phase until recently.

Start the search process

Stamford schools begin hunt for new superintendent

By Ignacio Laguarda
STAFF WRITER

STAMFORD — The search for a new school district superintendent starts with finding a search firm and Stamford Public Schools announced this week that a committee has been formed to do just that. The ad-hoc committee, which includes current Stamford Board of Education members Versha Munshi-South, Julianne Foy and Becky Hamman, will be tasked with creating a request for proposals to find a firm that will help search for a new school system leader to replace current Superintendent Tamu Lucero. Filling out the rest of the committee will be former board members Joshua Esses and Jennienne Burke, as well as Eileen Swerdlick, a retired Stamford Public Schools educator and administrator, Edith Targonski, the editor-in-chief of Latin Colors Magazine and Duane E. Hill, partner emeritus at TSG Capital Group LLC. Munshi-South will serve as the chairperson of the committee while Board of Education President Michael Hyman will serve as an ex-officio member. The RFP drafted by the committee will be issued in mid-to-late September, according to a press release from the school district. The plan for the committee is to review submissions, conduct interviews and recommend a finalist to the full Board of Education for a vote no later than the board's November regular meeting. "Our community deserves an inclusive, transparent, and rigorous process to identify the next leader of our school district," Munshi-South said, in the press release. "Securing the right search firm is a crucial first step to ensuring that the voices of students, families, educators, and community members are front and center." The firm that is chosen will develop a leadership profile for the right candidate to lead Stamford's school system as well as recruit candidates. "The board is committed to ensuring an open, collaborative, and community-driven superintendent search," Hyman said, in the *Search continues on A4*

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