

New Norwich mayor outlines city priorities for Gov. Lamont

By DANIEL DRAINVILLE
Day Staff Writer

Norwich — When Gov. Ned Lamont and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz came to the city Tuesday for the swearing in of the city's new mayor, Swarnjit Singh made sure to take advantage of the opportunity.

When Lamont asked Singh what his top priority is for the city, Singh listed three: the development of the Occum Industrial Center, the revitalization of the lower section of Broadway and the restoration of the long-abandoned Chestnut Street Mill, at the corner of Chestnut and Franklin streets.

The city has already received partial funding for the first two projects. The first seeks to construct a 10-lot business park on 384 acres of land owned by Norwich Community Development Corp. while the second calls for the redesign of Jubilee Park and restoration of the blighted Fairhaven building next door.

In regards to the industrial center, the city's Commission on the City Plan has approved a plan to subdivide the land into 10 parcels and to construct a 1,195-foot-long access road. The city and NCDC have agreements in place with a handful of prospective tenants to move into the center. Their identities are being withheld due to nondisclosure agreements.

At one point, Lamont asked if the identities of the tenants are known publicly yet.

State Sen. Cathy Osten, D-Sprague, said Wednesday the city is waiting for two or three parties that are very close to signing contracts to purchase lots before a public announcement is made.

SEE NORWICH PAGE A3

Ex-Scout leader faces sex charges

He was previously convicted of molesting teenage boys in '90s

By GREG SMITH
Day Staff Writer

A former Ledyard Boy Scout leader convicted of molesting teenage boys in the 1990s is once again facing criminal charges — this time related

to an alleged inappropriate relationship with an underage boy.

Joseph J. Dabrow, 68, was scheduled to appear Tuesday in New London Superior Court as part of a long-pending case that dates back to his arrest by state police on Dec. 16, 2021. Dabrow is charged with risk of injury to a minor and illegally providing alcohol to a minor.

The arrest stems from a state police

investigation into Dabrow's relationship with a teen starting in 2020 when the boy was 15 and includes allegations he traded sexually explicit emails with the victim, showed the victim sexually explicit photos and gave the victim alcohol and gifts — which state police described as grooming behavior.

Police allege Dabrow had been meeting with the teen at a marina

in New London when the crimes occurred. At the time he was meeting with the boy, police said, Dabrow lied about his name and background to the boy, giving his name as Joseph Askin, according to an arrest warrant affidavit in the case.

Dabrow is listed on the state's sexual offender registry because of his

SEE MAN PAGE A3

SLIPPERY BUSINESS



DANA JENSEN/THE DAY

Tanner Evak, the owner of Evak Solutions, moves a lawn sprinkler in an area of the Washington Trust Community Skating Center in Westerly on Wednesday. The next few nights a fire hose will flood the rink to build up sheets of ice.

Juliette Parker is Groton Town's new mayor

By KIMBERLY DRELICH
Day Staff Writer

Groton — Town Councilor Juliette Parker was chosen and sworn in Tuesday as the town's new mayor.

She also has the distinction of being the town's first Black mayor.

Parker, a Democrat and a lifelong resident, has been serving as a councilor since 2017 and prior to that, on the Representative Town Meeting from 2013 to 2017. She has served as the executive assistant to the city police chief for the past 18 years. She also is a Connecticut Certified Municipal Officer and a CT POST Assessor.

In a statement Wednesday, Parker said her priorities are "addressing housing and food insecurity, fostering economic growth that meets the needs and expectations of all residents, and expanding our community center to better serve families and individuals across Groton."

The town mayor is a councilor who chairs the nine-member council. The mayor presides over meetings, performs "other duties consistent



DANA JENSEN/THE DAY

Town Council incumbent Juliette Parker reacts to voters on Nov. 2, 2021, as they leave the polling station at Fitch High School.

with the office or which may be designated by the Council" and is "recognized as the official head of the Town for all ceremonial purposes," according to the town charter.

Five councilors voted in favor of Parker being mayor and four voted in favor of Councilor David McBride. Before Tuesday's vote, Councilor

SEE PARKER PAGE A8

Experts help local parents properly respond to school lockdowns

By CARRIE CZERWINSKI
Special to The Day

North Stonington — A group of public safety, education and mental health professionals on Tuesday discussed the best strategies for families to navigate the confusion and emotional turmoil that can accompany school lockdowns.

The panel discussion, hosted by state Rep. Greg Howard, R-Stonington, provided parents with information on security protocols including lockdowns, tips on what actions to take or avoid, and how students may be impacted after a safety incident.

Howard, a veteran Stonington police detective, began the evening by saying that as a police officer, he is able to respond to incidents at his children's schools, but as a parent, he understands the emotional weight that parents feel.

"To be quite frank, I still have anxiety," he admitted to the 25 members of the public gathered at Wheeler High School.

Mike Caplet, the Department of

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Region 4 coordinator, explained that while schools may use different terminology and have some flexibility in security responses, there are specific state requirements, based on continually reevaluated best practices, that every school must meet.

Troy Hopkins, the North Stonington superintendent of schools, explained that multiple levels of response, such as a hold status that restricts students to their classrooms but continues normal instruction, give schools the flexibility to deal with situations like medical emergencies in less disruptive ways than a lockdown.

Caplet reassured the audience that the vast majority of security incidents involve minor threats to safety like police activity in the area or medical issues, which would restrict students to their classrooms or just keep them indoors in a secure status.

But he said schools do practice what

SEE EXPERTS PAGE A8

Robo Musk



LYNNE SLADKY/AP PHOTO

A visitor looks Wednesday at a robot in the likeness of Elon Musk at Art Basel Miami Beach in Miami Beach, Fla.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: NORWICH HUMAN SERVICES

WHO: Jheni and Hector
AGENCY: Norwich Human Services, which provides a variety of social services to Norwich residents.
FAMILY SITUATION: Hector had an injury at work and is now forced to perform light duties and is unable to work extra hours. Jheni is a stay-at-home mom, as the family is unable to pay for day care for their three children. The decrease in income is causing them to fall behind on rent. As the holidays approach, they are concerned that they may lose their housing.
WHAT TO GIVE: Hector and Jheni have a 4-year-old girl, a 2-year-old boy, and a 10-month-old girl. This family needs a bunk bed and clothing for their children. Their sizes are 6, 3T, and 18 months. The family could also use grocery store gift cards and gift cards to Walmart or Target.
TO DONATE: Contact Norwich Human Services, 100 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360, (P) 860-823-3469; (E) hmercedes@cityofnorwich.org.

LAWMAKERS SEEK UPDATE ON EPSTEIN

A bipartisan group of five lawmakers has asked the Justice Department for a briefing by Friday on any new information that could interfere with the department's ability to release files on the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein by a mid-December deadline. Congress overcame initial opposition from the White House last month when it overwhelmingly passed a bill seeking to compel the release of Justice Department files related to the disgraced financier.
— CQ Roll Call

WEATHER

Today, mixed clouds and sun, breezy. High 40. Friday, increasing afternoon clouds. High 32. **A8**

INDEX

Classified/**A6** Police logs/**A5**
Comics/**B5** Public notices/**A6**
Editorials/**A4** Puzzles/**A7**
Nation/**A2** Sports/**B6**
Obituaries/**A5** World/**A2**



7 00500 06320 7