

Inaugural Hiram Bingham IV Day is celebrated

Relatives, officials honor diplomat who saved thousands during World War II

By SARA BEDIGIAN
Day Staff Writer

Salem — The State of Connecticut will now recognize July 17 as Hiram Bingham IV Day each year, honoring the late U.S. diplomat who is credited with saving thousands of Jewish refugees during World War II.

The Bingham family celebrated the inaugural day at their campsite in Salem on Friday, telling his story and recognizing July 17 — his birthday — after the Connecticut General Assembly passed the bill honoring him last spring.

Gov. Ned Lamont signed the bill into law May 19. Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz attended Friday’s ceremony and read the governor’s proclamation recognizing Bingham for “his moral clarity and conviction,” which “serve as an example for current and future generations.”

“His legacy challenges us to do the right thing, even when it’s difficult, and we are very proud here in Connecticut to honor his memory,” Bysiewicz said.

Bingham’s actions saved 2,500 predominantly Jewish refugees by

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KIMBERLY DRELICH/THE DAY
The new Quaker Farm Road Bridge over Haley’s Brook is seen Friday. Structural problems closed the previous bridge in 2018.

Ribbon cut on new Quaker Farm Road Bridge in Groton

By KIMBERLY DRELICH
Day Staff Writer

Groton — Geoff Foster, the town’s deputy director of public works, called the completion of a \$1.7 million construction project to replace the Quaker Farm Road Bridge “a major milestone.”

The bridge that connects Lambtown Road to Haley Road has been closed since 2018 and is slated to reopen by the end of the month.

Foster said the new bridge over Haley’s Brook will provide better water flow underneath and, once reopened, will save first responders from having to take an approximately 10-minute detour.

On Friday, the Public Works

Department held a ribbon-cutting ceremony with town officials, town staff and those involved in the project to celebrate the project’s completion. Cookies were handed out with an image of the bridge on the frosting during the event while those involved in the project wrote their names in colored chalk on the pavement.

Foster said the project has been in the works for years as the town had to secure the funding and permits and then design and build the new structure.

“It’s very exciting,” he said. “It’s a testament to our town and our

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City weighs requirements for landlords

Proposals include a registry with data on properties and a system in which owners affirm conditions

By JOHN PENNEY
Day Staff Writer

New London — Officials have drafted a preliminary strategy — described as a “conversation starter” — for creating the city’s first landlord registry and self-verifying licensing system.

The proposals are intended to “advance the conversation regarding how New London can improve property accountability, landlord communication and housing quality,” while balancing staffing, enforcement and possible legal considerations, according to a June 15 memo by Rain Daugherty, the city’s community and economic development project coordinator.

The policies, which include a position statement, program frameworks and implementation ideas, are scheduled to be discussed by the City Council’s Public Welfare Committee at 6 p.m. Monday in City Hall.

Daugherty said there “appears to be broad agreement” for establishing registry and licensing systems that would lay out the city’s expectations for property owners, while also providing “reliable ownership and contact information.”

A tentative timeline for the

proposed programs calls for first gathering property data and figuring the programs’ costs before fine-tuning goals.

Daugherty said emergency personnel frequently encounter problems identifying and contacting landlords when an issue, such as a fire, crime or public health incident, occurs at their properties. She said ownership information is now available only through land and tax records, which do not necessarily provide up-to-date contacts.

“This can delay emergency response, impede tenant assistance efforts and create unnecessary risks for residents and first responders,” Daugherty wrote, adding that a formal registry that includes the number of dwellings and emergency contacts could address that gap.

Daugherty said another component, the self-certified licensing system, would entail having landlords periodically attest that their properties comply with certain housing, building, fire and maintenance codes.

That system could require landlords to verify that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working; that exits are unob-

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FLOODING IN TEXAS HILL COUNTRY



An aerial view shows flooding on Friday in Ozona, Texas.

GERALD HERBERT/AP PHOTO

Man says he saw 8-foot creature in Voluntown: ‘Not a bear’

By DANIEL DRAINVILLE
Day Staff Writer

Voluntown — A Westerly man says he had just crossed a bridge over the Pachaug River in the early morning of July 5 when he had to stop his car because he saw an 8-foot-tall upright creature cross in front of him.

The next day the driver, Kevin Klimas, reported the incident to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization — an organization dedicated to investigating bigfoot sightings across the United States. The organization was founded in 1995 by Matt Moneymaker, a bigfoot researcher and television personality who is best known for his appearances on the popular Animal Planet show “Finding Bigfoot.”

Klimas wrote in his report that about 1:45 a.m. he had just pulled his car out of the driveway of a cabin his friend had rented off Wylie School Road near Beach Pond. As he reached

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WEATHER

Today, showers in the afternoon, t-storms are possible. Humid. Smoke. High 79. Sunday, partly sunny AM, mostly sunny PM. High 79. **B8**

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COMING SUNDAY

News: Mystic is seeing increased demand for parking and more traffic congestion, as the coastal village grows in popularity. The first article in a series, “Tourism Trouble,” will explore the situation and what parking currently exists.

Daybreak: Luanne Rice — an Old Lyme resident and a New York Times bestselling author — has a new book out, a thriller that is partly set at the iconic Ocean House in Watch Hill.

Business: The seller’s market for real estate in the region continues in the second quarter of the year, with prices up more than 6% compared with the same period last year. Even condos and multifamily homes are selling like hotcakes.

Perspective: It’s almost primary season in Connecticut, writes columnist Paul Choiniere, which means it’s again time to take a look at how the state runs its primaries.

8 PEOPLE ARRESTED AFTER MAN IS SHOT AT SOUTHTON RESTAURANT, POLICE SAY

Southington — A man remains in critical condition, and eight people are under arrest, after a shooting Wednesday evening at the Cadillac Ranch restaurant in Southington, police say. A 44-year-old man also was injured when a fight broke out in the parking lot, police Lt. Matthew Hammell said Thursday. Both he and the 25-year-old who was shot in the torso are expected to survive, Hammell said. The venue was hosting a charity bike night at the time of the shooting, according to an event listing on its website. Hammell said the “Bike Night” is a weekly event. The street outside Cadillac Ranch was clogged with emergency vehicles after the shooting, and crowds of people had gathered in the bar’s large parking lot, part of which was cordoned off with crime scene tape, WFSB video shows.

— Journal Inquirer, Manchester

Haze hits capital region



JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON/AP PHOTO

A smoke-shrouded sun rises Friday behind the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. Connecticut’s air improved Friday, but the National Weather Service warned wildfire smoke was likely to return overnight.



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