



Jason Barnwell laughs with his wife, Grier, at their home in New London on April 15.

DAY FILE PHOTO

Phone call finally comes for man awaiting liver

Jason Barnwell of New London has successful transplant

By JOHN PENNEY
Day Staff Writer

New London — At 8:45 a.m. last Thursday, Jason Barnwell got the call he'd been waiting months to receive: A deceased-donor liver was ready to be transplanted into his immunocompromised body.

The call came from the NYU Langone Transplant Institute in

Manhattan, the same facility where the 40-year-old Barnwell was recovering on Monday after successful surgery over the weekend.

Barnwell's wife, Grier Barnwell, recalled her husband getting the notification.

"He saw the 'NYU Langone' transcript on his phone — he was at a work meeting — and we knew it could only be one thing," she said. "They said they had a liver on a pump waiting and asked how quickly we could get there. We left within an hour-and-a-half."

The couple grabbed two pink paisley

go-bags they'd packed over the winter and began the three-hour drive to the clinic.

"But we'd packed so long ago, I had to add in some more seasonal clothing," Grier Barnwell said.

A grim diagnosis

After years of medical appointments and increasingly severe symptoms, Jason Barnwell, an advanced planner at Electric Boat, in December 2025 was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease — sclerosing cholangitis — whose progression causes the body's own white blood

cells to attack a person's liver bile ducts.

That chaotic immune response causes liver inflammation and scarring and eventual organ failure. While the worst of the disease was brought under control thanks to various medications, the liver damage couldn't be reversed.

The only remaining treatment option was a liver transplant from a deceased donor or a partial transplant from a living donor. Recipients, though, can wait years

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Play site is getting state funds

\$650,000 to pay for most of accessible facility in East Lyme

By GIANNI SALISBURY
Day Staff Writer

East Lyme — The Miracle League of Southeastern Connecticut is moving forward with an all inclusive, fully accessible playground behind Flanders Elementary School after receiving \$650,000 in state grant funding.

The \$850,000 playground which has been in the works for around 10 years, will be fully accessible to all children. According to David Putnam, the executive director of The Miracle League of Southeastern Connecticut, the plan is to design a playground that is just like any other playground but has accessible swings, ramps, surfacing, roller slides and climbing apparatuses. There is one other Miracle League playground in West Hartford and many more around the country.

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Montville looks to open 163/395 interchange to industry

By JACK LAKOWSKY
Day Staff Writer

Montville — The town might be a little far south of the Massachusetts border to attract large warehouses like towns farther up the Interstate 395 corridor have done, but it still wants to find out how to draw more industrial development.

Planning Director Dennis Goderre said the town is exploring where such projects could locate in town.

But there aren't that many spots.

"We don't have many areas that have vast open spaces," Goderre said last week. The town's geography and large amount of wetlands, especially along the west side of Route 32, preclude many areas of town from industrial uses.

One possible area, Goderre told the Planning and Zoning Commission, is the interchange of I-395 and Route

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Greeneville Dam: 'Even though it's ancient, it works'

Restoration of 1882 structure under way

By DANIEL DRAINVILLE
Day Staff Writer

Norwich — Norwich Public Utilities spokesperson Chris Riley described the ongoing work to replace battered sections of the Greeneville Dam as "like working in a museum."

The 400-foot dam, constructed in 1882, is one of the few wood and rock dams left in America, said Tony Rizzi, NPU's electric maintenance manager.

Last week, Riley, Rizzi and NPU General Manager Jeff Brining met out at the dam to discuss the annual work.

"We always say that — well, every part of Norwich is beautiful. But every single day up here, it's so nice," Riley said.

From an overlook, one could see



The Greeneville Dam on Monday.

BRIAN DELK/THE DAY

the water level of the Shetucket River was down, exposing the wooden structure, mostly comprising red oak

timbers, where two workers were on top screwing in boards with a screw gun.

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"Even though it's ancient, it works," Brining said. "And it's renewable. That's the great thing. It would be very difficult to put in a new hydro (dam) anywhere for any reason. So, that's why there's a value in making sure we maintain these assets."

"Our philosophy as an organization is logically we keep ahead of things," he added.

In seasons of heavy rain, the river flows over the wood and rock structure, generating hydropower that saves NPU customers hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in energy that would otherwise have to be purchased, Riley said.

Brining said the repairs are done at a time of year when the facility wouldn't be generating power.

During the annual maintenance

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WEATHER

Today, humid, showers, a thunderstorm possible. High 72. Wednesday, mostly cloudy, a shower possible. High 72. **A6**

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NO PRINTED COPY OF NEWSPAPER ON LABOR DAY

In observance of Labor Day, we will not publish a print copy of Monday's newspaper. This pause allows our dedicated carriers to spend the holiday with their families and loved ones.

Print subscribers can still access Monday's news on theday.com or by reading the e-newspaper. Regular delivery will resume on Tuesday.

We thank you for your continued support and wish all our readers a safe and meaningful holiday.

PABST LEFT CRYING IN ITS BEER AFTER TWO WAREHOUSE THEFTS IN CALIFORNIA

Montclair, Calif. — Thieves made off with tens of thousands of cans of Pabst beer in two separate heists from a Southern California warehouse on the same day, police said.

Pabst Blue Ribbon has turned the thefts — valued by police at \$70,000 — into a light-hearted social media promotion. But police in Montclair said Friday that investigators are trying to determine whether they were part of a single operation.

In the first heist, about \$45,000 worth of beer headed to Tucson, Ariz., was picked up but never delivered, according to police. An hour later, a "purported subcontracting company" submitted fake documents to pick up another \$25,000 worth of beer, Montclair police said in a news release. Both thefts occurred on Aug. 17 at an Anheuser-Busch distribution center about 40 miles east of Los Angeles.

Roughly 34,000 cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon and non-alcoholic Old Milwaukee beer — more than 1,500 cases — were stolen, according to a police report obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

— Associated Press

Lurking beneath the waves



GREGORY BULL/AP PHOTO

A man snorkels in the Pacific Ocean at La Jolla Cove in San Diego on Sunday.



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