



Courtesy of state Rep. Christine Palm
State Rep. Corey Paris, D-Stamford, says he has received death threats after warning of ICE activity in his district.

ICE's Conn. footprint grows

Agency claims it's making the state safer

By **Jordan Nathaniel Fenster**
STAFF WRITER

Connecticut, like many other states, has been a focus for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. The agency claims it is making the

state safer, while opponents decry “authoritarian” tactics.

“The state of Connecticut is a safer place thanks to the hard work and determination of the men and women of ICE and our federal partners, ICE Boston acting Field Office

Director Patricia H. Hyde said in a news release.

The statement followed a series of arrests in the past week, or so. In total 65 people were arrested during a four-day sting operation. Many of those arrests were done in a public setting, with video

surfacing on social media of some of them. The heightened public presence sent surprise and concern through many communities, with many local and state officials condemning the activity and approach.

In New Jersey, 29 people were arrested during an immigration raid at a warehouse. Southern

California continues to be a hotbed for immigration enforcement activity, with local news reporting several large-scale arrests.

There have also been reports of ICE activity in Texas, Washington D.C., New York City and its suburbs, and other states.

Here is a breakdown of some of the ICE-related
ICE continues on A4



Photos by Dave Zajac/Hearst Connecticut Media
Fairfield National players sign autographs for fans during a celebration on the Sherman Green in Fairfield on Monday.

‘THEY’VE HIT LEGENDARY STATUS’

Fans celebrate Fairfield team’s Little League World Series run

By **Jessica Bravo and Tyler Fedor**
STAFF WRITERS

A team from Connecticut that nearly became the fifth from the state to win the Little League World Series was welcomed home to Fairfield with a firetruck escort Monday.

Fairfield National won the consolation game in the tournament, becoming the first team from Connecticut to finish in third place since Bridgeport’s North End Little League in 1957.

On Monday, the firetrucks took the Fairfield National team from the Dairy Queen through downtown Fairfield to Sherman Town Green, where a crowd of people followed



Coach Brian Palazzolo speaks on Monday during a celebration for the Fairfield National Little League baseball team on the Sherman Green in Fairfield.

and packed the green so tight the crowd spilled out onto the sidewalks.

Though the team lost the U.S. championship game to Summerlin South of Las Vegas, on Saturday, the team did place third after defeating Santa Cruz, Aruba, 4-2 on Sunday.

The games took place at South Williamsport, Pennsylvania’s Lamade Stadium. Gov. Ned Lamont, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and U.S. Rep. Jim Himes, D-4, were a part of the welcoming party, among other local officials.

“This team has been unstoppable and has inspired all of us with their sportsmanship and teamwork,” Fairfield acting First Selectman Christine Vitale said in a statement.

Fans continues on A7

Connecticut, other states could go it alone on vaccines

By **Jordan Nathaniel Fenster**
STAFF WRITER

Amid reports that President Donald Trump and health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. could ban COVID-19 vaccines, Connecticut and other New England states could be considering whether it makes sense to branch out from federal health oversight of vaccines and make their own recommendations and guidance.

Connecticut public health Commissioner Manisha Juthani was part of an eight-state meeting last week in Rhode Island to discuss regional approaches to vaccine administration, the Department of Public Health confirmed. While a decision is not necessarily imminent, there are ongoing concerns in many states about the direction of the Trump administration’s direction when it comes to public health policy.

“Public health challenges extend be-
Vaccines continues on A4



Kennedy

New Canaan kicks off new school year

By **Ignacio Laguarda**
STAFF WRITER

NEW CANAAN — New Canaan students reported to their classrooms Tuesday morning to kick off the first day of the 2025-26 school year.

The school district welcomed back over 4,000 students, including roughly 1,250 high school students, 1,220 middle school students and about 1,530 elementary school students.

“Another wonderful school year is underway in (New Canaan Public Schools),” said Superintendent Bryan Luizzi, in an emailed statement. “It’s going to be a great year, and we’re all looking forward to the remarkable accomplishments that lie ahead for every one of our students. We’re off to a great start! Onward!”

New Canaan continues on A4

Westport schools open as district drafts AI plan

Officials pursue phone-free Staples High

By **Brian Gioiele**
STAFF WRITER

WESTPORT — Students are back in class.

Westport schools opened for the school year on Tuesday. In all, 5,200 students were enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 as of day one. Staff remains basically unchanged, with 961 this year

compared to 958 last school year. Opening day comes nearly three months after the Representative Town Meeting approved funding for a new Long Lots School, expected to open in September 2027.

While students were celebrating summer, many district staffers were hard at work prepar-

ing programs for the coming year.

Superintendent Thomas Scarice said more than 50 faculty participated in summer work designing the district’s draft strategic plan for AI.

“We developed a vision statement, a code of ethics and are now working on a draft Academic Integrity
Westport continues on A4



Ned Gerard/Hearst Connecticut Media
Principal Beth Messier greets students as they arrive by car for the first day of the new school year at Saugatuck Elementary School in Westport on Tuesday.

