

Report: Feds may hand Plum Island to N.Y.

Report says mysterious property could join Suffolk County

By Austin Mirmina
STAFF WRITER

The future of Plum Island is beginning to take shape after years of uncertainty and competing proposals over what to do with the mysterious and storied island located in Long Island Sound a few miles from the Connecticut coast.

The U.S. government, which owns the 840-acre island off the tip of Long Island's North Fork,

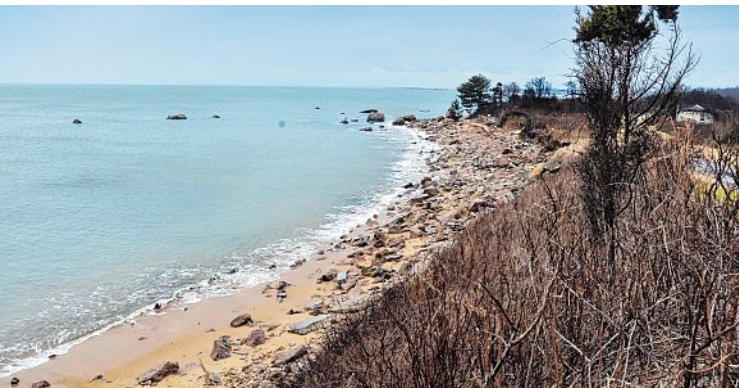
recently approached officials in Suffolk County, N.Y., about handing over long-term responsibility of the property in the coming years, according to the Suffolk County Times.

Transferring stewardship to Suffolk County would mark a major shift in how the island is managed — from a high-security federal research facility to a potential oasis for passive recreation. It would also give local officials and environmental en-

thusiasts a more direct role in protecting the island's unique ecosystems and historical value.

Under federal control for decades, Plum Island is home to the Animal Disease Center, a research lab that studies dangerous animal diseases. The facility was established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1954, with the property management transferred from the USDA to the Department of Homeland

Island continues on A4



Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

The federal government has approached Suffolk County, N.Y., about handing over stewardship of Plum Island, a report says.



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media

David Warren, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, said that in order to fully serve, nonprofits must also “harden facilities, train staff, and respond effectively to any situation.”

With DEI conditions on security funds, nonprofit are worried

By Jordan Nathaniel Fenster
STAFF WRITER

Nonprofits across Connecticut and the nation have relied on federal funding to maintain security within their facilities. The money is issued from FEMA through the state to reimburse nonprofits, many of them faith-based organizations, for things like electronic locks, door buzzers, surveillance cameras, panic alarms and initiatives like that.

“The impact of these grants will be measured in

“The Nonprofit Security Grant Program is a critical investment in preparedness and deterrence at a time when threats and targeted incidents are on the rise nationwide.”

David Warren, president of the Jewish Federation Greater Hartford

lives saved and tragedies averted,” then-Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas said in 2024.

This year, FEMA has reduced the total available funds, split it up into two tranches and placed new, po-

litically and ideologically based requirements for those organizations that do. FEMA said that organizations must not “during the term of this financial assistance award, operate any programs that advance or

promote DEI, DEIA, or discriminatory equity ideology,” “engage in a discriminatory prohibited boycott” or “operate any program that benefits illegal immigrants or incentivizes illegal immigration.”

Last year, 35 Connecticut organizations competed for \$5.7 million, which comprised 3% of the total grant allocation nationwide. This year, Connecticut's pot of funding will be \$2.67 million in total, enough to fund about 14 organizations' requests. State agencies that

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CT minimum wage will be 2nd highest in U.S. in 2026

By Jordan Nathaniel Fenster
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — Gov. Ned Lamont announced Wednesday the state minimum wage will be increasing to \$16.94 per hour on Jan. 1, 2026, the second highest among the 50 states.

“This increase is going to directly benefit more than 160,000 workers, the majority of whom are women and people of color,” Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz said during a Wednesday news conference. “It's a myth that minimum-wage workers are just teenagers who are making extra money.”

“Raising the minimum wage means

Wage continues on A4



Ken Dixon/Hearst Connecticut Media Group

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and Gov. Ned Lamont announce a minimum wage increase on Wednesday.

NEW CANAAN

Schools report bus delays after switch to new software

By Ignacio Laguarda
STAFF WRITER

NEW CANAAN — The school district superintendent said the first week of school was marked with “significant transportation challenges” including long school bus delays and software errors.

“We're still in the triage mode of figuring out and fixing any issues that come to our attention,” said Superintendent Bryan Luizzi during a meeting of the New Canaan Board of Education Tuesday night.

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NORWALK

Warrant: Woman charged in near-drowning had kids removed

By Pat Tomlinson
STAFF WRITER

NORWALK — A Norwalk woman had her two children removed from her home by the state Department of Children and Families after the near-drowning of a 1-year-old child in July.

Carla Sanchez, 26, was arrested by Norwalk po-

lice on Aug. 26 on two counts of risk of injury to a minor after police said an investigation determined she had left two children unat-



Sanchez

tended in a kiddie pool at the time of the near-

drowning, which required life-saving measures.

The incident, which happened on July 12, prompted an investigation after the victim's grandmother told police she feared for the child's well-being because Sanchez “is a heavy drinker” who “due to her substance abuse, frequently

neglects the child,” police wrote in an arrest affidavit.

“She also claimed that Ms. Sanchez becomes violent and indifferent to the child's well-being when intoxicated,” the grandmother told police, according to the affidavit.

In the wake of the incident, DCF opened an in-

vestigation into Sanchez and later held a “considered removal meeting” to discuss the potential removal of the children from Sanchez's custody, the affidavit said.

DCF later advised Sanchez, the victim's father and grandmother that both of Sanchez's children “would be removed from the home and

placed with” their aunt instead, police said in the affidavit.

Officials representing DCF did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Sanchez is free from custody after posting a \$50,000 bond, according to court records. She is next expected to appear in court Oct. 23.

