

The Norwalk Hour

THEHOUR.COM • MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026 • SINCE 1871 • VOLUME 154, EDITION 285 • \$3.00

'EYE in the SKY'

Inside Connecticut's highway command center, where crashes and issues become alerts in minutes

By Jordan Nathaniel Fenster

STAFF WRITER

The room is kept dark on purpose with the ambient light mostly coming from the dozens of highway camera feeds stretched across the wall.

Each one shows a different part of Connecticut's road network. Cars move through interchanges; trucks pass under signs; every screen is watched by operators whose work most drivers never see.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation's *Command continues on A4*



GOP GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE

Who is Ryan Fazio?

What his 5 years in Hartford say about him

By Alex Putterman and Paul Hughes

STAFF WRITERS

In the next few weeks, Connecticut voters are likely to learn a lot about Greenwich state Sen. Ryan Fazio and where the Republican candidate for governor stands politically.

Fazio faces an uphill battle in the Nov. 3 election against two-term Gov. Ned Lamont, who describes himself as a moderate Democrat and who benefits from strong approval ratings in a solid blue state at a time when the political climate appears to favor Democrats.

According to a recent Quinnipiac *Fazio continues on A6*

Yale reported more rapes than all Ivies

The number, 27, also exceeds most CT colleges last year, data shows

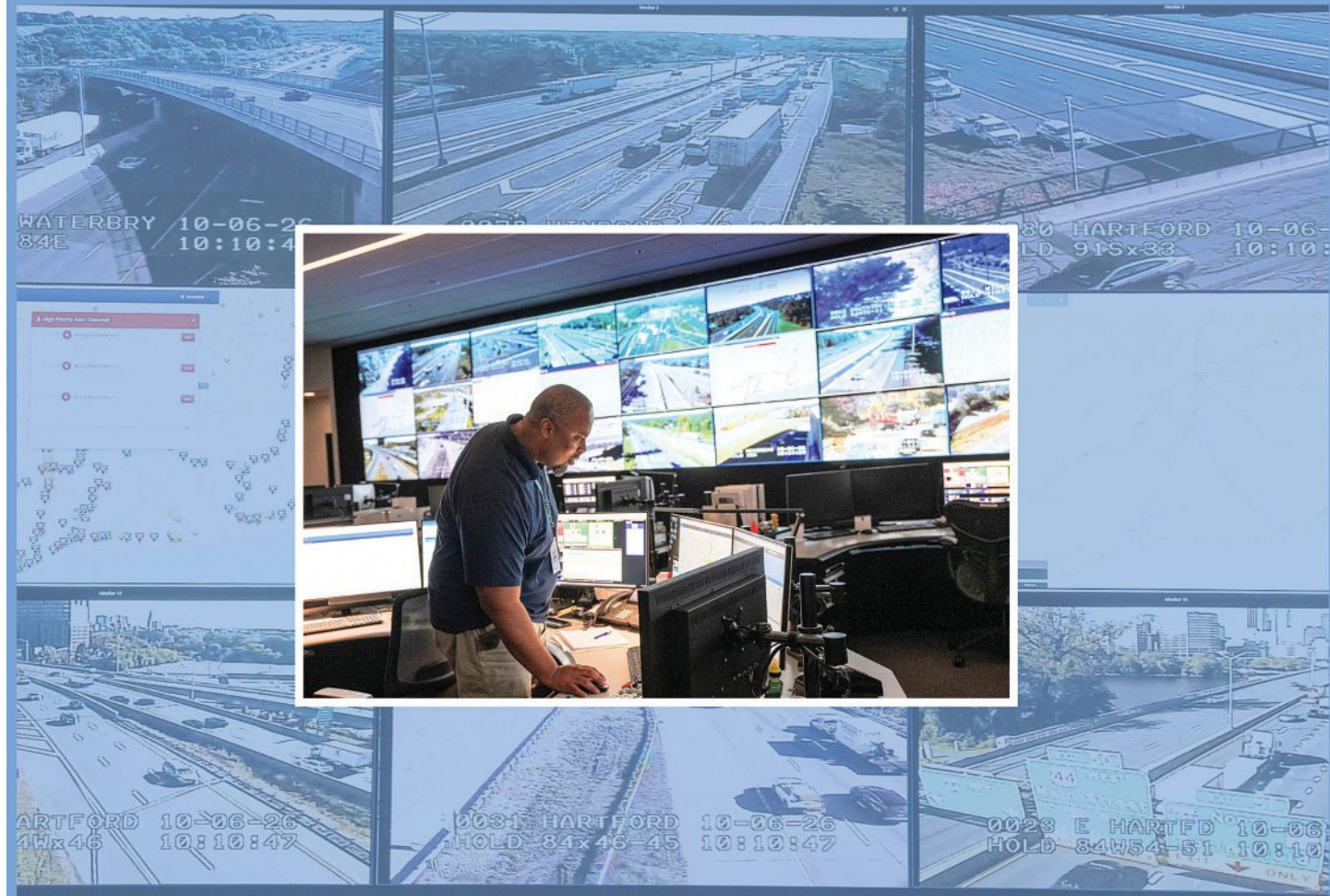
By Natasha Sokoloff

STAFF WRITER

There were more reported rapes at Yale University last year than at most other Connecticut colleges and all other Ivy League schools, according to recently released campus crime statistics.

In 2025, there were 27 reported rapes at Yale, according to the university's annual security report, which is federally mandated under the Clery Act that requires colleges and universities to publish campus crime data and safety policies each year.

Yale continues on A5



Photos by Dave Zajac/Hearst Connecticut Media

Antonio Dutchin, crew leader, works at his station at the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Operations Center in Newington on Tuesday. Above, command center monitors display feeds from traffic cameras along state highways. At top, one of those cameras, at the I-91, I-691 and Route 15 interchange in Meriden Tuesday.

From food to water and air, microplastics are all around

By Tracey O'Shaughnessy

STAFF WRITER

They're everywhere.

They're in the toothpaste you brush with, the water you rinse with, the moisturizer you slather on your face and the clothes you put on your back.

They're microplastics, and their ubiquity extends from the orange juice we drink to the chicken nuggets we feed our children and the bag of apples we grab from the grocery store. "They've been found in the air we breathe, the water we drink and increasingly in the food we eat," according to the Public Interest Research Group.

Up to a "spoonful" of microplastics may be in the human brain, according to a study published in Nature Medicine in 2025.

The study, which analyzed levels of microplastics and nanoplastics in the brains of human cadavers, found that concentrations were about 50% higher in samples from 2024 than in those from 2016.

What are microplastics?

Microplastics are plastic pieces smaller than 5 millimeters, or about the size of a pencil eraser, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Most microplastics start out as macro plastics and are formed when macro plastics break down and degrade," said University of Hartford professor Katharine A. Owens. "They wear down into smaller and smaller pieces, eventually becoming microplastics, then degrading further to become nanoplastics."

Some microplastics are created and found in beauty products, Owens said. In 2015, these microplastics in rinse-off cosmetics like face scrubs and toothpaste were banned, but Owens said there is a loophole that still allows these in cosmetic products like foundations and lotions.

Global markets produce more than 400 million tons of plastic every year, Owens said, adding

Plastic continues on A6

PopUp Bagels founder is moving original Westport shop to Main Street

By Susan Braden

STAFF WRITER

PopUp Bagels founder Adam Goldberg is moving the original bagel shop he opened in Westport to a highly visible spot at 178 Main St. with a new full-service store.

Goldberg expects to open the new Westport PopUp Bagels sometime in early 2027. The new location had been home to Cold Fusion Gelato.

The old location at 971 Post Road East in Goldberg's hometown had no service counter and "was only drive up, you couldn't walk in," he said. "It was built in a catering kitchen. It was never really designed to be a store."

It was at Goldberg's very first spot where he started his fast-growing bagel brand that has attracted celebrity angel investors, such as Paul Rudd and Michael Phelps. The company's worth had hit the \$300 million mark last spring, according to HedgeWeek, hedge fund industry website.

Some five years after starting the business as a "COVID hobby," Goldberg is opening his 50th location soon in Times Square in



Courtesy of PopUp Bagels

PopUp Bagels founder Adam Goldberg is moving the bagel store he opened in Westport to a highly visible spot at 178 Main St., with a new full-service store.

New York, he said. Currently there are PopUp Bagels in roughly 20 states, he estimated and in Connecticut, there are locations in Fairfield, Westport and Greenwich, with one planned for Stamford, which the company announced in May.

When Goldberg opened his first storefront in New York City in 2023, he said. "We built out the model and the design for what we want our stores to look like." Now there are PopUp Bagel shops all over the country.

"We have stores in as north as Maine, as south as Miami, as west as San Diego and L.A. Pennsylvania, Maryland," Goldberg said. He also has some 350 franchise locations that are already signed and licensed, he said, adding, "It's going to take four to five years to get them all built out."

PopUp bagels are famous for their "grip, rip and dip" style which are not toasted or sliced. The success behind PopUp Ba-

Bagels continues on A5

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Weather: Warmer, cloudy, then clouds and sun.
High: 73. Low: 54. **Page A10**