

Officials promote early voting

Conn. election efforts come after poor turnout in last two primaries

By John Moritz
STAFF WRITER

Election officials in Hamden began mailing the first of 30,000 postcards this week to registered voters reminding them of the upcoming presidential election on Nov. 5 — as they have done in elections dating back decades.

New this year, however, is a line on those postcards letting voters know about availability of early voting at the town li-



brary, which will open in late October for in-person voting.

“It’s not necessarily something extraordinary, we’re just informing them,” said Lushonda Howard, the town’s Democratic registrar of voters.

Still, the town’s postcard campaign was credited with helping to give Hamden the

highest early voting turnout in the state during each of this year’s primary elections, a success that officials across Connecticut will hope to replicate during the busier presidential race.

With few exceptions, early voting has not gotten off to a strong start in Connecticut af-

ter voters overwhelmingly voted to give themselves the option in 2022.

The first two elections in which early voting was available were this year’s spring presidential primary and the primary for state and federal races in August. Both elections were marked by low turnout across all methods of voting, which was attributed to the overall lack of competitive races.

In August, just 8,854 people turned out over the week-long early voting period — a total

that amounted to less than 1 percent of all eligible voters and prompting some to question whether it was worth it to offer such an extended period of in-person voting.

Both state and local elections officials say they expect turnout will naturally increase due to the heightened interest in the General Election, which includes races for president, Congress and the state legislature.

Voters will also have a full two weeks of in-person, early voting ahead of the Nov. 5 elec-

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Above and below, Aydin Artis took the field and scored a touchdown for the Milford U12 Pop Warner team Oct. 6. Artis, diagnosed with Spina Bifida, is an honorary member of the team.

RJ O'Neill/Contributed photos

TEAM HELPS BOY LIVE FOOTBALL DREAM

Middle-schooler with spina bifida gets chance to take the field

By Brian Gioiele
STAFF WRITER

MILFORD — Aydin Artis’ dreams of gridiron glory are now a reality.

Born with spina bifida, a condition in which the spine and spinal cord do not form correctly, the Trumbull seventh grader uses a wheelchair, but his family says he has never let it define him — that’s clear to anyone who has ever seen him do a headstand in his wheelchair.

His latest feat came with the help of his friends on the Milford U12 Pop Warner team, of which he has



been an honorary member for the past two years.

In a surprise move, the team, during its game against Stratford this past

his teammates by his side, scored a touchdown.

“When they called me to go out for the play, I couldn’t believe it,” said Aydin. “At first, I was super nervous, but that quickly turned into excitement when my teammate Luke gave me the ball and told me to go for the touchdown.”

When Aydin crossed the goal line, his teammates swarmed him, cheering and celebrating.

“It was such a great feeling, just like how I cheer and celebrate them at every game,” Aydin

Dream continues on A6

Settlement allowing apartments at former Testo’s site in review

By Brian Lockhart
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — A plan for zoning officials to bless a legal settlement allowing construction of a controversial apartment complex at the former Testo’s restaurant site was postponed Tuesday so city officials and the neighborhood can learn more details.

“We have some elements of the deal that are definitely among demands of the residents most closely impacted by the property, but the mayor and council members especially want to understand (it) a little better and make sure there’s at least a general consensus that this is the best deal that can be reached,” Thomas Gaudett, Mayor Joe Ganim’s chief administrative officer, said Wednesday. “I don’t think we’re there yet.”

As of late last week, lawyers for Bridge-

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Success Village receiver seeks information on bank deposits

By Daniel Tepfer
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — A Superior Court judge has ordered Key Bank officials to appear in court Thursday to turn over bank accounts to a Stratford lawyer previously appointed to take control of the finances of Success Village.

On Wednesday, Barry Knott, who was appointed the receiver for Success Village, a housing cooperative on the Bridgeport/Stratford line, said he wouldn’t know until he gets access to the accounts whether \$1.3

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*** ELECTION 2024 ***

Shifting political sands complicate reelection effort for Hwang in 28th

By Jarrod Wardwell
STAFF WRITER

FAIRFIELD — State Sen. Tony Hwang would like his track record to speak for itself.

Hwang, a veteran Republican lawmaker from Fairfield, is in the final month of his reelection campaign for a sixth term representing the 28th District in the Connecticut State Senate and ninth overall in the state’s General Assembly. The district encompasses

es several Fairfield County towns, including Fairfield, Easton and Newtown.

But this November will test whether one of the more moderate Republicans in Hartford can survive in an increasingly blue district, where Hwang’s lead over Democratic opponents has shrunk since 2018.

“People in that building know where I stand,” Hwang said of the Connecticut State Capitol. “And when I’m committed to



Ned Gerard/Hearst Connecticut Media
State Sen. Tony Hwang speaks during a news conference in Fairfield on Oct. 7.

working on something, you have me full on. People can trust what they see is what they get. I’ve had a record to do that.”

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Chris Murphy led field in fundraising in Conn.

By John Moritz
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy raised more than \$1.2 million towards his reelection campaign during the third quarter of this year, as he and other candidates for federal office from Connecticut raced toward the final stretch of campaigning for the Nov. 5 election.

“It’s a privilege fighting for the people of Connecticut every day in Washington, and thanks to the generous sup-



port of our movement, I’m doing everything possible in these last few weeks to make sure Democrats win up and down the ballot,” Murphy said in a statement released by his campaign Wednesday.

Murphy’s haul also easily swamped that of his opponent in the U.S. Senate race, Manchester Republican Matthew

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