

Groton residents decry data center proposal

By **KIMBERLY DRELICH**
Day Staff Writer

Groton — Dozens of residents at a Town Council meeting Wednesday night spoke for more than three hours against a data center proposal, raising concerns about the impact on property values, noise and the environment, among other issues.

The vast majority of the roughly 48 speakers were opposed or sought more information and time for the town to deliberate. Residents were applauded after they spoke, and some wore stickers that said “NO DATA CENTER NOW.”

NE Edge LLC, under manager

“Data centers are absolutely necessary, and there’s plenty of empty factories and malls that should be repurposed to that end. Not pristine woodland.”

KRISTIN DISTANTE, A RESIDENT AND MEMBER OF THE GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thomas Quinn, is asking the council to approve a host fee agreement to bring one data center or more to land between Flanders and Hazelnut Hill Roads, south of Interstate 95 and north of Groton Open Association’s Sheep Farm properties. The agreement outlines criteria and sets the annual revenue paid to the town in lieu of taxes, as the state allows 20- to 30-year tax exemptions for data

centers. If the council ultimately approves the agreement, the developer would seek approvals from the Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning commissions.

Paula MacDougall, who lives on Flanders Road and was among the residents from neighborhoods near the industrially zoned property, said the town revised the agreement to address some of the neighbors’ re-

quests and the noise factor, but she had remaining concerns, including if the technology is available yet to make huge fans quiet, and “the possible need for an addition of transfer stations to handle the electric power which could be another destruction to residential areas.”

“These are middle-class homes. Middle-class people’s wealth, it’s

SEE DATA PAGE A3

WAR IN UKRAINE

Rescue workers search rubble

Hundreds of civilians had taken shelter in central Mariupol theater

By **ANDREA ROSA**
Associated Press

Kyiv, Ukraine — Rescue workers searched for survivors Thursday in the ruins of a theater blown apart by a Russian airstrike in the besieged city of Mariupol, while scores of Ukrainians across the country were killed in ferocious urban attacks on a school, a hostel and other sites.

Hundreds of civilians had been taking shelter in the grand, columned theater in central Mariupol after their homes were destroyed in three weeks of fighting in the southern port city of 430,000.

More than a day after the airstrike, there were no reports of deaths. With communications disrupted across the city and movement difficult because of shelling and other fighting, there were conflicting reports on whether anyone had emerged from the rubble.

“We hope and we think that some people who stayed in the shelter under the theater could survive,” Petro Andrushchenko, an official with the mayor’s office, told The Associated Press. He said the building had a relatively modern basement bomb shelter designed to withstand airstrikes. Video and photos provided by the Ukrainian military showed that the at least three-story building had been reduced to a roofless shell, with some exterior walls collapsed.

Other officials had said earlier that some people had gotten out. Ukraine’s ombudswoman, Ludmyla Denisova, said on the Telegram messaging app that the shelter had held up.

SEE RUSSIAN PAGE A5

RELATED STORY, A2

TRADITIONAL IRISH TUNES



SARAH GORDON/THE DAY

Members of New London Firefighters Pipes & Drums warm up outside Thursday before playing at Smokey O’Grady’s in East Lyme. The group organized a St. Patrick’s Day Pub Tour, playing traditional Irish music at bars and restaurants from Westbrook to Mystic in honor of the holiday.

Car thefts down in Connecticut since 2020

Official: School closures, understaffed police forces to blame for initial rise, not broken justice system

By **STEN SPINELLA**
Day Staff Writer

Car thefts in Connecticut decreased in 2021, according to police data.

Ken Barone, the associate director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at the University of Connecticut, made a presentation to the Juvenile Justice Policy Committee during a virtual meeting Thursday afternoon. His presentation contained findings — such as the fact that there were fewer car thefts in Connecticut in 2021 compared to 2020 — that run contrary to Republicans’ claims that Connecticut is facing a juvenile car theft problem.

“We’re not necessarily experienc-

ing a continued expansive growth in auto thefts from last year,” Barone said Thursday.

Republicans have said the state’s broken criminal justice system, which doesn’t punish repeat offenders, is to blame for a spike in auto thefts in 2020. But, Barone said otherwise.

“What we try and look at is trends and things that are occurring when we see trends change. I think it’s indisputable that April of 2020 is when we started to see a fairly substantial increase in auto thefts,” Barone said. “Part of what occurred is schools shut down.”

Barone noted that a lack of in-person schooling and after-school pro-

The five years that saw the highest number of total car thefts in the state since 1985 are:

- 26,254 in 1991
- 24,024 in 1990
- 23,735 in 1992
- 22,600 in 1989
- 20,168 in 1994

gramming is part of what led to the greater amount of auto thefts in 2020. He said police also were suffering from staff shortages that year, as well as trying to reduce contact with the general public because of

SEE CAR PAGE A5

What would year-round daylight saving time mean?

By **ANGEL ADEGBESAN**
Bloomberg

“Spring forward, fall back” has been a part of life for over a century for most of the U.S. It’s a ritual that produces pretty regular grumbling, particularly around the “lost hour” in the spring, when clocks are switched ahead from standard time. The Senate on March 15 unanimously approved a switch to permanent daylight saving time. But the history of the issue both in the U.S. and around the world shows that no approach is likely to make everybody happy.

1. What is the purpose of daylight saving time?

Daylight saving time — more pop-

ularly mis-called “daylight savings time” — moves an hour of sunlight from the early morning, when most people who aren’t farmers are in bed, to the evening, when they’re more likely to make use of the extended daylight.

2. When was DST created?

The idea for daylight saving time was said to have originated in the 18th century; Benjamin Franklin thought sleeping late in the summer was a waste of productive time, and that the extra hour of sunlight in the

SEE A LOOK PAGE A5

EDITORIAL: Standard Time better for health, safety than year-round DST. **A4**

WEATHER

Today, mostly sunny and pleasant. High 63. Saturday, cloudy with showers, cooler. High 53. **A6**

INDEX

Classified/**C5** Public notices/**C5**
Comics/**B4** Puzzles/**C6**
Daybreak/**B1** Region/**C1**
Editorials/**A4** Sports/**D1**
Nation/**A2** Television/**B2**
Obituaries/**C4** World/**A2**
Police logs/**C2**

CONNECTICUT BY THE NUMBERS

731,532 (+404)

Confirmed cases of COVID-19

100 (+2)

Number of patients hospitalized

49,661 / 4,547

New London County cases, confirmed and probable

500 / 140

New London County deaths, confirmed and probable

As of 3 p.m. Thursday from Gov. Lamont

AMERICAN AMONG CIVILIANS KILLED IN RUSSIAN ATTACK IN UKRAINE

Washington — An American man was killed in a Russian attack on the northern Ukrainian city of Chernihiv, where he was seeking medical treatment for his partner. The death of Jim Hill was reported Thursday by his sister.

“My brother Jimmy Hill was killed yesterday in Chernihiv, Ukraine. He was waiting in a bread line with several other people when they were gunned down” by Russian military forces, his sister, Cheryl Hill Gordon, wrote on Facebook. “His body was found in the street by the local police.”

Ukrainian officials reported that 10 people were killed Wednesday in Chernihiv while standing in the bread line. Chernihiv police and the U.S. State Department confirmed the death of an American but did not identify him. Hill was at least the second U.S. citizen to be killed in the conflict, after the killing of journalist and filmmaker Brent Renaud last week.

Hill, a native of Eveleth, Minn., who was living in Driggs, Idaho, identified himself as a lecturer at universities in Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, and Warsaw, Poland.

— Associated Press

Eviction protest in Brazil



ANDRE PENNER/AP PHOTO

Protesters on Thursday in Sao Paulo, Brazil, demand the extension of a moratorium on evictions imposed during the pandemic and due to expire March 31.

