



'HOUNDS WIN!
AVERY HINNANT, NAUGY TOP WATERTOWN, 72-43, IN NVL TOURNEY, PAGE 1B

UConn on top
JAMES BOUKNIGHT SCORES 19 IN THE HUSKIES' 84-63 WIN OVER EAST CAROLINA, PAGE 1B

U.S. signs peace agreement

The U.S. on Saturday signed a peace agreement with the Taliban that is aimed at ending America's longest war and bringing U.S. troops home from Afghanistan. PAGE 3C


New center ready to open
The Waterbury Hospitality Center, which burned down Feb. 21, will soon have a new home across the street at 690 East Main St. PAGE 3A

Have you seen a bobcat?
The state wants to know about bobcats in your neighborhood. Biologists are collecting data from collars to determine where the animals have been. PAGE 6A

OPINION OF THE DAY: "I watched coverage of the Feb. 11 New Hampshire presidential primary and wondered how voters in a state with the motto 'Live Free or Die' could support a socialist!" — **Patricia Grzywacz, Seymour**
READ THE FULL LETTER ON PAGE 13A

RA TODAY AT REP-AM.COM

HIT THE PAWS BUTTON Who's your favorite furry little friend from this week's pet page? Vote at rep-am.com.
TOURNEY TIME! Watch highlights from the first round of the NVL boys basketball tournament at thezone.rep-am.com.
WINNER, WINNER See more photos from Harwinton Congregational Church's 58th annual chicken barbecue.



High **34** Sunny and chilly today. Warmer weather moves in Monday. Page **14A**
 Low **21**

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Rich Ballot, President
BALFOR INDUSTRIES, INC.
 Oxford, CT

ELECTION 2020: BIDEN WINS IN S.C.

STORY PAGE 2A

RA SPECIAL REPORT


» The U.S. is banning travel to Iran in response to the outbreak of the new coronavirus and elevating travel warnings to regions of Italy and South Korea. In Washington, Vice President Mike Pence announced the new restrictions and warnings as President Donald Trump said 22 people in the U.S. have been stricken by the virus, **Page 11A.**

» The World Health Organization has reported 82,294 confirmed cases of coronavirus in 47 countries. A look at what you need to know to keep your family safe, **Page 8A.**

» Should coronavirus arrive here, area health experts will be ready.

» Region 15 is also preparing for the coronavirus, but Superintendent Joshua Smith said the risk to the area is currently low, **Page 4A.**

» Coronavirus trumped the modeling career of Wolcott teen Monika Korbusieski during Milan Fashion Week, **Page 11A.**



Above, Mary Peters, a registered diagnostic medical sonographer at Saint Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, demonstrates the N95 respirator mask that some people use to help protect themselves from diseases. Stores nationwide are running out of face masks as people worry about potential exposure to the coronavirus. Story on Page 8A.

Washington state reports 1st death from coronavirus

BY ANDREW SELSKY
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

The governor of Washington declared a state of emergency Saturday after a man died there of COVID-19, the first such reported death in the United States. More than 50 people in a nursing facility are sick and being tested for the virus.

Gov. Jay Inslee directed state agencies to use "all resources necessary" to prepare for and respond to the coronavirus outbreak. The declaration also allows the use of the Washington National Guard, if necessary.

"We will continue to work toward a day where no one dies from this virus," the governor vowed.

Health officials in California, Oregon and Washington state are worried about the novel coronavirus spreading through West Coast communities because a growing number of people are being infected despite not having visited an area where there was an outbreak, nor apparently been in contact with anyone who had.

The man who died was in his 50s, had underlying health conditions and no history of travel or contact with a known COVID-19 case, health officials in Washington state said at a news conference.

See **DEATH, Page 9A**

State won't release numbers on residents returning from China

BY MICHAEL PUFFER
 REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

The state Department of Public Health has declined to release numbers of Connecticut residents who have returned from China in recent weeks and been asked to isolate themselves and check in with their local health departments.

"Due to the fluidity of these numbers and the fact it does not serve a public health purpose to release information about individuals who are not even under investigation for COVID-19, we are not releasing numbers of people under self-monitoring or their locations," said Av Harris, spokesman for the Connecticut Department of Public Health, in an email to the Sunday Republican.

See **NUMBERS, Page 9A**

Officials: Waterbury rail upgrades long overdue

BY ANDREW LARSON
 REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WATERBURY — Rail boosters hope the newly formed Waterbury Rail Line Caucus will galvanize support for upgrades to the 27-mile rail line between the Brass City and Bridgeport.

Caucus leaders support adding morning and afternoon trips during peak hours and are calling for 30 minutes between departures at each stop during peak hours and 60 minutes during off-peak hours by 2025 — over the current average of two and a half hours between departures.

The group's action plan includes new rail stations with amenities, a transfer station in Devon and a study into the possibility of extending the Waterbury line to Torrington.

While the state has in recent years funneled money into the Waterbury branch, advocates say more investment is needed to justify the cost of work that's already underway.

See **RAILS, Page 14A**



The 1:50 p.m. Metro-North train arrives at the train station on Meadow Street in Waterbury on Feb. 21.

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NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT FIVE-DAY FORECASTS

TODAY Mostly sunny and chilly. Highs in the low to 30s. Winds northwest at 5 to 10 mph. 24 hr prec: 0.00 inches.

TONIGHT Becoming mostly cloudy. Lows in the teens and lower 20s. Winds west to south around 5 mph.

MONDAY HIGH: 50 LOW: 39 PREC: 0.0

TUESDAY HIGH: 54 LOW: 41 PREC: 0.04

WEDNESDAY HIGH: 54 LOW: 34 PREC: 0.17

THURSDAY HIGH: 47 LOW: 33 PREC: 0.0

Northeast Weather Summary

High pressure over northern New York will bring partly sunny skies in central and northern portions of the Northeast and mostly sunny skies in southern sections. The wind will be lighter than of late, but it will be remaining chilly with highs mainly in the 20s and 30s. The sky will be partly cloudy this evening then it will become mostly cloudy overnight with a few isolated snow and rain showers.

On The Record

Data recorded at Bradley Airport in Windsor Locks.

Temperature
Yesterday High/Low 36/23
Normal for date 42/24
Records for date 64 in 1976 / 7 in 1940
A year ago 33/19
Range since Jan 1. 70/4

Precipitation in inches
Yesterday precip. to 4 p.m. Trace
Total for month to date: 3.19
Normal for February to date: 2.89
Total this year: 4.98
Normal for the same period: 6.12
Snowfall since July 1: 25.7
Normal snowfall since July 1: 32.7

Degree Days
Heating degree days since July 1: 3998
Normal for the same period 4470
Total same period last year 4416

Heating or cooling degree days are a measure of heating or cooling requirements. Degree days are calculated as the difference between the mean daily outdoor temperature and 65 degrees F. Normal is based on a 30-year average.

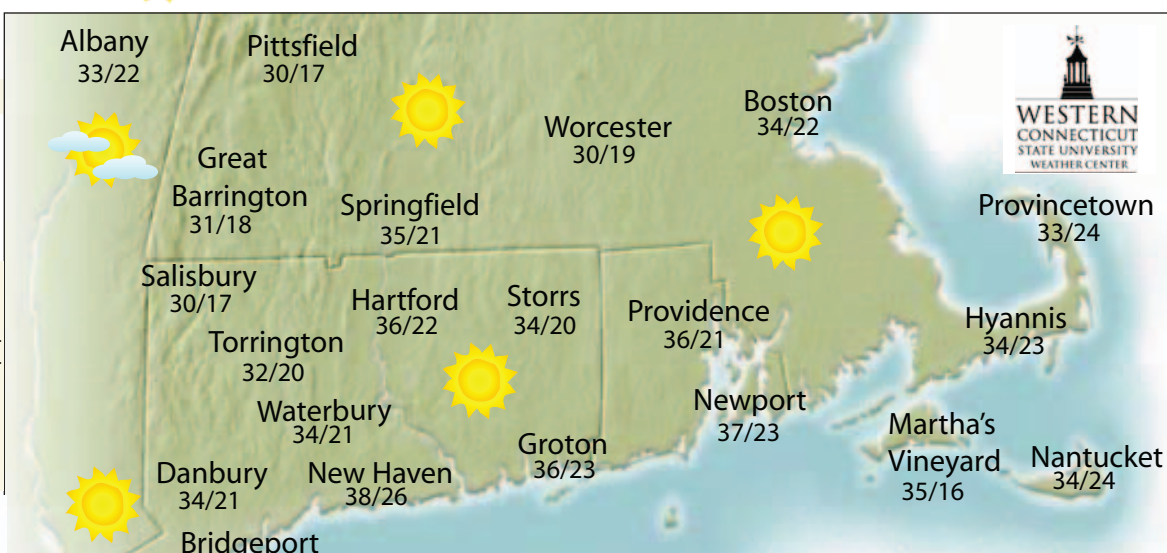
Sun And Moon

Daylight today: 11 hours, 15 minutes.
Sunrise 6:27 a.m. Moonrise 9:57 a.m.
Sunset 5:42 p.m. Moonset a.m.

First Qtr. Full Last Qtr. New
MAR 2 MAR 9 MAR 16 MAR 24

Today in Weather History

In 1980, an unusually large Florida tornado, 500 yards in width at times, killed one person and caused six million dollars damage near Fort Lauderdale.



Tides

	High	March 1	Low	High	March 2	Low
New Haven City Dock	3:21am/3:56pm	9:46am/9:56pm	4:12am/4:51pm	10:41am/10:51pm		
Saybrook Jetty	2:51am/3:20pm	9:15am/9:05pm	3:44am/4:20pm	10:10am/10:00pm		
New London State Pier	1:40am/2:09pm	8:30am/8:20pm	2:33am/3:09pm	9:25am/9:15pm		

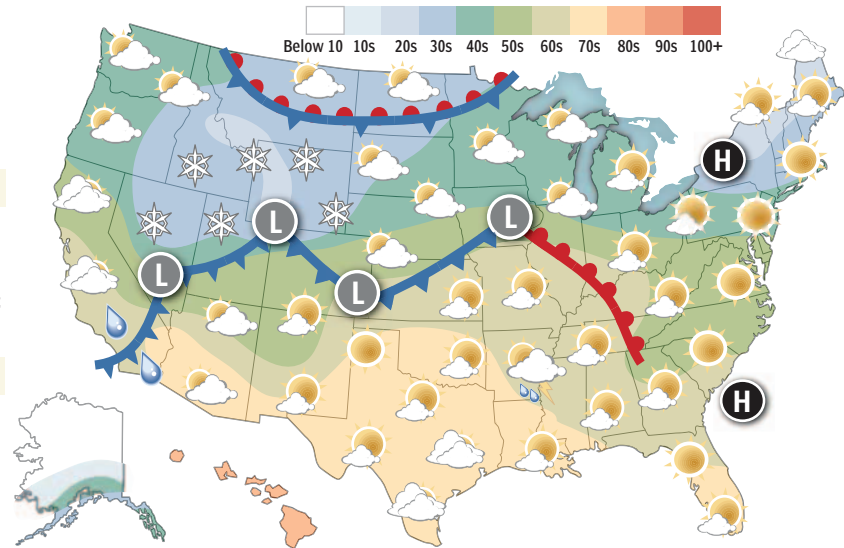
L.I. Sound: Winds northwest at 10 to 15 knots, waves 1 to 2 feet, visibility 10 miles or more, water temperature is 40 degrees.

Comfort Factors

Wind Chill at 7 a.m. today: 10 degrees.
Pollution Standard Index yesterday: 33.
SCALE: 0-50, Good; 50-100, Moderate; 100-200, Unhealthy; 200-300, Very unhealthy; 300-500, Hazardous.

Extended Weather Discussion

High pressure will bring partly sunny skies and milder temperatures on Monday with highs close to 50 degrees. It will turn milder Tuesday and Wednesday, but showers are expected from Tuesday afternoon into Wednesday morning.



Northeast Cities

Atlantic City	48	20	ps	Nashville	67	53	ps
Buffalo	37	34	ps	Norfolk	49	38	s
Burlington Vt.	24	17	ps	Orlando	71	50	s
Concord, N.H.	32	14	s	Phoenix	74	53	ps
Philadelphia	46	35	s	Portland, OR	49	39	ps
Pittsburgh	46	39	s	San Diego	61	51	sh
Portland Me.	36	14	ps	San Francisco	60	49	c
Portsmouth	35	16	ps	San Juan, P.R.	84	74	ps
Syracuse	30	26	ps	Seattle	49	41	ps
				Washington	53	40	s

National Cities

Albuquerque	60	37	ps	Baghdad	69	50	s
Anchorage	29	23	c	Beijing	55	33	s
Atlanta	52	36	ps	Jerusalem	54	44	sh
Charlotte	59	37	ps	Lisbon	67	58	sh
Chicago	49	35	s	London	49	37	sh
Cleveland	45	43	s	Mexico City	81	56	s
Dallas	76	59	s	Moscow	41	36	c
Denver	49	21	ps	Paris	51	43	sh
Honolulu	80	71	ps	Rome	63	51	sh
Houston	75	61	c	Singapore	92	78	ps
Indianapolis	57	45	ps				
Kansas City	67	33	ps				
Las Vegas	62	43	ps				
Los Angeles	63	47	c				
Miami	73	62	ps				
Minneapolis	41	21	ps				

International Cities

High: 109 at Laverton Aws, Australia.			
Low: -78 at Dome C li, Antarctica.			

World Extremes

KEY: s: sunny; ps: partly sunny; c: cloudy; sh: showers; r: rain; t: thunderstorms; f: flurries

RAILS: State doing a \$90 million upgrade

Continued from Page One

The state is set to complete a \$90 million upgrade that includes new safety features and capacity improvements including passing sidings, Positive Train Control and signalization, by the end of 2021.

Positive Train Control is a safety feature that automatically applies a train's brakes if the engineer fails to reduce the train's speed when the limit drops. Signalization will allow trains to communicate.

Both are needed before passing sidings, which will allow trains to travel in both directions at that same time on the Waterbury branch, can go into effect in 2022.

LEGISLATORS SAY MORE TRAINS are needed to realize the benefits of these upgrades, which cost closer to \$120 million than the original estimate, said Rick Dunne, executive director of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.

"We don't want to see that \$120 million wasted, we want to see it capitalized on as much as possible," Dunne said.

The caucus has proposed the DOT acquire eight dual-powered locomotives and 24 new rail cars — numbers it says are required to meet the long-term service needs.

"I know what I envision a world-class railway would look like," said state Rep. Geraldo Reyes, D-75h District, who was appointed vice chairman of the Waterbury Rail Line Caucus last week. "I think with this bipartisan effort we have in front of us right now, we've got a lot of muscle to get this done."

Longtime state Sen. Joan Hartley, D-15th District, has also joined the caucus.

Hartley has co-sponsored a bill, "An Act Concerning Rail Infrastructure Improvements," that would require the DOT to report the results of a study and schedule recommending rail infrastructure improvements to the Waterbury branch by Jan. 1, 2021.

Dunne believes an increased focus on the Waterbury line have developers eager to capitalize on demand for housing near the tracks.

housing for people who can't afford to live in Fairfield County," Dunne said.

He also says investing in the line will help expand the benefits of previous investment on the New Haven Main Line. Until recently, most of the state's investment has been in affluent areas along the shoreline, which carries the most Metro-North train traffic.

"This is a significant equity issue as well," Dunne said. "I think the legislature has begun to recognize the lack of equity in the investment made so far."

The DOT has appropriated \$250 million for 60 rail cars across the state, but they would not be used on the Waterbury line.

Caucus leaders are asking the DOT to commit to acquiring new rail coaches and locatives for the Waterbury line by 2025 — at a cost of roughly \$64 million for four new sets or about \$48 million for three sets.

The group also wants to look at leasing trains from other states, which could allow the branch to improve service as soon as signalization is finished.

"By 2022, we're ready for additional service, so the planning needs to start now," said Jim Gildea, chairman of the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council.

Gildea believes better service will unlock demand, pointing to a 34% increase in ridership after the state added a new morning peak train in 2009.

ADVOCATES SAY DEMAND FOR RELIABLE RAIL service exists, but that frequent delays, bus substitutions and limited service create disincentives for use.

"First, there's not a enough coaches, and second, they're substandard," Gildea said.

Dave Krechevsky, public policy and economic development director for the Waterbury Regional Chamber, who spoke in favor of the legislation during a hearing Monday, said the Waterbury branch is limited by the fact that only one train can run in each direction until the signalization project is finished.

"The reason for low ridership levels is that service on the line is abysmal," Krechevsky said.

Anti-Polanski protesters greet French film awards ceremony

BY SYLVIE CORBET
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — The ceremony for the French version of the Oscars took place in Paris on Friday amid protests by women's rights activists as director Roman Polanski was awarded, in his absence, the best director award for his latest film.

Polanski decided to skip the Cesar awards ceremony because of protests by women's groups denouncing the 12 nominations "An Officer and a Spy" received after a French woman brought a new rape accusation against him.

At the announcement of Polanski's award as best director, some boos emerged from the public composed of film teams and cinema professionals.

Actress Adele Haenel, who recently denounced alleged sexual assault by another French director in the early 2000s when she was 15, got up and walked out of the room, followed by a few others. "Distinguishing Polanski is spitting in the face of all victims. It means raping women isn't that bad," Haenel told the New York Times earlier this week.

The film's cast and production team, including best actor nominee Jean Dujardin, also declined to attend the ceremony. Dujardin posted a message on Instagram that said, "By making this film, I believed and I still believe I made more good than harm."

Polanski's film won two other awards for best costume design and best adaptation. No one came on stage to accept the trophies awarded to "An Officer and a Spy."

The show's host, comedian Florence Foresti, left Polanski's film out of her opening remarks when she mentioned the ones with multiple nominations.

Instead, Foresti referred to the 86-year-old director as "Atchoum," French for the Sneezy character in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

"I decided that Atchoum would not be big enough to overshadow the French cinema," she said.

The Cesar for best film has been awarded to "Les Misérables," Ladj Ly's Oscar candidate, about tensions between police and minorities in a poor Paris suburb. The film won the Jury Prize in Cannes Film Festival last year.

The entire male-dominated leadership of the Cesar stepped down recently amid disagreement over its decision-making structure and how to deal with the Polanski problem.

A few hundred protesters brandishing signs with phrases such as "Victims, we believe you" and "No to impunity" assembled outside the Salle Pleyel hall before the ceremony started. The group chanted, "We are here, we are here, even if Polanski doesn't want to, we are here." "By supporting the aggress-



Women protest with a banner reading 'Polanski: Cesar for the best raper 2020' near the venue of the Cesar awards ceremony, the French equivalent of the Oscars.

sors, by celebrating the aggressors, one does not allow the victims to speak out. Their word is denied," Celine Piques of women's activist group Osez le Feminisme said. In a statement this week, the Paris-based Polanski said the ceremony was turning into a "public lynching" and that he decided not to attend the ceremony to protect his colleagues and his wife and children.

Polanski is still wanted in the United States decades after he was charged with raping a 13-year-old girl in 1977. He pleaded guilty to unlawful

sexual intercourse with a minor but fled the country on the eve of sentencing.

Last year, a woman came forward to accuse Polanski of raping her in 1975 in his Swiss chalet when she was 18. Polanski denied it, and the allegations are too old for an investigation.

But the accusation put the director under fresh scrutiny in France, where he has long been revered as one of the country's premier filmmakers despite the outstanding rape charge in the U.S. Other accusations have also emerged.

NATION

Recruiter told students to line up by skin color

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A college recruiter was fired after high school students in Oklahoma City said he had them line up by the color of their skin and then by their hair texture.

Harding Charter Preparatory High School student Korey Todd told KFOR-TV that during the Feb. 24 assembly, the recruiter from Oklahoma Christian University "barely

talked about the school itself."

"He was like, 'All right, let's play a little game,'" Todd said. "Then he said, 'Okay everyone, now line up from darkest to lightest skin complexion.'"

The 11th graders were then told to shuffle again.

Student Rio Brown said, "He told us to line up nappiest hair in the back and

straightest hair in the front."

Todd said the recruiter didn't "rationalize" the purpose of the activity.

The university told the TV station that the admissions counselor is no longer an Oklahoma Christian employee, adding that admissions leadership didn't approve the "inappropriate activity in advance." The university said its admis-

sions staff will visit the school Monday to apologize.

Harding's principal, Steven Stefanick, said in a statement to KFOR that the recruiter "led a group activity with our students that involved inappropriate and hurtful statements." He said Harding doesn't condone any behavior that "undermines our community's values."