

State disagrees with New London argument over restrictions on use of State Pier

Municipal Development Plan is point of contention

By **GREG SMITH**
Day Staff Writer

New London — City officials say a 20-year-old municipal development plan governs the area surrounding State Pier and gives the city some input in the proposed activity there.

The state disagrees. “We’re not subject to it,” said David Kooris, acting chairman of the Connecticut Port Authority and deputy commissioner of the state Department of Economic and Community Development.

In a recent interview with *The Day*, Kooris said the state’s legal interpretation of the 30-year State Pier Municipal Development Plan is that the actions contemplated in the plan have been completed.

The MDP for the 125 acres surrounding State Pier was initiated in the 1990s to allow the city, through the New London Development Corp., to acquire 8.6 acres and a dozen homes to allow the city to market the land for commercial use associated with State Pier.

The NLDC later transferred the property to the state Department of Economic and Community Development. **SEE NEW LONDON PAGE A4**

Editorial: For all the benefits of the offshore wind project proposed at State Pier, New London cannot afford to get rolled again. **A6**

Millstone finalizes 10-year contract with utility firms

Deal ends long fight over possibility of plant closing

By **BENJAMIN KAIL**
Day Staff Writer

Waterford — State regulators recently approved a 10-year contract between the owner of Millstone Power Station and utility companies, effectively ending the yearslong political, regulatory and environmental battles to keep the plant operational.

Gov. Ned Lamont, who stepped in earlier this year to help secure a deal between haggling Dominion Energy, Eversource and United Illuminating, applauded the finalized contract in a news release Wednesday.

“Had this contract not gone forward, the facility would be in danger of closing down, which would have increased greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent across the New England region,” said Lamont, who recently pushed for all of the state’s energy to come from clean sources by 2040. “Now we can renew our focus on offshore wind and other renewable energy resources.”

The contract calls on the utilities to buy half the plant’s output over the next decade. The price per kilowatt hour in the contract has not yet been released to the public, according to Dominion spokesman Ken Holt. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. **SEE MILLSTONE PAGE A7**

National security adviser named

Trump chooses his hostage negotiator

By **ERIC TUCKER, DEB RIECHMANN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press

Washington — President Donald Trump on Wednesday named Robert O’Brien, his chief hostage negotiator and an established figure in Republican policy circles, as his new national security adviser.

O’Brien, the fourth person in two years to hold the job, becomes the administration’s point person on national security amid rising tensions with Iran following the weekend attack on Saudi oil installations and fresh uncertainty in Afghanistan after the halt in peace talks with the Taliban.

The announcement of O’Brien’s selection comes a week after Trump ousted John Bolton from the post, citing policy disagreements. O’Brien,

who made headlines in July when he was dispatched to Sweden to monitor the assault trial of American rapper ASAP Rocky, was among five candidates Trump said Tuesday were under consideration.

“He’s worked with me for quite a while now on hostages, and we have a tremendous track record on hostages,” Trump said Wednesday on a tarmac



Robert O'Brien

in Los Angeles, hours after revealing the pick on Twitter. “Robert has been fantastic. We know each other well.”

O’Brien, standing alongside Trump, said it was a “privilege” to be picked.

“We’ve had tremendous foreign policy successes under President Trump’s leadership. I expect those to continue.” **SEE O’BRIEN PAGE A4**

DOWN TO THE SEA IN CARDBOARD BOATS



Above, Dan Estrin, 16, of Waterford High School charges into the water with his team’s entry, The Boatmobile, in their heat of the 9th annual University of Connecticut-Avery Point/Early College Experience cardboard boat races Wednesday at Eastern Point Beach in Groton.

Left, Avery Point students, from left, Will Robinson, Larissa Tabb and Bella Langlois sip their soft drinks and cheer on the competitors from the Tub II, their entry in an earlier heat.

PHOTOS BY **SEAN D. ELLIOT** THE DAY

Gateway Commons’ second residential phase breaks ground in East Lyme

Condo-style rentals not widely available in region

By **MARY BIEKERT**
Day Staff Writer

East Lyme — With plans to start laying foundations for condo-style rentals next to the soon-to-open Costco, the proposed second phase of the Gateway Commons residential development off Exit 73 is moving forward this month.

Town officials and developers con-

firmed this week that people driving by the new development between Exits 73 and 74 on Interstate 95 will soon see more buildings going up after developers recently broke ground and as they pursue finishing the last piece of the proposed Gateway Commons development plan.

That plan, which has been in the works for nearly 15 years and was passed by the town in 2015, includes the Costco big box store — currently being constructed off Exit 74 — as

well as an already existing 280-unit residential development at Exit 73 known as The Sound at Gateway Commons. The second phase of those residential developments soon will be given a formal name, said Newton C. Brainard, vice president of development and acquisition for The Simon Konover Co. of West Hartford, which is jointly developing the Gateway Commons site with KGI Properties of Providence. Some of the second phase residen-

tial units will be open to new residents by late spring 2020, Brainard said.

Phase II site plans outline constructing an additional 120 units just southeast of the Phase I units. But Brainard said Tuesday that the new units will be much different from the first ones — which include studios, as well as one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments — completed in 2015. **SEE GATEWAY PAGE A7**

Let there be light



ALESSANDRO DI MEO/ANSA VIA AP

Tourists and residents enjoy the renewed lighting of the Trevi Fountain in Rome on Wednesday.

WEATHER

Today, sunny and mild. High 68. Friday, sunny and pleasant. High 75. Still nice on Saturday. **B8**

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THE DAY ANNOUNCES DEBATES IN WATERFORD AND NEW LONDON

The Day, in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of Southeastern Connecticut, is excited to announce the first two in what we expect to be a series of debates involving candidates for local office.

On Sept. 26, the Waterford High School auditorium will host a debate between the first selectman candidates: Republican Rob Brule and Democrat Beth Sabilia. Brule serves as a selectman, while Sabilia served on the City Council and as mayor, under the prior city manager form of government, when she was a New London resident. The hour-long debate begins at 7 p.m., and those attending are urged to be in their seats early.

On Oct. 10, the C.B. Jennings International Elementary Magnet School, 50 Mercer St., will host a debate in the New London mayoral race. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the event begins at 6. Participants will be incumbent Mayor Michael Passero, a Democrat; City Councilor Martin T. Olsen Jr., a Republican; and, potentially, Green Party write-

in candidate Frida Berrigan. (The event sponsors had not had a chance to discuss the breaking news that Berrigan’s name would not appear on the ballot, forcing her write-in status.)

Editorial Page Editor Paul Choiniere will serve as a questioner for the upcoming debates, with the league providing organizational support and timekeepers. A video of the Waterford debate will be available on theday.com the day following the event and remain available for viewing until Election Day, Nov. 5. The day.com plans to carry the New London debate live, with the recording available for later viewing.

The Day is continuing discussions in other communities for debates featuring candidates for chief executive offices. Readers are urged to submit questions to be asked in the debates, either specific to a town or concerning municipal governance generally, by visiting our special debates page at bit.ly/DayDebates2019.

Related story on **C1**