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Lamont's emergency powers expected to expire



House Speaker Matt Ritter, of Hartford, and Republican leader Vincent Candelora, of North Branford, say they can codify the governor's executive orders or extend his emergency powers — but not both. Here, they confer in June in the Hall of the House in Hartford. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Lawmakers anticipate allowing measure to end while also crafting language to preserve more than \$50 million in federal funding for state needs

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The state legislature is expected to allow Gov. Ned Lamont's emergency powers to expire next month, but is also crafting language to preserve more than \$50 million in all-important federal funding that the state needs, lawmakers said Monday.

House Speaker Matt Ritter said that he agrees with House Republican leader Vincent Candelora that the legislature could either codify Lamont's 11 remaining executive orders into law or extend his emer-

gency powers — but not both.

"The governor is saying to us that he doesn't need the same emergency powers he has had in the past — as long as you codify these things," Ritter said in an interview. "I don't think it makes a lot of sense to codify and then say you get your same powers back."

The legislature would likely vote to codify the executive orders for only 30 to 60 days because the fast-changing virus could change the public health landscape again.

"No one knows what's going to happen" in the future, Ritter said. "There could be other concerns that arise."

The House Democratic caucus was scheduled to meet Monday night to discuss the issue, and no votes are expected until the 2022 regular session starts on Feb. 9. Lamont's emergency powers are currently scheduled to end on Feb. 15. All Republican legislators and some Democrats have been strongly opposed to extending Lamont's powers for a seventh time as the first six extensions have covered nearly two years since the virus began spreading in Connecticut in March 2020.

Turn to Powers, Page 2



Iszac Henig was a member of Yale's Ivy League champion 200 free and 200 individual medley relays as a freshman and finished third in the 100 free in the Ivy League championships his sophomore year. COURTESY

'I'm just here to go fast and have a good time'

Yale transgender swimmer Henig wants to focus on maintaining positive energy on the team

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

Yale swimmer Iszac Henig knew at 14 that he identified as a boy. He told his mother that he wanted to be her son instead of her daughter, but he wasn't ready to make that commitment at such a young age.

Last year during the COVID-19 pandemic, classes were remote at Yale and the swimming season was canceled. Henig decided to take a year off from school and work at home in

Menlo Park, California.

Henig, now 21, had a lot of time to think about his transition. At the beginning of last year, he decided to come out as a transgender male. He returned to school in 2021 for his junior year with the support of his Yale women's teammates, coaches and the university.

"For me, as for everyone, the pandemic was sort of something that stopped time and accelerated it," he said. "It meant that I had a lot of hours at home. I took a year off from school,

I was working a couple different jobs, but I was also spending a lot of time doing some pretty deep introspection and trying to reconnect with a part of myself that I didn't sort of always feel connected to. That ended up with me coming out at the beginning of 2021, first to family, then to close friends, extended family. My team.

"With that process for me it was a lot of something about the way I'm living my life wasn't working and identifying what that was. Making the switch that needed to happen has allowed me to live a much more authentic, happy, fulfilling life already, and it's been less than a year."

Turn to Swimmer, Page 3

Coventry standoff concludes peacefully

Homes evacuated, school locked down due to a barricaded suspect

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A standoff in Coventry that caused police to shut down the area, evacuate homes and put a school in lockdown ended peacefully Monday afternoon.

The incident started early Monday morning when state police attempted to serve an arrest warrant, police said.

According to local police, the state police let them know they were serving an arrest warrant at an address on South Street at 8 a.m. A Coventry officer headed that way and when he arrived saw that something had gone wrong, said Kevin Roberto, executive assistant to the Coventry chief.

As he pulled up, troopers were "running for cover and taking up positions," Roberto said. The officer blocked off the road to keep cars from passing the house, and the state police called their SWAT team.

Police evacuated neighbors from their homes; others who live farther away were told in a reverse 911 message to stay put, or shelter in place. A warm shelter was provided for those who had to leave their houses.

Turn to Lockdown, Page 3



A Coventry town official turns back a bus trying to drive its route down South Street because of a barricaded man in a standoff with state police on South Street. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

US puts 8,500 troops on heightened alert

Decision speeds up potential move of forces to Europe

By Robert Burns and Lorne Cook
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At President Joe Biden's direction, the Pentagon is putting about 8,500 U.S.-based

troops on heightened alert for potential deployment to Europe to reassure allies amid rising fears of a possible Russian military move on Ukraine.

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said Monday no final decisions had been made on deployments, which he said would happen only if the NATO alliance decides to activate a rapid-response force "or if other situa-

tions develop" in connection with tensions over Russia's military buildup along Ukraine's borders.

"What this is about is reassurance to our NATO allies," Kirby said, adding that no troops are intended for deployment to Ukraine itself.

Kirby said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin recommended to Biden that about 8,500 troops be ordered to prepare for potential

deployment to Europe in light of signs that Russian President Vladimir Putin is not de-escalating his military pressure on Ukraine. Kirby said he was not prepared to identify the U.S.-based units because they were still being notified.

"We've always said we would reinforce our allies on the eastern flank, and those conversations and discussions have certainly been

part of what our national security officials have been discussing with their counterparts now for several weeks," said White House press secretary Jen Psaki.

Later Monday, Biden held a video call with several European leaders on the Russian military buildup and potential responses to an invasion, the White House said.

Turn to Troops, Page 2

Officials warn of price gouging, bogus COVID tests sold

Scammers are taking advantage of the heavy demand for COVID-19 test kits, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Connecticut Attorney General William Tong said Monday. Connecticut, Page 1

Opinion..... News, 10
Obits News, 12-14
Lottery..... News, 2
Classified..... News, 11
Puzzles ... Connecticut, 7, 9
Comics .. Connecticut, 8-9



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