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NATION/WORLD

Suicide attack kills at least 47 in Iraq

HILLAH, Iraq (AP) — A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden fuel truck into a checkpoint south of Baghdad on Sunday, killing at least 47 people and wounding dozens, officials said. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack. **A7**

EU looks to Turkey to ease its burden

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders will be looking to boost aid to Greece as the Balkan migrant route is effectively sealed, using today's summit as an attempt to restore unity among the 28 member nations after months of bickering and go-it-alone policies. **A7**

OPINION

Objections just silly on gun permit law

Is it so much to ask that gun owners produce their documentation upon request? Legal carriers should have no cause for concern beyond the minor inconvenience of a short interruption in their business (business that, with rare exceptions, hardly rises to a level of danger in which a sidearm might come in handy). **A6**

LOCAL

Police: Man almost hit police cruiser

A Stamford man who Ledyard police say almost hit a cruiser along Route 2 was arrested Saturday morning on several charges, including drunk driving. **A3**

Visitors get look at syrup-making

Blue Slope Farm in Franklin offered tours Sunday of the farm's late-winter operation that turns sap from maple trees into the popular pancake topping. **A3**

THINGS TO DO TODAY

■ **MARCH OF THE STUFFED ANIMALS:** Children ages 3 to 5 are invited to sign up and march with their stuffed animals from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Canterbury Public Library, 1 Municipal Drive, Canterbury. Call (860) 546-9022.
■ **CONCERT — "A LITTLE BIT OF THIS, A LITTLE BIT OF THAT":** The Connecticut College's Jazz Ensemble & Concert Band will perform from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Evans Hall at the Cummings Art Center, 270 Mohegan Ave., New London. Tickets are \$5; \$3 for students and seniors.

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MONTVILLE

Voters face police question

Switch to independent town force would add 6 positions

By Ryan Blessing
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Voters will head to the polls Tuesday to decide whether Montville will remain involved in the resident state trooper program

or establish its own local police department.

The committee that studied the issue and produced a report recommending the move to an independent police force said the change would add about \$252,000 to the annual police budget

by 2018.

Total expenses under a resident trooper program would be \$3.3 million in 2016 and \$3.5 million in 2017 and 2018, according to a report from the Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee. Cost estimates for an independent department are about \$3.5 million in 2016, \$3.7 million in 2017 and \$3.8 million in 2018.

Beyond the total estimates, there's been some confusion about the total number of new people that would be hired if the town were to switch to an independent department.

According to the committee and Montville Police Lt. Leonard Bunnell, the department would add five full-time positions and one part-time clerical worker.

Where to vote

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Fair Oaks School, 836 Old Colchester Road.

They would include two new full-time dispatchers at about \$50,000 per hire. The new dispatchers would

SEE VOTE, A5

NORWICH

City embraces Irish side



Myron Leanna, of Norwich, his daughter Jaelyn, 8, left, and son, Keagan, 6, dressed for the occasion Sunday during the 3rd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Norwich. See videos and more photos at NorwichBulletin.com. JOHN SHISHMANIAN/NORWICHBULLETIN.COM

Third annual parade and festival draws big crowds



Drake Tamborra, 3, of Norwich, looks up at a balloon Sunday before the 3rd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Norwich. See videos and more photos at NorwichBulletin.com.

By John Penney
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The city of Norwich embraced the blarney Sunday with a crowd in the hundreds lining downtown streets for the 3rd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival.

Cheering visitors, many decked out in green bowlers, shamrock necklaces and other Irish-themed accouterments, lined sections of Main, Franklin and Chestnut streets as parade participants strutted through along the route to

tunes played on bagpipes, fifes and drums.

Miria Toth, chairwoman of the parade committee, said the parade ties in with Norwich's strong Irish roots.

"There was a huge Irish presence here, especially when the mills were in operation and this event helps us connect to that cultural heritage," she said. "In the past two years, we've had about 2,000 people each year show up — and last year's was right after a huge snowstorm. So, we're gaining momentum."

And while many crowd

members sported some sort of St. Patrick Day-inspired frippery, those with Irish in their blood said they were especially proud to be a part of the event. For Groton residents Mark and Mary-Beth Bailey, the parade transported them back to their wedding day.

"We had an Irish-themed wedding, with shamrocks and Celtic knots," Mary-Beth Bailey said. "This brings back a lot of happy memories."

Grand Marshal Robert Farwell, director of Otis

SEE PARADE, A2

OBITUARY



Former first lady dies at 94

Reagan known for 'Just Say No'

By Christopher Weber
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease — has died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. By the time she moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she was a behind-the-scenes "dragon lady" wielding

SEE NANCY, A2

BROOKLYN

Planning and Zoning back to full strength

Inland Wetlands vacancies next up to be filled

By Francesca Kefalas
For The Bulletin

For the first time in years, every seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission is filled, including an alternate.

The board accepted the

Board of Selectmen's nominations of two alternate members and immediately made one of them a permanent full-time member to fill a vacancy. Jeryl Mohn will serve as a full-time member of the commission. Jules D'Agostino, who served on the commission for a year in 2004-05, has been appointed an alternate.

"They have a lot of work to do, so it's important they have a full board," First Selectman Rick Ives said.

The commission has just

begun a complete review of its regulations with consultant Planimetrics of Simsbury. The process is expected to take about a year, but the commission has been warned it could take longer.

D'Agostino said he wanted to get involved again because of the review.

"There are a lot of things happening and this lets me give back to the town," D'Agostino said. "The new regulations are a lot of work and I think I would like to be involved. Those are very

real challenges."

Mohn moved to Brooklyn with his wife 18 months ago from Houston, Texas, to be closer to his grandchildren. Mohn retired five years ago as a mechanical engineer for a natural gas company.

Mohn said he has never served on a Planning and Zoning Commission, but he is very familiar with state and federal regulations and many of the other aspects that go into planning and zoning.

"I'm new to this, but I think I can be a quick

study," he said.

The Board of Selectmen has also filled a vacancy on the Inland Wetlands Commission. Ives said they have appointed Demien Sorrentino, a soil scientist who previously served on Plainfield's Inland Wetlands Commission.

Ives said he may have another person willing to serve as an alternate on the planning commission. He said he is also hoping to seat an alternate for Inland

SEE VACANCIES, A2