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GREENWICH TIME

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Lamont: 'Expect to shelter in place'

Gov. requests state of emergency as Eversource warns of prolonged outages

By Peter Yankowski and Liz Hardaway

Gov. Ned Lamont on Friday said he's requesting a state of emergency to be declared as Tropical Storm Henri intensified and the National Weather Service issued a hurricane warning for parts of Connecticut. Tropical Storm Henri is expected to strengthen into a Category 1 hurricane before making landfall in southern New England by late Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. The latest forecast calls for the

storm to shift farther west with the potential to affect most of southern Connecticut. In requesting a state of emergency for federal assistance to help with the expected storm damage, Lamont also called for 200 members of the National Guard to be prepared to conduct search-and-rescue missions, as well as clear routes, help with power and distribute goods if needed. "Right now, it's a good idea for everyone to be prepared and expect to shelter in place by

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A family prepares to disembark their boat at Palmer Point Marina in Greenwich on Friday ahead of Tropical Storm Henri.

Town prepares as Henri storms up the East Coast

By Tatiana Flowers

GREENWICH — Many town leaders were away from their desks Friday and were instead out in the community, helping to prepare for approaching storm Henri as it heads toward the Northeast. Daniel Warzoha, emergency management director for the town of Greenwich, said he expected to see the first signs of the storm by 10 p.m. Saturday, with heavy winds and rainfall arriving just a few hours later.

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Christian Abraham / Hearst Connecticut Media

WWII US Navy veteran George Tai receives the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor for Military Service from American Legion Post 1291 member Kenneth Wong during a ceremony at Nathaniel Witherell Nursing Home in Greenwich on Friday. Tai was a member of Post 1291, in Chinatown.

'On behalf of a grateful nation'

Chinese-American vet honored for Navy service during WWII

By Robert Marchant

GREENWICH — When George Tai signed up to serve in the U.S. Navy in 1944, he did not know what the future would hold, but he believed in taking a chance for a better future. Tai didn't expect much in the way of gratitude for his service, beyond the honorable discharge he received and the granting of American citizenship that came with it.

But an additional measure of gratitude was bestowed on the 95-year-old sailor at the Nathaniel Witherell home on Friday afternoon, when he received the Congressional Gold Medal for his wartime enlistment. The award, in the shape of a golden coin, was presented by a member of the Chinatown post of the American Legion in New York City, after the Pledge of Allegiance

and a performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner." The award to Tai was presented "on behalf of a grateful nation," said Thomas Ong, a member of the American Legion Post. "It was a long time coming," he added. Tai, who has limited verbal capacity while still expressive and alert, smiled and saluted his old friends from the American Legion Lt. B.R.

See Veteran on A4

Data: As boating popularity surges, water fatalities rise

By Peter Yankowski

As boating popularity has surged during the pandemic, deaths in Connecticut waters have doubled this year, including two personal watercraft fatalities — the first since 2012,

state and federal data show. Since 2017, the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has recorded 231 boating accidents involving 334 vessels, 49 of which were personal watercraft. During

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Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

As boating popularity has surged during the pandemic, deaths on the water in Connecticut have doubled this year and there have been two personal watercraft fatalities — the first since 2012, state data shows.

Town to require masks, COVID vaccines for staff

By Tatiana Flowers

GREENWICH — The first selectman has mandated a universal masking policy in Greenwich in an attempt to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and said all town employees will be required to get vaccinated against the virus or undergo weekly testing. The deadline for employees to be vaccinated is no later than Sept. 27, First Selectman Fred Camillo announced Friday in an email blast. "I believe it is a small inconvenience to make this minor, temporary adjustment to our daily lives," Camillo said of the mask mandate in the email. "Wearing a mask when in common areas indoors in a public facility or a business, office, store or restaurant will go a long way to protect the health and safety of your co-workers, neighbors, and most importantly, you and your family." The mask requirement is effective immediately with

enforcement to begin Monday, he said. The deadline for vaccinations for town staff is the same one set by Gov. Ned Lamont, who on Thursday ordered COVID-19 vaccinations for all state employees and teachers. Lamont said the increase in cases because of the highly contagious delta variant was behind his order that all state employees and teachers and staff in K-12 schools and day care be vaccinated by Sept. 27, expanding on a previous requirement for nursing homes. Lamont also reminded the state of the requirement for masks in schools through at least Sept. 30. In Greenwich, those who choose not to receive a vaccination will also be required to be tested weekly, according to Friday's email blast from Camillo's office. The town will use Executive Order 13D as a template for vaccination verification, exemption and testing, Camillo said. Addi-

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COVID cases and deaths surging in state's nursing homes

By Peter Yankowski

New COVID cases among patients of Connecticut nursing homes more than doubled over the past two weeks, state data shows, as the highly infectious delta variant has caused infections to surge statewide. The state's bi-weekly report on nursing home cases and deaths, released Thursday, showed 118 new cases were reported among residents in the last two weeks, up from 50 during the previous two weeks. There were 10 more deaths reported in the past two weeks among patients — seven more than were reported the previous two weeks. Thursday's report also shows 97 new cases among nursing home staff over the

last two weeks, up from 48 in the two weeks prior. Seabury Health Center, a nursing home in Bloomfield, reported 13 new cases among its 46 residents in the last two weeks, while two of them died. Newtown Rehabilitation & Health Care Center in Newtown and Maple View Health and Rehabilitation Center in Rocky Hill both reported two deaths each in the last two weeks. Nursing homes and other long term care facilities have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. At one point last year, deaths among residents of long-term care facilities comprised nearly three-quarters of all the state's COVID-19 deaths. Because nursing homes were among the very early

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