

Bridgeport mom sues city schools

Negligence alleged after daughter breaks arm on playground

By Richard Chumney
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — The mother of a kindergarten student is accusing the city school system of negligence after the student fell from monkey bars at an elementary school playground and broke her arm.

Sharmila Ali claims in a lawsuit filed at state Superior Court in Bridgeport that her daughter was injured on May 14, 2024, in part because staff members at Waltersville School failed to supervise students while they played outside. The lawsuit also accuses the district of maintaining a campus playground that

was not suitable for young students, according to a revised seven-page complaint submitted in July. “The defendants knew or should have known that failure to select or maintain age-appropriate playground equipment for a kindergartner or properly supervise the minor-plaintiff on the premises

might cause her to be subject to imminent harm,” Lee Samowitz, an attorney for Ali, wrote in the complaint. The lawsuit names the city of Bridgeport, the Board of Education and interim Superintendent Royce Avery as defendants. Avery and attorneys for the district did not return requests for comment. Online court records show the school

Bridgeport continues on A4



Connecticut Sun mascot Blaze takes the court before a WNBA basketball game against the Golden State Valkyries at Mohegan Sun Arena on July 27 in Uncasville.

SUNRISE, SUNSET

What we know and don’t know about sale of Connecticut Sun

By Roger Cleaveland
STAFF WRITER

The meteoric increase in popularity, viewership and attendance in the WNBA has made the Connecticut Sun an attractive commodity, and it appears that a Boston group led by Celtics minority owner Steve Pagliuca has struck a deal to relocate the team to TD Garden as early as 2027.

What we know about the Sun sale

The deal

Terms of the deal were reported Saturday by the Boston Globe, and include Pagliuca’s group paying \$325 million for the Connecticut team. The sale is subject to approval by the WNBA. The group intends to move the team to Boston, The Globe reported, and would sweeten the deal by building an estimated \$100 million practice facility. The Mohegan Tribe, which owns the Sun, has been reluctant to invest in a new facility, forcing the team to sometimes share the tribe’s recreation center with workout classes and, at least once, a birthday party.

History

The Sun have been in Connecticut since 2002 when the Mohegan Tribe purchased the franchise that was previously in Orlando. It became the first team that was not owned by an NBA franchise, the first team owned by a Native American tribe and the first WNBA team to turn a profit. With six straight trips to the WNBA playoff semifinals, the Sun have also proven they can build a highly successful franchise in this state.

Why sell now?

The Sun is poised to cash out in a big way on its \$10 million investment two decades ago. It’s also a huge jump from even four years ago when the Atlanta Dream was sold for \$10 million.

Sun continues on A7



Connecticut Sun players Aneesah Morrow (24), Saniya Rivers (22), Bria Hartley (14), Tina Charles (31) stand on the court on July 15, in Boston.

Move to Boston makes too much sense (and cents)

Our state’s stake in top-tier professional sports might have gone up in smoke, or disappeared into a weekend breeze, as news broke Saturday that the WNBA’s Connecticut Sun is to be purchased by a minority owner of the Celtics. A move to Boston, assuming the transaction becomes official, would take the Sun out of

Mike Anthony
COMMENTARY

Mohegan Sun Arena, the team’s home since its 2003 arrival from Orlando. From Connecticut’s little southeast corner to the hub of New England, the Sun will be wedged into the fabric of one of the most vibrant sports cities in America. Celtics, Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins ... Sun? Won’t they get smothered? How dare big, bad Boston take our team! OK, scratch the needle across that record. I tried momentarily, for the sake of

Move continues on A7

Gender-affirming care for youth under fire

Hospitals’ changes have families scrambling for help

By Cris Villalonga-Vivoni
STAFF WRITER

Pressure from the Trump administration along with funding cuts led to both Yale Medicine and Connecticut Children’s Medical Center abruptly scaling back their programs that offer gender-affirming youth health care. Now, young patients and their families say they are now scrambling to find new providers. Despite being allowed under state law here, gender-affirming care has come under fire from the Trump administration. The administration has argued the care is driven by questionable science and that it can result in

Care continues on A4

Shelton developer has new plan

By Brian Gioiele
STAFF WRITER

SHELTON — A Todd Road parcel is the focus once again for an apartment development. Joseph Salemme of J&L Enterprise LLC, based in Shelton, has filed plans for a four-story, 57-unit apartment building at 74 Todd Road, which sits next to a building that formerly housed Wonder Years Learning Center. The plans do not mention including affordable units among the total. This is the third such apartment plan submitted for this site in recent years.

Shelton continues on A4

Firefighter’s death spotlights dangers of job

By Liese Klein
STAFF WRITER

Although a detailed report is at least a month away, the death on July 27 of volunteer firefighter Raymond Moreau due to an accident at a house fire in Plainville has drawn new attention to firefighter health and safety in Connecticut. “Ray was a guy who literally got out of bed and went to help a neighbor and lost his life doing so — and that’s what our volunteers do all the time,” said state Comptroller Sean Scanlon.

Danger continues on A2

KeepMe Home YOUR HOME. OUR CARING PEOPLE. Connecticut's Home Care Leader Since 1991 877-302-2323 keepmehome.com