

Military demographics and the fight against ‘wokeness’

Trump thinks everything should look how he wants it; Hegseth happy to help



Philip Bump COMMENTARY

The defining feature of Donald Trump’s presidency is that he thinks everything should look the way he wants it to look, should be the

way he wants it to be. Once you notice this pattern, you see it everywhere. Slapping gilded decorations on the White House walls, paving the Rose Garden and tearing down the East Wing. Pressuring broadcasters to fire or sideline acts he doesn’t like. Attacking media outlets, research facil-

ities, law firms and universities in order to reshape their public output. Even the debacle over the July 4th concert fits this pattern. Unhappy with the bipartisan panel — America250 — established to celebrate the nation’s 250th birthday, Trump created Freedom 250, an entity

that accepts private money and allocates it under the president’s aegis. (America250, meanwhile, is scrambling for funds.) It’s Freedom 250 that trumpeted the out-of-date lineup that quickly fell apart, largely because it was obviously an extension of Trump, not of *Bump continues on A6*



Heather Diehl/Getty Images

Construction of the UFC Octagon continues on the South Lawn as seen from the Washington Monument on May 29 in Washington.



Photos by Jim Shannon/Hearst Connecticut Media

Owner Don Stanziale welcomes guests during the opening ceremonies of Cedar Village at the Locks, a new apartment development on Canal Street at the Lock in Shelton on Friday.

‘A realization of a vision’

Riverfront apartments open on former factory site in Shelton

By Brian Gioiele STAFF WRITER

SHELTON — Canal Street’s resurrection continued Friday with the unveiling of a waterfront apartment project on land long home to a dilapidated, contaminated factory site. Developer Don Stanziale Jr., owner of Midland Development & Contracting, joined his partners Gino LaVerghetta and Anthony Pili and city officials at Cedar Village at the Locks, 281 Canal St., to celebrate the opening of the 129-unit structure, one with views that left those in attendance awestruck. “Thirty years ago, you could

not walk around here... look at this. This is so picturesque, so perfect, in a space so underutilized for 40, 50 years, no more,” said Mayor Mark Lauretti. “This is just spectacular,” added Lauretti, who has shepherded the downtown revitalization during his more than three decades in office. Construction of the four-story structure on property known as the Ascom Hasler site began 18 months ago. Now that the building is officially open, Stanziale said 40 units have already been rented and move-ins were expected to begin this past weekend. *Shelton continues on A4*



Cedar Village at the Locks, a new apartment development on Canal Street in Shelton.

Law curbs private equity role in hospitals

By Liese Klein STAFF WRITER

With two health systems — and nearly half a billion in taxpayer dollars — now at work to undo the damage done by private equity in Connecticut, Governor Ned Lamont on Friday announced that he had signed a bill imposing new limits on the role of private investors in hospitals. Lamont signed Senate Bill 196 on May 27, capping off a years-long effort by legislators seeking to fix healthcare regulations that they said allowed for-profit Prospect Medical Holdings to strip-mine three safety net hospitals in the state. After nearly a decade under Prospect’s control, Waterbury, Manchester Memorial and Rockville General hospitals were left debt-ridden, neglected and nearing closure. The new law targets the financial tactic that most profited Prospect’s private equity backer, *Hospitals continues on A4*

Judge lets Bridgeport activist post on social media

By Liz Hardaway STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — Bridgeport activist Joseph “Joe Grits” Thompson is allowed to post on social media again, a judge determined on Wednesday. Thompson, 40, was found guilty by a jury on Friday on charges of inciting injury to persons, a class C felony, and second-degree threatening, a misdemeanor. He was released from custody on Tuesday after posting \$100,000 bond and, as a condition of his release, he was not permitted to post on the Internet or any social media platform. *Bridgeport continues on A4*

Developer revives Milford affordable housing plan

By Alexander Soule STAFF WRITER

The pace is picking up anew for a long-dormant plan for a residential community in Milford, where a developer now wants to build a cluster of affordable duplexes instead of a large apartment building it had sought originally, not far from the former headquarters of Subway. Garden Homes Management has eyed the wooded, seven-acre site at 460 Bic Drive for more than a dozen years, purchasing the land in 2013 and initially pushing for an apartment

building with 257 units, only to get denied by the Milford Planning & Zoning Board. Stamford-based Garden Homes sued under Connecticut’s 8-30g law that limits municipal opposition to projects if less than 10% of their housing stock is deemed affordable, but after getting a ruling in its favor never moved ahead with the apartment building. As of 2025, less than 5.5% of Milford’s housing was considered affordable, under an annual review by the Connecticut Department of Housing. The Milford Planning & Zoning Board had cited several issues with the original

Garden Homes proposal, including the effect of any blasting on a natural gas line running across the property. Garden Homes attorneys had refuted those concerns, noting that the city fire marshal and the pipeline operator did not voice any concern and that “hypothetical disasters are not sufficient grounds for denial of an 8-30g application” as stated in a court document. Garden Homes has apartment complexes throughout the Northeast, including the Golden Hill Apartments in Milford a block from Milford Green. *Milford continues on A6*

Advice/puzzles.....B11 Business.....A10 ClassifiedB7

ComicsB12 ObituariesA8 Opinion.....A11

Public notices.....B7 Sports.....B1-6 Television.....B10



© 2026 Hearst Media Services CT LLC



Weather: Sunshine, then partly sunny. High: 81. Low: 59. Page A12

Great rates, on your terms. 18 MONTH CD OR 3 YEAR CD 4.00% APY* Newtown Savings Bank The Power of Local NSBonline.com/cd-special 203.426.2563