

Hartford Courant



EARLY SUNDAY

SATURDAY'S NEWS AND SUNDAY'S FEATURES

VOLUME CLXXXIX

COURANT.COM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

Ugly social media rhetoric bursts out

It comes after death threats and was called 'a very toxic situation'

By Livi Stanford
Hartford Courant

Democratic and Republican leaders in the House are asking lawmakers to tamp down negative rhetoric on social media after Rep. Corey Paris received death threats following a message he recently posted on Instagram reminding people to look out for one another after he was made aware of Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in his district.

"As leaders of the Connecticut House of Representatives, we encourage an environment free of personal attacks and certainly free of any risk of violence and we expect our colleagues to keep these recent violent attacks on public officials in mind when posting to social media," said House Speaker Matt Ritter, House Majority Leader Jason Rojas and House Republican Leader Vincent Candelora in a joint statement.

Paris' message was reposted by a far-right troll site Libs of TikTok, which has 4 million followers and has been known to inspire harassment, doxxing and bomb threats. That group's post accused the state

legislator of "doxxing ICE's live location and warning illegals to stay 'vigilant.'" The official ICE account then reposted Libs of TikTok's post, which said "Charge him," and tagged the Department of Justice.

Paris also received a disturbing phone call, laced with racial slurs, threatening him and his family as a result of the social media post.

The legislative leaders' joint statement followed a post by state Rep. Craig Fishbein, R-Wallingford, who stated in response to ICE's post concerning Paris on Aug. 16 that "quite obviously he hates America."

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Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz speaks at a press conference condemning threats to state Rep. Corey Paris over a warning about ICE he posted on Instagram. COURTESY



When the hot dog's the thing

Well, we never forgot O-s-c-a-r, right? But that was bologna, and it was hot dogs, or more specifically weiners and bacon that were drawing attention Friday. The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile visited the Connecticut Old State House Farmers Market in downtown Hartford and visitors had a chance to take photos and learn about the iconic hot dog vehicle during its stop at the market.

Above: The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile makes a stop at the Connecticut Old State House Farmers Market in downtown Hartford on Friday. It is one of six Wienermobiles traveling across the country. **Right:** Suzanne Wimsatt sticks her head through a bacon cutout as she poses for a photo with the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile. **AARON FLAUM/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS**



Developer tries again at foothold

Vessel Technologies has faced substantial opposition from residents

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Six months after Newtown rejected its affordable housing proposal, Vessel Technologies will learn soon whether it can establish a Fairfield County foothold by constructing 75 units in a new five-story building in Bethel.

There has been substantial opposition from residents, but the New York-based developer this month hammered away at three points: It has offered compromises for neighbors, Bethel badly needs more affordable housing, and state law leaves the town little ground for saying "no."

Vessel has become perhaps the most controversial developer in Connecticut with its stark, steel-and-glass buildings and penchant for proposing 8-30g projects in affluent suburbs. The 8-30g law sharply limits the reasons that most towns can use to justify rejecting affordable housing.

Most notably, Vessel has been very willing to go to court when a community turns it away: It won a court-brokered compromise in Simsbury, and is pursuing lawsuits against Newtown and Glastonbury.

And two years ago it sued when Rocky Hill balked at letting it put up a five-story building with 30 apartments on a high-visibility site across from the long-planned town center. Negotiations led to a deal where Vessel moved to an out-of-the-way location but in exchange got permission to build 96 units.

After hearing heavy neighborhood pushback earlier in the summer, the company announced last week that it would be open to a compromise with just four

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WHAT TO KNOW

Next step for Fairfield National

Fairfield National vs. Summerlin South, Las Vegas, 3:30 p.m., ABC

At stake: The winner advances to Sunday's World Series championship game vs. Aruba or Chinese Taiwan.

Fairfield's run: The Connecticut champs are the only undefeated team left in the U.S. bracket. At 4-0, they have outscored their opponents, 26-5.

Vegas' run: The Mountain champs lost to Fairfield, 7-3, on Wednesday and fought their way out of the losers' bracket for the rematch. They are 4-1 in the tournament.

Keep an eye on (Fairfield): Pitcher Luca Pellegrini. He is 2-0 with two complete-game wins and 17 strikeouts in 12

innings. The one run scored against him was unearned.

Keep an eye on (Las Vegas): Pitcher Garrett Gallegos. He got Vegas to the championship game with a long three-run homer to beat South Carolina, 5-3, on Thursday. He's their ace and gets the ball today.

It's a fact: Fairfield is bidding to become the fifth team from Connecticut to win it all. They would join Stamford (1951), Norwalk ('52), Windsor Locks ('65) and Trumbull ('89) and if they do, Connecticut would stand alone in second place all-time in Series wins, only behind California's eight.



Fairfield National will look to ace pitcher Luca Pellegrini, already 2-0 with an 0.00 ERA in the Little League World Series, in today's U.S. championship against Las Vegas. **AP**

Questions raised about mayor's vandalism report

David Cassetti says he was the victim of a tire slashing incident

By Justin Muszynski
Hartford Courant

A Connecticut mayor has found himself embroiled in controversy ahead of the election in November after the city-owned vehicle he uses allegedly had its tires slashed earlier this month, leading to questions of his whereabouts prior to the vandalism and marital allegations reportedly made on social media by his wife.

David Cassetti, who is seeking his seventh term as Ansonia's mayor, was the alleged

victim of a tire slashing that he said occurred after he returned home on Aug. 8. A spokesperson for the Ansonia Police Department did not immediately respond to a request seeking details of the incident, though Cassetti appeared on the radio show "Chaz and AJ in the Morning" on Wednesday, where he said police are investigating the vandalism and reviewing surveillance footage in the area.

Neither Cassetti nor his assistant immediately returned a request for comment Thursday.

During his appearance on the radio show, Cassetti claimed

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Grandson of famed ghost hunters continues legacy

Chris McKinnell, the grandson of Lorraine and Ed Warren, is well known internationally in the paranormal world and carries on his grandparents' work. **Connecticut, Page 3**

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