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Tong makes plea for civility

Facing hatred online, state AG faults Trump for heightened rhetoric pushing Americans apart

By Christopher Keating
HARTFORD COURANT

William Tong thought a puppy dog would be innocuous. In a world filled with harsh rhetoric and hate speech online, the

Connecticut state attorney general recently posted a simple video of himself with a 5-month-old puppy his family was taking care of. The video showed the black lab mix playing with the Tong family dog in the snow, what Tong thought would

represent a break from the serious issues that he posts on a daily basis. But Tong was stunned by the online comments with "many asking whether I was going to eat the dog or whether the dog was on the menu." The 34-second video focused only on the two dogs in a message that was devoid of politics. "Then we get this avalanche of

hate," Tong said. "Some of it's real people in Connecticut. Some of it is real people from other parts of the country. But if they feel empowered, and that they have license to hurt somebody — that's a scary place to be." The vitriol reminded Tong of Donald Trump's comments in 2024 about the Haitian community in Springfield, Ohio, in which the pres-

ident said during a nationally televised debate that the immigrants had been eating dogs and cats. Marking the one-year anniversary of Trump's second term in office, Tong called Wednesday for toning down the rhetoric online as Americans have consistently expressed hate through social

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SNOWY SCENES BEFORE A STORM



Snow blankets the Route 16 Bridge, above, and the Comstock Bridge, right, over the Salmon River in East Hampton this week. As lovely as Connecticut is in winter, Gov. Ned Lamont has activated the state severe cold weather protocol to run from noon Friday through noon Wednesday. He did so amid forecasts of an exceptionally frigid period that is expected to keep nighttime temperatures in, or close to, single digits through at least next weekend. Potentially heavy snow is expected Sunday into Monday as well.

AARON FLAUM/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS

DCF sued over death

Mother of boy killed by his father in 2015 blames state agency

By Justin Muszynski
HARTFORD COURANT

A civil trial is expected to begin in May in a lawsuit alleging the state Department of Children and Families failed to protect an infant who was killed when he was thrown off the Arrigoni Bridge in Middletown by his own father in 2015. The wrongful death lawsuit, filed in Waterbury Superior Court, alleges that a DCF social worker never showed up to a hearing to help Aaden Moreno's mother, Adrienne Oyola, seek an extension on a temporary restraining order that had been granted against the 7-month-old's father, Tony Moreno. A judge dropped the order during the hearing on June 29, 2015, six days before Moreno hurled the infant off the bridge and into the Connecticut River below, according to the civil complaint, which was brought on behalf of the child's estate. The lawsuit was first filed in February 2023 after Aaden's estate was granted permission 11 months earlier by the Connecticut Office of the Claims Commissioner to bring civil action against the state of

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Deal would keep UConn teams in city through '31

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
HARTFORD COURANT

In a major boost for downtown Hartford, the University of Connecticut would keep playing basketball and hockey at the newly-renovated PeoplesBank Arena through the spring of 2031, under an agreement that is close to being signed.

A summary of the licensing agreement — recently reviewed by the board of the Capital Region Development Authority — calls for UConn to play at least eight men's basketball games, seven women's basketball games and four men's hockey games a season at the 16,000-seat venue. The agreement — between



UConn's Tarris Reed Jr. shoots over DePaul defenders during the first half of a game at PeoplesBank Arena on Jan. 10 in Hartford. **JOE BUGLEWICZ/GETTY**

UConn and arena manager Oak View Group — includes a provision for a potential four-year extension and for UConn to get a portion of ticket revenue from the ticket sales for new premium seating created in the \$145 million arena makeover. UConn sports contests are seen as a key component of the arena's

business going forward, alongside an expanded roster of concerts. These events are considered a critical ingredient for improving downtown vibrancy and providing a lift for restaurants, bars and other entertainment businesses in the immediate downtown area.

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In Davos, president rolls out rival to UN

Trump's desire for Greenland overshadowing Board of Peace effort shunned by most allies

By Josh Boak,
Aamer Madhani
and Will Weissert
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVOS, Switzerland — President Donald Trump on Thursday inaugurated his Board of Peace to lead efforts at maintaining a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas, insisting that "everyone wants to be a part" of the body he said could eventually rival the United Nations — despite many U.S. allies opting not to participate.

In a speech at the World Economic Forum, Trump sought to create momentum for a project to map out a future of the war-torn Gaza Strip that has been

overshadowed this week, first by his threats to seize Greenland, then by a dramatic retreat from that push.

The president's policy reversals surrounding the territory still reverberated Thursday, as leaders of Denmark and Greenland insisted that the island's sovereignty was non-negotiable after Trump said he had agreed with the NATO chief on the framework of a future Arctic security deal that Trump said would grant the U.S. "total access" to the territory.

Much about the potential deal remained unclear, though Trump said in a Fox Business interview that "we're going to have all the

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WEATHER FORECAST

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