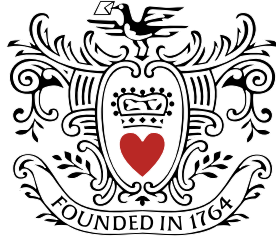


Hartford Courant



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State pauses AI in law enforcement tools

Experts say caution is needed to protect justice

By Edmund H. Mahony
HARTFORD COURANT

Connecticut prosecutors and police chiefs have put the brakes on the rapidly expanding acquisition by police agencies of artificial intelligence-powered law enforcement tools until the emerging technology can be tested and rules established for its use.

At the top of the list of concerns about AI that led to the self-imposed delay is the growing use by police agencies in Connecticut

and elsewhere of aggressively marketed software that generates police reports from audio recordings collected by officer-worn body cameras.

Supporters of the technology, many in law enforcement, predict it will increase police efficiency — and, by extension, public safety — by allowing officers to spend more time on patrol and less time at desks writing reports that often form the basis for prosecutions.

Others express skepticism over applying developing, arguably

flawed and still relatively untested AI technology to criminal justice, with its far-reaching societal consequences. They point to highly publicized AI failures, including one involving a Utah traffic stop during which a police body cam recorded the movie "The Princess and the Frog" playing in the background and generated a report stating, among other things, that an officer "turned into a frog."

Chief State's Attorney Patrick Griffin, with support from the Connecticut Police Chief's Association and the State Police, has imposed a moratorium on the use of

AI programs "to draft, author and/or narrate criminal reports" in order to allow users to test the software, identify flaws and establish rules for its use.

"There can be little doubt that this technology will lead to increased efficiencies in operations for our police departments, ultimately resulting in cost-saving benefits to our communities," Griffin said. "Nonetheless, the use of AI must be implemented in a manner that promotes public confidence in our criminal justice system. It is vital that we fully understand both the benefits and the shortcomings

of the use of AI in policing before adopting policies for its use and implementing training for officers on the subject."

The moratorium was imposed at least in part in response to concern among the hundreds of defense lawyers in the state Division of Public Defender Services, many of whom have doubts about whether a computer program can accurately match the impressions of a police officer when portraying often hectic, confused and emotionally fraught crime scenes.

See **LAW** on Page A2



17th century landmark decaying in Farmington

Preservationists and property owner remain in a stalemate over house on Freedom Trail

By Don Stacom
HARTFORD COURANT

A part of the Connecticut Freedom Trail and reputed to be one of the state's oldest homes, the historic Chauncey Brown House in Farmington appears to be gradually deteriorating with nobody to save it.

And it's happening in plain sight of thousands of people a day, though most are surely oblivious to it.

The wood building, including a section that dates to 1666, has been vacant and decaying for at least 15 years. Preservationists, the town and the property owner appear to have been at a stalemate since 2018, and walls are now covered in invasive vines, windows are broken out, gutters are dangling and paint has peeled off windowsills.

"It's such a shame, this is such a part of Farmington's history," said Portia Corbett, vice president of the Farmington Historical Society, of the once-proud house along Farmington Avenue at Route 10.

The intersection is part of a notorious traffic bottleneck that can delay westbound rush hour motorists 15 minutes a day or more, but the house stands slightly above the road and drivers in heavy stop-and-go congestion rarely seem to notice it.

Recently, Zack Gomez proved to be an exception: He was passing by the home, looked up its history and reached out to preservationists with hopes of hearing that it would be salvaged.

That didn't happen, though. Instead, he learned that there's

See **LANDMARK** on Page A2

Row, row, row your boat

Coventry Lake Community Rowing, a nonprofit organization offers learn-to-row, recreational, and competitive programs for all ages, with a focus on community engagement. The program works to be a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to develop skills, challenge themselves, and experience the "joy of rowing," according to the organization.

Above: Front to back, Sophia Bokshan of Bolton, Henry Petro of Coventry, Caleb Eisele of Pomfret and John Cromie of Mansfield row a sweep boat on Coventry Lake.

Right: Coventry Lake Community Rowing CLCR head coach Pam Miller, calls out on a megaphone to a boat on Coventry Lake.



ALL PHOTOS BY JESSICA HILL
/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Pope prays at site once a slavery trade hub

Leo urges to build an improved, 'more welcoming world'

By Nicole Winfield
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUXIMA, Angola — Pope Leo XIV on Sunday recalled the "sorrow and great suffering" Angolans endured for centuries, as the American pope prayed at a Catholic shrine located at the site of an important hub of the African slave trade during Portugal's colonial rule.

Leo traveled to the Sanctuary of Mama Muxima, nestled in the Angolan savanas of baobab trees at the edge of the Kwanza River. It became a major pilgrimage destination after believers reported an appearance by the Virgin Mary around 1833.

See **PRAY** on Page A5



Pope Leo XIV receives flowers to put under the statue of the Virgin Mary in the Church of Our Lady of Muxima on Sunday in Muxima, Angola. **GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE/POOL**

72-year-old from state is running Boston Marathon

By Lori Riley
HARTFORD COURANT

KENT — Larry Williams ran his first marathon in the early 1990s. He picked the Hyannis Marathon in March, a race on Cape Cod known for its unpredictable weather.

Williams had been a fisherman all his life. Running the marathon that day, he said, was like being on his boat, out in a storm — except on the boat, he could go inside the pilot house where it was warm and sit down.

"It was insane," he said. "It was the most horrific experience. It was 42 degrees. It was blowing 30 mph, pouring rain."

"I got hypnotized into running by some of my buddies on the Milford Road Runners. I thought I knew something about marathon

running. I knew nothing about marathon running. Nothing about nutrition. Hydration. I don't even know what my time was. I crashed around mile 21 or 22. I walked and jogged."

He swore when he got to the finish line that he would never do it again.

"I felt like I had been thrown out of an airplane," he said. "It was horrible. That was the first."

Around 50 marathons later, Williams, 72, of Kent, will run the Boston Marathon for the 15th time Monday for a charity, Team HOPE (House of Possibilities), a nonprofit in Easton, Mass., that helps people with disabilities.

"For me, I've lived a life where my career was very challenging,"

See **MARATHON** on Page A2

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Partly sunny with quick shower.
50 HIGH, B12

INDEX

Advice B8
Classified A12
Comics/TV B10-11
Connecticut A3
Markets B12
Obituaries A11
Puzzles B9
Sports B1
Weather B12

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