

Two bites, five stars
28-year-old pizza influencer goes viral for rapid-fire reviews. **Connecticut, Page A3**

Deportations increase
Relief rare in Hartford immigration court amid crackdown. **Connecticut, Page A3**

Immigration rulings
High court decisions let Trump lift migrant protections, block asylum seekers. **Page A6**

Building momentum
As World Cup passes halfway point, drama swells for knockout round. **Sports, Page B1**

Hartford Courant



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HARTFORD

City touts flooding progress

Officials celebrate improvements for North End, which faced decades of sewer runoff, damage

By **Stephen Underwood**
HARTFORD COURANT

After decades of flooding and sewage runoff plagued residents in Hartford's North End, officials say the \$170 million investment

made by the state in 2023, combined with a special fund under the Clean Water Act, has made measurable progress towards fixing one of Connecticut's long-standing environmental injustices.

After years of tireless advocacy

from Hartford leaders to address flooding and inequities in the city, state and local officials, including Connecticut House Speaker Matt Ritter, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner Katie Dykes, Metropolitan District Commission chairman Donald Currey, and community activists Bridgitte Prince and Cynthia Jennings, gathered

Wednesday on the city's Barbour Street to celebrate the progress that has been made.

"In many communities, aging sewer and wastewater infrastructure is struggling to handle more frequent, intense rainstorms, resulting in street flooding, and in this case, sewage backups in homes," said Dykes.

"I am so proud that, working

together with Speaker Ritter, the city of Hartford, the MDC, and Hartford's residents, DEEP was able to develop and implement this innovative solution to a critical challenge. DEEP is committed to continuing this critical work, which is so central to our mission of protecting public health and the

See **FLOODING** on Page A8

TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP



AARON FLAUM/HARTFORD COURANT

A view to the greens

Fans came out on a sunny and temperate Connecticut day to watch the first day of the 2026 Travelers Championship at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. Stay up to date at **courant.com** for the latest from the course. **Full coverage in Sports**

BURLINGTON

Man held on murder charge

Woman found dead inside 28-year-old's home on March 29

By **Justin Muszynski**
HARTFORD COURANT

A Connecticut man with an alleged history of abusive and controlling behavior toward women, including multiple death threats, faces a murder charge after police found a deceased woman in his home in Burlington.

Cole Werhan, 28, was charged with murder on Tuesday following a months-long investigation into the death of Janina Brooke Murphy, who would have turned 27 last week, according to Connecticut State Police.

Werhan remains held on \$5 million bond following his arraignment in Superior Court in Torrington on Wednesday. He is scheduled to face a judge again next Tuesday, court records show.

When reached Thursday, Werhan's attorney, Noah Kores, declined to comment.

According to the arrest warrant affidavit, Murphy was found dead on March 29 after troopers were contacted just after 11:15 p.m. by the Farmington Police Department, which had received a call from someone who said that a woman fell down the stairs at a home on Claire Hill Road in Burlington. The caller did not identify himself but said his son was at the home and did not want to speak to police, the warrant affidavit said.

Police responded to the residence and could hear a man inside speaking, the warrant

See **CHARGE** on Page A2

MANCHESTER

Builder breaks ground on apartment complex

By **Don Stacom**
HARTFORD COURANT

As it works to complete 232 new apartments at The Spark in Newington, Anthony Properties broke ground for another 232-unit project in Manchester.

Silk City Commons will be built on the site of the long-gone Manchester Parkade strip mall, and is planned to include a mix of studios and one- and

two-bedroom apartments.

Standing in the midst of a massive construction zone, local officials and business leaders on Wednesday morning cheered the project's long-awaited start.

"We'll have two different type of residential offerings: four-story living in a sort of high-rise situation with an elevator, and townhouse

See **COMPLEX** on Page A8



An image of Silk City Commons is mounted on heavy equipment at the construction site in Manchester where 232 apartments will be built. **DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT**

Judge halts Trump's executive order to create federal voter list

By **Michael Casey, Bill Barrow and John Hanna**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — A federal judge on Thursday halted President Donald Trump's executive order that sought to create a federal voter list

and limit who can receive a mail ballot.

U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani, who was nominated by Democratic President Barack Obama, sided with a coalition of nearly two dozen states that challenged the Republican president's

order in granting a summary judgment. Her ruling applies to this year's midterm election cycle.

Plaintiffs argued in two lawsuits, both filed in federal court in Boston, that Trump's order should be found unconstitutional because the states and Congress, not the

president, have the power to set election rules. The judge agreed, saying in her ruling that the provisions of Trump's order seeking to create a federal list of eligible voters and using the U.S. Postal Service to determine who can receive a mail ballot are "legally void" because

they "unconstitutionally violate the separation of powers."

It was the second ruling in as many days against executive orders Trump has signed seeking oversight of the nation's elections. A separate

See **VOTERS** on Page A2

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WEATHER FORECAST

Morning showers end as the sun peeks out. High of 82. **Living, Page B12**

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