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Senior housing to see \$305M expansion

Unit buy-ins to top \$500K as need for housing in state climbs

By **Don Stacom**
HARTFORD COURANT

With a \$305 million expansion at its water-front campus in Groton, Fairview is nearly tripling in size and becoming one of the larger continuing life care communities in Connecticut.

The new Vista Point complex will add 193 independent living units, 72 assisted living residences, an indoor pool, performing arts auditorium, art studio and more, and ultimately will boost Fairview’s overall population to nearly 600.

Construction formally kicked off last week, marking the latest in a series of expansions of non-profit continuing life care communities in the state.

McLean in Simsbury last month won zoning permits to build the 40-unit Meadow Homes addition, and StoneRidge in Mystic broke ground in June for a \$72 million addition of 14 assisted living apartments, 54 independent living homes and new community amenities.

Life care communities have become increasingly popular in Connecticut, the state with the seventh oldest population in the nation. McLean reported that a previous expansion sold far ahead of schedule, and Fairview said 136 of its 193 independent living units were pre-sold in a little more than a year.

Prices are substantial, though: In filings with the state social services department, Fairview last year projected that the buy-in charges when Vista Point opens in 2028 will range from \$509,000 to a little over \$1 million depending on home size. Monthly fees are projected to run from \$4,200 to \$7,800. The homes range from 824 square feet to 1,580 square feet.

Leaders of several similar operations including Masonicare in Wallingford, Duncaster in Bloomfield and Elim Park in Hamden joined Fairview officials in applauding its growth.



See **SENIOR** on Page A2 A rendering of the Vista Point addition at Fairview in Groton. **COURTESY OF FAIRVIEW**



More hazy, hot and humid heading our way

We’ve had some unsettled weather lately in Connecticut, but nice days mean that our chances to get outside in nature abound. Monday is forecast to be hazy and hot, and there just may be another one of those thunderstorms around.

Samuel Dybdahl, of Manchester, and his girlfriend, Shannon Callery, of Ellington, paddle on Mansfield Hollow Lake.

AARON FLAUM/HARTFORD COURANT

Endangered brown shark stealing fish from anglers

Boaters left frustrated as increased sightings indicate a healthy ecosystem

By **Stephen Underwood**
HARTFORD COURANT

Amid increasing reports of fishermen encountering brown sharks in the Connecticut River, experts say it is a mix of both good and bad news.

Dr. Eric Schultz, a University of Connecticut professor emeritus in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, said that he has talked with a number of fisherman who are reporting seeing an increasing number of brown sharks, also known as sandbar sharks, in Long Island Sound and near the mouth of the Connecticut River. He said the sightings are not alarming, but that they signal a change in behavior and possibly point to warming water in the Long Island Sound.

“What people are observing is most likely a learned evolutionary behavior,” said Schultz. “I’m in Cape Cod right now and we have increasing sightings of Great White sharks. It’s not that there is more of them, it’s that they learned where to get an easy meal. There are a lot of seals around the Cape and the sharks hang out around the coast to get an easy seal dinner.

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Details of Iran, Oman deal emerge

Tehran says talks on Strait of Hormuz in final stages; US mum

By **Michelle Price, Aamer Madhani and Samy Magdy**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Details emerged on the potential deal between Iran and Oman on managing the Strait of Hormuz as Tehran suggested that vessels linked to “hostile countries” would be barred from the key waterway.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters that negotiations with Oman about “new maritime routes” on the Strait of Hormuz were in final stages but “this, however, does not mean that the Strait of Hormuz will reopen.”

That step requires conditions that “have been conveyed through intermediaries.”

Iran’s Supreme National Security Council on Saturday said the strait will not reopen until the U.S. “corrects its behavior.” It demanded that the U.S. never threaten Iran again, a permanent end to the war with Iran and its armed allies, a lifting of the naval blockade of Iranian ports and a withdrawal of U.S. military from the area.



See **DEAL** on Page A9 Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, center, is surrounded by security last week in Najaf, Iraq. **ANMAR KHALIL/AP**

Fungus causing severe infections is spreading across nation

Doctors say hospitals in state screen for it

By **Stephen Underwood**
HARTFORD COURANT

A drug-resistant fungus is spreading across the United States, with 3,437 clinical cases documented nationwide this year in 27 states, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Candida auris, called a “superbug” due to its resistance to treatment, was first discovered in 2009, and the first clinical cases began appearing in 2016, the CDC said. What makes the fungus concerning is its resistance to anti-fungal medications widely used to treat infections, according to Dr. Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist with Hartford HealthCare.

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