

Lawmakers seek changes at Whiting

Call for greater scrutiny of the state-run hospital in Middletown due to staffing issues

By Alex Putterman
STAFF WRITER

Lawmakers are calling for greater scrutiny of Whiting Forensic Hospital in Middletown following a CT Insider report into conditions for patients and staff there.

Whiting, which houses mostly people convicted of crimes who have severe mental illness, has seen 99 employees miss work due to injuries suffered on the job in 2025, the most of any year in recent memory, according to state data. To fill these gaps,

employees say they have been assigned to frequent double shifts, which they say leave them overworked and exhausted. Though Whiting has faced staffing issues for years, long-time staff and patients say conditions now are worse than they have been in years. In a news release last week, three state Senate Republicans cited CT Insider's re-

porting, calling the situation "a crisis on multiple fronts." "It's a staffing crisis as well as an employee morale crisis, which could have long-term negative impacts," Sens. Heather Somers, Jeff Gordon and Stephen Harding said. "It's also a crisis of inadequate care for Whiting patients, which could lead to tragic and preventable outcomes." The senators said they are

"requesting a meeting with top state mental health officials in order to be briefed" and they "strongly urge Gov. (Ned) Lamont to take the lead on this effort, working with us and others, to address the multilayered crises at Whiting." Lamont spokesman Rob Blanchard said in an email Tuesday the governor's office

Whiting continues on A6

THE ULTIMATE

UConn legends Sue Bird, Maya Moore inducted into Naismith Hall of Fame

PLACE OF BELONGING



Jessica Hill/Associated Press

By Maggie Vanoni
STAFF WRITER

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.— After an hour of torrential down-pour and a brief tornado warning, the weather Gods parted the sky for basketball's biggest night. Blue skies and patches of golden sun shone down on the streets of downtown Springfield Saturday evening as Sue Bird and Maya Moore received basketball's biggest honor. The two became the third and fourth former UConn women's basketball

Hall continues on A6



M. Anthony Nesmith/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Sue Bird, top right, and Maya Moore, above right, speak during their enshrinement in the Basketball Hall of Fame as Geno Auriemma listens along with Swin Cash and others Saturday in Springfield, Mass. At left, the inductees at a tip-off celebration and awards gala at Mohegan Sun on in Uncasville Friday.

It's powerful when you show up

How a nonprofit is reducing crime among young people in Hartford

By Cris Villalonga-Vivoni
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — A sign that Isaiah Luna is doing his job well is when the kid he is driving around Hartford falls asleep in his car. For him, that means they finally trust him enough to let their guard fully down, giving them both the room for the real work to begin. Luna serves as a mentor, also known as a peacebuilder, with COMPASS Youth Collaborative, a nonprofit organization that helps hundreds of teenagers and young adults in Hartford reconnect with education, employment, and other support services to disrupt cycles of violence. It's not a regular 9-to-5. There's no clocking in or out. At a moment's notice, Luna is ready with his car, phone, and a bright orange T-shirt that says "peacebuilder" in bold white bubble letters. With empathy at the lead, Luna and the other 14 peacebuilders meet the kids where they are, knowing some may be

Crime continues on A4

Labor of love

Middletown YMCA looks to the community for final funding for new expansion

By Cassandra Day
STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN — The Northern Middlesex YMCA has so far raised \$14.6 million, or 91% of its \$16 million goal, for an ambitious project involving extensive renovations and an 8,800-foot expansion at the circa 1928 facility. The Y is looking to the community and major donors to "bring home" the remaining \$1.5 million of the All Together Better campaign, President/CEO Michele Rulnick said. "While there has been investments in this building over the years, they've been hard won," Rulnick said. "This is an investment this organization has never seen: the size and scope is very significant. It's been a dream for so long."

YMCA continues on A4



QA+M Architecture rendering

The Northern Middlesex YMCA, at 99 Union St. in Middletown, will be undergoing a renovation and expansion, including an 8,800-square-foot, glassed-in addition. The entrance will be moved close to the parking lot.

Police investigating how man wound up killed by trash truck

By Lisa Backus
STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN — Police are still trying to figure out how a Unionville man wound up being struck and fatally injured by a trash truck behind a building in the early morning hours Tuesday, Chief Erik Costa said.

The man, Samuel Schrader, 36, of Unionville, was found by the same trash truck driver who struck him at around 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, Costa said. "We are trying to investigate, was he standing up or already on the ground when he was struck, and trying to determine why he was in that location at that hour," Costa

said. Schrader suffered serious injuries and was taken to an area hospital where he later died, police said. The chief said his department was working with the state Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to investigate the death. A representative from the medical examiner's office

said Friday that Schrader's cause of death was pending further studies and his manner of death was pending further investigation. Schrader was struck by the truck around 3:30 a.m. Tuesday behind a medical building on Main Street, a news release and the chief said. The driver of the truck re-

mained on the scene and was cooperating with the investigation, police said. Costa said investigators are looking for any witnesses or video that can shed light on what happened. Anyone with information on the fatal incident can contact MPD's Traffic Division at 860-638-4061.