

FBI agent: Diamantis lied in interviews

By Ken Dixon
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — A veteran FBI agent Wednesday testified to a list of alleged lies that she and another agent were told by Konstantinos “Kosta” Diamantis in the months leading up to his 2024 arrest on charges of bribery, extortion and other felonies.

Special Agent Jennifer Wagner, the government’s final witness before defense attorney Norman

Pattis presents Diamantis’ case, said she and another agent met Diamantis in his Farmington home in August 2023, then again in September in a Bristol coffee shop. On both occasions, Diamantis denied helping funnel work to a woman-owned construction administrator.

“She got it on her own,” Diamantis said of Antonietta D. Roy, whose company, Construction Advocacy Professionals, won an emergency contract to

oversee construction of a Tolland elementary school in 2019, as well as a similar oversight role in a Hartford high school project.

Roy previously had detailed about \$4,500 – \$3,000 in checks and \$1,500 in cash – among four payments to Diamantis. She also said she hired Diamantis’ daughter, Anastasia, to a \$45-per-hour part-time administrative job and gave her thousands of dollars in bonuses before firing her as soon as Gov. Ned La-

mont fired Kosta Diamantis about four years ago under the shadow of the federal investigation.

“I didn’t order her and I didn’t encourage her,” to hire Anastasia Diamantis, Kosta Diamantis said in an interview that was recorded at a Starbucks in Bristol and played for the jury Wednesday. The 69-year-old defendant represented Bristol for 14 years in the General Assembly before getting a job in the state

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Milo Jacobs/For Hearst Connecticut Media

In this courtroom sketch, Michelle Dixon, a certified public accountant, testifies Wednesday in the trial of Kosta Diamantis.



Photos courtesy of Padre Pio Foundation of America

The Padre Pio Foundation of America will host Capuchin friars from Padre Pio’s friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, as they bring a full-size habit worn by Padre Pio to Saint Pius X Catholic Church in Middletown. The sacred relic has never left Italy. The friars are shown during their visit Oct. 11-14 visit to Barto, Pennsylvania.

‘A saint of our time’

For 1st time, Padre Pio relics leaving Italy for Connecticut

By Cassandra Day
STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN — A full-size habit and gloves worn by Padre Pio of Pietrelcina is on its way to Middletown as part of an unprecedented tour of the sacred relics that have never left Italy.

Saint Pius X Catholic Church will host a delegation of Capuchin friars from Our Lady of Grace Capuchin Friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, through Saturday.

The Cromwell-based Padre Pio Foundation of Amer-



A statue of Padre Pio is shown at the Padre Pio Foundation of America in Cromwell.

ica, and National Centre for Padre Pio extended an invitation to the friars, said Julie Fittes Ritter, Padre Pio Foundation of America’s executive director.

The friars accepted the request. “There are a lot of devotees in this country. I think they thought, ‘Let’s do this,’” she added.

Padre Pio died in 1968 at 81 in San Giovanni Rotondo. “He is the only priest in Catholic history to bear in his body the stigmata, the five wounds of Jesus Christ crucified,” according to padrepio.com.

Padre Pio continues on A4

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Schools in state improving but not fast enough to hit target

By Natasha Sokoloff
STAFF WRITER

Connecticut has stronger chronic absenteeism policies than other states but is not quite hitting the mark for its five-year goal to slash student chronic absenteeism rates in half, according to a new report.

An October report by EdTrust, an education research and advocacy nonprofit, evaluated Connecticut and 22 other states’ attendance strategies and initiatives. It also looked at what else needs to be done to reduce chronic absenteeism further and where states stand

Absences continues on A6

Ex-Wesleyan professor, reality TV star facing fraud-related charges

By Jessica Bravo
STAFF WRITER

A star of “The Real Housewives of Potomac” who was teaching a class at a Connecticut university has been indicted by a grand jury in Maryland, according to authorities.

The Carroll County Sheriff’s Office said in a news release that

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Former neighbor says death of girl whose body left in basement for months is ‘heart-wrenching’

By Christine Dempsey
STAFF WRITER

FARMINGTON — Jacqueline “Mimi” Torres-Garcia was a slight girl who used to struggle to throw heavy loads of garbage into the dumpster, a resident of a

condo complex where she used to live says.

Little did Russell Erickson know that the girl’s difficulties taking out the trash paled in comparison to the other horrors she endured: Police say the 12-year-old suffered prolonged

abuse and malnourishment, was killed and placed in a plastic storage container in the basement of the family’s Farmington home before they moved to New Britain, where her remains were found behind an abandoned

Neighbor continues on A6

INSIDE

Aunt arrested in death of CT 12-year-old previously convicted of endangering child, records show.

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Courtesy of the New Britain Police Dept.

Jacqueline “Mimi” Torres

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Weather: Partly sunny, breezy and cooler
High: 55. Low: 34. **Page A12**

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