

Youth gender-affirming care under fire

Hospitals’ changes to programs have families scrambling for help

By **Cris Villalonga-Vivoni**
STAFF WRITER

Pressure from the President Donald Trump administration along with funding cuts led to both Yale Medicine and Connecticut Children’s Medical Center abruptly scaling back

their programs that offer gender-affirming youth health care. Now, young patients and their families say they are now scrambling to find new providers.

Despite being allowed under state law here, gender-affirming care has come under fire

from the Trump administration. The administration has argued the care is driven by questionable science and that it can result in permanent changes that people could regret as they grow older. Trump’s administration said in July it was subpoenaing providers and investigating them for fraud.

It is not clear whether any providers in Connecticut have received subpoenas.

One parent from Connecticut told reporters she was shocked by the providers’ decisions. Her 14-year-old son had been receiving gender-affirming care from Connecticut Children’s and was struggling to determine how to break the news to him.

“I felt a false sense of security living in Connecticut, I felt a false sense of safety,” said the mother, who spoke anonymously to protect the identity of

her child. “And I would say to myself, ‘this is horrible. I want to fight for everybody, but at the same time, thank God we live in Connecticut. Thank God we have shield laws.’ I had really thought that we were going to be safe because of that. I feel like the rug has been pulled out from under us, and I’m wondering how to shelter my child from the hate that’s out there.”

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Smoke shop has its vape permit suspended

State officials say illegal cannabis products found

By **Richard Chumney**
STAFF WRITER

NORWALK — State regulators have suspended a city smoke shop’s permit to sell vapes after police seized hundreds of unauthorized cannabis products during multiple undercover visits to the store, officials said.

The state Department of Consumer Protection announced Friday that the agency has suspended the Electronic Cigarette Dealer registration for R&R Smoke Shop at 213 Main Street following four failed compliance inspections.

The agency said in a news release that Norwalk police discovered the store was in possession of hundreds of illegal marijuana products, including

Vape continues on A6

STAMFORD



Tyler Sizemore/Hearst Connecticut Media

Neighbor Susan Flynn Carnes places flowers at the scene of a fatal hit-and-run accident on Courtland Avenue in Stamford on Sunday.

Community reeling after boy’s death in hit-and-run

By **Austin Mirmina and Robert Marchant**
STAFF WRITERS

STAMFORD — Community members were left reeling after a 13-year-old city resident who was riding a mini bike on Courtland Avenue was killed in a hit-and-run crash Saturday night.

The crash happened around 8:47 p.m. near 316 Courtland Ave., in the city’s Glenbrook neighborhood, Stamford police Sgt. Jeffrey Booth said in a news release.

Boy continues on A6



Joe Buglewicz/Getty Images

Connecticut Sun mascot Blaze takes the court before a WNBA basketball game against the Golden State Valkyries at Mohegan Sun Arena on July 27 in Uncasville.

SUNRISE, SUNSET

What we know and don’t know about sale of Connecticut Sun

By **Roger Cleaveland**
STAFF WRITER

The meteoric increase in popularity, viewership and attendance in the WNBA has made the Connecticut Sun an attractive commodity, and it appears that a Boston group led by Celtics minority owner Steve Pagliuca has struck a deal to relocate the team to TD Garden as early as 2027.

What we know about the Sun sale

The deal

Terms of the deal were reported Saturday by the Boston Globe, and include Pagliuca’s group paying \$325 million for the Connecticut team. The sale is subject to approval by the WNBA.

The group intends to move the team to Boston, The Globe reported, and would sweeten the deal by building an estimated \$100 million practice facility. The Mohegan Tribe, which owns the Sun, has been reluctant to invest in a new facility, forcing the team to sometimes share the tribe’s recreation center with workout classes and, at least once, a birthday party.

History

The Sun have been in Connecticut since 2002 when the Mohegan Tribe purchased the franchise that was previously in Orlando. It became the first team that was not owned by an NBA franchise, the first team owned by a Native American tribe and the first WNBA team to turn a profit.

With six straight trips to the WNBA playoff semifinals, the Sun have also proven they can build a highly successful franchise in this state.

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Michael Dwyer/Associated Press

Connecticut Sun players Aneesah Morrow (24), Saniya Rivers (22), Bria Hartley (14), Tina Charles (31) stand on the court on July 15, in Boston.

Move to Boston makes too much sense (and cents)

Our state’s stake in top-tier professional sports might have gone up in smoke, or disappeared into a weekend breeze, as news broke Saturday that the WNBA’s Connecticut Sun is to be purchased by a minority



Mike Anthony
COMMENTARY

owner of the Celtics. A move to Boston, assuming the transaction becomes official, would take the Sun out of Mohegan Sun Arena, the team’s home since its 2003 arrival from Orlando.

From Connecticut’s little southeast corner to the hub of New England, the Sun will be wedged into the fabric of one of the most

Move continues on A4

Westport’s 2-hour time limit on downtown parking takes effect

By **Brian Gioiele**
STAFF WRITER

WESTPORT — Signs displaying the revised parking time limits in downtown Westport will be installed Monday, according to town officials.

Following the outcome of the Board of Selectwomen’s vote on July 9, on-street parking limits downtown will be reduced from three hours to two hours, effective

from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

This change applies to on-street parking on Main Street, Elm Street, Church Lane, Bay Street and Jesup Road in downtown.

Parking continues on A6



H John Voorhees III/Hearst CT Media

Stew Leonard Jr.

Stew Leonard Jr. saves choking person

By **Jayden Nguyen**
STAFF WRITER

Stew Leonard Jr. saved a choking person by performing the Heimlich maneuver on them, according to a Facebook post from the grocery store

chain.

The president and CEO of Norwalk-based Stew Leonard’s appeared on a guest segment at a New York City news station on Thursday, in which he gave a steak recipe demo.

Leonard continues on A6

