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'P-cards' under scrutiny after flaps

Stewart is the latest state public official cited for improper use

By Paul Hughes
STAFF WRITER

The controversy over the use — and possible misuse — of government-issued credit cards has introduced a new acronym into the lexicon of Connecticut politics — P-card, short for purchase

or procurement card. Purchase cards are specialized corporate credit cards issued to government agencies and employees to purchase supplies, services, meals, or equipment for official use.

The questionable use of purchase cards by for-

mer New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart and former Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Chancellor Terrence Cheng has made headlines in the state over the last two years.

Connecticut voters can now expect to hear a lot about P-cards during this

INSIDE

State officials respond to latest report about Erin Stewart **A3**

year's campaigns for governor and General Assembly because of those spending controversies. Stewart was consid-

ered a front-runner for the GOP nomination for governor until she dropped out of the race the day before the Republican State Convention after the release of a report detailing how she used her city-issued purchase card for personal and political expenses while



Stewart

mayor of New Britain. A city-commissioned investigation also detailed improper payments to Stewart for tuition costs and unused time off and the improper award of a city pension to **Stewart continues on A6**



Jim Shannon/Hearst Connecticut Media

Notre Dame-West Haven's Abdou Toure (23) slams down two points during a Panini Hoophall Classic game against Inglewood (Calif.) on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2025, at Blake Arena in Springfield, Mass.

764, other extremist groups are targeting kids in CT

What officials say parents should know

By Peter Yankowski
STAFF WRITER

In 2024, Vernon police announced the arrest of a 17-year-old whom they said was involved in a conspiracy to make bomb and swatting threats in several communities.

According to police, the teen was also tied to a violent online group called 764. It was an organization few outside of law enforcement appeared to know much about.

The group's exploits read like plumbing the darkest corners of the internet. Adherents to 764 and **Extremists continues on A6**

Ready to go Whole Hog

Notre Dame-West Haven's Toure, 2-time state player of year, begins his Arkansas career

By Bryant Carpenter
STAFF WRITER

WEST HAVEN — Abdou Toure remembers the first time he walked through the halls of Notre Dame High School.

Wait, back up: There were two times. The first was before school started, just a little tour, a sort of pre-season scrimmage.

But the actual first day, when it was game-on?

"I walked into the school and I realized there were actually no girls," Toure says. "And I remember dropping a tear — like, one tear — because there were no girls."

Oh, the tears that have



Dave Zajac/Hearst Connecticut Media

Toure was the prototype of the modern high school basketball star. He also remained true to himself and his school.

been shed since. Perhaps by a young lady or two. Most

certainly by boys basketball opponents by the score.

In his four years of high school, Abdou Toure went from the halls of Notre Dame to household name. He was a two-time state champion and two-time Gatorade Connecticut Player of the Year, a three-time GametimeCT Player of the Year, a five-star recruit.

He is off to the University of Arkansas after scoring the most points in Notre Dame history. He is, as ND coach Jason Shea said after Toure's final game, "one of the greatest players to ever play in Connecticut. Mount Rushmore."

Toure has conceivably appeared in as many photographs as Mount Rush- **Toure continues on A4**

Jury selection begins in civil trial of former Norwalk official who killed tenant

By Ethan Fry
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — Nine months after she was sentenced to serve 50 years in prison for the fatal 2022 shooting of a tenant, Ellen Wink, a former Norwalk public official, was back in a courtroom Thursday.

This time, the 65-year-old Wink, who a jury found guilty of murder a year ago in the Jan. 20, 2022, death of Kurt Lametta, was at the Bridge- **Tenant continues on A6**

One of Norwalk's largest office buildings could become 96 apartments

By Sandra Diamond Fox
STAFF WRITER

NORWALK — An office building on Connecticut Avenue could follow in the footsteps of other office buildings in the city and turn into apartments.

A developer is considering converting a vacant, six-story, 179,000-square-foot office building at 535 Connecticut Ave. into 96 apartments. Some would be affordable.

The conversion would involve getting the city's permission for a change of use for the building, which is 2.5 miles from the South Norwalk Train Station and 2.2 miles from Darien Train Station in a busy area with retail, restaurants and supermarkets.

The building is the second largest on Norwalk's western

corridor after 800 Connecticut Ave., according to an appraisal document.

Ben Moss, owner of Bow Tie Partners, a 100-year-old company that owns the property, presented his idea at a recent Planning & Zoning Commission meeting.

"We believe we can preserve all of the structure of 535 Connecticut Avenue in a new use," Moss said.

Elizabeth Suchy, a partner at Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey in Stamford, said she hopes to "bring (the building) back to life. Hopefully, we can move forward with something in the near future that can put this building back to good use."

Under the proposal, the building would have 16 apartments per floor and include

amenities such as an outdoor plaza, outdoor green space, a dog park and interior storage.

Moss said the building would have a new facade with an entirely different look and operable windows.

Moss and Suchy plan to return to the commission with more details and for more feedback.

Other recent office knock-downs or conversions to residential in Norwalk include a plan to convert the top three floors of an office building at 200 Connecticut Ave. into 35 apartments. The sixth, seventh and penthouse levels will be converted to multifamily residential. The building was constructed in 1977 and totals nearly 130,000 square feet of office space. The plan was unani-

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Courtesy of Alexander Soule

A developer is considering converting a vacant six-story office building at 535 Connecticut Ave. in Norwalk into 96 apartments.

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Weather: Breezy with clouds and sun; a stray p.m. t-shower. High: 84. Low: 62. **Page A16**