

CSCU Board of Regents vice chair resigns

Cites ‘dysfunctional culture and political in-fighting’

By **Natasha Sokoloff**
STAFF WRITER

The vice chair of the governing board of Connecticut’s largest public college system has resigned, days after an independent review found that leaders of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system failed to appropriately handle sexual harassment complaints. Juanita James, vice chair of the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education, notified Gov. Ned Lamont of her decision to resign in a Sept. 23

email, citing a “dysfunctional culture and political in-fighting,” according to the email. Her resignation — the latest in a string of abrupt leadership departures at the college system — was effective immediately, James said in her email. Though the independent review released on Sept. 17 did not name James, it named her position — faulting the vice chair and other system leaders for failing to follow CSCU policy in responding to sexual harassment allegations involving CSCU’s former interim chan-

cellor O. John Maduko. Maduko resigned in April, and in May, the then-chair of the board, Martin Guay, resigned and General Counsel Karen Buffkin was placed on paid administrative leave. “This is a no-win situation for everyone, especially the students that we are here to serve. ... Unfortunately, I do not see an opportunity to be effective in this environment,” James said in her resignation email, which was provided Monday by Lamont’s office. **Resigns continues on A4**



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Juanita James, vice chair of the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education, notified Gov. Ned Lamont of her decision to resign in a Sept. 23 email.



Jim Shannon/Hearst Connecticut Media

An uprooted tree during a late-September nor’easter, at a property in Wolcott. Homeowners’ insurance premiums rose 4.5% nationally in the first six months of 2026, a slower rate of increase as insurance carriers rebuild reserves.

Home insurance hikes ease

Premium increases slow as Connecticut homeowners shoulder more risk

By **Alexander Soule**
STAFF WRITER

The thuds were audible here and there in Connecticut neighborhoods over the weekend, as the September nor’easter toppled trees and snapped off thick branches. As for the rat-a-tat drumbeat of escalating home insurance premiums? That appears to be a softening at last — though in some cases with homeowners taking on more risk in the form of higher deductibles, or limiting the coverage on which they can file a claim. Nationally, homeowners insurance carriers raised premi-

ums 4.5% on average in the first six months of 2026, according to a Monday analysis by AM Best, a New Jersey-based firm that analyzes the financial underpinnings of the industry. That was an improvement on the 7.6% average increase for policies in 2025, and the 13.5% hike the year before. After five consecutive years of underwriting losses on homeowners policies, insurance companies recorded a \$16.5 billion gain in 2025, according to AM Best. That was partly due to insurers holding the line on premiums rather than under-pricing competitors to sign up new customers;

and what AM Best called “a relatively benign” year for catastrophic events, despite the Los Angeles wildfires in early 2025 that caused extensive destruction. “Overall, homeowners’ insurers are doing a much better job of matching rate to risk,” said David Blades, associate director of AM Best, in comments accompanying the report. But Connecticut homeowners have paid a steep price for carriers to find their footing. The Insurance Information Institute reports that the median Connecticut policyholder have seen their home insurance costs go up 17% since 2020, if

computed as a percentage of the portion of income needed to cover insurance premiums, which have outstripped household earnings. As of 2025, Connecticut homeowners averaged \$2,450 a year in property insurance premiums, III estimates. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners has yet to publish non-renewal rates for homeowners insurance in major U.S. regions for 2025. In the Northeast, non-renewals rose from 0.6% of policies in 2022 to 1.1% in 2024, a slower rate of increase than in the Midwest and West regions of the country. **Ease continues on A4**

Clancy lawyer: There’s ‘no evidence’

By **Austin Mirmina**
STAFF WRITER

The legal battle over Connecticut native Lindsay Clancy took another dramatic twist Tuesday as her attorney argued there was “no evidence” she killed her three children in 2023. Prosecutors immediately objected, saying it was the first time the defense had made that claim after spending six weeks arguing Clancy should be found not guilty by reason of insanity. Reddington later insisted he had made that argument all along. The exchange came during the first hearing since Judge William Sullivan declared a mistrial Sept. 4, after jurors deadlocked 11-1 in favor of acquitting Clancy. Sullivan did not rule on Reddington’s motion for a required **Clancy continues on A4**

Storm fells historic oak tree

By **Kylie Clifton**
STAFF WRITER

The powerful nor’easter that washed through Connecticut this weekend left destruction in its path across the state. One loss was a pin oak tree that has been nestled in the woods of Wolcott since it was planted in 1902. The tree was measured at 81 feet in 2002 before splitting and falling Saturday due to the storm. Wolcott’s oak was one of 168 tree saplings gifted to delegates from every town by the United States Department of Agriculture following the 1902 Constitutional Convention in Hart- **Oak continues on A4**

Interim superintendent sets Norwalk school district priorities

NORWALK — In my first article of a new school year, I like to interview the superintendent of schools to share their vision for the year and to highlight changes that are planned, and this article will be no different. However, this will also be my final Chalk Talk article in the Norwalk Hour, after 11 years of my monthly columns. This column is both a welcome to Interim Superintendent Sandra Faioes and a farewell from me. I’ll say hello to Faioes first. With her 13 years in the



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CHALK TALK

Norwalk Public Schools, Faioes has in-depth knowledge of all facets of the school system. She’s been an elementary school principal and assistant principal; a curriculum and

instructional specialist at the high school level; and a central office staff member overseeing budget and construction. In her new role as interim superintendent, which started on July 1, Faioes said her job is to “maintain stability and create the conditions for a positive superintendent search.” The school district has launched a webpage for updates on the search at www.norwalkps.org/board-of-education/superintendent-search. Faioes sees herself as a problem solver: “If there are **Chalk Talk continues on A4**



Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

Students and parents arrive for the first day of classes on Aug. 25, 2025, at the new elementary school in South Norwalk now known as Dr. Ruby Shaw Elementary School.

