The Norwalk Hour

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Users regain access to Microsoft

Company: Worldwide outage not caused by 'malicious or cyber activity'

By Jayden Nguyen, Luther Turmelle and Cris Villalonga Vivoni
STAFF WRITERS

The widespread Microsoft outage that affected thousands of users around the world was not the result of "malicious or cyber activity," the company stated Friday.

Microsoft reported service issues with Microsoft Teams around 10:40 a.m. Thursday.

From Asia to the U.S., Microsoft's outage involving services including Outlook and Teams dragged on for hours and affected many users, companies and some government operations as the technology giant struggled to fix the issue.

Microsoft said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, on Friday that it was "seeing encouraging recovery progress, with service availability and e-mail delivery performance improving across a growing portion of affected infrastructure."

The company stated that its tech teams were investigating what caused the outage and how to prevent similar issues.

"For now, we can confirm that there is no indication this is the result of malicious or cyber activity," Microsoft said in its post.

As of 11 a.m. Friday, 1,442 users were reporting issues with Microsoft 365 products, according to the outage tracker Downdetector. Reports have declined steadily since surging to more than 130,000 around 1 p.m. Thursday.

The Connecticut Airport Authority confirmed to CT Insider

Microsoft continues on A4

Connecticut has gone from about 10,000 high school football players in 2013 to 8,000 in 2025.



Jim Shannon/Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

New Canaan football coach Lou Marinelli during their game against St. Joseph on Oct. 4, 2025, at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull.

FACING A LONG-RANGE CHALLENGE

Coaches statewide seek answers as football participation falls

By Bryant Carpenter
STAFF WRITER

Lou Marinelli hit his exercise bike hard Monday morning.

The New Canaan football coach had a big week ahead. Unbeaten St. Joseph was coming to town Friday and Marinelli's Rams were coming off their first loss in 29 games.

Time to get back in the saddle and get the wheel back in spin.

That's just short term. As Connecticut's longest-tenured and winningest coach knows full well, CIAC football faces a long-range challenge, and that's halting a decadelong decline in player participation. Connecticut has gone from about 10,000 high school football players

Football continues on A4



Kevin Roberts/Hearst Connecticut Media

Naugatuck coach Chris Anderson, left, talks to his team in the postgame huddle following a 27-20 win over Holy Cross in the high school football season opener for both teams on Sept. 10 in Waterbury.

Westport firm wins OK to move into former Wilton car dealership

By Sandra Diamond Fox
STAFF WRITER

WILTON — A Westport landscaping company founded nearly 40 years ago won unanimous approval from Wilton officials to use a former used-car dealership at 655 Danbury Road as a base for its crews, vehicles and equipment.

"This is simply going to serve as a base for their work crews to be dispatched each morning and to return each evening to the storage of their equipment, which consists of companies' vehicles, trailers, and various other equipment," said Frank Lieto, attorney for the applicants, James and Lisa Ferrone, about their landscaping company, James Ferrone Landscaping Inc.

The company, founded in 1988, will perform all landscaping work at customers' properties. The site

Landscaping continues on A4

Lamont picks mayor as chair of UConn board

By Natasha Sokoloff
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Ned Lamont selected West Hartford Mayor Shari Cantor as chair of the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees after the previous chair resigned this week.

Cantor, who has served as a board member since 2014, will replace Daniel Toscano as the head of the governing body overseeing Connecticut's flagship public university effective immediately, according to a Friday morning press release.

Cantor said she was "deeply honored to take on this responsibility."

"I thank Gov. Lamont for his confidence and Dan Toscano for his many years of dedicated leadership, service, and commitment to

UConn continues on A4

Darien restaurant raises over $15K for slain man's family

By Sarah Goodman
STAFF WRITER

DARIEN — Bryan Malcarney, the chef-owner of Rory's Restaurant in Darien, was working a breakfast shift on Nov. 3 when he got the news: long-time employee and friend Regina Bethea had lost her husband hours earlier to a gunshot wound in Bridgeport.

"I didn't believe it," Malcarney said, describing his initial shock, in an interview over the phone. "It didn't even really hit home until I went online and saw his name in some of the articles."

"It's a big difference," he said. "Now it's one instead of two."

As the enormity of the loss sank in, Malcarney said that he and colleagues at Rory's brainstormed the best way to support Bethea, whom Malcarney described as a "friend for 20 years."

A plan took shape on Friday, when Malcarney went to visit her and pitched her an idea: a college account for her two children, funded through both online donations and by donating the sales on a given day at Rory's.

Bethea herself took some convincing. "Regina being Regina, she said to me, 'I think that's a lot — that's too much,' " Malcarney said, but when she eventually agreed, he and others at Rory's moved

Rory's continues on A4



Courtesy of Rory's Restaurant

Customers at Rory's Restaurant in Darien came out to support longtime employee Regina Bethea, whose husband was killed in Bridgeport earlier this month.

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Weather: Partly sunny; breezy. High: 47. Low: 37.
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