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NYC's influx gets expensive

NEW YORK CITY---Mayor Eric Adams has appealed now several times to president Biden, attempting to obtain federal funds to assist with the surge in migrants.

Earlier in August, Adams lamented that the costs of housing and provisions for migrants could swell to over \$12 billion in three years.

Thus far, the migrant population has nearly doubled, from 57,300 to about 107,000 within the month. In response, the mayor has asked the Biden administration for aid; and the administration's response has been to make a request to Congress for \$600 million, a small fraction of the multi-billion dollar price tag.

Biden has also called on private businesses to provide free services, including free legal advice, education and

consulting on how to acquire a work permit. Most recently, the city paid \$35 million to two non-profits to help house migrants in 2 more hotels. Over 200 centers exist to help shelter migrants, which number about 60,000.

Fairfield General Manager Louis Gonzales told The New York Post, the 40th Road hotel has housed migrants since January without major problems after once serving as a halfway house for ex-convicts.

By comparison, he said migrant families haven't given the staff any trouble. He said the premises have been kept clean and the neighbors haven't voiced the opposition that has bubbled up elsewhere.

<https://nypost.com/2023/08/09/nyc-migrant-crisis-could-soon-cost-12b-mayor-adams/>



<https://nypost.com/2023/08/31/biden-asks-for-600m-businesses-to-help-in-migrant-crisis/>

<https://nypost.com/2023/09/04/nyc-spends-35-million-for-2-migrant-hotels/>

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Lamont: families of nearly 210,000 kids see SNAP benefits

HARTFORD---Governor Ned Lamont last Friday announced that the Connecticut Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education, will distribute an additional \$25.1 million in special food assistance benefits to the families of 209,820 children on Monday, September 4, 2023.

Families of children who are enrolled in the free or reduced-price meals program at their schools and who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), or Medicaid (HUSKY A) assistance will receive the additional benefits.

These one-time supplemental benefits are in the amount of \$120 per child. Funding will automatically be transferred to the electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards of eligible households.

Several Democratic congressional officials also commented on the governor's action. Sources:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2023/08-2023/Governor-Lamont-and-Commissioner-Russell-Tucker-Announce-Expansion-of-Free-School-Meals-Program>

<https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Press-Room/Press-Releases/Additional-SNAP-Benefits-to-be-Delivered-to-Over-57300-CT-Kids-this-Weekend>

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2023/09-2023/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Special-SNAP-Benefits-To-Be-Distributed-on-Monday>



Governor activates hot weather protocol

HARTFORD---Governor Ned Lamont today announced that due to a weather forecast indicating that temperatures over the next couple of days are expected to be very hot and humid, he is directing Connecticut's extreme hot weather protocol to be activated effective at 12:00



p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, and remaining in effect through 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 2023.

The current forecast indicates that temperatures over this period will rise close to or into the low 90s..."

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2023/09-2023/Governor-Lamont-Activates-Extreme-Hot-Weather-Protocol-From-Tuesday-to-Thursday>

The number of SPLC 'hate' groups grow under CEO Margaret Huang; credibility lost

by Sally Finck

The Southern Poverty Law Center hired a new CEO back in 2021 named Margaret Huang. Huang's ambitious goals include a rejection of American ideals, under a banner of human rights causes.

Huang changed the mission of the SPLC from " to "The SPLC is a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people."

In 2021, the list of 'hate groups' numbered 838; in 2022, it was 733. But by the

time Moms for Liberty was listed, Huang's headship led to a whopping 1,225 groups.

What qualifies as being a 'hate group'?

According to the SPLC, hate groups ".....hold beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics...."

But the SPLC has steadily been losing credibility.

In 2019, a researcher at the Family Research Council wrote in the left-leaning USA Today about the organization's internal problems, and by then other outlets had also detailed the damage from the inside.

Excerpt:



Margaret Huang is the president and chief executive officer of the Southern Poverty Law Center and its lobbying arm, the SPLC Action Fund

"For years, former employees revealed, local journalists reported and commentators have lamented: The Southern Poverty Law Center is not what it claims to be. Not a pure-hearted, clear-headed legal advocate for the vulnerable, but rather an obscenely wealthy marketing scheme..... Sometimes, it has

apologized to public figures it has smeared, and it recently paid out millions to settle a threatened defamation lawsuit."

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2019/08/17/southern-poverty-law-center-hate-groups-scam-column/2022301001/>

<https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/630598743>

<https://www.thecut.com/2021/03/how-splc-president-margaret-huang-gets-it-done.html>

The Conduit

Education news across CT

Wilby high school implements biometric option; privacy risk remains

by Sally Finck

Wilby High school in Waterbury recently implemented a new way to track attendance, using biometrics to measure students' pulse rates. The pulse tracking is one of three options given to students, the others being typing in an ID code or telling a counselor to get a late pass.

IdentiMetrics is the software company behind the pulse tracking; student privacy is said to be safe because no fingerprints are being saved.



Research, however, indicates that human heart rates are as unique as fingerprints. "As a security researcher, absolutely, I would pick ECG over fingerprint scanners or basically anything else that we use at the moment," Simon Eberz, a research associate with the University of Oxford's department of computer science told the outlet, One Zero.

But authentication via heartbeat comes with its own unique privacy concerns, not least of which is that a heartbeat is a window into someone's emotional state and health status.

<https://onezero.medium.com/your-heartbeat-can-give-away-your-identity-like-a-fingerprint-43760bc0004e>

<https://www.wtnh.com/news/connecticut/new-haven/waterbury-schools-using-pulse-scans-to-track-attendance/>

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education details massive funding

by Sally Finck

The funds known as ESSER--Elementary and Secondary Student Emergency Relief---are part of a larger financial package directed toward LEAs or "lower education agencies". Other funds were distributed, and the School + State Finance Project is keeping track of allocation.

One of the additional funding sources is GEER--Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds--which, for Connecticut, resulted in an additional \$28 million for the state.

Another is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), and there are 3 different distributions: the first round appropriated \$14 billion out of the \$2.2 trillion

designated by the CARES Act in March of 2020. The second HEERF round doled out almost \$82 billion to higher education efforts; and the third round distributed \$76 billion.

Collectively, the monies were under the Education Stabilization Funds.

Connecticut's funding has been monitored in more detail on the School + State Finance Project. The site contains helpful visuals, and features district plans on spending the relief funds, infographics and FAQs.

This report from July 2022 is downloadable, with 24 pages describing the use of funds. <https://schoolstatefinance.org/resource-assets/Billion-Dollar-Question.pdf>



Sources:

https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/FINAL_GEERII_EANS-Methodology_Table_1.8.21.pdf

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opecrrsaa.html>

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opecarp.html>

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/>

Conduit, cont'd.

Stamford group encourages parents to ask questions



Stamford Parents United is encouraging parents to question their child's real academic performance.

Excerpt: "Nationally, 90% of parents think their children are reading and doing math at or above grade level.

In fact, 26% of eighth graders are proficient or above in math and 31% are proficient or above in English, according to Learning Heroes, an organization that collects data and creates resources to improve parent-teacher relationships."

Stamford Public Schools fare only slightly better than the national average. The Stamford Advocate reported that the most recent state tests show English scores continuing their downward spiral from 40.6% in the 2021-22 school year to 37.8% in the

2022-23 school year, while math scores are at 32.4%, which is slightly up from the 31.9% the previous year.

In other words, the grades on your child's report card may not be reflecting their actual performance.

The group highlights four things parents can do:

- 1) ask questions!
- 2) check in with your child daily about their work.
- 3) ask about what "at grade level" actually means at school
- 4) Join Stamford Parents United on Sept 17th, 1 pm for a special session.

More details, information at:

<https://www.stamfordparentsunited.com/post/back-to-school-do-you-really-know-how-well-your-child-is-performing-academically> Stamf

Intermittent vs. reliable energy sources

by Elizabeth Quattrochi

Here's what renewables are doing to our grid....the full list of major threats to grid reliability are as follows:

- energy policy,
- grid transformation,
- extreme weather,
- security risks, and
- critical infrastructure interdependencies.

What is the difference between reliable and intermittent power?

The difference between reliable and intermittent power is that reliable power is electrical energy that is continuously available and can be controlled to meet the demand, while intermittent

power is electrical energy that is not continuously available and cannot be controlled to meet the demand. Reliable power sources are also called dispatchable power sources, meaning that they can be turned on or off, or adjusted to the required output, depending on the need. Intermittent power sources are also called variable power sources, meaning that their output depends on external factors that cannot be controlled, such as weather, time of day, or season.

- Some examples of reliable power sources are coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydroelectric, and biomass. These sources can generate electricity at any time and can be adjusted to match the demand. Some examples of intermittent power sources are solar, wind, tidal, and wave. These sources can only

generate electricity when the sun is shining, the wind is blowing, the tide is high, or the waves are strong. They cannot be turned on or off or adjusted to match the demand.

The main challenge of integrating intermittent power sources into the grid is to balance the supply and demand of electricity at all times. This requires backup power sources that can quickly ramp up or down to compensate for the variability of the intermittent sources.

It also requires energy storage systems that can store excess electricity when the supply exceeds the demand and release it when the demand exceeds the supply. Additionally, it requires smart grid technologies that can monitor and manage the

flow of electricity from different sources and locations.

- Intermittent power sources have some advantages over reliable power sources, such as lower greenhouse gas emissions, lower fuel costs, and higher public acceptance.

However, they also have some disadvantages, such as higher capital costs, lower capacity factors, and higher integration costs. The optimal mix of reliable and intermittent power sources depends on various factors, such as resource availability, environmental impact, economic feasibility, and social preference.

More information:

<https://www.techtarget.com/searchsecurity/definition/North-American-Electric-Reliability-Corporation-Critical-Infrastructure-Protection-NERC-CIP>

Health & Wellness

School-based health centers in CT aim to provide in-school access to care

by Sally Finck

School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in Connecticut aim to provide access to medical care for kids; we take a look at the ins and outs of this program.

School-Based Health Care (SBHC) is a program of Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC).

CHC is a private, non-profit agency with the mission of providing primary care and social services to all, particularly to those who cannot gain access to such services elsewhere.

With an emphasis on access to health care, no child can be turned away because of lack of insurance. The SBHC's focus on medical, dental, behavioral and telehealth. With

telehealth, the website goes directly to the CHC: <https://www.chc1.com/telehealth/>

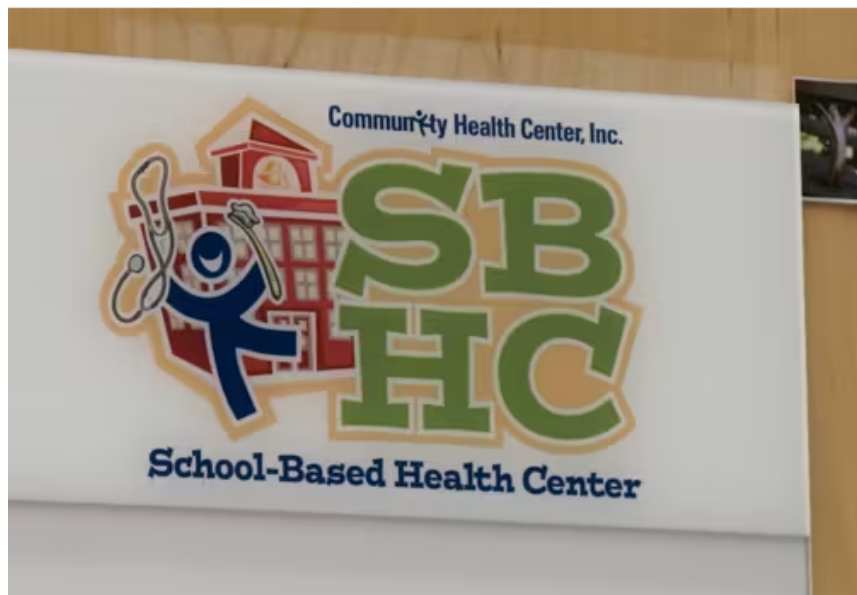
Even if no insurance, small fees with dental care are mentioned. The site mentions "over 180 locations" across the state.

The CHC does have an alliance with the Gender Diversity and Resilience Program (GDRP), under the Child Guidance Center (CGC).

Parents are encouraged to ask questions, as the GDR program may present strong value conflicts within belief systems.

More information:

<https://childguidancect.org/gender-diversity-and-resilience-program/>



Fourth annual vaccine safety awareness marathon to be held Sept 9-10

by Sally Finck

activists.

National non-profit group We the Patriots USA will hold their Fourth annual vaccine safety awareness marathon September 9-10th, 2023.

Each September, We The Patriots USA produces and hosts the Vaccine Safety Awareness Marathon. The marathon, which began as a "fun experiment" by Co-Founder Brian Festa in September 2020, has become their flagship annual event.

Each marathon consists of 24 hours of continuous live interviews with some of the biggest names in health freedom, including physicians, scientists, attorneys, authors, and

Past guests have included Del Bigtree, Dr. Simone Gold, Dr. Sherri Tenpenny, Dr. Peter McCullough, Dr. Pierre Kory, and Dr. Stella Immanuel, to name just a few.

This year's speaker lineup includes heavy-hitters in the vaccine safety arena, including--

Dr. James Lyons-Weiler (President & CEO, IPAK)
Jill McLaughlin Grunewald (Founder, Coaches for Health Freedom), Robert Scott Bell, Christina Hildebrand;

Dr. Paul Thomas, Dr. Shannon Kroner (Author, I'm Unvaccinated and That's OK!), Valerie Borek (Stand for Heath Freedom);



Ginger Taylor, MS; Susie Olson Corgan; Dr. Peter McCullough, Attorney Mary Holland (Children's Health Defense), Jodi O'Malley, MSN, RN; Dr. Pierre Kory (President, FLCCC);

Shelby Thomson (Founder, Unjected); Destiny Maynard, Kevin Tuttle (live from Israel), Dr. Fadwa Gillanders; Attorney Diane Protat (live from France); Dr. Thomas J. Lewis, David Oldham (Founder, Constitutional Grounds) and many more.

Visit:

<https://wethepatriotsusa.org/vaccine-safety-awareness-marathon/>

Achieving Fitness



Trainer Claudio Boni in the gym; credit Ciro Festa

by Ciro Festa

When one thinks of a gym, often the stereotypical dungeon-like granite bare walled space filled with grunting human beings who all look like pro wrestlers or comic book characters comes to mind. Even to those more in the know, a gym still usually evokes images of a place where the focus is on how good the people exercising there look. Achieve Fitness is a place that takes that concept and turns it on its head. The focus is on how people feel.

When owner and head trainer Claudio Boni (now 39) was young, he had self confidence issues. He was skinny, and because of his last name (pronounced “bony”) he would often get

teased. He started to work out to reverse this, and he admits that at first it was a lot of hard work but eventually he “caught the bug”, and it became his passion.

This transitioned him into making personal training his career. However, he did go to school for physical therapy and he realized there was a bigger market for people who needed to deal with pain and discomfort rather than being primarily concerned with their looks. He began to delve into the study of “corrective exercises”.

It culminated in 2012 when he won Mr. CT and then 2015 the Heavyweight division in a regional

competition. He was gearing up towards National level competitions when disaster struck and he injured his right knee.

He went to see a physical therapist and they told him it was because he was “working out too hard”. He did not want to accept this. Another told him to “strengthen his quads”, which seemed ludicrous considering his level of fitness. Read more of Claudio's inspiring story:

<https://thectltribune.com/2023/09/06/achieve-fitness/>

The Yale Free Press Is Bringing Courage Back to Campus

Reprinted from the Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR)

This year the Yale Free Press will treat university students like the adults we are — individuals who are capable of grappling with contentious topics with maturity and intellectual rigor.

by Sahar Tartak

Like many campus clubs, the Yale Free Press (YFP) is a decades-old college paper that has risen and fallen with the times. During the pandemic, the YFP nearly died.

Last year, an ambitious editor-in-chief brought it back, but unfortunately felt it was necessary to use the

pseudonym “Gentleman Jack.” He wasn’t alone—many writers also went by pseudonyms. Why? The Yale Free Press is right-of-center.

Journalists are not immune to fear of retaliation for wrongthink, even at (especially at?) the university level. To espouse an opinion deemed unacceptable by campus activists has a real potential to cause consequences for the writer.

This year I’m counting on the maturity of my fellow classmates; I’m betting that by putting my real name on the masthead, I can encourage others to own their opinions, and to treat those with differing opinions with kindness and respect.

Yale has developed a reputation as a place where

free thought is met with contempt.

Undergraduates encircled, vilified, and yelled at a professor who told them they should not need administrators to create a sensitive environment for them. Law school administrators attempted to coerce a student into signing a pre-written apology for using the phrase “trap house” in a party invitation. Multiple federal judges boycotted clerkship applicants from Yale Law School because of its failure to uphold the value of free speech.

The university should be a place for vigorous intellectual debate and conversation, but support for this seems to be dwindling as students increasingly demand safe spaces and trigger warnings.

Many would gladly trade in their curiosity for conformity if given the chance. It appears some already have.

Yet, as a Yale student and editor-in-chief of the Yale Free Press, I do not see my campus only in terms of horror stories. Nor should I. Last fall, I published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal criticizing critical race theory in public schools, followed by interviews with Fox, Newsmax, Quillette, and more. I found a home in the William F. Buckley Institute, a bastion of viewpoint diversity on our campus, and the Yale Political Union, a confederation of primarily conservative debate societies.

YFP is collaborating with the Tribune, and we encourage you to read the rest of Tartak's piece:

<https://fairforall.substack.com/p/the-yale-free-press-is-bringing-courage>

Op Eds, Etc. -

Rats in CT government

by Alexis Harrison

There has been an ugly infestation of rats in Connecticut – not the small furry rodents – but rather sneaky pieces of legislation that get written into bills at the 11th hour without a public hearing or input by Connecticut’s citizens.

“Rats” purposely avoid public participation and are one of the biggest affronts to democracy in our state.

Input and public participation by our citizenry is one of the greatest strengths of our democracy.

During each State legislative session, many citizens, groups and organizations from across Connecticut spend countless hours following and tracking legislation, registering to testify, drafting testimony. For those who testify in person vs. submitting written testimony, it means waiting hours to have your turn to be heard by a given committee and to speak in favor or against a given piece of legislation.

By Chris Powell

Hope and happy excitement bubbled up in Connecticut this week as children began a new school year, though of course children going to school for the first time were apprehensive, along with their parents, many of whom were yielding custody of their kids to outsiders for the first time.

The luckiest children were those looking forward to their return to school, since they were already much engaged with learning and enjoying social contact with their peers, and have had well-behaved classmates and competent and caring teachers.

But this year everyone —

In recent sessions some of us waited until the wee hours of the morning before testifying in front of lawmakers – going to our jobs the next day bleary eyed but feeling good that we contributed to our democratic process.

Rats are an ugly manifestation of CT’s deteriorating legislative process – and rats purposely mute proper process in the light of day and the public’s voice on measures and bills that will critically impact our state.

The more controversial the measure, the more likely it is to turn up as a rat, where some concepts are never even discussed in a public hearing before being passed into law. The institution of the General Assembly in Connecticut has seemingly endorsed this process and allows backroom self-dealing, eliminates transparency and manipulates the system. This is no longer



governance by the people and for the people of our remarkable state.

Rats are bi-partisan

The Constitution State has seen three recent and egregious examples of rats.

It was uncovered in the press back in June that a Middlebury state representative used a rat to stop a proposed

development of a more than 700,000 square foot distribution center.

The proposed project near Republican State Rep. Bill Pizzuto’s home had faced strong opposition from a significant number of local residents in the last year.

Read more:
<https://ctmirror.org/2023/08/25/ct-legislative-rats-democratic-process/>

Powell: school brings less joy, more anxiety

students, parents, teachers, and school officials alike — also has reason to be apprehensive about school, since the disruption caused by the mistaken closing of schools during the epidemic is being followed by even more difficult problems.

Mental illness and misbehavior among schoolchildren were rising even before the epidemic but now have exploded. Disrespect, disruption, and violence committed by students have pushed many teachers into early retirement and have discouraged interest in teaching careers.

Many school systems, especially in cities, cannot fill teaching jobs and other positions working directly



with students and are forced to rely on temporary substitutes. Instruction will suffer for all students, especially for students with disabilities.

Chronic absenteeism among students — students missing 10% or more of their school days — has exploded as well. Last year nearly a quarter of Connecticut’s students were classified as chronically absent, and rates in some cities were around 50%.

Read the rest:
<https://chrisspowellcolumn.com/>

The Elm Leaf

Wise Words and Humor

“And those characters [in a fairy tale] dwell in a moral world, whose laws are as clear as the law of gravity. That too is a great advantage of the folk tale. It is not a failure of imagination to see the sky blue. It is a failure rather to be weary of its being blue- and not to notice how blue it is.

And appreciation of the subtler colors of the sky will come later.

In the folk tale, good is good and evil is evil, and the former will triumph and later will fail. This is not the result of the imaginative quest. It is rather its principle and foundation. It is what will enable the child later on to understand Macbeth, or Don Quixote, or David Copperfield.”

-- Anthony Esolen



“If any of you cry at my funeral, I'll never speak to you again”

- Stan Laurel

“You know the trouble with real life? There's no danger music.”

- Jim Carrey

Hi subscriber family,

Positive changes up ahead! The Continental Tribune continues to grow; you will notice a very improved appearance beginning in October---along with other surprises that we're keeping under the hood for now ;)

Labor Day is already over and will be saying goodbye to 2023 before long - - this means that municipal elections are around the corner. Stay informed, talk with your neighbors, and engage your community, as your votes will determine your local government impact.

As Connecticut's crime rate and social problems continue to rise, the next year promises to be unprecedented with the kinds of pressure each of us may face. Go share this paper -- and enjoy an unofficial start to fall, get out to a festival, have a locally brewed beer. Oh, and eat a meat-based burger! Onward and upward,

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