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Police arrest UConn pro-Palestine protesters

Students call on school to stop funding Israeli military as it continues its attacks on Gaza that have killed civilians

By Alison Cross
Hartford Courant

Police at the University of Connecticut cracked down on student protesters Tuesday morning, arresting those who were part of the "Gaza solidarity encampment" on the Storrs campus. Student organizers reported that 25 protesters were arrested.

Students said that police encircled and dismantled the encampment, established April 24 to demand the university break ties with Israel and divest from companies supporting the country's war in Gaza that has left tens of thousands of civilians dead since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

The students had remained at the encampment after the university on April

26 issued a statement prohibiting tents on the property and declaring a 24-hour quiet period through the end of the semester.

Stephanie Rietz, spokesperson for the school, issued a statement Tuesday morning saying about 20 tents remained Monday afternoon and the group continued to use "amplified sound," despite the recently stated university policy. Students had said they would maintain the demonstration until their demands were met.

"The group was warned multiple times over a period of days that while they were

free to be in the space and exercise their free speech rights, the guidelines needed to be followed and the tents needed to be taken down. This was ignored," Rietz said.

"UConn Police directed them four times on Tuesday morning to remove the tents and disperse, and they again repeatedly ignored the directives. Officers then entered the site to remove the tents and tarps, and to arrest those who refused compliance."

One student, who wished to be identified

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A DOG HAS HER DAY



Above: Adele, the new service dog for the Autism Center at the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, sits with a patient on Tuesday. Adele was donated by The Hometown Foundation, Inc. and trained by the Forever In My Heart Foundation.

Left: Alex Nelson, a speech and language therapist at the Hospital for Special Care, works with a patient as they get support from Adele.

AARON FLAUM/
HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS

State's revenue forecast 'shocking'

More than a billion extra in tax revenue slated to help pay off pension debts

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

With the volatile stock market still setting periodic records on Wall Street, state officials announced Tuesday that \$1.1 billion in state income taxes will be set aside to pay off pension debts in a move that was described as shockingly good.

The better-than-expected increase means that the projected state budget surplus for the current fiscal year is now \$256 million, up by \$170 million from only 11 days ago. The biggest increase in taxes came from capital gains taxes on Wall Street, which are paid largely by Fairfield County millionaires and billionaires on a quarterly basis.

House Speaker Matt Ritter of Hartford emphasized that the state budget remains in solid shape after years of deficits in the past.

"This might be the most shocking consensus revenue numbers we've seen in years," Ritter told reporters at the state Capitol. "Positive, yes. Right now, we're in good times. Yes, it is [Wall Street] money, so we'll have to continue to talk about that as we go forward. If I hear the word deficit ... folks, the state is in a very solid financial position."

Ritter has been optimistic recently, saying that he expects a vote in the coming days as the legislature expects to finalize its 2025 spending plans by reallocating about \$300 million to \$400 million in federal coronavirus money. That money remains unspent, and it will be reallocated by the legislature.

Tax collections in April were surprisingly better than expected in several

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Trump fined \$9K, warned of jail

After judge rules on contempt, lawyer for porn star testifies

By Michael R. Sisak,
Jennifer Peltz and Jake Offenartz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump was held in contempt of court Tuesday and fined \$9,000 for repeatedly violating a gag order that barred him from making public statements about witnesses, jurors and some others connected to his New York hush money case. If he does it again, the judge warned, he could be jailed.

Prosecutors alleged 10 violations, but New York Judge Juan Merchan found there were nine. Trump stared down at the table frowning slightly as the judge read the ruling.

It was a stinging rebuke of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's insistence that he was exercising his free speech rights and a reminder that he's a criminal defendant subject to the harsh realities of trial procedure. And the judge's remarkable threat to jail a former president signaled that Trump's already precarious legal standing

Turn to Trump, Page 2



Adam Abubakar attaches a sign to his car during a Connecticut Uber and Lyft drivers gathering for a Justice for App Workers coalition rally at the rideshare waiting lot at Bradley International Airport in February. **AARON FLAUM/HARTFORD COURANT**

"We're still not happy, and we're never going to be happy until they give us a seat at the table."

— Adam Abubakar, a rideshare drivers rally organizer and rideshare driver in Connecticut since 2016

Rideshare drivers to rally for better pay, job security

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

Rideshare drivers in Connecticut are being urged to support a new campaign to turn up the pressure on Uber and Lyft, demanding a stop to an erosion in pay and lack of job protection if riders complain about service.

On Wednesday, a rally will be held at Bradley International Airport, one of more than a dozen locations around the country where demonstrations and strikes are planned to draw public attention to the driver demands for fairer treatment by the two rideshare giants.

Wednesday's event at the airport begins at 11:30 a.m. and comes a little over two months after a one-day strike in Connecticut.

"We want people to know that we are still around," Adam Abubakar, a rally organizer and rideshare driver in Connecticut since 2016, said Tuesday. "We're still not happy,

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Working to keep off-road vehicles off popular trail

State environmental officials are working with local police departments to keep illegal off-road vehicles off a popular trail in New Haven County. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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