

Milford’s new Wonder serves a world of flavors

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

A newly opened restaurant in Milford introduced an exciting new theme for customers to get a variety of food in one place.

I was invited to attend the grand opening on Oct. 1 and was shocked that a representative reached out to me to cover this event.

Before I accepted the invitation, I made sure to do my research and found out that Wonder has 20+ locations across the country.

Jason Rusk, the executive vice president of restaurant operations, granted me an interview.

“The first Wonder restaurant opened in 2023 on the Upper West Side of Manhattan,” Rusk said. “Since then, Wonder has expanded to over 70 locations across New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware, Virginia and Washington, D.C.”

When I arrived at Wonder, I immediately

noticed how small the restaurant was, which genuinely confused me because I thought there would be a lot more room for customers.

This was a major event; Channel 3 was present, and so was a local high school lacrosse team.

“Founder Marc Lore wanted to reinvent the dining and takeout experience by bringing top chefs and restaurant brands together under one roof, making delicious, crave-worthy food more accessible,” Rusk said.

Now to get into my review bag, I paid attention to the details of how the restaurant operated.

There are two kiosks on the side of the wall when you walk in. This is where you search and order your meal.

The marketing manager Meredith was gracious enough to give myself and our photographer Lily Rand a free pizza from Detroit Brick Pizza Co.

The pizza was cut into four large square sizes

and cost \$15.45.

Customers can pay with their debit, credit and cash but only in certain locations.

As we waited for our orders, we could hear the cooks in the kitchen, as they worked fast paced. The experience reminded me of Gordon Ramsey’s “Hell’s Kitchen” television show.

Since opening day, I have been back to the restaurant to try out other food options, and I am not disappointed at all.

Just about all the cuisines a person could think of are available at one place for the convenience of customers. I would definitely recommend ordering from Wonder.

“We’re really excited for Wonder to become a part of Milford’s local community. It’s been amazing to see how much people love the concept, and we’re looking forward to continuing to grow and share this new dining experience with even more neighborhoods,” Rusk said.



PHOTO | LILY RAND

The newly opened Wonder restaurant in Milford during its grand opening on Oct. 1.

Investigation surrounds singer d4vd

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

The chilling discovery of 15-year-old Celeste Rivas Hernandez in the front trunk of a Tesla registered to singer David Burke, known as d4vd, on Sept. 8 captured the public’s attention with shock and confusion.

As the investigation has continued, it has revealed not only a tragic loss but also the complexities that arise when a high-profile figure becomes the focus of a criminal inquiry.

Despite the headlines and speculation, many critical details are still unknown. The manner of death has been officially ruled a homicide, yet the cause of death remains deferred, meaning the medical examiner has not reached a final conclusion.

As of Nov. 23, reports indicate that Rivas Hernandez had been frozen and decapitated.

The disturbing nature of this finding has intensified public concern and increased scrutiny of Burke, who is currently considered a person of interest.

However, without a confirmed cause of death, prosecutors may be limited to pursuing charges related only to the concealment of a body, which carries minimal punishment in California.

Earlier reports have shown that investigators searched a Hollywood Hills home connected to Burke and seized computers and other electronic devices, though no

significant information has been publicly released because of that search.

Reports indicate that Burke and Rivas Hernandez had a longstanding personal connection. Private messages and online chats, including Discord conversations, suggest frequent communication over an extended period.

Some sources have noted that they shared matching tattoos, that certain topics in Burke’s music appeared to reference experiences connected to Rivas Hernandez and that Burke recorded an unreleased song, titled “Celeste.”

While these details have raised questions, no formal charges have been filed, and authorities are reviewing this information as part of the broader investigation.

For those following the case, including former fans of the artist, the ongoing uncertainty has been disorienting.

It is difficult to ignore the role that Burke’s celebrity status plays in shaping the pace and perception of this investigation. The fact that the car belonged to a well-known artist has amplified every detail, rumor and delay.

The fallout has already begun in the world of entertainment.

Burke canceled his United States tour, postponed the release of the deluxe edition of his album and lost partnerships with Crocs and Hollister as companies stepped back during the

ongoing investigation.

There are several concerns that the intensity of the investigation is tied not only to the severity of the crime but also to the celebrity involved.

If the same tragedy had occurred in a community without high-profile figures, it is unclear whether it would have received the same attention. Fame can both focus resources and create fears that the process may be influenced by status or public pressure.

This case highlights a broader challenge for the justice system: balancing public demand for accountability with the need for careful, methodical investigation.

Authorities must avoid acting too quickly, since charging a person with murder without conclusive evidence could lead to a failed prosecution or a wrongful outcome. At the same time, every delay fuels suspicion.

The discovery of a body in the trunk of a celebrity’s car demands transparency and careful attention, especially given the allegations involving a minor. Prolonged uncertainty risks undermining trust not only in this case but in the institutions responsible for delivering justice.

Celeste Rivas Hernandez deserves clarity. Her family deserves truth. And the justice system must be guided not by the prominence of all the people involved but by a commitment to integrity

Features Editor Brandon Cortés says his goodbye



By Brandon Cortés
Features Editor

Goodbyes never feel clean. They are more like slow fades. One day you are rewriting a lead at 11 p.m., and the next, you are leaving a campus you used to sprint across because you were late to an interview.

When I joined the Southern News, I did not really know who I was as a writer. I just knew I liked chasing stories.

Somewhere between the late-night drafts, the deadlines I barely survived and the people who pushed me to sharpen my voice, I realized this place quietly shaped me.

It taught me how to pay attention. How to listen. How to sit with someone’s words long enough to understand what they were trying to say underneath the polished quote.

A huge part of that growth came from the people who took the time to guide me.

Thanks to Solé Scott and Jay’Mi Vazquez for showing me the ropes and helping me through the process of becoming a features editor, from the layout grind to the small

details that make a page actually work. Looking back, I owe a lot of this semester to them.

And then there were the copy editors, Hannah Graham and Mackenzie Byerlee, who somehow managed to catch everything — the stray comma, the awkward line break, the thing I swear I looked at a thousand times.

Their consistency made our pages better every single week. Watching how seriously they took their work taught me what real care for the craft looks like.

I also owe a lot to the professors who shaped the way I think and write. Professor Simoneau, with her tough love, pushed me harder than I wanted to admit I needed at the time.

And Professor Gil — always rooting for me, always reminding me I had something worth saying — gave me the confidence to keep going even when my doubt was louder than the words on the page.

All of this — the people, the deadlines, the chaos — forced me out of whatever version of myself I was hiding behind.

I realized the best stories are not the big, dramatic ones. They are the smaller moments. The quiet confessions in interviews. The awkward laughs. The pauses where someone decides whether to trust you. The walks across campus where you are trying to piece together a lead that still refuses to cooperate.

That has been the theme of my time here: not knowing but moving anyway. Chasing stories even when they scared me. Writing things I was not sure I could pull off. Trusting that each assignment would teach me something, even if it was just how to be a little braver next time.

I am leaving with a degree, sure. But more importantly, I am leaving with a version of myself I would not have met without this newsroom and without the people who believed in me long before I believed in myself.

I am stepping into whatever comes next with the same thing Southern News gave me from day one: curiosity, stubbornness and the sense that there are still stories worth chasing.

This is it. Adiós.

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers:	Cindy Simoneau Frank Harris III	Solé Scott Jay’Mi Vazquez	Editor-in-Chief Managing Editor
Contact information:		Section Editors	
Email:	scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com	Brianna Wallen	News Editor
Newsroom Phone:	203-392-6928	Brandon Cortés	Features Editor
Fax:	203-392-6927	Julian Markese	Sports Editor
Mailing Address:		Lily Rand	Photo Editor
Southern Connecticut State University		Wade Barillaro	Photographer
Adanti Student Center Room 222		William Gagné	Photographer
501 Crescent Street		Staff Reporters	
New Haven, CT 06515		Vacancy	News Writer
Issues printed by:	Valley Publishing, Derby, CT	Draven Dabrowski	Sports Writer
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