

News Briefs

Route 7 realignment

WILTON

Connecticut Department of Transportation officials have announced that on or about Aug. 20, weather permitting, there will be a realignment of traffic on Route 7 in the vicinity of Wolfpit Road and extending to Sharp Hill Road. Traffic will be restricted to one lane in each direction so the reconstruction of this portion of Route 7 can be completed. Work will begin along the western side and will require all traffic to be shifted to the eastern side of the road (northbound travel lane). The temporary realignment from Wolfpit Road to Sharp Hill is anticipated to be in place until the summer of 2009. For more information, call (203) 388-4409.

Computer open house at senior center

NORWALK

The Joys Of Computing will be presented at the Norwalk Senior Center on Monday, Sept. 8, at 12:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to meet the computer instructors, hear a brief description of courses being offered, learn about the season pass and register for fall classes.

If you have questions, or wish to register to attend, call the computer learning center at (203) 847-3115, ext. 111. Walk-ins are welcome. Courses are open to adults age fifty and over.

The Norwalk Senior Center is at 11 Allen Road, Norwalk, CT 06851

Concert to benefit Malta House

STAMFORD

The music will soar at a special fall concert on Friday evening, Sept. 19, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Stamford. The concert will benefit Malta House of Good Counsel of Norwalk and the Family Center at the Merton Campus in Bridgeport.

"Celebrating Life-the Concert" will feature celebrity host Charles Grodin, as well as the compositions of Eric Genuis, a virtuoso pianist who has composed and recorded music for film, television and Internet media. Local area choirs will participate.

Malta House, which has been operating in Norwalk since 1995, offers food, shelter and a compassionate community living to single mothers of all denominations with their children, providing each resident with an individualized educational program. The Family Center provides a safe haven and lunch for several homeless moms and their babies during the day when shelters are closed.

Platinum, gold and silver level sponsors being sought for the event and will receive regional publicity and signage, premium seating as well as invitations to the pre and post-concert receptions featuring the performers in the historic parish residence.

Audiences are welcome to attend at various price levels. For more information contact Ginny Casey at 857-0088 ext. 18 or GCasey@malthouse.org. Corporate sponsors may call Carroll Carter, Jr. at (203) 292-9416.

Raggedy Ann tea party

NORWALK

Come join Norwalk Museum staff for a Raggedy Ann Tea Party at 2 p.m. today at the Norwalk Museum, 41 North Main St. Meet a life-size Raggedy Ann and discover how she and her stories were created in Norwalk in the Silvermine Art Colony. The event is free for one person with a Fairfield County/Connecticut Tourism coupon, or \$5 per person, reservations requested. Call (203) 866-0202 or e-mail sgunnbromley@norwalkct.org.

Government Today

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2008

No meetings scheduled.

2 Stamford men charged after brawl

STAMFORD

By STEVE KOBAK

Hour Staff Writer

A barroom brawl turned into a destructive rampage early Saturday morning, as two city men who began fighting in the back parking lot of a Washington Street bar carried their fight to a local convenience store, causing significant damage in the store.

Anthony Rivera and William Vasilakos, both of Stamford, were arrested for allegedly taking part in the brawl. Rivera was charged with first-degree assault and criminal mischief. Vasilakos was charged with third-degree assault,

interfering with police and criminal mischief.

The fight began when a carload of men stopped their vehicle in front of Tiernan's Pub and Restaurant, on the corner of Washington and Main Streets, and someone in the back seat began yelling at bouncers, according to Sgt. Anthony Lupinacci. The bouncers confronted the man and tried to punch him.

The car left the scene and returned to Tiernan's with several more males in tow, Lupinacci said. Police do not have the make and model of the vehicle involved.

The men got out of the vehicle and started a fight with bar

patrons and bouncers. Anthony Rivera, one of the men in the car, began slashing at bar patrons with a folding knife.

During the fight, Rivera slashed a man's face and back. The cut on the victim's back required 30 stitches and the man was treated at Stamford Hospital.

Rivera also suffered a cut to the arm, which police believe was self-induced, and he was also treated at Norwalk Hospital.

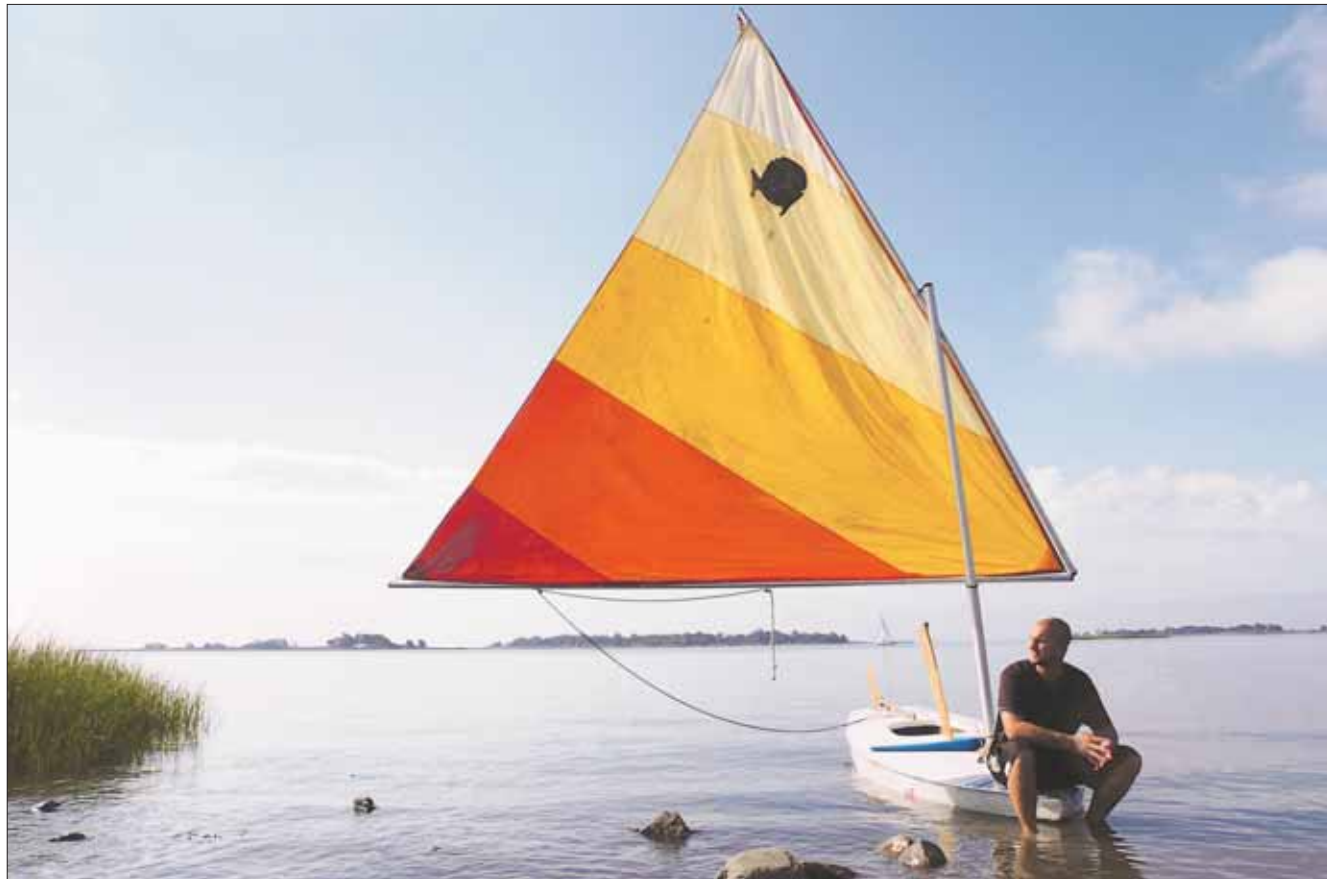
The men who drove to Tiernan's ran from the scene and left Rivera alone in the back parking lot.

Soon after, Rivera fled the scene of the fight with two men from

Tiernan's, including Vasilakos, in pursuit. Rivera ran into Fairfield Minimart on Washington Street and Vasilakos followed. During the ensuing fracas, police said the men damaged an ATM machine, a cash register and various items in the store.

Police arrived on the scene while the men were fighting in the convenience store. Vasilakos continued to punch Rivera after repeated orders to stop and police pepper sprayed him.

Rivera was held on \$100,000 bond and Vasilakos was held on \$10,000 bond. Both men are scheduled to appear in court Aug. 29.



Hour photo/ERIK TRAUTMANN

Outward bound

Michael Montana prepares to hit Long Island Sound on his Sunfish sailboat Saturday morning.

Top chefs heat up NCC culinary program

NORWALK

By JILL BODACH

Hour Staff Writer

Three chefs who trained at the Culinary Institute of America and are executive chefs at local yacht and country clubs will join the Norwalk Community College faculty this fall in the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management department.

Chef Jeff Perez, executive chef at the Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, will teach a Principles of Food Preparation course.

Chef Rob Raynone, executive chef of the Larchmont Yacht Club, will teach a Principles of Food Preparation course.

Chef Thomas Isidori, executive chef of the Stamford Yacht Club, who has worked with renowned chefs Julia Child and Paul Bocuse, will teach an International Foods course.

Norwalk Community College's affiliation with the association Connecticut Club Chefs is what brought the club chefs to the com-

munity college.

"We do functions for them and they hire our students, so we thought it would be a harmonious match for us to use these executive chefs to teach our students," said Jeff Trombetta, senior faculty member in the culinary department.

Isidori, who has been in the food industry for 23 years, said he is hoping to bring a more hands-on approach to the college learning experience.

"I want the students to come out of there with a sense of what the industry actually is," he said. "It's great to have the classroom learning but I want to bring in more practical knowledge of what a kitchen is like in the real world. In a classroom four people may be working on the same thing but a real kitchen isn't like that. Often you are on your own and you have to make decisions."

NCC has had a culinary arts program since 1992. Within that program are three levels of

degrees students can obtain.

NCC's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management degree and certificate programs provides students with the general knowledge and practical skills regarding the industries of food service and hospitality management.

NCC's Culinary Arts Certificate Program prepares graduates for employment in commercial food operations. It is intended for individuals entering the workforce or retraining for a new career. Graduates begin their careers in an entry level cook's position, progress to a sous chef position, then chef, executive chef, or manager.

NCC's Associate degree program in Hotel and Lodging Management is designed for individuals seeking the professional knowledge, skills and required of personnel primarily concerned with the management of a lodging facility.

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Baseball clubhouse guy swinging for the fences

By BRIAN HALLENBECK

The Day of New London NORWICH — At Dodd Stadium, just about everybody's looking to move up. Or get back.

Joe Tarnowski, the Connecticut Defenders' clubhouse guy, is no exception.

Like some of the players, coaches and front-office types who toil for the minor league baseball team, Tarnowski has had a taste of the "bigs" and wouldn't mind a return engagement.

His ticket won't be a cut fastball, though, or a bat with pop in it. No, it'll be his reputation for catering to the players' every need, for keeping them well fed, their towels and uniforms clean, their supply of bats stocked.

"He's one of the hardest working guys at the ballpark," says Brian Irizarry, the Defenders' director of media relations.

"The best I've seen," says Nate Bump, a pitcher who's witnessed more than a few "clubbies" in action during his nine professional seasons, including three in the major leagues with the Florida Marlins.

"I try to run it like a major league clubhouse," the 47-year-old Tarnowski says of his Dodd domain. "I put as much effort into



Connecticut Defenders Clubhouse Manager Joe Tarnowski fills up a tray with gum and pumpkin seeds for the baseball players before the game against the Trenton Thunder at Dodd Stadium in Norwich.

it as I did into the major league jobs I had."

Tarnowski, who graduated from Colchester's Bacon Academy in 1979 — Ron Wotus, the San Francisco Giants' bench coach, was a classmate — started working for the New York Mets in 1983, and three years later became clubhouse and equipment manager at the organization's minor league

complex in Florida.

In 2006, he took over as the Colorado Rockies' visiting clubhouse manager, one of 60 such jobs on the major league level (each of the 30 teams has home and visiting clubhouse managers).

In 2007, Tarnowski returned to Colchester to help care for his ill

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Slot revenue dips at both casinos

Associated Press

MASHANTUCKET — The Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Resort casinos both reported decreases in their July slot machine revenue, continuing a slump they blame on patrons' concerns about the weak economy and high gas prices.

Foxwoods Resort Casino posted a 3.2 percent decrease in slot machine income compared to July 2007, or about \$2.4 million.

At Mohegan Sun, slots slipped about 14.6 percent. That was down \$16.1 million from July 2007, when the casino hit an unprecedented high point as more than \$1 billion flowed through its slot machines.

"Comparing this against the last July, which was really spectacular for us ... this was expected," said Mitchell Etes, president and chief executive officer at Mohegan Sun.

The casinos had experienced eight months of declines in slot revenue until May, when they went up two-tenths of a percent at Mohegan Sun and 7.7 percent at Foxwoods. The Foxwoods spike was attributed to the opening of MGM Grand at Foxwoods.

With each monthly side, the casinos have cited rising energy prices, diminished consumer confidence and competition from other casinos.

"We continue to see softness in the market, which we believe is caused by the continued weakening in the economy, high gas prices and alternative choices for drive-in slot patrons in New York and Rhode Island," said Barry Cregan, interim president at Foxwoods.

The decrease in slot machine revenues in July translated into fewer dollars for the state of Connecticut, which gets a cut of that income.

3 from state killed in Mass. auto crash

Associated Press

SANDISFIELD — Authorities say three people killed in a collision in the small western Massachusetts town of Sandisfield were all Connecticut residents.

Massachusetts state police say they are 33-year-old Derek Martinez of Waterbury, and two Thomaston residents identified as 64-year-old Robert Bailey and 67-year-old Gerald Williams.

Another Connecticut resident, 43-year-old Douglas Taylor of Southington, was involved in the collision on Friday, but was not injured.

Police say the collision occurred in a rural area of Route 8 near the Colebrook Reservoir's entrance. They say Martinez's Chevrolet Blazer crossed the center line, sideswiped another car and crashed head-on into the truck carrying Bailey and Williams.

The collision is under investigation.

A Chuckle . . .

My wife and I were happy for 20 years. then we met.

■ Rodney Dangerfield