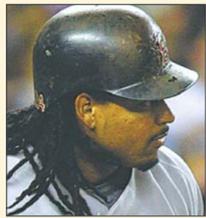


## GOT FISH?

SATURDAY IS OPENING DAY. FIND OUT WHERE THE BIG ONES ARE BITING ON PAGE 1C



## HE'S HANDY MANNY



**RAMIREZ HITS TWO HOMERS, THEN ALMOST GETS HIT, IN BOSTON'S 7-5 WIN AT NEW YORK, PAGE 1C**

## HEALTH DISTRICT CATCHING UP

The Torrington Area Health District expects to catch up on months of uninspected restaurants with \$60,000 included in the agency's new budget. PAGE 1B



## Veggie caught in the middle

Lawmakers in Washington are in a heated dispute over asparagus, specifically a \$15 million aid package in a farm bill that helps farmers in three states being hurt by foreign competitors. PAGE 7A

## Hard times at Merrill Lynch

Following a third straight quarterly loss — about \$2 billion this time — Merrill Lynch said it would cut 3,000 jobs. The company is the world's largest brokerage. PAGE 8C

## Not your granddad's yarmulke

A Cheshire rabbi says he encourages youths to wear offbeat, decorative versions of yarmulkes because it sends a message that they can be stylish and Jewish. PAGE 1D

## 3 plus 1 still equals 4 brothers

Doctors say quadruplets born in Maryland, with three of them identical, are a product of two embryos implanted in the mother, with one of them splitting twice. PAGE 4A



WEB EXTRAS TODAY AT WWW.REP-AM.COM

- Slide shows of Pomperaug-New Milford baseball and Kaynor-Bullard Havens softball games.
- Photo gallery from the pope's Mass in Washington on Thursday.
- Slide shows from the Farmingbury Woman's Club of Wolcott meeting and the Soroptimists of Greater Waterbury awards night.



High **77**  
Low **45**

Two more days of sunny, warm weather before clouds return Sunday. Page 8D

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Business 8C	Jumble 3D	Religion 4-5D
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Comics 6D	Movie times 8D	Sudoku 3D
Crossword 3D	Obituaries 5B	Television 3D



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# President to visit Kent

Fundraiser at Kissinger home to aid Murphy challenger

BY GARY GENTILE  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

President Bush will stop in Kent on April 25 to raise money for the congressional campaign of state Sen. David J. Capiello, R-Danbury, at a \$1,000 per plate luncheon at the home of Henry Kissinger.

The move is seen as a signal that national Republicans, still stinging from the defeat in 2006 of longtime congresswoman Nancy L. Johnson, badly want to regain the seat now held by



Capiello

Democrat Christopher Murphy, D-5th District. Despite Bush's low approval ratings, his visit is expected to send a signal to large national donors that Capiello is a contender worth backing. Neither Capiello's campaign nor the White House would con-

firm that Bush is coming. Capiello declined to comment Thursday, referring all calls to his campaign.

But those who received an invitation say the luncheon will begin at 11:30 at the home of the Kissingers, who live on the outskirts of Kent near the Warren border.

Sen. Andrew W. Roraback, R-Goshen, said he received an invitation, but would not be attending.

See **BUSH**, Page 12A

## TALKING POINTS

>> "It will show other reliable donors across the country ... that this is a race that matters." — former Republican state Sen. **Kevin Rennie** of South Windsor

>> The event "is a clear and stunning signal that Capiello's real intention is to continue President Bush's ways of running Washington ..."

**Eamon Welch**, campaign coordinator for U.S. Rep. Christopher Murphy, D-5th District

## CATCHING SOME EARLY RAYS



JIM SHANNON REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

After several days of chilly spring weather, a blast of warmth finally broke through in Northwest Connecticut on Thursday. Watching the Pomperaug-Masuk baseball game in Southbury and listening to music beside the Pomperaug High field are, from left, Sarah Eisenbach, 14, Kelsey Bean, 15, and Jessica Eisenbach, 12. Sarah and Jessica are the daughters of Pomperaug coach Mike Eisenbach.

## Have debt, will travel

Americans aren't expected to let economic anxiety ruin vacations. Shorter and less-expensive trips may be the summer fling.

BY MEGAN BRODERICK  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

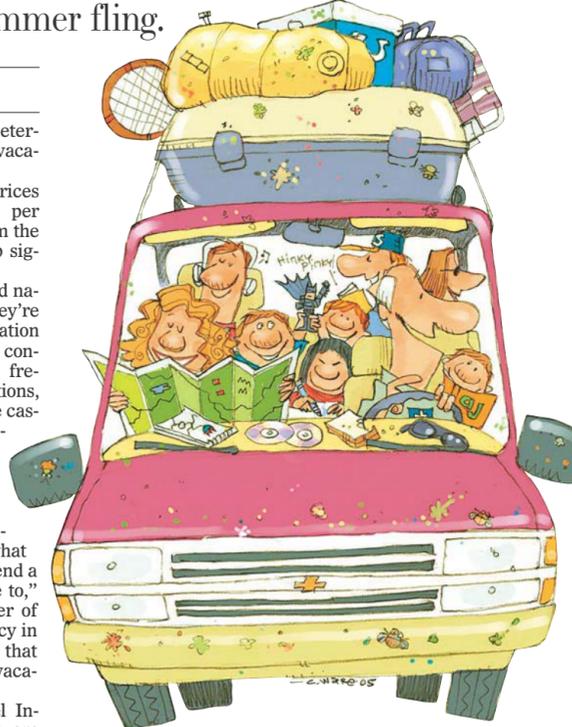
Many people are still determined to take a summer vacation.

Even with average gas prices nationwide topping \$3.38 per gallon, and everything from the cost of hotels to airfare up significantly from a year ago.

Local travel agencies and national travel groups say they're still expecting a strong vacation season this summer. But, consumers are looking more frequently for cheaper options, package deals and, in some cases, avoiding European nations where the dollar is weak against the euro.

"I think people who want to go ... yes, they want the best for their money. But they still know what they want and they will spend a little bit more if they have to," said Helen Carey, manager of the Universal Travel Agency in Naugatuck. "I really think that people still need their vacation."

According to the Travel Industry Association, people are less likely to cancel their vacations in tough economic times than they are to modify them. They might take a shorter trip, go to a more affordable destination, eat at less expensive



## SITES TO HELP PLAN A VACATION

- [www.ctvisit.com](http://www.ctvisit.com) — Broken down into the state's five regions.
- [www.litchfieldhills.com](http://www.litchfieldhills.com) — Take a virtual tour of the county.
- [www.waterburyregion.com](http://www.waterburyregion.com) — Facts, events and lodging.
- [www.visitnewhaven.com](http://www.visitnewhaven.com) — Greater New Haven calendar.
- [www.visitnewengland.com](http://www.visitnewengland.com) — Tips for the New England states.

## MCCAIN NARROWS ELECTION GAP



Months ago, when nominations for both parties were still wide open, an AP-Yahoo survey showed voters preferred any Democrat over a Republican by 40 to 27 percent. A new poll of those same voters shows the race is much tighter.

**Obama McCain**  
April 7-9 .....45% .....45%  
Feb. 22-24 .....51% .....41%

**Clinton McCain**  
April 7-9 .....48% .....45%  
Feb. 22-24 .....48% .....43%

Story on Page 5A.

## ABC NEWS BLASTED

ABC News was the target of thousands of negative comments on its Web site for its handling of Wednesday's Democratic debate. Barack Obama's supporters were angry. A Washington Post critic called performance by the hosts "despicable" and MoveOn threatened to run an anti-ABC ad. Story on Page 5A.

See **TRAVEL**, Page 12A