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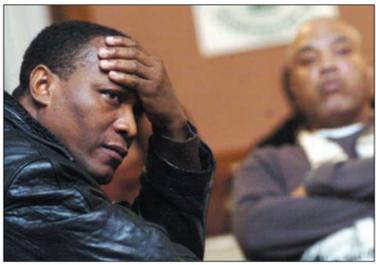
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THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR 139 YEARS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010 Vol. 139 No. 14 50¢



Hour photo / MATTHEW VINCI



Hour photo / ERIK TRAUTMANN



Hour photo / ERIK TRAUTMANN

Death, destruction in Haiti

500K may be dead; many Save the Children staff missing

Local relief agencies, residents respond

NORWALK

By CHASE WRIGHT
Hour Staff Writer

While Haitians piled bodies along the devastated streets of their capital Wednesday, a massive community relief effort was centered in Norwalk, where locals organized to aid those affected by the powerful earthquake.

The Norwalk-based United Haitian American Society of Connecticut spearheaded relief efforts on Wednesday by organizing the Haiti Relief Fund of Fairfield County.

Residents can now make cash, check or

see LOCAL, A4



AP photo / MATT MAREK, AMERICAN RED CROSS

ABOVE: in this image made available by the American Red Cross in London, Wednesday, a young earthquake survivor is given first aid in a shantytown on the outskirts of Port au Prince, following a major earthquake in Haiti, Tuesday. **TOP LEFT:** Antonio Charleston expresses concern about how other governments will respond to the crisis in Haiti during a meeting at the Norwalk City Hall community room on Wednesday. **TOP CENTER:** Robert Morales organizes medical supplies at the AmeriCares warehouse as part of the aid the organization will send to Haiti. **TOP RIGHT:** Gerry Azor and Gervens Lisere of the Norwalk-based United Haitian American Society of Connecticut meet with Michele DeLuca, deputy director of emergency management, at City Hall to discuss relief efforts for Haiti.

Relatives reach out to contact loved ones

NORWALK

By CHASE WRIGHT
Hour Staff Writer

William Bertier, of Norwalk, breathed a sigh of relief on Wednesday after his 18-year-old daughter Samantha finally responded to the repeated messages he left with her cousins in Haiti.

The devastating magnitude-7.0 earthquake that shook the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince on Tuesday has in turn knocked out virtually all lines of communication.

In the hours following the quake, Bertier tried desperately to reach his

see RELATIVES, A4

Parent praises parole officer in bribery case

NORWALK

By STEVE KOBAC
Hour Staff Writer

An embattled Norwalk parole officer who was arrested Monday for allegedly taking bribes received praise from the father of one of his clients, but his supervisor in the probation department could not do the same.

Ed Conway, probation supervisor for the Norwalk probation office, said a gag order had been placed on his office by his supervisors, and he could not comment on the arrest of Alphah East.

However, Dennis Angeloni could speak freely. He said as his teenage son's probation officer, East worked hard to help the teen and gained the teen's respect. Angeloni's son is a

youthful offender whose name is being withheld because of his age.

"My son was immature and making a lot of bad choices," Angeloni said in a phone interview on Wednesday. "I think Alphah was instrumental in turning him around."

East, 32, of 69 Anns Farms Road, Hamden, is charged with bribe taking and is being held on \$75,000 bond.

Investigators from the state Division of Criminal Justice began looking into East's activities after receiving a complaint from Joseph Laurita, whose daughter was one of East's clients, court documents said.

Laurita allegedly loaned East \$13,500 in seven installments and felt that East was shaking him down. Laurita

see PARENT, A4

Input mixed on Cranbury Park plans

NORWALK

By ROBERT KOCH
Hour Staff Writer

Residents praised proposed improvements to trails, landscaping and the Gallaher Estate, but split over developing a winery and community garden at Cranbury Park during a public hearing at City Hall on Wednesday night.

The public hearing on the draft Master Plan for Cranbury Park drew more than 60 people

to the Common Council chambers.

According to Stantec, the consulting firm crafting the master plan, creating the winery, community garden and adding events such as a youth day camp would generate \$266,000 in additional annual revenue, which the city could use to better operate and maintain the park.

But most speakers frowned upon the recommendation for a community garden and concessionaire-operated winery west of

Grumman Avenue.

Donna King, a former councilwoman, lent her support to the plan's recommendations for the Gallaher Estate, Great Lawn "and all educational plans and programs" east of Grumman Avenue.

"My great concern tonight is with the heavily wooded area on the western side of Grumman Avenue," King said. "I don't believe we can justify clearing

see INPUT, D6

Firms give BOE elementary-school proposals

NORWALK

By JAMES NASH
Hour Correspondent

Proposals have been received by the Board of Education from Perkins Eastman, P.C. and Partners for Architecture, Inc., firms bidding for the job of studying and assessing Norwalk's 12 elementary school facilities for current capacity estimates as well as projected enroll-

ments and space utilization.

The two firms initially competed with five other firms for the project. Both firms recently gave presentations to members of the Board of Education's Finance Committee.

According to the project's proposal request, the selected firm will work with Norwalk Public Schools specified consultant, Applied Data Services, to evaluate existing space at elementary schools and recommend expansion if needed. The study is also intended to be used for consideration in capital improvement planning.

A \$6.2 million in a capital project appropriation is available for proposed projects at nine schools that involve windows, roofs, fire alarms, as well as additions and renovations.

Board of Education Finance Committee Chairman Steven A.

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Today's Poll Question:

How do you plan to donate to the Haitian quake relief effort?

Vote & post your comments on the

Hour Poll

www.thehour.com

Inside today, see B6

Extended Outdoor Section

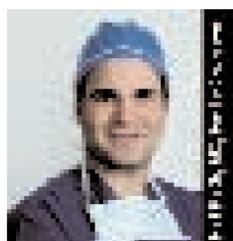
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Weather/A2

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September 14, 2009
 Fitness/Weight Loss
 Attend a free weight loss seminar and learn how the Surgical Weight Loss Center at Norwalk Hospital is transforming bodies and lives.
 Come and learn more about the center and how you can get your questions answered. Register online at goodbody.com or call 203-355-2100.

