



NATION/WORLD

Poet, memoirist Maya Angelou dies

Page B4



NEWS

Unique car, the Fitch Phoenix, headed for auction

Page A8

LOCAL NEWS

DOT takes control of South State Street

Page A2

THE ADVOCATE

WWW.STAMFORDADVOCATE.COM | Thursday, May 29, 2014 | SINCE 1829 | \$1.00

Panel approves OTB facility

Valentine's betting proposal wins OK from Board of Representatives Land Use Committee

By Kate King

STAMFORD — Bobby Valentine drew heavily on his experience as a longtime Stamford restaurant owner in pitching his plan to open the city's first off-track-betting venue on Atlantic Street. His proposal moved ahead, although it failed to convince several residents and business owners worried about allowing gambling in the neighborhood.

The next step

The Board of Representatives will meet at 8 p.m. Monday on the fourth floor of the Government Center.

Under state law, local municipalities must approve the opening of new OTB venues. On Tuesday, Valentine and state OTB vendor Sportech appeared before the Board of Representatives Land Use Committee to

present their proposal for Bobby V's Restaurant and Sports Bar.

The committee ultimately voted 6-3 to allow off-track-betting at the facility. Valentine and Sportech's application will go before the full Board of Representatives Monday for final approval.

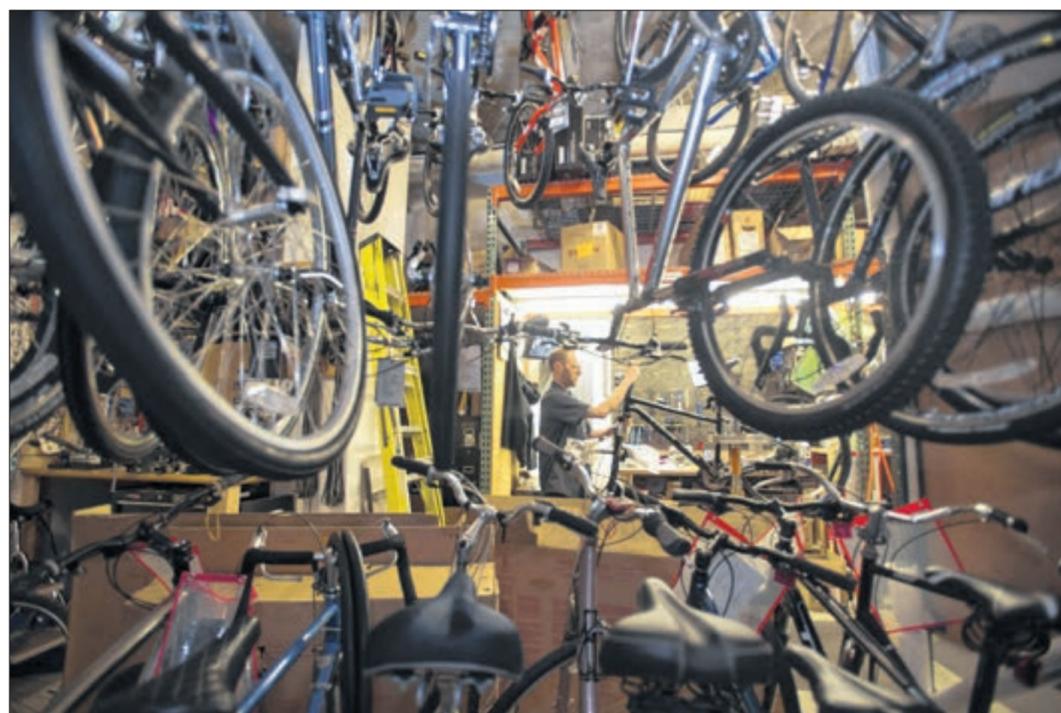
"I've been a property owner here for 34 years — the only thing I've ever done is what I think is right for Stamford," Valentine said. "I think a high-end restaurant with

high-end entertainment in 2014 is something that Stamford really shouldn't do without."

The restaurant, located in the building previously occupied by Rack 'N Roll, would be a 20,000-square-foot facility split between two floors. The main level would be a sports-themed restaurant and bar filled with large-screen televisions.

Gambling would be relegated to about 25 percent to 30 percent of the space upstairs, where customers could bet on horse and greyhound races as well as jai alai. There

See Committee on A6



Lindsay Perry/Staff photographer

Aaron Lieberman, assistant manager at Danny's Cycles in Stamford, assembles new bicycles for customers on Wednesday.

Roadside help for bikers

AAA's regional branch now provides assistance to bicyclists who run into trouble

By Amanda Cuda

STAMFORD — Springing a flat tire in the middle of nowhere is a terrifying prospect — and not just for those driving cars and trucks. Avid bicyclists dread it, too.

"The most common problem is flats," said Aaron Lieberman, assistant manager at Danny's Cycles at 850 East Main St. in Stamford.

Many cyclists carry their own tubes and pumps in

case of flats, but not everyone does. And sometimes a bike can have a more serious problem that leaves the rider stranded and in need of a lift.

So Lieberman was intrigued to hear of a new AAA program that provides bicycle riders with the same kind of roadside service offered to drivers of automobiles.

AAA Southern New England started offering bicycle roadside assistance earlier

See AAA on A4

AAA roadside bicycle assistance

- ▶ AAA members receive two bicycle calls per year.
- ▶ Member must be present at the time of service and have a valid AAA Southern New England card.
- ▶ Bicycle service is not available to members of other AAA clubs.
- ▶ Bicycle service applies to all two-wheeled bicycles, including rental bicycles that can be transported by a normal bicycle rack. Tandem bicycles are not eligible for service.
- ▶ Bicycle service cannot be used to transport a bicycle from a member's home to a repair shop or other destination.
- ▶ Service is provided only along a normally traveled road or street.
- ▶ Transportation beyond 10 miles will incur mileage fees.

Hamilton's contract extended

Superintendent of schools' pact with board now runs through 2017

By Rob Varnon

STAMFORD — The Board of Education has extended Superintendent Winifred Hamilton's contract to 2017 after completing her annual review.

Hamilton had two years left on her current contract when the Board of Education voted Wednesday night to tack on another year.

"It has been my life's work. It is my honor to be here," Hamilton said, adding her goal is to get a new school in place for future generations.

The district's elementary schools are overcrowded. The board has worked with the mayor's office on a

See Board on A3



Hamilton

★★★ ELECTION 2014 ★★★★★

Political newcomers endorsed by parties

By Kate King

STAMFORD — A handful of political newcomers has emerged as contenders in this November's election to represent Stamford in the state House of Representatives.

Democrat Caroline Simmons is making her first bid for public office in central Stamford, where she is challenging District 144 Republican incumbent Michael Molgano. Across the political aisle, Stamford Republicans have endorsed three new candidates to run for seats long held by Democrats in the state House.

See DCC on A3

Inside

▶ To see the local parties' endorsed candidates for the November's elections, go to Page A3.

TRENDING: HOW OUR STUDENT LOANS STACK UP

Connecticut's student loan debt drags down net worth of recent graduates

The thousands of Connecticut college students who crossed the stage this month to claim their diplomas have met the huge challenge of attaining a degree. But some of the biggest obstacles still lie ahead — like the tens of thousands of dollars many owe in student loans.

The average amount of outstanding debt for Connecticut residents is among the

Maggie Gordon



highest in the nation, at \$25,100 per borrower, according to a Federal Reserve Bank of New York analysis of fourth-quarter figures from 2012. That puts the state at 14th highest among the 50 states and Washington, D.C.; debt load is the lowest in Wyoming, where the balance averages out to \$20,700 per borrower, and is the highest in D.C., where the figure is \$41,200. Nationally, the average is \$21,400.

The high level of debt among graduates now eclipses the nation's credit card debt load, as the Pew Research Center reports that a record high share of 37 percent of U.S. households headed by an adult under the age of 40 had some student debt in 2010. That rate is up from 29 percent only three years earlier, and the increase has significantly changed the nation's economic outlook.

College-educated adults with no student loans have a net worth about seven times greater than those with student debt, according to Pew, which lists

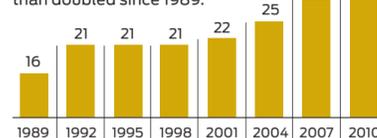
the worth figures at \$64,700 and \$8,700, respectively. That lower net worth exists even though income between college graduates with student debt earn an equal income to those without it: \$57,941.

The lower net worth of adults carrying student loans on their back is due in large part to the payments they send out every month to cover the cost of earning their cap and gown. But that's not the only debt pressing against these borrowers. Their overall debt is also 87 percent higher than the

See Student on A4

Percentage who owe student debt

The share of young households with student debts has more than doubled since 1989.



Note: Young households are households with heads younger than 40. Student debtor households have outstanding student loan balances or student loans in deferment.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2010 Survey of Consumer Finances

Data Point: Your net worth

\$64,700 The median net worth of a young household where the college-educated head of the house has no student debt.

\$8,700 The median net worth of a young household where the college-educated head of the house has student debt.

INDEX

Advice/Puzzles.....	B6	Classified.....	C7-8	Obituaries.....	A9
Business.....	C1-2	Comics.....	B7	Opinion.....	A10-11
		Nation/World.....	B4	Public notices.....	C7



Weather: Partly cloudy. High: 65. Low: 49. Page B8



VOL. 185, NO. 52
4 sections
60 pages
© 2014 SCNI