

Submarine to get visitors despite delay

N. Dakota commissioning rescheduled, but some from state coming this week

By **JOHANNA SOMERS**
Day Staff Writer

Despite the postponement of the submarine North Dakota's commissioning, originally scheduled for Saturday, 58 people from the namesake state are still making the trek because they couldn't get their flights and hotels refunded or wanted to come anyway.

In April, the Navy announced that the commissioning ceremony would be postponed because of issues with the redesigned bow and component parts such as torpedo tube interlocks that keep the crew from accidentally letting sea water enter the torpedo room, said Lt. Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for Submarine Group Two, in an email. During the testing of the North Dakota (SSN 784), Electric Boat discovered issues with how some of the components were assembled and decided a "prudent review" was needed, he added.

The commissioning has been rescheduled for "the coming months, possibly the fall," according to the Navy.

"It has nothing to do with getting behind schedule," Hawkins said. "... It's pretty typical that when you change the design you have some kinks that you need to work out, and postponing the coming date allows the Navy to review and inspect various processes."

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Poquonnock Bridge budget isn't enough, fire chief says

District OKs \$3.9 million, less than this year's plan

By **DEBORAH STRASZHEIM**
Day Staff Writer

Groton — Poquonnock Bridge Fire Chief Todd Paige said that the \$3.9 million budget approved at the district's annual meeting Wednesday will not be enough money to run the department for a year.

The approved budget is \$2.46 million less than the board had asked for and less than the current budget, which itself will likely leave the department with unpaid bills.

"The district cannot survive a full year and honor its obligations with \$3.9 million," Paige said. The district's board of directors will have to decide what happens next, he said.

Town Councilor Joe de la Cruz, who lives on Corey Road and attended the meeting as a resident, said he couldn't believe the budget passed.

"If this was a school budget, there'd be people throwing rocks," he said.

The district board had proposed a \$6.36 million budget, which would have raised fire district taxes 82 percent. District board President Alan Ackley said he never supported the

SEE POQUONNOCK PAGE A3

NOT WHAT COLUMBUS SAW



DANA JENSEN/THE DAY

The Columbus replica ship Pinta makes its way up the Thames River past Mohegan Sun on its way to the Marina at American Wharf in Norwich on Wednesday. The Pinta and a replica of the Niña will be docked in Norwich until June 4. See story, C1.

Obama unveils foreign policy plans

Nonmilitary options are stressed in speech to West Point grads

By **DAVID NAKAMURA**
The Washington Post

West Point, N.Y. — President Barack Obama laid out his vision Wednesday for a comprehensive post-9/11 foreign policy after more than a decade of war overseas, arguing for a new form of American leadership that strikes a balance between interventionism and "foreign entanglements."

Speaking in front of 1,000 cadets here at the U.S. Military Academy commencement ceremony, Obama articulated an approach that he said would employ targeted force in a responsible fashion, including a new initiative aimed at responding to terrorist threats. He sought to blunt growing criticism from political rivals who have called his administration feckless in its response to global crises in Russia, Syria and elsewhere.

Many of the policies and postures had been outlined by the president and his aides previously on a piecemeal basis. But Wednesday's address was focused on pulling those strands together into a coherent, post-war outlook for U.S. foreign policy — and was delivered to an audience of graduating cadets who are likely to be the first since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, not to be deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq.

SEE OBAMA PAGE A3

Sole bidder offers \$100,000 to buy Lighthouse Inn

New London sought minimum of \$500,000; businessman had previously withdrawn bigger proposal

By **LEE HOWARD**
Day Staff Writer

New London — A New Haven businessman who had offered \$1.25 million for the Lighthouse Inn before backing out of the deal four years ago emerged as the only bidder Wednesday for the historic property, offering \$100,000 — well below the minimum that had been set by the city.

Still, Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio said he is inclined to recommend the City Council accept the bid, assuming there were no tax abatements or other changes to the bid stipulations requested. He said it is important to get the Lighthouse Inn back on the tax rolls and ensure that the property is restored to its original grandeur.

"This is a building that cannot be replaced," Finizio said. "I think it will mean a lot to the

LIGHTHOUSE INN: WHAT IS IT WORTH?

\$3 million
Assessed value of the property.

\$1.25 million
Bid offered by Anthony D. Acri III in 2010 and later withdrawn.

\$500,000
Minimum bid sought by the city of New London.

\$100,000
Bid offered Wednesday by Acri.

city to see this restored and reopened."

Anthony D. Acri III's offer was far short of the \$500,000 minimum bid the city had set for the Guthrie Place property and didn't come

close to its assessed value of more than \$3 million.

Acri, reached by phone Wednesday evening, said he would reserve commenting on his plans for the inn until he hears back from the city on whether the bid has been accepted. He also would not say whether he would be seeking tax abatements.

"I don't want to comment until I hear back 'yea' or 'nay,'" he said.

Finizio said Acri had been prequalified for the bid and checked out as a credible developer. He said estimates he has heard indicate the property's historic restoration — a requirement for anyone bidding on the Lighthouse Inn — will cost somewhere between \$1.8 million and \$2.5 million.

The city's other requirement was that the Lighthouse Inn remain open to the public, Finizio said.

"We are grateful there was a credible bidder for the property. Our ultimate goal is preserving this building and getting it back open to the public again."

MAYOR DARYL JUSTIN FINIZIO

"We are grateful there was a credible bidder for the property," Finizio said after opening the bid at the city planning offices. "Our ultimate goal is preserving this building and getting it back open to the public again."

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WEATHER

Today, morning sun. High 64. Friday, partly sunny, chance of a shower. High 65. **C10**

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A music celebration

Strawberry Park hosts its bluegrass festival this weekend.

Author **Khaled Hosseini** speaks Wednesday at the Garde.

Mohegan Sun goes country with **Brantley Gilbert** in concert.

See **NIGHT & DAY**

MAYA ANGELOU, POET AND MEMOIRIST, DIES AT 86

Maya Angelou, the memoirist and poet whose landmark book of 1969, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" — which describes in lyrical, unsparring prose her childhood in the Jim Crow South — was among the first autobiographies by a 20th-century black woman to reach a wide general readership, died Wednesday at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was 86.

As well-known as she was for her memoirs, which eventually filled six volumes, Angelou very likely received her widest exposure on a chilly January day in 1993, when she delivered the inaugural poem, "On the Pulse of Morning," at the swearing-in of Bill Clinton, the nation's 42nd president, who, like Angelou, had grown up poor in rural Arkansas.

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