

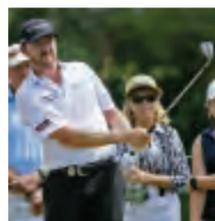
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 process
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 News » A4



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 the pace
 for opening
 round
 Sports » B1

The Middletown Press

AN EDITION OF THE NEW HAVEN REGISTER



Friday, July 29, 2016 \$1.00 FACEBOOK.COM/MIDDLETOWNPRESS TWITTER.COM/MIDDLETOWNPRESS

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MIDDLETOWN

CHANGES AHEAD



CASSANDRA DAY — THE MIDDLETOWN PRESS

State Department of Transportation principal engineer William W. Britnell offers a PowerPoint presentation Tuesday evening at the Elks Club in Middletown which explains the plans for modifications and new construction on the portion of Route 9 that runs through the city. The project is anticipated to begin in 2018 and be finished by 2022.

Coming and going: Residents are troubled about Route 9 plan to remove traffic signals and add a pedestrian bridge, roundabout

By **Cassandra Day**
 cday@middletownpress.com
 @cassandrasdis on Twitter

MIDDLETOWN » Nearly 120 people showed up for a public hearing Tuesday evening that allowed criticism on plans to remove a stop sign and traffic lights from the part of Route 9 that flows through the city and the construction of a pedestrian bridge, roundabout and other components that engineers say will lessen accidents and improve traffic flow downtown.

Many who sat in the Elks Club dining room on Maynard Street — nearly filled to capacity — expressed concerns about the proposal, including local officials, business owners, residents and others who say the modifications would exacerbate already

fraught traveling conditions which worsen considerably during the peak morning and afternoon rush hours.

Presently motorists enter the highway where vehicles — often zipping by above the speed limit — create hazardous conditions that the DOT says are responsible for a record number of crashes. At the signal lights both north and southbound, those unfamiliar with the Middletown traffic setup zoom by at high speed, never expecting to stop.

At the on-ramp of Route 17 onto Route 9 north, where there is the stop sign, the plan is to “replace the existing bridge immediately north of the stop-controlled on-ramp to accommodate a full-length acceleration lane and re-

PLAN » PAGE 2



CASSANDRA DAY — THE MIDDLETOWN PRESS

Middletown Common Councilman Sebastian Giuliano was the first city official to speak out during the comment portion of the public hearing. The project would begin with the removal of the stop sign at the end of the Route 17 on-ramp to Route 9 northbound and end with a concept for improving access between the highway and downtown, including the removal of traffic signals on Route 9.

"Everything along deKoven is going to have a gorgeous view of an embankment, and they're not going to see the river anymore."

— Middletown Common Councilman Sebastian Giuliano

+ More online: For more information, see the DOT website at [HTTP://BIT.LY/2AIAIHD](http://bit.ly/2AIAIHD).

POLITICS

Clinton pledges steady hand

By **Julie Pace and Robert Furlow**
 The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA » Confronting a “moment of reckoning,” Hillary Clinton is casting herself as a unifier for divided times and a tested, steady hand to lead in a volatile world.

“We are clear-eyed about what our country is up against,” she said in excerpts released ahead of her speech Thursday accepting the Democratic presidential nomination. “But we are not afraid. We will rise to the challenge, just as we always have.”

Clinton's national convention address follows three nights of Democratic stars, including a past and present president, asserting she is ready for the White House. Thursday night she was making that case for herself on the convention's final night.

Acknowledging Americans' anxieties, Clinton
CLINTON » PAGE 2

MIDDLETOWN

Suspects charged in 'large-scale' drug ring

By *Press Staff*

MIDDLETOWN » The city police street crimes and narcotics units this week wrapped up a two-month-long investigation into a “large-scale” cocaine and crack cocaine trafficking ring in Middlesex County, according to a release.

Police seized nearly 45 grams of cocaine and 19 grams of crack cocaine and more than \$270,000 in cash and five vehicles, police said.

Scott Cottrell was charged with possession of cocaine/crack cocaine, possession of cocaine/crack cocaine with intent to sell, sale of narcotics, conspiracy to sell narcotics and accessory to sell narcotics. He's being held on a \$35,000 bond and is due in court Aug. 2.

David Fountain was charged with possession of cocaine/crack cocaine, possession of cocaine/

DRUGS » PAGE 2

NEW HAVEN

Learning about law enforcement careers

Participants in the first-ever “Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy,” learned from specialists. **PAGE A6**



ORANGE

A biz so hot, it's gotta have shades

For most of its 40 years, Lamp Shades Plus has been located in a low-profile storefront at 280 Boston Post Road. **PAGE A6**

CONNECTICUT

Herbst questions Democrats' legal fees

Trumbull First Selectman Tim Herbst says he is sick of the Connecticut Democratic Party's “arrogance.” **PAGE A6**

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INDEX LotteryA2 | CommunityA7 | OpinionA8-9 | SportsB1-5 | AdviceB6 | ComicsB7 | ClassifiedsB8 |

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