

# The Sunday Hour

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**HOUR WITH**  
A series that spotlights Norwalk's everyday people  
**BEN PICCI, BARBER** ... see D1

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR 138 YEARS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2009 Vol. 138 No. 312 \$1.50



Hour photo / ERIK TRAUTMANN  
**Fred Gill of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Recruitment and Sourcing Roundtable Team, right, helps Kevin Taylor with his resume and interviewing skills during the MTA career fair Saturday at Ponus Ridge Middle School.**

## Hundreds attend MTA job fair

**NORWALK**  
By **STEVE KOBAK**  
Hour Staff Writer

Norwalker Eddie Powell has a job but in uncertain economic times wherein stability is vital, he wants a career.

Powell, a delivery truck driver, was one of hundreds of people who attended a Metro-North Transit Authority career fair at Ponus Ridge Middle School on Saturday to gain information about employment with the railroad company.

"I'm really career-minded," said Powell. "But things happen in life, and you can't always get a career."

Positions in various specialized areas, such as electrical engineering, welding and customer service positions are open, and the MTA may have an influx of retirements during the next few years, according to Fred Gill, senior human resources specialist for the MTA.

According to Gill, 50 percent of MTA employees will be

retirement-eligible in 2013, leaving a lot of spots open for new recruits.

Gill said the company hasn't been immune to the recession, but it continues to hire employees.

The career fair on Saturday had courses on networking, applying for jobs and interviewing for a position.

After he finished his shift at a cleaning service, Danny Mobley drove from his home in

see MTA, A7

## Security technology helps local businesses

**NORWALK**  
By **STEVE KOBAK**  
Hour Staff Writer

Some Norwalk small business owners say taking advantage of the shrinking price of business security technology can prove valuable to their stores and the police.

The owners said taking some responsibility and helping police protect their businesses cannot be mandated by law, but it should be a given for any business owner.

"Surveillance will help you at some point," said Manish Patel, owner of Norwalk Wine and Spirits on Connecticut Avenue.

Having security cameras with remote access helped Yasser Eldemerdash foil an attempted burglary at his Laundromat on Oct. 25, as he observed several men raiding his change machines from a video feed inside his home.

Eldemerdash, owner of Y & S Laundromat, has Internet access to the security camera feeds and promptly called

see SECURITY, A7

## GARDEN GROUNDBREAKING AT CRANBURY ELEMENTARY



Hour photo / ERIK TRAUTMANN  
**Cranbury Elementary School kindergartner Morgan Minoff helps her dad, Jason, tamp the gravel pathway of the school's new courtyard garden during groundbreaking Saturday morning. The garden was made possible by a grant from the Norwalk Education Foundation and with help and donations from the Parent-Teacher Organization and students.**

## Otha Brown Jr.'s wife reflects on his legacy

**NORWALK**  
By **STEVE KOBAK**  
Hour Staff Writer

The wife of longtime Norwalk politician and civic leader Otha Brown Jr. said the family is "hanging in there" after his death, and they want him to be remembered by his "legacy of civic service."

Brown, who had been battling dementia and various ailments for the past few years, died of natural causes Wednesday at age 78, according to his wife, Evelyn Brown.

"At least he's not suffering," she said. "He had a lot of health issues, and that's one of the reasons why his doctor and I didn't want him to run for mayor."

For more than four decades, Brown Jr. served in various public offices, from the Norwalk Common Council to the General Assembly in Hartford.

Brown was serving his fifth six-year term as

see BROWN'S, A7

## USS New York, built with WTC steel, put into service

**NEW YORK**  
By **VERENA DOBNIK**  
Associated Press

The USS New York, built with steel from the rubble of the World Trade Center, was put into service Saturday both as a symbol of healing and strength.

"No matter how many times you attack us, we always come back," Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said at the amphibious assault ship's commissioning. "America always comes back. That's what this ship represents."

He spoke on a Manhattan pier where hundreds of Navy officers and sailors joined first responders and families of Sept. 11 victims for the ceremony.

"I hereby place the USS New York in commission," Mabus announced.

And with a long drum roll, the ship's crew was sent on its first watch, obeying the order, as traditionally worded: "Man our ship and

see USS, A7

## West Africa's last giraffes make comeback

**KOURE, NIGER**  
By **TODD PITMAN**  
Associated Press

A crisp African dawn is breaking overhead, and Zibo Mounkaila is on the back of a pickup truck bounding across a sparse landscape of rocky orange soil.

The tallest animals on earth are here, the guide says, somewhere amid the scant green bush on one side, and the thatched dome villages on the other.

They're here, but by all accounts, they shouldn't be.

A hundred years ago, West Africa's last giraffes numbered in the thousands and their habitat stretched from Senegal's Atlantic Ocean coast to Chad, in the heart of

the continent. By the dawn of the 21st century, their world had shrunk to a tiny zone southeast of the capital, Niamey, stretching barely 150 miles (240 kilometers) long.

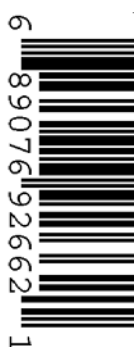
The numbers of the Western subspecies dwindled so low that in 1996, they numbered a mere 50.

Instead of disappearing as many feared, though, the giraffes have bounced miraculously back from

see WEST, A8



AP photo / REBECCA BLACKWELL  
**In this Aug. 1 photo, a pair of giraffes from Africa's most endangered giraffe subspecies nuzzle as they stand in the bush near Koure, Niger.**



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Today's Poll Question:

**Should Gov. Rell make deeper cuts in the state budget?**

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### Weather/A2

**HIGH**  
63  
**LOW**  
43



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### Isaac Street, Norwalk

is the location of **THE TREASURE HOUSE** thrift shop operated by the Woman's Board of Norwalk Hospital. Come see our winter coats - long coats, short coats and jackets on the sales floor starting November 2nd. Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tues & Thurs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

