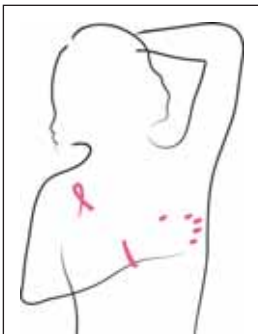


# The Hour



**Feeling Good**  
Good medicine for area women  
A7

**Nation**  
Midwest flooding means more expensive meat, dairy.  
A11



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50¢

## Time for fun and sun



## Signs of summer emerge

**NORWALK**  
By JARED NEWMAN  
Hour Staff Writer

With a passing breeze over the water and a threat of rain overhead, the weather was perfect for Orlando Soto, who sat on the rocks of Calf Pasture Beach waiting for the telltale tug of his fishing rod.

"Too hot? No fish bite," he said. Though it wasn't a picturesque summer day, people enjoyed the first weekend of the season before the afternoon showers rolled in.

Soto, a 47 year-old auto mechanic, was hoping to catch a bluefish and fry it up to eat. After 2 p.m., the tide is high enough around the rocks to haul one in, he said.

A native of Puerto Rico, Soto moved to Norwalk in 1979 and has no plans to return.

"I think I'm not going to go back," he said. "I like it here."

Down the road at Stew



Above: 9-year-old Tommy Benincaso, top, and Dax Generoso, bottom, collide as they play "Capture the Fish" - Norwalk Little League's version of Capture the Flag - during Sunday's season ending picnic and awards ceremony. Right: 9-year-old Riccarda Dore, top, tracks down her 6 1/2 year old brother Alessandro as the two play in the waters of the Long Island Sound at Calf Pasture Beach in East Norwalk on Sunday.

Leonard's Grill at Calf Pasture, customers ordered burgers, hot dogs and fries at a steady clip. Manager Salnave D. Gilles said business is best when the weather is dry. A series of heavy showers in May was a setback, but Gilles is optimistic.

"I think this year, if weather permits, it's going to be a good year I think," he said.

At the beach's baseball diamonds, teams of teenage girls competed in a variation on the quintessential summer sport; the Amateur Softball Association of America held the statewide tournament for its annual Junior Olympics at the park for the third consecutive year.

"We've been here since yesterday morning at 8 a.m.," said Cliff

see SUMMER, A12

## Shays praises big oil in Iraq

**REGION**  
By JARED NEWMAN  
Hour Staff Writer

For Rep. Christopher Shays, R-4, reports that four major Western oil companies will likely service Iraqi oil fields couldn't have come fast enough.

"This is a huge story," Shays said in a phone interview. "We would have liked it two or three years ago, but it's finally happening."

On Thursday, The New York Times reported that Exxon-Mobil, Shell, BP and Total, plus Chevron and other smaller companies, are close to signing two-year, no-bid contracts to service the fields. Under the agreements, the companies would provide technical support to Iraq to boost oil production in exchange for payment in cash or oil barrels.

The contracts provide a path around a pending national oil law, which will govern how the country will regulate foreign companies and manage its reserves. The law is currently tied up in Parliament because of disagree-

ments between Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds.

In his defense of the Iraq war, Shays has said Iraqis are warming up to the U.S. presence, in part because America isn't taking Iraqi oil. A perception that the U.S. invaded Iraq precisely for the oil still exists among some Arabs and Americans.

The situation with the no-bid contracts, Shays said, is different.

"We're not coming in and taking their oil," he said. "The oil that exists, we're not having them produce oil and then taking it."

Instead, he said work by the companies will help to produce petroleum from areas untapped thus far. The country currently produces 2.5 million barrels of oil per day, and hopes to output another 600,000 barrels with the oil companies' help.

"Somebody has to produce this oil," Shays said. "Someone has to find it, someone has to produce it and we'd love to play a role in finding it and producing it."

Saddam Hussein nationalized the country's oil supply in 1972,

see BIG, A6

## After \$1M loss, BOE finds money to keep reading program

**NORWALK**  
By NINA SEN  
Hour Staff Writer

The Early Reading Success program will continue for Norwalk students next school year through some carry-over funding from different sources, said School Superintendent Salvatore J. Corda.

Legislators decided not to make a budget adjustment for the money when they met on May 7, citing the lack of growth for students in the program and the struggling economy as reasons to stop the funding. Norwalk lost \$1 million in funding.

However, the Central Office has restored much of the funding for the salaries of all 12 literary specialists and restoring six school positions.

Portions of the money could come from Title I funds earmarked under professional development and other funds could come from money in the Priority Schools Grant and a combination of carry-over funds from programs during this school year.

The loss of \$20 million in funding for the Early Reading Success programs at the state level was a critical blow to many school districts.

"Ironically, Norwalk is the only district where the program has shown student improvement," Corda said at a June 3 Board of Education meeting.

The lack of funds would have meant a loss of 12 specialists because the money pays 80 percent of their salaries. Literacy specialists work to assess students' needs and create lesson tailored to individual performance. They also work with students in small groups.

Earlier in the month, Corda was not optimistic the money would be restored in a June 11 session at Hartford. At the session, Republicans proposed an alternative budget that could restore the funds, but the Democrats didn't bring the proposal up for vote.

Democrats also proposed a budget earlier in the year that included the funds, but it was scrapped citing the increasing state deficit.

## Weather/A2



**TODAY:** Showers and t-storms. High near 79.  
**TONIGHT:** Showers and t-storms. Low around 65.

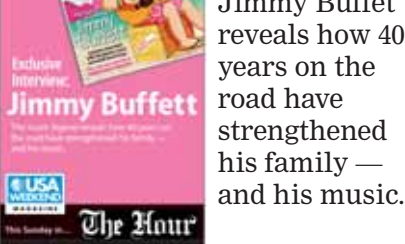
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## COMING SOON USA Weekend



Jimmy Buffett reveals how 40 years on the road have strengthened his family — and his music.

## NORWALK Editorial

Governor calms local concerns over Waypointe

### Today's Poll Question:

Are the storms in the Midwest a sign of a more severe hurricane season?

Vote & post your comments on the Hour Poll  
www.thehour.com

see, A10

## Controversy builds over proposed trash contract

**NORWALK**  
By ROBERT KOCH  
Hour Staff Writer

A controversial trashing-hauling contract will return to the Common Council floor Tuesday night, following a presentation by Director of Public Works Harold F. Alvord.

"We're going to hone in on all of the questions that came up in the public hearing and the previous meetings," Alvord said. "We're going to address three principle items: Traffic, environment, house-keeping. Housekeeping is odors, wax, litter; leeching, all the stuff people were raising and making claims about."

Alvord's presentation is scheduled for Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Common Council chambers of City Hall, 125 East Ave. The presentation is intended to "outline the due dili-

**"My feeling is we're going to have to table it again. It's just too soon. You don't ever want to vote (shortly) after a public hearing. You really want to think through what the options are"**

Laurel E. Lindstrom  
Councilwoman

gence that has been accomplished in leading to the proposed plan, and will specifically focus on questions and concerns raised during several public meetings," according to a press release from Mayor Richard A. Moccia's office Friday.

At a public hearing last

Wednesday night, nearly two-dozen people expressed concern about the proposal to hire City Carting & Recycling Inc., currently the city's recycling hauler; to also be responsible for solid-waste disposal. Of foremost concern is a plan to have the city lease the Meadow Street transfer station from City Carting and use it for commercial solid waste. Residents said that would boost odor, noise and truck traffic in the South Norwalk neighborhood.

Alvord said Friday that the city is performing traffic counts on Meadow Street and will have numbers — but not a report — available at the presentation Tuesday.

In addition, the public works director said he will bring environmental reports done over the years for the Meadow Street facility — previously operated by Waste

see TRASH, A12



## Don't Miss Norwalk Hospital's Health Talk on Cablevision Local Programming Channel 84

Sun., Wed., Thurs., Fri., and Sat., at 6:30 P.M., Fri. and Sat. at 7:30 P.M., Sun., through Sat., at 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30 P.M.

Topic Week of June 23rd is Critical Care Nursing

Guests are Debbie Bailey, Denise White, Shubnum Singh and Dina Cowden-Sullivan



The right care is right here.