



The Day

Inside Today: The Day's Annual Fall Scholastic Sports Preview

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Housing authority mismanaged funds

New London agency's director was fired after results of federal audit

By KATHLEEN EDGEComb
Day Staff Writer

New London — The executive director of the New London Housing Authority was let go after a federal audit revealed the agency did not properly administer the \$1 million

in federal Capital Program funds it received over three years.

Joseph A. Abrams, who went out on sick leave in June, resigned his post Aug. 3.

In their response to an Aug. 7 report by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, authority officials said they were "unable to make appropriate decisions on contracts, proposals, budgets, internal

controls, procurements, and other activities cited for violations" because of the executive director's poor performance.

The auditor's report found that the housing authority had not properly administered \$910,000 in federal Capital Program funds and may not be competent to administer new stimulus money.

The housing authority also cannot account for \$91,000 in unsupported

administrative fees for the program, and auditors have recommended the authority pay it back.

The August report found that the authority improperly awarded contracts, failed to establish written contracts and did not ensure that contractors paid workers minimum wages.

In its response, the five-member board that oversees the authority told HUD that it was not responsible

for Abrams' managerial flaws.

"The Board, in addition, wishes to express its desire to avoid taking the blame for its Executive Director's unprofessional conduct, lack of responsibility and generally dismissive attitude toward any accountability to the Board of Commissioners as well as to federal and state regulators," officials wrote in comments at the end of the 25-page report.

SEE HOUSING PAGE A6

Blumenthal: Tribes should be liable for casino alcohol

Brief argues against immunity in crashes

By MICHAEL NAUGHTON
Day Staff Writer

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal says the state's two federally recognized tribes should be held liable in state court when a person who has been drinking at the tribally owned casinos gets into a crash.

Blumenthal filed an amicus brief in the state's appellate court, arguing that, despite precedent in trial courts, the tribal casinos are not immune from the state's Dram Shop Act and other laws that bar reckless dispensing of alcohol.

The dram shop law, which dates back to the 19th century in this state, imposes monetary penalties — currently up to \$250,000 — for those who give alcohol to individuals who later cause damage or death.

However, cases filed in an attempt to penalize the casinos for serving patrons involved in crashes have been dismissed on the grounds that tribal sovereignty confers immunity from suit in state courts.

Both the Mohegan Tribe, which owns Mohegan Sun, and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, owner of Foxwoods Resort Casino and MGM Grand at Foxwoods, agree to hear permit claims about alcohol-related offenses against them, but only in their respective tribal courts.

Blumenthal is arguing that sovereignty does not shield the tribal governments from liability

SEE TRIBES PAGE A5

YALE MOURNS SLAIN STUDENT



Yale University students and faculty participate in a candlelight vigil for Annie Le on Monday in New Haven. The student's body was found stuffed inside a wall five days after she disappeared from a lab building, and authorities said Monday they do not think her slaying was a random act. See story, A2.

DOUGLAS HEALEY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Local stockbrokers see slow recovery despite recent gains

On anniversary of failure of Lehman, rally seems less than convincing

By LEE HOWARD
Day Staff Writer

One year after the failure of the Lehman Brothers investment house, the U.S. stock market has rebounded strongly, but local stockbrokers' confidence in a sustained rally is beginning to fizzle.

"We're going to see a slow move-

ment forward," predicts Josh Lyons of Lyons Asset Management in Stonington. "We're not going to see 10,500 for a while. ... And (the previous Dow Jones Industrial Average high of about) 14,000, that's a long way to go. It's going to take multiple years."

Lyons' sentiments are echoed by other financial advisers around the region, who worry that this market's rapid runup may be unsustainable.

Over the past six months, the

closely followed Standard & Poor's index of 500 large-company stocks has jumped about 60 percent. And some international and small-cap stocks have seen a whopping 100 percent appreciation in that same period. Such robust advances in such a short period of time — without any type of market decline or modest correction — is troubling to some advisers.

Bill Middleton of Sound Portfolio Advisors in Mystic says he sees real

risks in the coming months. "Valuations are starting to get ahead of where we should be, especially if earnings start to disappoint," he says.

"It's unrealistic and probably unsustainable," Middleton adds.

Bob Henderson of Edward Jones investments in Mystic agrees. "We certainly can't continue at the same trajectory," he says. "The trajectory has been insane."

SEE STOCK PAGE A3

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, Consolidated B-24 Liberator, North American P-51 Mustang on display for tours

WHERE: Groton-New London Airport

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday.

ADMISSION: Donation of \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12.

Visitors may take a 30-minute flight. Flights on the B-17 or B-24 are \$425 per person. P-51 flights are \$2,200 for a half hour and \$3,200 for an hour. Call (800) 568-8924.

IN FROM THE WILD BLUE YONDER

Vintage World War II planes land in Groton for public tours

By JENNIFER GROGAN
Day Staff Writer

Groton — Edmund Wolcott was in command of an American heavy bomber flying over Hungary 65 years ago, when German anti-aircraft fire tore through his plane and his legs.

An engine caught fire.

His crew turned the B-24 away from the bombing target and dived. Enemy fighter planes pursued, but the crew lost them in the clouds.

Wolcott passed out.

Monday, Wolcott flew in a B-24 for the first time since World War II.

"It brings back so many memories," said Wolcott, with tears in his eyes. "In my squadron, out of 160 men, only 18 guys survived. The losses over Europe were terrible."

Unable to finish his story, Wolcott turned to Walter Limberger, a World War II veteran sitting next to him, and said, "God, it's awful isn't it? After all these years..."

Wolcott paused, then apologized for crying.

SEE VETERANS PAGE A6



World War II veteran Jim Cronin of Cromwell walks across the tarmac Monday at Groton-New London Airport past a B-17 bomber. Cronin served as a B-17 pilot in Europe during World War II.

SEAN D. ELLIOT / THE DAY

WEATHER

Today, lots of sunshine, a few afternoon clouds. High 77. Wednesday, mostly cloudy. C6

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DODD OPPONENT ALPERT TO CHAT ONLINE TODAY

Merrick Alpert, a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Chris Dodd, will take questions from noon to 2 p.m. today in a live online chat on www.theday.com.

Alpert grew up in Colchester. He attended the University of Connecticut and graduated from Trinity College in Hartford and the Georgetown University Law Center.

He and his wife Alex live in Mystic with their three children. Questions can be posted in advance. Chats on theday.com are best viewed with Internet Explorer.

En pointe



Gloria Govrin had a long and illustrious career in ballet, dancing for George Balanchine. In fact, the legendary Balanchine choreographed roles just for her. Now, she is artistic director of Eastern Connecticut Ballet. See DAYBREAK

ACTOR PATRICK SWAYZE DIES AT 57

Patrick Swayze, the hunky actor who danced his way into viewers' hearts with "Dirty Dancing" and then broke them with "Ghost," died Monday after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 57.

"Patrick Swayze passed away peacefully today with family at his side after facing the challenges of his illness for the last 20 months," said a statement released Monday evening by his publicist, Annett Wolf. No other details were given.

When he first went public with the illness, some reports gave him only weeks to live, but his doctor said his situation was "considerably more optimistic" than that.

"I'd say five years is pretty wishful thinking," Swayze told ABC's Barbara Walters in early 2009. "Two years seems likely if you're going to believe statistics. I want to last until they find a cure, which means I'd better get a fire under it." See A3



Patrick Swayze

