

Local News

DAILY DIGEST

NAUGATUCK

Borough candidate qualifies for state election funds

Democrat Kevin McSherry, a candidate for the 70th District state representative seat, has qualified for the state's Citizens Election Program. The grant was approved Thursday.

McSherry received enough money in contributions to qualify after a single fundraiser held on Jan. 29.

A candidate must have at least 113 contributors from Naugatuck and raise \$3,750 to qualify. McSherry had 131 contributors from the borough and raised \$4,220. The campaign will receive \$18,750 from the state.

"I want to thank everyone who contributed or offered to contribute to my campaign," McSherry said.

McSherry, Naugatuck's former borough attorney and currently the town attorney for Bethany, will run against Republican Rosa Rebinbas in a special election slated for March 2.

The seat has been vacant since last month, when former Rep. Kevin DeGobbo, a Republican who was elected to his seventh consecutive term in November, resigned after being appointed commissioner for the state Department of Public Utility Control by Gov. M. Jodi Rell.

PROSPECT

State police boat continues road trip to Old Saybrook

The big boat is on the road again. A 44-foot boat for the Connecticut State Police was hauled out of the parking lot of St. Anthony's Church early Friday. Mayor Robert J. Chatfield said he immediately called state police spokesman Lt. J. Paul Vance to share the news. Vance also had served as the town's resident trooper for years.

Chatfield said he told Vance "Your boat has left. It is gone."

The boat will end up at a marina in Old Saybrook, and from there it will be located at a Coast Guard facility on the Connecticut shoreline, state police said.

A truck carrying it broke down due to mechanical issues on Wednesday.

SOUTHURY

Contingency fund tapped to refill salt, sand supply

The public works department needs an additional \$92,000 worth of sand and salt to get it through the winter.

Selectmen voted Thursday to transfer the money from contingency to the public works department pending approval by residents at a town meeting, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19.

"With the amount of snow we've had, we're in a deficit position," First Selectman Bill Davis said.

NAUGATUCK

Mayor holds meeting closed to public with union heads

Mayor Mike Bronko held a closed-door meeting with borough union leaders Friday to discuss contract negotiations. But Bronko would not make public what he wanted to negotiate.

"It's something we need to keep confidential for now," he said.

The borough will be negotiating new contracts with five unions this year and is in the process of going to an arbitration hearing with the teachers union, which would receive raises ranging from 3.25 percent to 2.25 percent over the next three years based upon the current proposal. The teachers union agreed to not take an additional step increase for a year but would get one in years two and three.

Bronko said he wants unions to take a pay freeze for a year, but based upon the teachers contract, it doesn't appear that will happen.

MORE NEWS INSIDE

Watertown detective retires



Eddie Rickevicius, a longtime detective with the Watertown Police Department, has retired. PAGE 2B

Farm museum plans are set

The Southbury Historical Society has taken possession of a historic barn, and plans to turn it into a farm museum. PAGE 2B

Assault charges for diner owner

The owner of Mary's Diner in Waterbury has been arrested and charged with sexually assaulting employees. PAGE 3B

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United Way feels area pain

Job losses may keep agency from making goal

BY ROBYN ADAMS
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WATERBURY — For the first time in memory, the United Way of Greater Waterbury may not reach its campaign goal.

As of Friday, the campaign, which starts in September and usually ends in December, had

secured about two-thirds of the pledges it needs to reach its \$3,850,000 goal.

An early projection suggests the campaign may fall short by 5 to 7 percent.

On Friday, Kristen Bulkovitch, president of United Way, said the campaign is not over yet.

"We are still waiting for com-

panies to get numbers to us," said Glen McCabe, spokesman for the agency. "Residential mailings went out 12 days ago and money may trickle in from that."

Bulkovitch said the final figures would be released in April at the annual campaign dinner.

By July, the 34 agencies that are supported by United Way

dollars will learn what their allocations will be.

It is sure to be less than most have hoped.

"Most likely with being down, it will impact the community," Bulkovitch said. "We just don't know how it will look yet."

The poor economy and loss of jobs in the region are contributing factors to the goal not being reached. The majority of pledges are made through employee payroll deductions.

A melding of cultures



JIM SHANNON REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Tibetan monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in South India chant during a cultural program Friday at the Woodbury Yoga Center in Woodbury.

East Main scene of 2 thefts

Bank, gas station robbed, latter with gun

BY JONATHAN SHUGARTS
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WATERBURY — Two robberies in the city on Friday left an East Main Street bank and a downtown gas station with empty cash drawers.

It doesn't appear the two incidents are related, as witnesses gave different descriptions of the thieves.

Police say a man wearing a fake goatee and moustache approached a teller at the Waterbury Telephone Federal Credit Union on East Main Street at about noon. He passed a note to a bank employee demanding money and took an undisclosed amount of cash.

The bank is located in a shopping plaza that also houses a day spa and a daycare center.

Police say the bandit fled in a red, older-model, two-door hatchback car with a spoiler on the back. There were no reported injuries during the robbery and the bandit didn't show the teller a gun. He was described as about 5 feet 5 inches tall, wearing a dark-colored baseball cap, a zip-up jacket, blue jeans and white sneakers.

A sign taped to the bank's glass door on Friday stated the bank was closed due to the robbery investigation.

"No one was injured," it states. "Your savings are safe

and insured. We will reopen."

At about 3:45 p.m., a man wearing a mask over his face walked into Gulf gas station on Union Street and lifted his shirt to show an employee a he had a pistol tucked in his waistband.

He made a threat, demanded cash, and swiped money from the gas station. He ran from the store after also stealing from the cash register of a Dunkin' Donuts, which is inside the Gulf station.

Anyone with information about the robberies is asked to call the confidential Crimestoppers tip line at (203) 755-1234. Cash rewards are offered for information that leads to an arrest.

Joint effort results in 6 arrests for child porn

Internet task force involved in probe

BY JONATHAN SHUGARTS
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WATERBURY — Police in three towns worked with the U.S. Department of Justice on Friday to arrest six people, four in Waterbury and two in Watertown, for possession of child pornography.

Detectives and patrol officers armed with search warrants knocked on eight doors in the city's grittier sections on Friday morning. Police in Watertown searched two homes and arrested two people, a including a 16-year-old.

The arrests were the result of an investigation started in November 2008 by the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, a unit composed of local and state police. The task force identified multiple computers in the city that were being used to download and share images of child pornography.

Computers from eight homes in the city were confiscated and are being examined by authorities. Additional charges could be filed by police based on the evidence investigators recover from the machines.

The investigation into the downloads is ongoing and additional arrests are expected.

Detective Peter Morgan and officer Michael Chance led the investigation for the city, while detectives Lisa Scannell and Dave Bromley took the lead in Watertown. State police and po-

Sisterly competition



JOSALEE THRIFT REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Emma and Alexa Lewis, 10 and 8, respectively, compete in the tube relay during a fundraiser swim meet between Naugatuck Board of Education and town employees on Friday night at the Naugatuck High School pool. The sisters are the grandchildren of Board of Education member Barbara Lewis. The Board of Education's team won with a close score of 69-67.