

Norwalk: One of the nation's best

City rated 'one of the best communities for young people' in the nation

By **MATT COYNE**
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — For the third straight year, Norwalk has been named one of the country's 100 best communities for young people, and for the first time, was included in a webcast unveiling of the winners.

The list, an initiative of the America's Promise Alliance, applauds a community's work to increase graduation rates while measuring its ability to meet the alliance's five promises: caring

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adults; safe places; a healthy start; effective education; and opportunities to help others.

"Being one of the 100 best does not mean these communities are perfect. It doesn't mean that they

don't have issues. It means they face up to their challenges today and work together for the common good," said Alma Powell, chairman of the America's Promise Alliance. "These are truly cities on a hill,

communities whose light cannot be hidden and must be shared."

Norwalk beat out 320 districts and joins cities like Pascagula, Miss., Bergenfield, N.J. and Kansas City on this year's list. Hamden and Waterbury were also recognized from Connecticut.

"We believe that the only way to do good and do well, is by doing good. Our commitment in the 100 best competition is just that," said Rhonda Mims, president of the ING Foundation, who sponsors the

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In Brief

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AARP Norwalk-Wilton meet

NORWALK — The Grandma's and Grandpa's to sing and give a history of barbershop music at the Norwalk-Wilton AARP Chapter #3929 meeting on Thursday, Sept. 27, at 12:30 p.m. at the Gallaher Mansion, Cranbury Park. Domestic Violence Center requests diapers, latex gloves, bath towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, and bus passes. Call (203) 762-0033.

Movies of the Month

NORWALK — The first free Movies-of-the-Month at NCC for this academic year is "Love With the Proper Stranger," starring Steve McQueen and Natalie Wood, on Thursday, Sept. 20, at 6:30 p.m. in East Campus Forum Theatre, 188 Richards Ave. For more information, call (203) 857-7349.

American Girl Book Club

NORWALK — The American Girl Book Club will be held on the third Monday of each month at the South Norwalk Branch Library, 10 Washington St., from 4 to 5 p.m., Sept. 17 through Dec. 17. Books should be read in advance of each meeting. Limited to 16, registration required. For more information, call (203) 899-2790 ext. 3.

Post 86 to hold Lobster Fest

WILTON — The American Legion Post 86 will hold a New England Lobster Fest at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, to raise money for the Connecticut Fallen Heroes Statue. Dinner will include 1/4 lobster, corn on the cob, roll and coleslaw. The post will supply beer and soft drinks. Tickets are \$30 per person with \$15 to go the Post 86's fund for the statue. Send a check by Sept. 12 to the American Legion, Post 86, Box 75, Wilton, CT, 06897 or call Commaner Don Hazard at (203) 762-9548.

Historical Society plans encampment

NORWALK — The Rowayton Historical Society will sponsor a Civil War encampment from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, at Pinkney Park. The day will include food, music, Civil War art, artillery and musketry demonstrations, training and drill for recruits, caricatures, photographs and lectures. Boys and girls age 6 and up may sign up to be Soldiers for a Day. To sign up, send \$35 to the RHS at P.O. Box 106, Rowayton, CT 06853 or visit www.rowaytonhistoricalsociety.org where a Paypal link is available. Children also may sign up at the event for \$45.

Stamford PD Police chief calls it quits

By **KARA O'CONNOR**
Hour Staff Writer

STAMFORD — Stamford Police Chief Robert Nivakoff announced Thursday that he will be retiring from the department at the end of the month.

Nivakoff, who has been a member of the Stamford Police Department for 40 years, became chief in 2009.

"When I was appointed to police chief in 2009, the mayor asked me to modernize the department," said Nivakoff. "I think that I have completed that task, along with a few other goals."

As chief, Nivakoff said

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Norwalk teen charged in robbery

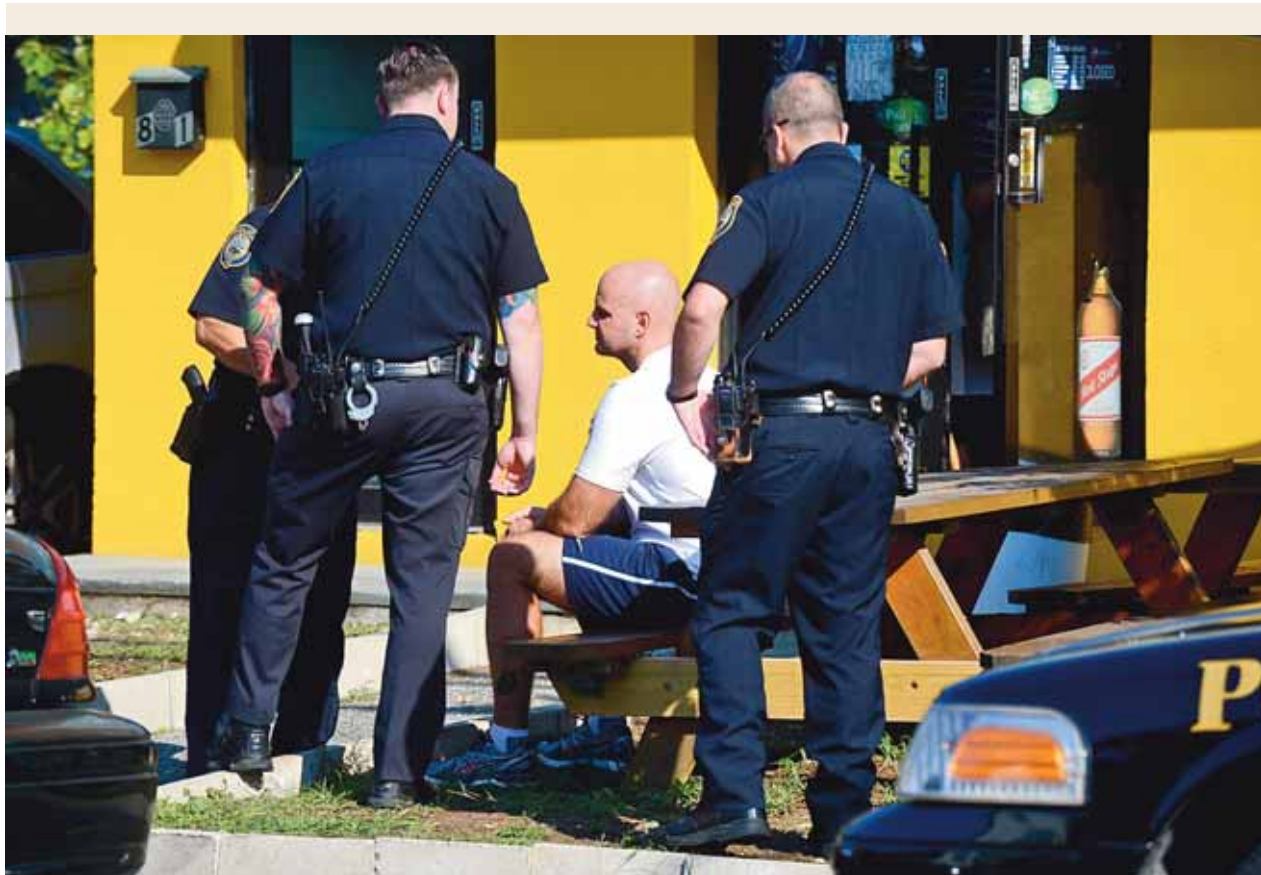
By **STEVE KOBAK**
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — A city teen was arrested on a warrant Wednesday for allegedly stealing iPhones from two juveniles.

Darryl Johnson, 19, of 30 Merwin St., was charged with two counts of second-degree robbery.

Johnson, who has no prior criminal convictions and works full time, was arraigned Thursday at Norwalk Superior Court and released on the intensive supervised pre-trial program. As part of the program, he will be monitored electronically. He was ordered not to possess any weapons and to refrain from contacting the alleged victims.

According to an affidavit, See **NORWALK Page A5**



Hour photos / Erik Trautmann



What Happened?

Above and below, Norwalk and Westport police respond to the scene of an accident on Winfield Street where a Lincoln driven by an unidentified man collided with a Norwalk patrol car near a construction area. Police have not released a report on the accident.

Westport Art Center to host "Foodie" exhibit tonight

By **ROBIN KAMINSKI**
Hour Staff Writer

WESTPORT — Works of art, some of which look good enough to eat, are on display at the Westport Art Center (WAC) as part of a new exhibit entitled "Foodies."

Sponsored by Pepperidge Farm, the exhibit will kick off tonight from 6-8 p.m., with an opening reception and a food market to feature both the local artists' works and local chefs' creations.

"It's a very vibrant event," said Helen Klisser During, WAC's Director of Visual Arts. "All of the artwork is for sale, so people will have to put their money where their mouths are to feed the hungry artists."

Approximately 140 submissions were entered, with 71 chosen by a

unique set of jurors: Pat Callaghan of Pepperidge Farms, Stew Leonard Jr. of Stew Leonard's, Michel Nischan of the Dressing Room and Bill Taibe of Le Farm and The Whelk.

"There are so many wonderful submissions," During said. "The jurors spent hours looking at the work and have such a passion for food. It's so great because it's all in a theme of food for thought."

During, who conceived the idea for the exhibit, invited local artists to submit their interpretation of food in any medium, from painting and sculpture to photography and video.

One of the pieces of art chosen for the event is called "Shoe Shi" by artist Nina Bentley and features a shoe covered in rice with chopsticks.

"There is another piece of work

that has a group of cows in a watercolor collage called milkshake," During said. "They are all very witty, yet serious entries."

Aside from the juried works, the food market will feature an emporium of chefs, butchers and food trucks for guests to sample different dishes. A gourmet cheese truck called the "MELTMOBILE" will be outside of the WAC, serving up sandwiches and cheesemelts, while inside, there will be a bevy of food for purchase, including salads from Du Soleil, signature rolls from Matsu Sushi, treats from SoNo Bakery and desserts from Sugar and Olives.

In addition, During said Craft Butchery will be offering tastings of their premium, cooked meats, while

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Community News

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Roodner Court Learning Center expanded

The Roodner Court Learning Center has been redone from floor to ceiling and extended outward to double the space to meet the growing needs of an expanded group of students whose parents want them to be part of an academic-based after school program that also provides arts and inspiring activities. The center

added a computer lab with 15 computers and all new furnishings, including tables and chairs to accommodate differing sized groups for tutoring, homework help and other exciting learning and arts programs.

Additionally, the center has a modern kitchen, ADA-compliant bathrooms and toned, freshly painted walls that give the space an inspiring lightness and welcoming feel, especially in the great



room that is the heart of the Center.

Everything at the cen-

ter has been designed to encourage learning, foster needed skills and under-

score the value NHA puts on developing the potential of every resident youth. An exciting feature in the new great room is the retractable divider that can transform the room into two separate class spaces so that students can move from math to language arts and then into the computer lab. Also, art and photography programs can be mounted in one space while students who need help with homework can



Contributed photo

Above, fourth-grader Gianfran Fernandez has the whole world in his hands. Left, first-grader Zenaya Dixon enjoys some computer time.

receive this help in another space.