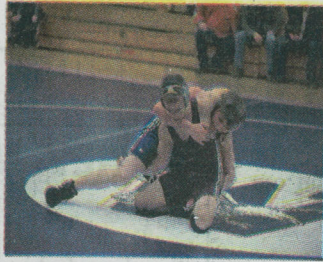


## LOCAL SPORTS

### Indians outduel Eagles in regular season finale

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## SNAPSHOTS

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## Town looks to provide life coaching

By John Fitts  
Staff writer

With the current state of the economy, many towns and organizations are stepping up efforts to provide people with the resources to get ahead in the job market.

The town's Social and Youth Services Department, however, is looking to take that idea one step further and offer life coaching sessions.

Life Coaching, which has grown in popularity over the past several years, is the process of working with people to identify their strengths and creative potential and help them achieve professional and personal goals.

"We'd like to at least try this on a trial basis," Social

and Youth Services Director Nany Stilwell told the

## Eyeing the dragon



...in after losing jobs. The family of three don't have savings, she said.

"They are completely devastated," she said. Stilwell, however, said the goal is to go beyond the economic and help people with all aspects of their lives. Some may want or need to make lifestyle changes.

Life coach/page 5

## 'Home movie' selected for National Film Registry

By John Fitts  
Staff writer

It's no surprise that Robbins Barstow documented his family's trip to Disneyland in 1956 after the family was one of 25 in the country to win a contest sponsored by the makers of Scotch Brand Cellophane Tape. But the film offers such a precise look at the life and dreams of a 1950s suburban family that it was recently chosen as one of one of "25 important motion pictures" included in the 2008 National Film Registry of the Library of Congress. It's one of very few home movies selected for the prestigious honor, which has included 500 films since 1989.

"We picked Disneyland Dream because it was an exemplary example of a well-made home movie," said Steve Leggett, program coordinator of the Library of Congress National Audio-Visual Conservation Center's National Film Preservation Board. "The Center for Home Movies recommended it to us as one of the best they have ever come across. The film has become somewhat of an Internet sensation and is a beautiful historical record of Disneyland and LA in the year 1956, but just as importantly also a priceless record of the 1950s, a much different time from now. Again, we thought the film was beautifully done, lots of fun and historically important."

And on Feb. 2, the Wethersfield Town Council honored Robbins Barstow and his family with a special proclamation.

Movie/page 5

Center in Wethersfield. Ofori, a junior at Wethersfield High School, is one of several student volunteers at the center.

## Nature center offers art exhibits, First Thursday Family fun

Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center in Wethersfield is offering two new initiatives designed to add artistic and fun touches to the facility.

One relatively new idea at the center are art displays.

Currently, the photographs of Doug Hockman are on display in the hallway, program room and front desk of the nature center's building at 156 Prospect St.

Hockman, of Middletown, photographs many nature scenes as well as architecture, abstracts and city life.

It is the center's second art display and Director Christopher Shepard said the goal is to put up a new one every other month. He said that the art on display does have to work with the center's layout, since the areas are used for programs and other purposes. It has, however, added a new dimension to the center and offers a different perspective on nature and life, he said.

"For us it's fun," he said. "I try to remember that you can learn about the environment from many different perspectives."

The exhibit will be up until the end of February and photographs are offered for sale. To sample some of the photographer's work, log on to <http://hockmanphotos.com/>

To see the exhibit stop at the nature center Tuesdays through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday night offers two extra hours with the chance to see the exhibit until 7 p.m.

The nature center is also looking to expand its Thursday night offerings with a First Family Fun Night. The next one is March 5 from 6 to 7 p.m. and will focus of Wildlife Neighbors, with game and activities about backyard creatures. All ages are welcome to the free program and those ages 3 to 12 will have the chance to make a small bird feeder.

Environmental educator Claudia Grollman, a part-time employee at the center, leads the programs.

- John Fitts

## Wethersfield JETS a finalist in national design challenge

By John Fitts  
Staff writer

Members of the Wethersfield High School Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) feel they have come up with a product that will truly help the wheelchair bound.

And the Junior Engineering Technical Society was so impressed with the idea that it chose the Eagles team as one of the five finalists in the country for its National Engineering Design Challenge.

The school's JETS team has designed a Easy Access Transport System, a hinged device that attaches to back of a wheelchair. The back of the rear panel contains a hook to hang a backpack or briefcase. The user then engages a rope system to the swivel the panel with the bag to the side of the chair and easily access its contents.

Later this month the students will go to Washington,



From left, Griffin Latulippe, Matt Thomas, and Andrew Braren set up the Easy Access Transport System (or E.A.T.S.) on Griffin's wheelchair.

JETS/page 9

# Wethersfield JETS a finalist in national design challenge

Continued from page 1

D.C. for the Design Challenge Competition.

Earlier this week, the team held a meeting to work on showcasing the device for the judges, tweak its journal and hone a multi-media presentation on the device.

The presentation will include a myriad of topics such as safety, storage, looks, design, concept, process and marketing techniques. Those topics will be arranged in succinct categories.

Team member Griffin Latulippe feels the school's entry is the most practical of the finalists.

He thinks other ideas, such as the Commack (NY) High School Cougars moveable file system, dubbed the New Office Workspace, are great but may be less practical and more expensive to implement.

"We've found our device is the most marketable," said Latulippe, who has Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease, a form of muscular dystrophy that keeps him from walking long distances.

Sophomore Andrew Braren said it was a challenging process the team has been working on since the fall.

"It was devastating in the beginning," Braren said.

The team had to first come up with the idea based on the contest criteria to design an assistive technology device enabling the severely disabled to increase job productivity or possibly increase employment prospects.

They then had to research the idea, make sure someone had not already marketed it, and then design it.

They found many other storage devices some which held a lot but all were too hard for many to easily access, especially those with more severe handicaps.

"This is the only device we've ever

seen that actually brings the storage to you," Latulippe said. "We do think it helps with independence."

Braren said it was a challenge getting started and there were still many times he didn't think it would happen.

But when the team finally sent its idea, schematics and photos to the judges, they were selected as one of 28 semi-finalists.

They then produced a video with equipment provided by Wethersfield Community Television and were selected as finalists.

Even now, the team members are not fully satisfied. They want to strengthen the device, eliminate the need for the cords and motorize the device so it simply requires the push of a button.

Latulippe himself said he would benefit from the invention once it is tweaked.

"Obviously it's not the product that got us here," Braren added. "It's the idea."

But the improvements will have to wait. The product was good enough to bring the team to the finals. They will travel to Washington, D.C. from Feb. 25 to 27 for it.

Physics teacher and JETS advisor Sue Fennelly said that seven students are involved in this competition and another three teams of seven each will compete in an upcoming problem solving competition.

In all close to 30 students are involved in the junior engineering efforts.

They also received some input from members of the Wethersfield Advisory Committee for People With Disabilities.

In addition engineers from the community, including retired engineer James Grise and engineer John Wismuller, have volunteered their time to help mentor the students.

"We're very fortunate to have these engineers volunteer their time," Fennelly said.

Students participating in the Washington, D.C. event include sophomore Matt Thomas, freshman Matthew

Bolles, sophomore Andrew Braren, sophomore Jeff Epp, senior Paola Peshkepija, freshman Griffin Latulippe and freshman Andreanna Buccheri.

Parents of the students are thrilled at the accomplishment.

"I think it's the biggest thing that can happen here," said Kathy Bolles, whose son Matthew is on the team.

She also thinks the team good preparation for college and like many parents of JETS members she said Matthew has been building things since a very young age.

"We're just excited for them," Margaret

Braren said, joking adding "I'm still waiting for the robot to do all the work for me."

For more on the finals competition log on to [www.jets.org/programs/nedc/finals.cfm](http://www.jets.org/programs/nedc/finals.cfm). The video of the concept can be accessed through [jets.org/programs/nedc/semifinals/index2.cfm](http://jets.org/programs/nedc/semifinals/index2.cfm)

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