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AOL plans layoffs in restructuring designed to earn more from advertising. **Page 5.**

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MERIDEN ★ WALLINGFORD ★ SOUTHINGTON ★ CHESHIRE

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Online degrees:

This is not your father's sheepskin

By Amanda Falcone
Record-Journal staff

MERIDEN — More people are taking college courses online, with some earning high-level degrees without ever entering a classroom.

People can earn a Master of Arts in special education online through the University of Phoenix. The State University of New York at Buffalo offers

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an online doctorate program for civil engineering.

Some say there was once a stigma attached to online courses, but now that negative connotation is fading, making online education a popular choice.

"It's becoming so much more acceptable now," said Susan Deane of Meriden, who teaches science and nursing online for several colleges, including Charter Oak State College in New Britain.

Sue Israel, distance learning administrator for Charter Oak, said technological advancements and acceptance is boosting online enrollment. "I think they are here to stay," she said.

Charter Oak's overall enrollment has increased by 45 percent from fiscal year 2004-05 to fiscal year 2005-06. The school offers mostly online courses and allows people to earn an associate's degree or bachelor's degree in general studies. Nationwide, enrollment in online courses has increased by 10 percent, Israel said.

Middlesex Community College's online courses are the college's fastest growing enrollment category, said Richard Muniz, the college's dean of workforce development and continuing education. Middlesex offers several online classes, but does not award diplomas to those who take only online courses.

Parents with children and those who work are more likely to choose online courses, Muniz said.

"It's really great for people who are really busy," he said. "It's practical in today's market."

Please see **Online / 6**

Pro-Joe political posse ambushes Ned at Ted's

Lieberman supporters confront Lamont as he stops in for a campaign cheeseburger in Meriden. He never got the cheeseburger.



Christopher Zajac / Record-Journal

Above: Richard Goodstein, left, asks questions of Ned Lamont, who is challenging U.S. Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman for the Democratic nomination, at Ted's Restaurant in Meriden Thursday. **Below:** Lieberman supporters, right, argue with Lamont supporters outside Ted's.

Unusual scene greets Senate candidate on campaign trail

By Jennifer Manes
Record-Journal staff

MERIDEN — The air inside Ted's Restaurant on Broad Street was almost as stifling as the heat outside Thursday afternoon when supporters of U.S. Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman clashed with Ned Lamont, leaving the Democratic challenger briefly bewildered.

Lieberman supporters piled into every booth at the tiny eatery and snatched up every seat at the counter roughly half an hour before Lamont's scheduled arrival. Then, as he walked down the sidewalk from Sher-

man Avenue, they threw on white Lieberman T-shirts and waited. Moments later, they pounced.

Initially, Lamont appeared stunned by the ambush. However, he remained composed throughout the ordeal. He attempted to answer each question and made an effort to shake many of his opponent's supporters' hands at the second of two campaign stops in the city Thursday. After both sides sparred for several minutes, Lamont left the restaurant without ever sampling one of Ted's famous steamed cheeseburgers.

"It's disappointing. We're try-



■ New Quinnipiac poll results on Democratic primaries for governor and U.S. Senate / **7**

ing to have a civil race and I didn't hear anyone ask me about the issues in there. I think that's been Joe's tactic all along," Lamont said outside the restaurant minutes later. "He won't do a debate, but he'll hire these people to do what they're doing."

"We were coming just to show him a local business and you hide in there and put your shirts on at the last moments — it's childish," said Millie Torres-Ferguson to a Lieberman supporter. Torres-Ferguson is House Majority Leader Christopher G. Donovan's executive as-

Please see **Ambush / 4**

Southington icon praised, then laid to rest

William V. DePaolo honored by 500 at funeral

By Robert C. Pollack
Record-Journal staff

SOUTHINGTON — They came to say goodbye to William V. DePaolo Thursday morning — 500 strong — and amid the hymns and prayers and praise that dotted an hour-long Mass, they made it clear they considered him one of their own.

A police escort led a cortege that started at the Della Vecchia Funeral Home, where more than 800 people attended DePaolo's wake Wednesday. The procession made its way to Mary Our Queen Church on Savage Street.

The Mass, led by the Rev. Robert J. St. Martin, included a eulogy by DePaolo's lifelong friend and political rival, Andrew J. Meade, and was filled

with tributes to a man whose life was dominated by public service and love of town and family.

But the liturgy, which continued uninterrupted despite a three-minute power failure, was intermixed with an attempt to reconcile how DePaolo's three grown children — Valerie, William Jr. and Barry — could handle his death some three weeks after their mother, Gail DePaolo-Butkus, lost her 10-year fight with cancer.

William V. DePaolo died Sunday after being struck by a car in Newport, R.I. He was 67.

"I, too, lost my parents in a short period of time," St. Martin told the mourners. This triggered many ques-

Please see **Icon laid to rest / 6**



Chris Angileri / Record-Journal

Pallbearers carry the coffin of William V. DePaolo at Mary Our Queen Church on Savage Street in Southington Thursday.

Homeowners fight Town Hall in Wallingford

By George Moore
Record-Journal staff

WALLINGFORD — In the latest of a series of attempts to overturn the town's rigid zoning regulations, the Mountain Brook community plans to appeal the cease-and-desist notices instructing 21 homeowners to remove fences, sheds and playscapes from their yards.

Mountain Brook, a 63-unit development, was built in 2001 under the town's open space planned residential development regulations.

The regulations set aside a large percentage of open space on which resi-

Please see **Homeowners / 4**

Today in History: On this date in 1944, Nazi police raided a building in Amsterdam and arrested 15-year-old diarist Anne Frank. (She died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)



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Outside:

Morning showers, then clearing. Less humid. Highs in 80s. Tonight: Cooler, lows near 60. **Page 20.**

