**Document: Driver said window broken**

Warrant application provides account of shooting, man says he opened door to reach hands to officers.

By Nicholas Reminick and Josh Buyer

Paul Whitterham III told state police investigators his window did not break after he was hit by a New Haven police officer’s gun.

The Hamden resident, 48, who police say he damaged when Hamden and New Haven police officers opened fire on his car, killing a female passenger, a search warrant application released Thursday shows.

The application gives the first official account from Whitterham of the April 4 shooting that intervened from a traffic stop on Dixwell Avenue in New Haven that sent Stephanie Washington, 22, to the hospital with gunshot wounds that were not life-threatening. It confirms that state police did not fire a gun at the car.

State police investigators, assigned to the case by the New Haven State’s Attorney’s office, searched the car, deciding to a judge that they were looking for reasons connected to a first-degree assault. The search warrant application offers a glimpse at the charges the officers could face in if the filing, a detectives

Turn to Shooting, Page A4

**SURPRISE PICK**

Giants take Duke QB Jones No. 6, Clemson DT Lawrence at 17

**HIGH OF 60**

Becoming breezy with showers likely.

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WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART

**VAN GOGH PIECE IS BACK**

Artist’s ‘Vase with Poppies,’ authenticated last month, returns.

By Susan Duwar

Pride is a red-letter day at Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art.

After about a 30-year absence, an 1886 oil painting of a vivid crimson bouquet of flowers that long since was authenticated as having been painted by Vincent Van Gogh is once again hanging on the walls of the museum.

The public can see “Vase with Poppies,” in the second-floor Krieble gallery, at the top of the Muses stairs, which was installed Thursday afternoon. The masterpiece other Van Gogh, a self-portrait painted by the legendary Dutch artist in 1887, also hangs in that gallery, which is dedicated to European art of the 19th century.

Pride is an appropriate day to unveil “Vase with Poppies,” as it is the opening of the museum’s other Van Gogh, a self-portrait that was used to show the moments leading up to the moment he fired his gun.

The public can see “Vase with Poppies” back home,” says Oliver Tostmann, the curator of European art at the Athenaeum.

Turn to Van Gogh, Page A5

**GUilty plea**

Politically connected developer Robert V. Matthews faces years in prison after pleading guilty

The owner of two companies accused of using $850,000 in state grants to feather their own nest pleaded guilty to federal and state charges.

Matthews, 61, of Palm Beach, was sentenced to 60 months in prison at a hearing Thursday in Hartford. Matthews, of Palm Beach, was ordered to pay $230,000 in restitution.

Matthews

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**HIGH OF 60**

Becoming breezy with showers likely.

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HARTFORD — A Hartford state senator is proposing a statewide sales tax increase to help low-income communities, but the idea is being rejected by two fellow Democrats — Sen. Richard Blumenthal and House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz.

The proposal by Sen. John Fonfara, the co-chair of the tax-writing Finance committee, sets up a battle line for the first time in years over taxing Medicaid and a way to raise $500 million for state aid.

Fonfara said the bill is a multibillionaire measure that would hit the state’s cash-strapped cities and about 60 communities overall among the state’s 169 municipalities.

But Lamont rejected the idea in the same way in which he has repeatedly opposed any increase in the rate of the personal income tax.

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Van Gogh

Continued from Page A1

"It's a wonderful opportunity for our visitors to see the painting in company with some of the other remarkable French Impressionist works from the Anne Parrish Titzell bequest. This is a rare moment to see the museum's collection since 1957, when it was highlights of her collection on view."

Walter Feilchenfeldt cast doubt on the authenticity of both of the Atheneum's Van Goghs. and Degas, also hang in the Krieble gallery. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a $3 upcharge in admission.

Vincent Van Gogh's "Vase with Poppies" will be on view during the Fine Art & Flowers event, which runs Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a $3 upcharge in admission.

In this FREE educational seminar, In this FREE educational seminar, presented by Dr. Darren Tishler Wednesday, May 1

"I believe that the governor's initial proposal was too heavy on what I perceived as a regressive tax. Because they're really hard to live up to in a changing economy and a changing budget process."

Sen. Aaron L. Bauer, R-Mercyhem, also rejected Fonfara's proposed sales tax increase, saying it would "increase it, you're still affecting the same revenue, revenue, revenue," Pavlos said. "They never stop and wonder what the impact is to the average person. The sales tax is a worst."

"The governor's proposal is to broaden the sales tax base and capture uncollected revenue from areas of growth, rather than increasing the overall rate, just as he outlined in his proposed budget," said Michel Le Luter, Lamont's spokesperson.

Aresimowicz was already concerned about Lamont's call for extending the sales tax to numerous items that are now tax-free, including haircuts, college textbooks, diapers, car seats, bicycle helmets and veterinary care. Aresimowicz said he prefers the traditional method of collecting money for the state's general fund and then letting the legislators allocate it for various spending programs.

"Let's be honest. We have a little bit of a credibility problem, either real or perceived. And we need to deal with that."

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