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Train derailment injures 4

By FRANK JULIANO  
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MILFORD — A Metro-North Railroad train derailed here Thursday afternoon, possibly because of "human error," sending four people to the hospital with minor injuries and disrupting service between

4 cars jump tracks in Milford during Thursday afternoon commute

Bridgeport and Waterbury for the rest of the day.

The Waterbury-bound train, powered by an Amtrak diesel locomotive, was headed north from Bridgeport when it jumped the tracks just beyond the Devon switch at about 1:45

p.m., authorities said. The three coaches and the locomotive remained upright, but the passenger cars were splayed on the tracks.

A crane train was brought in to lift the disabled cars back on the tracks, while crews inspected the

rails and ties and made repairs. As the crews worked into the night, a rail official said an investigation was under way to determine the cause of the accident.

"We are investigating if the derailment was caused by human er-

ror, whether a switch leading to a track siding was in the correct position or not," Metro-North spokesman Dan Brucker said.

The trains should be running on the usual schedule this morning, he said.

► Please see HUMAN on A4

PROMOTING PATRIOTISM



Ned Gerard/Connecticut Post

Boxing promoter Don King waves American flags during a news conference in front of the Arena at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport Thursday afternoon. King was promoting the Fistic Fireworks fights at the arena on July 7. See story on Page C1.

Guantanamo nears closure

Officials to weigh prison move

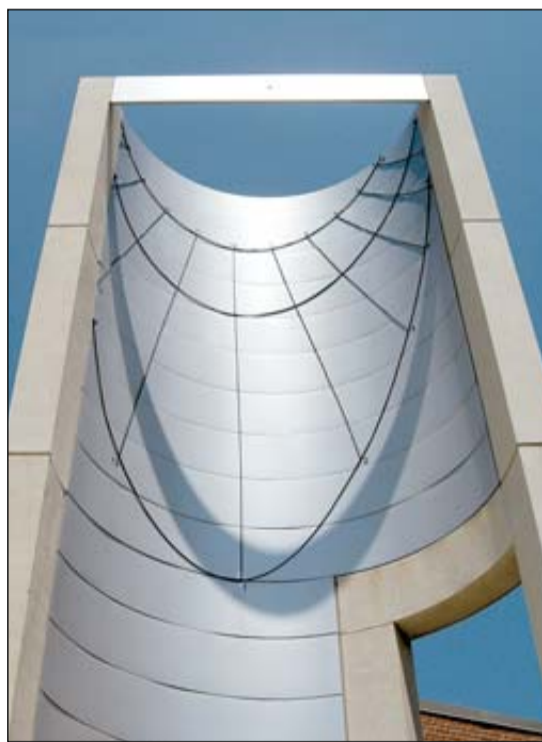
By MATTHEW LEE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is nearing a decision to close the Guantanamo Bay detainee facility and move its terror suspects to military prisons elsewhere, the Associated Press has learned.

Senior administration officials said Thursday a consensus is building for a proposal to shut the center and transfer detainees to one or more Defense Department facilities, including the maximum-security military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where they could face trial.

President Bush's national security and legal advisers had been scheduled to discuss the move at a meeting Friday, the officials said, but after news of it broke, the White House said the meeting would not take place that day and no decision on Guantanamo Bay's status is imminent.

► Please see MILITARY on A7



John Burgeson/Connecticut Post

The straight, vertical lines on the sundial at Southern Connecticut State University, above, show the time of day, while the curving lines correspond to the solstices and equinoxes.

Southern's sundial ushers in summer

By JOHN BURGESON  
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NEW HAVEN — The humble sundial, considered by most as little more than an ornament for the garden, can sometimes become an object of great complexity and beauty.

Thursday's summer solstice at 2:06 p.m. provided an opportunity for the architects of the 50-foot sundial tower at Southern Connecticut State University to explain the time-keeping structure to a crowd of about 75 curious students and professors.

While not the largest sundial in the world — that honor belongs to the sundial in Jaipur, India — Southern's instrument is the largest of its type.

"It's a vertical concave cylindrical sundial," said project architect Howard C. Hebel, who explained that unlike most sundials, which use shadows to tell time, the Southern device projects an actual image of the sun onto a grid of curved and straight lines.

"It's actually a formed real image of the sun, not unlike that of a pinhole camera," he said. As for the impetus for the project, he said, "We were looking for something to mark the entrance to Engleman Hall, which some of you students had trouble finding."

He added: "This is a very unusual project — you can't open the phone book and find sundial subcontractors."

► Please see UNIVERSITY'S on A4

Big Y bans butts

Supermarket chain goes smoke-free

By PAM DAWKINS  
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FAIRFIELD — July 1 should be an interesting day at Big Y's 55 stores in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

That's the day workers will no longer be allowed to smoke on company property on company time.

"We don't know what's going to happen July 1," Christine Jette, a licensed practical nurse and member of the chain's health education team, told an audience at Sacred Heart University on Thursday. "It's so much more complicated than I ever [knew]. And I'm an ex-smoker."

The smoking ban — within 50 yards of Big Y's property and during workers' company-paid breaks — does not apply to customers. Instead, it's part of the company's ongoing effort to improve its workers' health and habits while holding down its health care costs.

Jette was one of the company's speakers during The Business Council of Fairfield County's three-part series on practices to create a healthy workplace.

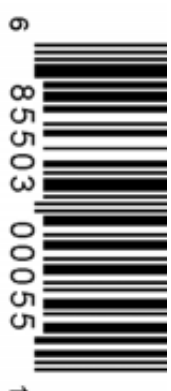
"If health insurance is costly, it's because health care is costly," said Christopher Bruhl, the council's president and chief executive. Costly health care, he added, is related not just to the system itself but to the health of the society in general.

The council recognized Big Y, whose 25 Connecticut stores include sites in Ansonia, Bethel, Monroe, Naugatuck, New Milford and Newtown, for its efforts.

Big Y's full-time employees receive health coverage at no cost to them, while part-time workers are eligible but have to pay some of the costs. The company introduced its "consumer-driven health plan" as one option in 2004, and today offers two CDHP plans. Plans include health reimbursement accounts, total coverage for preventative services and a prescription plan with generic co-pays and coinsurance for preferred and non-preferred brands.

Improving its employees' health is a long-term project for Big Y, said Peter Tavalacci, of Mercer Human Resource Consulting's health and benefits division, which advises Big Y on the issue.

► Please see BIG Y on A4



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YOURWORLD VIRTUALLY IN MARS?

The European Space Agency is looking for volunteers for a 520-day simulated mission to the Red Planet. D3