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YMCA campers unite in the annual Color Wars

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Darien News

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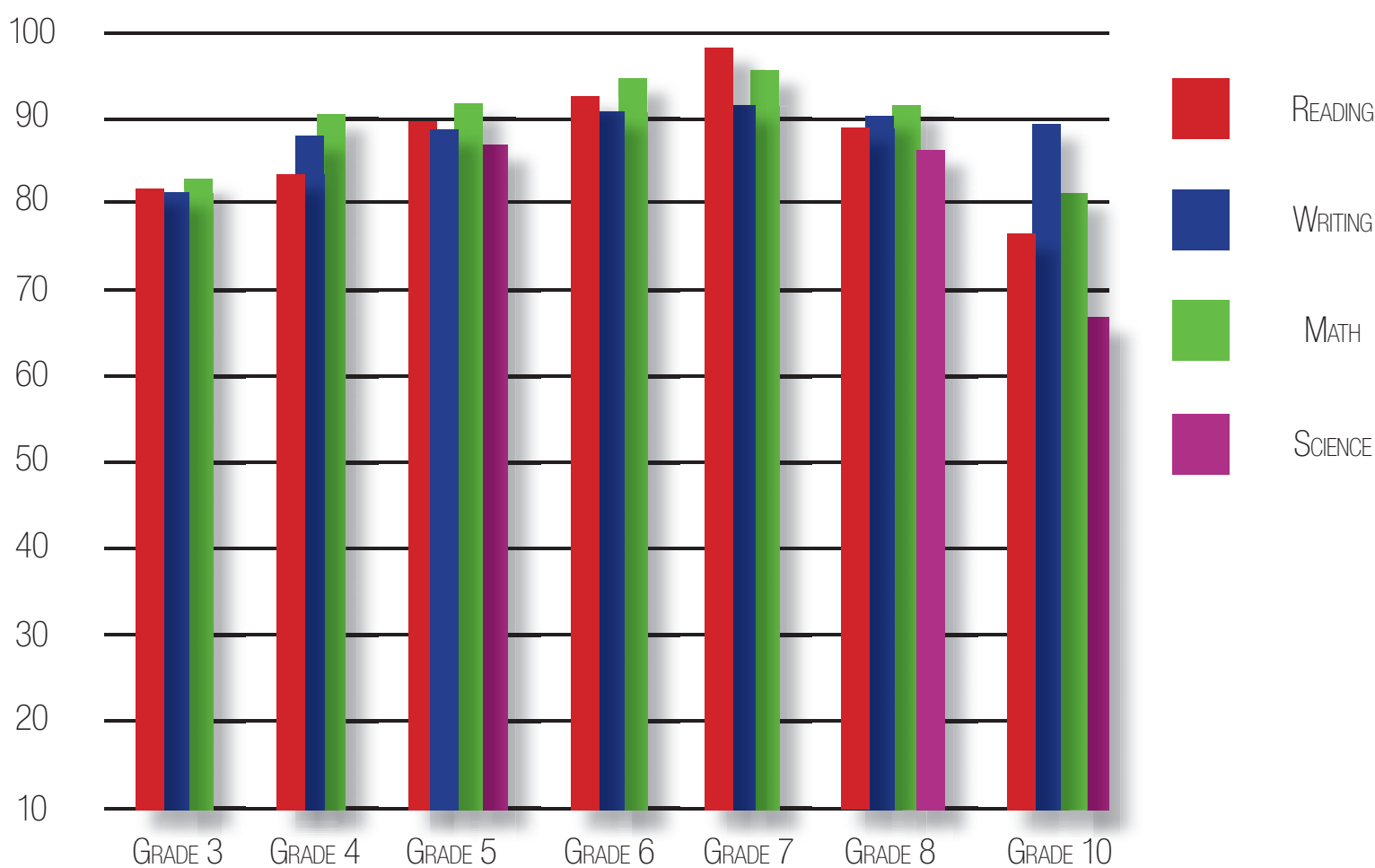
Students test scores far exceed that of state average

By Maggie Gordon
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The percentage of Darien Public School students who achieved goal-level scores in the Connecticut Mastery Test [CMT] and Connecticut Academic Performance Test [CAPT] was significantly greater than the state average in each subject at each grade level, according to test results, which were made public earlier this month.

CMT tests are administered to third- through eighth-grade students throughout the state, and CAPTs are administered to 10th-graders. Each year, students in these grade levels complete tests that assess their abilities in math, writing and reading. Additionally fifth-, eighth- and 10th-graders are tested in science.

"What we see are generally positive trends, and that's always what we're looking for," Superintendent of Schools Stephen Falcone said on Monday. "Particularly strong is what we



See Students on A8

Temporary lighting discussed at P&Z

By Ben Holbrook
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The Darien Junior Football League requested a special permit application for installing three temporary lights at Holahan Field to be used during weekday practices.

The lights, which would be run by diesel generators, would be portable so they could be moved in order to accommodate any concerns from residents on adjacent properties. Lights Committee Chairman Guy Wisinski told the Planning and Zoning Commission the lights would only be used for weekday practices starting on Oct. 11 and ending no later than Nov. 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wisinski reassured the commission there would be a great deal

of oversight with the use of the lights.

"We can't always satisfy everybody, but we got very favorable responses from most of the neighbors," Wisinski said in response to the previous year's usage of the lights.

RTM member John Sini, who spoke on behalf of the DJFL, said the league had complied with everything in the 2009 resolution.

P&Z Commission members expressed concern with the noise generated by the diesel generators and asked whether it would be possible to get electrical lights instead. Wisinski told the commission he tried contacting a number of sources to see about getting power run from Town Hall, but was notified Town Hall

didn't have enough power to even run the generators.

One estimate Wisinski received for having power installed on the field was about \$7,000 dollars, but Wisinski cautioned the estimate could run "three times that amount."

During the course of the 2009 season, Wisinski said there was only one neighbor who was not in favor of the lights.

"Overall we were cautious, but frankly it went very well," Wisinski said about the lights. "We're under-financed; everything is based around safety and it made a big difference. We had the most kids playing football in a season."

Chairman Fred Conze asked

See Lighting on A8

State shut out of Race to the Top

By Linda Conner Lambeck
Staff Writer

For the second time, Connecticut has come up empty in a race for federal funds to improve public education, leaving state officials disappointed but not ready to quit trying.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced Tuesday that 18 states and the District of Columbia are finalists for what's left of a \$4.35 billion jackpot. The list included Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode

Island and South Carolina, but not Connecticut. Duncan is expected to release funding for as many as a dozen of those states in late September.

In hopes of winning as much as a \$175 million piece of the so-called Race to the Top grant designed to improve student achievement, Connecticut passed educational reform measures that, among other things, will boost high school graduation requirements, track student performance over time and abide by a national set of academic standards.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell called the rejection an affront to

See State on A9

P&Z discusses mixed-use facility in Heights

By Ben Holbrook
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The proposal for a new mixed-use zone in the Noroton Heights shopping area went before the Planning and Zoning Commission for a final time to address concerns from residents in the area.

Attorney Bruce Hill, at the request of the P&Z Commission, discussed the concerns he had received from residents about the potential impact of the overlay zone. The concerns ranged from

issues with traffic, storm water management and devalued residential properties.

"The concerns raised were understandable for this type of application," Hill said. However, Hill stressed there were protections in place to prevent uncontrolled development.

"One of the most important safeguards is that an applicant must submit to the special permits process," Hill said.

Hill acknowledged the frustrations with the lack of a specific

plan, but added there are certain issues, such as storm water drainage, that can't be addressed until building begins.

Chairman Fred Conze responded by saying the drainage problem wouldn't be solved by any one person.

"This is a town problem and I'm not sure the town has a lot of arrows in its quiver to solve the problem," Conze said.

In regard to concerns with increased traffic, Hill told the com-

See P&Z on A8

The winners are ...

35 states and the District of Columbia applied for Round 2 of the Race to the Top grant. Here are the finalists and the also-rans:

- Finalists: Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and South Carolina.
- Better luck next time: Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin.
- Round 1 winners: Tennessee and Delaware

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Weather

Expect a perfect summer day with plenty of sunshine and a high of 82. Clear overnight with a low of 61.

HIGH 82

LOW 61