

# 'CHARITY' ACT

Downtown Cabaret reads Fosse musical.  
Preview, D1



# ABRAMOFF SENTENCED FOR FRAUD A14

# IRAQ CIVILIANS SHOWN NO MERCY A14

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# Mother, daughter die in fire



## Bridgeport home had no working smoke detectors

By DANIEL TEPPER  
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BRIDGEPORT — The lack of working smoke detectors was blamed Wednesday for the deaths of a mother and her young daughter in a house fire that brought to 10 the number of such deaths in the city in less than a year.

Fire and police officials called

the fire at a Ridge Avenue home in the South End a tragedy that could have been prevented if working smoke detectors had been in place, as required by law.

Thirty-year-old Ramona Holliday and her 2-year-old daughter, Trisha, were found dead in their fire-ravaged apartment early Wednesday.

Fire Department sources said the mother and daughter were

found lying together on the floor of their second-floor bedroom.

Ramona Holliday's father, 59-year-old Jarvis Holliday Sr., was rescued from the building by Police Officer Barry Jones. He was in critical condition Wednesday night at Bridgeport Hospital.

Fire officials said the blaze erupted on the first floor of the

► Please see HOUSE on A8



Firefighters work at the scene of a house fire on Ridge Avenue in Bridgeport on Wednesday morning. A mother and her daughter died in the blaze.

Ed Hernandez/For the Connecticut Post

# TIME RUNNING OUT FOR SIKORSKY, UNION

## Navy pushed to brink due to parts shortage

By ROB VARNON  
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### SIKORSKY ON STRIKE DAY 39

*Sikorsky has set a date for production to resume to prestrike levels, whether the Teamsters remain on strike or not.*

The time for obstinacy is over for Sikorsky Aircraft and its striking union, analysts said Wednesday, as the Navy reported it is "stealing" parts from helicopters undergoing maintenance to keep those in the field flying.

The Navy's disclosure that the five-week-old strike at the Stratford helicopter manufacturer is causing "rapidly dwindling" stockpiles of parts for helicopters used in Iraq and around the world should send a clear message to both sides, analysts said, that the strike should be resolved sooner rather than later.

Meanwhile, Bud Grebey, a Sikorsky spokesman, said the company has set a date for production to return to prestrike levels, whether the Teamsters remain on strike or not. He said the date has only been disclosed to the military.

Grebey said the company is meeting its obligations and responded to the Navy's comments by saying he had heard no direct reports from the Navy of helicopters being cannibalized.

Capt. Thomas Van Leunen, a spokesman for the Navy's chief acquisition officer, told the Associated Press that spare parts are dwindling so rapidly that, "It has started to have a pretty significant impact on the H-60 fleet" of Sikorsky helicopters.

A second Navy spokesman told the Connecticut Post that the Navy is "stealing parts" off helicopters undergoing depot maintenance to keep other H-60 Seahawks flying.

Teamsters Local 1150 has been on strike since Feb. 20 at Sikorsky plants in Stratford, Bridgeport, Shelton, West Haven and West Palm Beach, Fla.

The two sides cannot come to terms over a health-care plan.

The company wants to give the union the same health-care plan its salaried workers get, and the union wants to keep the plan it has now. Both sides have offered to make adjustments to wage increases and bonuses but won't budge on health care.

Richard Aboulafia, an analyst with the Teal Group of Virginia, said the Navy's complaint would likely force Sikorsky to settle the strike sooner rather than later.

► Please see NAVY on A6



Brian A. Pounds/Connecticut Post

Ruth Wiczorkowski of Ansonia, a Sikorsky employee, holds a rubber rat in the direction of UTC headquarters Wednesday in Hartford.

## Teamsters take fight to UTC headquarters

By ROB VARNON  
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■ Sikorsky Web blog online at [www.connpost.com/picketline](http://www.connpost.com/picketline).

HARTFORD — Striking Sikorsky Teamsters' calls for United Technologies Corp.'s chief executive to come down and face them echoed around downtown in front of the company's headquarters Wednesday, reaching at least as high as the 11th floor, according to one

worker in the building. Teamsters Local 1150, on strike at UTC subsidiary Sikorsky Aircraft for 38 days, mustered more than 700 protesters in front of UTC's headquarters. There was no move to schedule further negotiations following the rally, according to the union.

The rally began at approximately 10:50 a.m. when members walked down the sidewalk behind a huge banner that said, "Sikorsky's Corporate Greed Not Gonna Fly!" They sang, "We are the Teamsters, mighty, mighty Teamsters," as they marched to the front of the Gold Building, where they continued to march until after 12:30 p.m.

One woman, who works in

the same building on Main Street, said the picket wasn't the first one she's seen at the Gold Building, but it was the biggest. Another Gold Building worker said you could hear the chants on the 11th floor.

The union is fighting a health-care plan, which would raise premiums and other

► Please see TEAMSTERS on A6

Ruth Cisero of Fairfield discusses Wednesday the media frenzy about her cat, Lewis, pictured at far right, who is under house arrest for antics around the neighborhood.



Brian A. Pounds/Connecticut Post

## Nation obsessed with tale of the cat

### Fairfield feline under house arrest now media celebrity

By ANDREW BROPHY  
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FAIRFIELD — Elizabeth Oberhand, who lives next door to Lewis, the cat with a mountain lion's reputation, can't believe the media frenzy that has catapulted the so-called

ferocious feline to international notoriety.

"It was on CNN this morning. It's ridiculous," Oberhand said Wednesday of Lewis' supposed reign of terror in a Holland Hill neighborhood. "The Associated Press probably got it on the wire and everybody ate it up."

Ruth Cisero, owner of the black-and-white, long-haired cat, said she was deluged with 120 phone calls from media outlets Tuesday after the story first appeared in the Connecticut Post, and another 80 called Wednesday,

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60/43 Today's forecast  
Mostly sunny, mild  
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**A TOTAL ECLIPSE**

Thousands of skygazers gathered in an ancient temple of Apollo and let out cheers Wednesday as a total solar eclipse turned day into twilight, casting an eerie blue glow across the sky and the Mediterranean Sea. The eclipse blocked the sun in highly populated areas. **Accent/Health, B1**