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**NORWALK B1** Weston boys capture Class S title

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THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR 139 YEARS

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## DOGGY TAILS

### PAWS program lets Valentine's Day gifts last

**NORWALK**  
By TOM EVANS  
Hour Staff Writer

Flowers and heart-shaped boxes of candy flew off store shelves this past week, but there are still ways to show your love to four-legged friends in need after Valentine's Day.

The Norwalk-based Pet Animal Welfare Society at 504 Main Ave. is continuing one program and beginning another as of Sunday, according to Adrienne Statfeld, director of the shelter.

Visitors to the true no-kill shelter can pay \$5 to have a colorful, heart-shaped piece of paper hung on the cage, kennel or room where the dog or cat is housed. The names of both the donor and the animal are written on the heart, Statfeld said.

"We're a true no-kill shelter," Statfeld said. "PAWS takes (no-kill) to a level that not all no-kill shelters do."

Over the next six months, shelter visitors are being asked to drop any change they may have in their pockets — or under the floor mats of their car, or in their couch cushions — into a large con-

see PAWS, A6



Hour photo / MATTHEW VINCI  
Adrienne Statfeld, Shelter Director of PAWS in Norwalk with Daisy an 8-year-old beagle who has a heart donated to her as well as other animals up for adoption.

## Refinancing unavailable for many borrowers

**WASHINGTON**  
By DINA ELBOGHADY  
& RENAE MERLE  
The Washington Post

The refinancing wave that swept the nation when mortgage rates hit historic lows last year is petering out, leaving behind millions of homeowners who could not qualify for the best rates.

Half of the nation's borrowers have mortgages with rates above 6 percent, even though the average rate on 30-year, fixed rate mortgages has been about 5 percent for most of the past year, according to research firm First American CoreLogic.

More refinancing activity would have helped household budgets, but also the national economy because homeowners might have spent some of the extra cash they pocketed, giving the recovery an added lift.

Many borrowers who tried to refinance have found they're stuck because the value of their homes has tumbled and their equity has melted away. Others have been shut out because lenders tightened their requirements, demanding stellar credit and low debt. It's especially frustrating for many now that interest rates are expected to rise.

An effort by the Obama administration to overcome some of these challenges has fallen flat, frustrating many homeowners — especially with mortgage rates expected to rise by year's end, if not sooner.

"We've reached the point of burnout," said Amy Crews Cutts, deputy chief economist at Freddie Mac. "Most of the people who can refinance today have done so already."

see MANY, A5

## Beam her up: Scottie is the hot dog at Westminster

**NEW YORK**  
By BEN WALKER  
Associated Press

She is a hot dog, this little Sadie.

Tongue out and wagging tail up, the perky, 4-year-old Scottish terrier has won more than 100 best in show ribbons and is the overwhelming favorite to complete dogdom's Triple Crown this week at Westminster. She's already charmed the judge, in fact.

What in the show world could go wrong for America's top dog at



AP Photo/Frank Franklin II  
Sadie

America's top pooch pageant?

Well, plenty.

Two years ago, she got spooked at Madison Square Garden. Her handler's new shoes were too

squeaky, the wooden boards covering the ice hockey rink thumped too loudly. There was a stray TV monitor that threw her, too.

Then last February, she had a potty accident on the green carpet while coming out to take her place in the final ring.

Come Tuesday night, it could be Sadie's turn. Or not. Because inside those purple and gold ropes, the show world revolves around one guiding principle.

see WESTMINSTER, A6

## MOTHER NATURE'S SWEET NECTAR Maple tree tapping begins at SMNC

**STAMFORD**  
By TOM EVANS  
Hour Staff Writer

With temperatures struggling to get above freezing, and more snow predicted for this week, it may be too early to think about spring.

But with the tapping of more than

Hour photo / ERIK TRAUTMANN  
Stamford Museum and Nature Center director of education Will Kies taps a maple tree as part of the center's maple syrup program Saturday morning.



200 maple trees on Saturday morning at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center, warmer weather can't be too far off.

"It was a little brisk, but it went well," Will Kies, the center's director of education said of putting some 320 metal taps into trees on the grounds at 39 Scofieldtown Road. "Every February we prepare for the season. We want day-

time temperatures well above freezing, in the mid-to-high 30s. We drill holes in the trees, the tap is put in, and we let the sap run. The rest is up to Mother Nature."

While much of the sap-collecting process remains largely unchanged from a century ago or more, one of the few modern developments in the procedure is collection tubing.

"We have a series of tubes (running from the taps) set on a pitch to let gravity work for you," Kies said. "A lot of

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Today's Poll Question:

Have you refinanced your house in the past three years?

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### Weather/A2

HIGH 35  
LOW 29



# 84

is the channel on Cablevision Local Programming for the popular Norwalk Hospital **Health Talk** television show. This week's topic is **Rheumatoid Arthritis** with Dr. Erik Beger, rheumatologist with Soundview Medical Associates and a patient. Tune in beginning Mon. Feb 15 through Feb 21. Broadcasts are at 6:30 pm, 8 pm, 9:30 pm and 11 pm each evening.

