



Softball stars returning to scene of glory days, C1



Hyperbaric chambers help heal wounds, D1



Ex-patrolman trying to get job back WALLINGFORD
Parking lot conflict brewing at shop



New Haven Register

YEAR, NO. 224

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1999

www.ctcentral.com

NEWSSTAND 50¢

SPORTS FINAL

Butt ban up in smoke

court says Orange cigarette machine law invalid

David McClendon
Bureau Chief

NEW HAVEN — The landmark ordinance banning cigarette vending machines within city limits was declared invalid today by a Superior Court judge who ruled that state laws

regulating the machines don't allow municipalities to prohibit them.

Town and state officials who support the Orange ordinance said Judge Jonathan E. Silbert's ruling is a setback, but they will appeal.

"It's a little premature to light a

victory cigarette," said Rick Altschuler, the West Haven-based attorney who represented Orange pro bono. "From day one, both sides realized this would not be decided at the Superior Court level but the Appellate Court. This case could conceivably go to the U.S. Supreme Court."

The case is being closely watched by cities and towns across the country prepared to pass similar laws.

The Orange town council voted last year to ban the machines in an attempt to prevent illegal cigarette sales to minors. Since then, the city council of Bridgeport has

followed suit, and other towns have debated the issue.

Vending machine distributor Modern Cigarettes Inc. of New Haven filed the lawsuit challenging Orange's ordinance, claiming the ban illegally restricted free

Please see Orange, Page A9

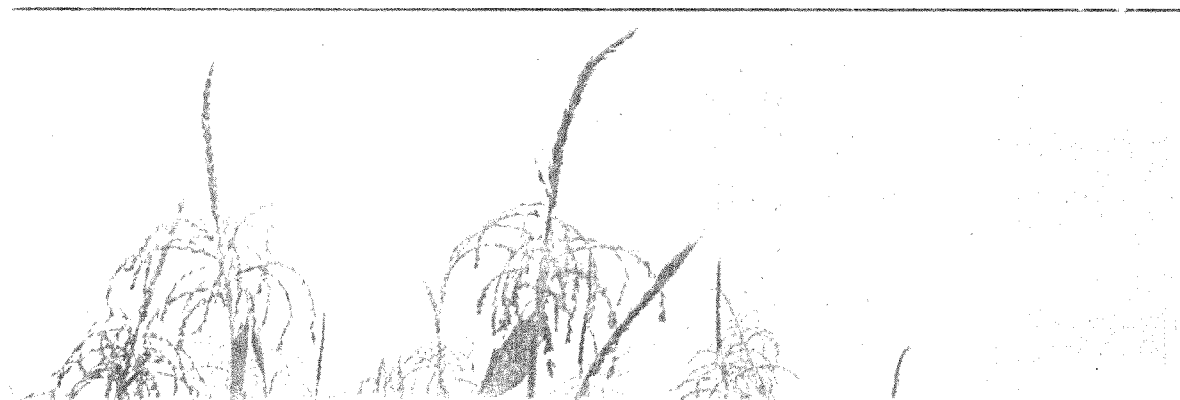
SOUNDOFF

Should cigarettes be banned from vending machines?

Call us at 789-5732 or dial toll-free 1-800-925-2509. Details, Page A2.



DROUGHT TAKING TOLL



2 cops are wounded in shootout

Middletown man opens fire during

