

Priest sex abuse settlement opens old wounds for local man

By **KAREN FLORIN**
Day Staff Writer

John Waddington felt the blood drain from his face when his girlfriend called him last month to say a former altar boy at Sacred Heart Church in Groton who was molested by a priest in the late 1970s and early 1980s received a \$900,000 settlement from Catholic church officials.

Waddington's cubemates at Electric Boat saw his face go pale and thought somebody in his family had died, the 54-year-old electrical designer said during an interview Thursday.

The news of Andrew Aspinwall's settlement brought Waddington back to the day

"It was like it happened to me again." **JOHN WADDINGTON**

in 1978 when he, a 14-year-old altar boy at Sacred Heart, was sexually assaulted by former priest Charles Many.

Same church, same priest, same time period.

"It was like it happened to me again," Waddington said.

The now-disgraced former priest had arrived at Sacred Heart a few years earlier and started a youth group. Waddington said Many kept asking him to watch a movie in

his room at the rectory. The priest was "a really soft-spoken, mellow kind of guy," Waddington said, and he relented.

"He puts on 'The Exorcist' and molests me, and I didn't remember it until I was 28," Waddington said. The intense feelings associated with a divorce from his first wife and a confrontation at work triggered the memory, he said. He suffers from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety. He's been married and divorced three times, and has had years of counseling.

"It's kind of like a part of me was left behind back there," he said. "If something happens, I get really upset."

SEE SETTLEMENT PAGE A6



PETER HUOPPI/THE DAY

John Waddington speaks at The Day in New London on Thursday about his experience. Go to theday.com for a video from the interview.

"I'm ready to go. Four years is enough." **BENITA CHRISTIAN, CRYSTAL AVENUE HIGH-RISE RESIDENT**



PHOTOS BY SARAH GORDON/THE DAY

Glendell Johnson, center, with Rogovin Moving & Storage hands a resident boxes as other residents wait for a cab while moving out of the Crystal Avenue high-rise apartments on Tuesday in New London.

Exodus from Thames River Apartments begins

17 families have moved so far—two to Norwich, one to Groton; 14 will stay in New London

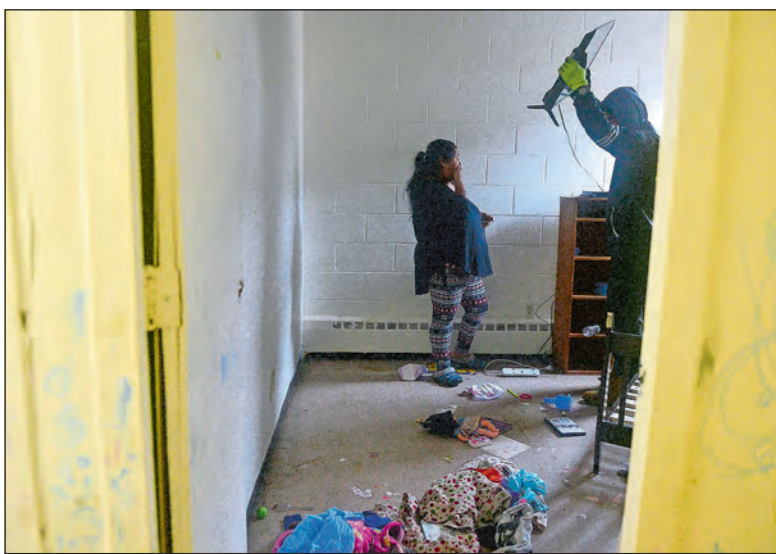
By **GREG SMITH**
Day Staff Writer

New London — Sitting on a couch of her quiet eighth-floor unit at Thames River Apartments next to a shrink-wrapped stack of moving boxes, Benita Christian surveys her surroundings and contemplates what to pack first.

"I'm ready to go," Christian said. "Four years is enough."

Downstairs in a second-floor apartment, the scene is a bit more chaotic as Jessica Yanez, a pregnant single mother of two children, ages 5 and 3, holds open her door while movers roll an entertainment center into the hallway, onto the elevator and out to a waiting moving van.

"It will be nice to be living in a house that is mouse free," Yanez said. "I'm not used to living like this,



Jessica Yanez, left, pauses while packing as Michael Diaz with Rogovin Moving & Storage carries a TV from her apartment Tuesday.

dealing with the mice and stuff. I'm extremely happy about (the move)."

The exodus has begun

Christian and Yanez will be among

the first of the more than 350 people living in the long-troubled, federally subsidized complex on Crystal Avenue to relocate.

The daily visits by Allied moving

company trucks in the courtyard is just one sign. There is also a Dumpster outside being filled with unwanted furniture. The chatter in the hallways these days focuses on when neighbors will be leaving and where they are headed now that Section 8 "tenant protection" vouchers are in the hands of the 117 families that were calling this place home.

Christian, who works with recovering addicts and has custody of her two grandchildren, ages 2 and 4, is moving to a three-bedroom off Buchanan Road. They are going to appreciate beds of their own, she said. One is on a sleeper now and the other sleeps in Christian's bed.

Yanez said that kids by nature love to put things in their mouths and the mouse problems she's been having make her cringe. She said she's been trapping four or five a day of late.

"It's horrible," she said.

The residents have been warned that they should expect a 90-day order to vacate in the coming days. The

SEE RESIDENTS PAGE A5

Solar tariff sparks fears

Regulators release new energy strategy

By **BENJAMIN KAIL**
Day Staff Writer

Solar installer Mark Waldo isn't panicking.

A longtime electrician who started Waldo Renewable Electric in Old Saybrook with his wife, Rebecca, about 12 years ago, Waldo says there are too many unknowns about a recently announced tariff on imported solar cells to believe it will do lasting damage to an industry that's steadily grown in Connecticut.

"I don't take it too personal," Waldo said of the tariff. "The industry is strong because solar works."

President Donald Trump, who has pushed for increased manufacturing, recently approved a 30 percent tariff on most imported solar cells following a recommendation from the U.S. International Trade Commission in October. The ITC unanimously found that an oversupply of imported solar materials, especially from China, had forced dozens of U.S. manufacturers out of business in the last few years.

Industry analysts expect the tariff to hike project costs by about 10 cents per watt, an amount that's particularly concerning for some developers of large-scale projects. Trade groups and renewable energy advocates have fumed about the tariff for months, arguing it will hike solar prices, forcing demand to nosedive and jobs to disappear.

"Connecticut stands to lose 342 jobs due to the tariff," said Alexandra Hobson of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), a trade group.

SEIA calls Connecticut "one of the fastest growing of the smaller states in the solar industry." Connecticut is home to 187 solar companies employing 2,100 installers, manufacturers, consultants and developers.

SEIA expects tariff-related price increases to lead to the elimination

SEE TARIFF PAGE A6

WEATHER

Today, rain, heavy at times, areas of fog. High 47. Monday, becoming partly sunny. High 43. **E8**

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CLEVELAND OFFICIALS CONSIDER HOME FOR SUPERMAN STATUE

Cleveland — Officials in Cleveland are searching for a new site to land a statue of Superman.

The Plain Dealer reports city officials, the statue committee and sculptor David Deming met last week to discuss the location change. Officials originally planned to put the Man of Steel near the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum but the site is no longer available.

Deming's 4,000-pound, 10-foot-long statue includes a tribute to Superman creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. The Cleveland pair created the legendary comic book character in the 1930s.

Committee member Michael Olszewski says he's confident the group will find a home for the statue that's better than the original site. Possible spots include Edgewater Park along Lake Erie and Cleveland's cultural center, University Circle.

— Associated Press

PROFESSOR REPLACED AFTER SAYING AUSTRALIA NOT A COUNTRY

Manchester, N.H. — An online adjunct professor incorrectly told a student that Australia isn't a country and gave her a failing grade, prompting Southern New Hampshire University to replace the instructor.

Buzzfeed News reports that the 27-year-old student in Idaho was assigned to compare American social norms to that of another country. She chose to study social media use in Australia, but the professor gave her a zero on that portion of the assignment, saying Australia is a continent, not a country.

Australia is actually both — a country and a continent.

University officials told WMUR-TV the instructor has been replaced following an investigation. In a statement, the university said it deeply regrets the interaction between the professor and student, and wished athletes from Australia good luck in the Olympic games.

— Associated Press

The week in The Day



SARAH GORDON/THE DAY

Linda Costanza of North Stonington cheers as school building project vote results come in Thursday at Town Hall. Visit theday.com for a gallery of the week's best staff photos.

