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# NEW HAVEN REGISTER



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**NEW HAVEN**

## Court overturns murder conviction

### Defendant in '08 slaying in prison as state weighs next move

By Register Staff

**NEW HAVEN** » The state Appellate Court Monday overturned a murder conviction and ordered a new trial for Billy Ray Wright, who was found guilty in 2011 of killing Ronald Bethea outside a

city nightclub in 2008. The Appellate Court agreed with Wright's argument that he was not adequately allowed to cross-examine the police officers who investigated the case. The ruling also characterizes the state's case against

Wright as having had a "tenuous nature." "We conclude that the court did improperly restrict the degree of cross-examination of certain police officers regarding the adequacy of the investigation and, accordingly, we reverse

the judgment of conviction," Judge David Borden wrote in the court's decision. The ruling orders a new trial. State's Attorney Michael Dearington said Monday that his office hasn't decided yet whether the case will be tried again.

Bethea, 29, was fatally shot April 27, 2008, outside the Cardinal's Club on Ashmun Street. Wright, now 26, was sentenced to 60 years in prison. State Department of Correction spokesman Andrius Banevicius said



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
Billy Ray Wright

**MURDER** » PAGE 7

**DERBY**

## 'I don't want people to ever forget'

By Patricia Villers  
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**DERBY** » It has been a quarter-century since the brutal stabbing deaths of three members of the Ferrara family.

The triple homicide Aug. 12, 1989, sent shockwaves through the city.

The slayings occurred inside Mary Ferrara's Cape Cod-style house at 228 Emmett Ave.

Derek Roseboro, then 37 and a neighbor of the Ferraras, went to the house armed with a knife, intending to commit a burglary, documents show.

Roseboro's victims were Mary A. Sabetta Ferrara, 72, a widow; her mildly mentally disabled and legally blind son, Joseph Ferrara, 46; and her granddaughter, Nina Mary Ferrara, 8.

According to State of Connecticut v. Derek Roseboro, he was convicted of the crimes and sentenced in March 1992 to 130 years in prison. He testified on his own behalf in front of a three-judge panel, and was spared the death penalty.

Roseboro, now 61, also was convicted of first-degree burglary for stealing more than \$400 after the murders.

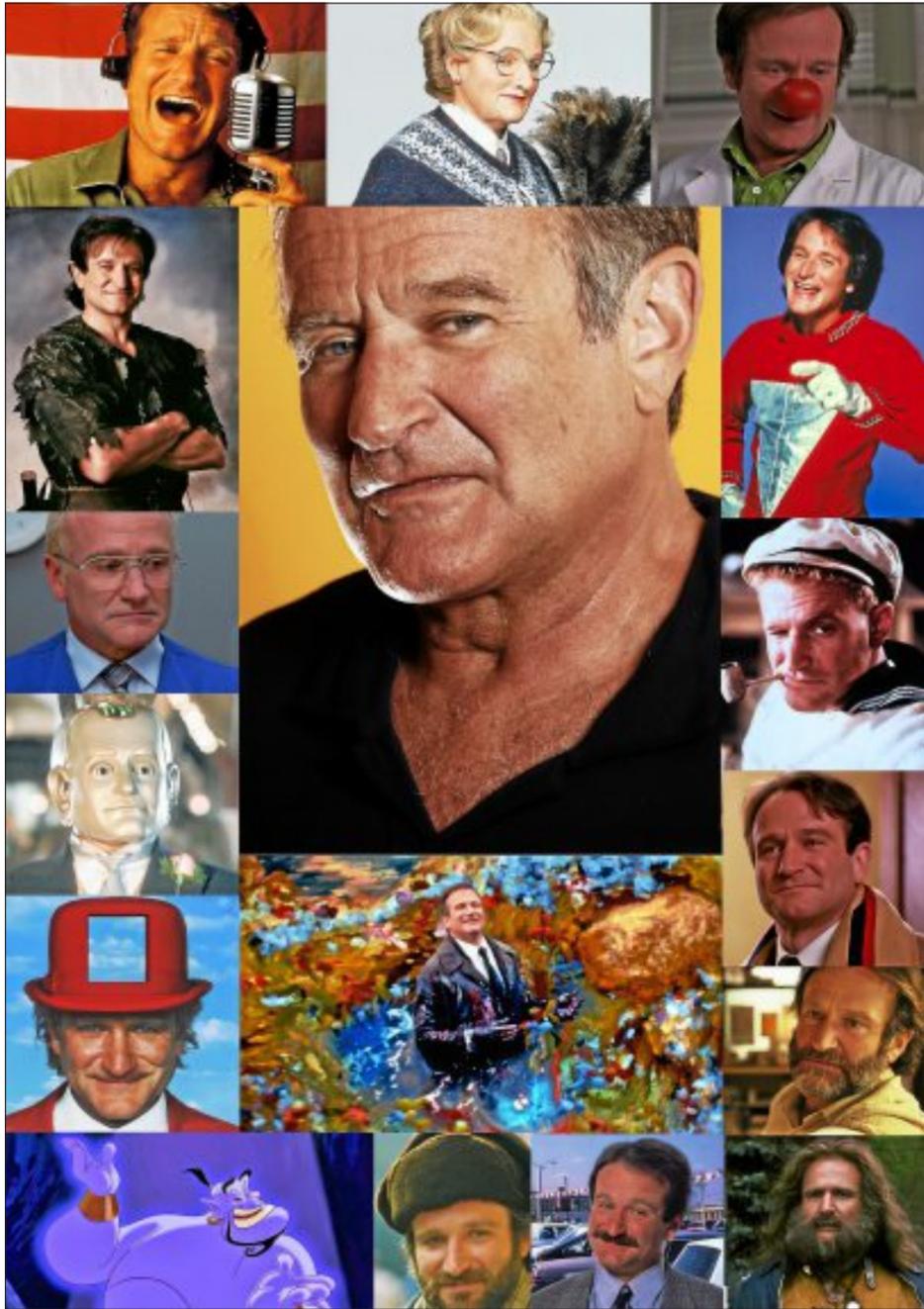
Newspaper reports at the time said Mary Ferrara's adopted daughter, Peggy Ferrara, 32, discovered the bodies late in the evening of Aug. 12, 1989. Mary Ferrara's body was found in a hall, her son was found in a bathroom, and Nina was wrapped in a blanket on a bed in a first-floor bedroom.

Madison resident Caryl Ferrara Viola said she fervently hopes Valley resi-

**DERBY** » PAGE 7

**ROBIN WILLIAMS 1951-2014**

## A STAR IS GONE



NEW HAVEN REGISTER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Actor and comedian Robin Williams died Monday in an apparent suicide. He was 63. See story, A2.

**ELECTION 2014**

## Race heats up in time for primary

### Yet GOP turnout not expected to top 25 percent

By Mary E. O'Leary  
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**HARTFORD** » The television commercials have been nonstop for a few weeks, but still may be irrelevant to turnout for Tuesday's Republican gubernatorial primary vote.

Party primaries usually generate 25 percent to 30 percent turnout, but this year's gubernatorial contest could be lower than that, say workers close to the campaigns, as they continue to encounter residents who have no idea there is a primary.

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill said that traditionally between 25 percent and 30 percent of party members will make the effort to vote in a primary.

In the last week or so, the contest between Greenwich businessman Tom Foley and state Senate Minority Leader John McKinney has heated up, which gives her hope that it will be at least 25 percent.

Foley won a bitter primary challenge in 2010 against then Lt. Gov. Michael Fedele, but lost in the general election to Democratic Gov. Dannel P. Malloy by 6,404 votes.

Richard Hanley, assistant professor of media at Quinnipiac University, said the public has "become inoculated to the ads and this is also the time when television viewing is at its lowest." Families are thinking about back to school events, not politics, he said.

Beyond that, "there is a noticeable lack of energy in this primary. It has something to do with money, but the candidates them-

**ELECTION** » PAGE 7



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