

HOMETOWN HERO

TORREY MARTONE, FORMER STAR AT CHESHIRE HIGH, NOW COACHING AT CHESHIRE ACADEMY, PAGE 8B



NHL PLAYOFF DECIDER

BRUINS AND MAPLE LEAFS FACE OFF IN GAME 7 TONIGHT, THE 2ND STRAIGHT YEAR THEY HAVE TAKEN SERIES TO LIMIT, PAGE 8B

City church to be demolished

The congregation of the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church has decided to dismantle the structurally compromised building. PAGE 1B



Helping send students to prom

The Big, Bold and Beautiful organization will host a fashion show Sunday to raise money to send 12 students to the prom who otherwise could not afford it. PAGE 1D

Medicare, Social Security woes

A report released Monday shows the financial condition of government's bedrock retirement programs for working-class Americans remains shaky. PAGE 1C

Assistance in bombings probe

As the death toll in the bombings in Sri Lanka rises to 300, Interpol and the FBI say they will provide help in the investigation into the Easter Sunday attacks. PAGE 5A

OPINION OF THE DAY: "Medicare for All would eliminate 2 million jobs in the private health-care industry. What happens to the affected people?"

— Jeff Fryer, Southbury

READ THE FULL LETTER ON PAGE 6A

TODAY AT REP-AM.COM

» **IN THE ZONE** Check the latest scores and highlights from your favorite high school sports team at thezone.rep-am.com

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High **69** Some early clouds; showers developing at night. Page 8A
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Good news on tax revenue

State budget forecast is \$915.3 million more than expected

BY PAUL HUGHES
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

HARTFORD — The first budget forecast since the April 15 filing deadline projects the state income tax will raise \$915.3 million more than budgeted for this fiscal year.

The state Office of Policy and Management increased its previous estimates of collections from withholding taxes and a new pass-through entity tax to \$500 million, but lowered anticipated estimated and final

payments by \$200 million.

The tax on personal earnings is now projected to raise \$10,622,900,000 this fiscal year. This represents a net increase of \$300 million from OPM's March forecast.

OPM analysts are now predicting an operating surplus of \$566.2 million for the 2019 fiscal year that runs through June 30, up \$70.2 million from last month's projection.

Despite this good budget news Monday, the next two-year budget still must close

See **FORECAST**, Page 4A



PAUL HUGHES REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Gov. Ned Lamont comments Monday on state income tax collections as Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and Paul Mounds, Lamont's chief operating officer, listen.

COMMUTERS RILED BY CHANGE



STEVEN VALENTI REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Commuters get on the 2:03 p.m. train at the train station in Waterbury Monday. Metro-North Railroad has changed the departure time of a mainline train that connects to the Waterbury branch, forcing some commuters to leave work 30 minutes early to meet their connection.

Metro-North's new connection time impacts daily passengers

BY ANDREW LARSON
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

» Highlights of schedule changes for New Haven line, Page 4A

WATERBURY — Metro-North Railroad has you covered if you're looking to cut out of work early.

The rail operator has pushed back the time of a mainline

connection to the Waterbury branch by 31 minutes, forcing some commuters to leave work half an hour early.

The connecting train that did leave Grand Central Ter-

minial at 4:42 p.m. now departs at 4:11 p.m. beginning last week

For Corey Ferrell, who commutes to his job in New York City via the Waterbury

branch, losing 31 minutes "cripples" his workday, he said. His only other option is to wait three hours for the next Waterbury branch connection.

His train departing Grand

See **TRAIN**, Page 4A

Strike left store shelves bare

Stop & Shop meat, produce, dairy stocks low

BY HARRISON CONNERY
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WATERBURY — Stop & Shop employees and customers will likely be dealing with the aftermath of the recent strike throughout the week.

Though workers were back in stores by 7 a.m. Monday to scrub away the detritus left by the 11-day strike, it will take several days for stores to replenish their produce, meat and dairy stocks.

"It won't be until the weekend we can get stuff back to even," said Matt Myers, a Stop & Shop employee of 13 years.

Myers said the first large delivery won't arrive at his



HARRISON CONNERY REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Paul Sorcinelli, assistant produce associate at the Stop & Shop on Reidville Drive in Waterbury, stocks shelves with oranges Monday. Sorcinelli, who has been with the grocery retailer for 33 years, was among 31,000 Stop & Shop workers on strike since April 11.

store on Reidville Drive until Thursday. Shelves on Monday afternoon at Reidville Drive and the Stop & Shop at 763 Straits Turnpike in Watertown were barren

of spinach, kale and lettuce. Meat and fish departments also were depleted. Employees at both stores were busy

See **MARKET**, Page 4A

Lamont taps performance officer to aid with analytics

BY PAUL HUGHES
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

HARTFORD — Gov. Ned Lamont has named a chief performance officer to help his administration create a more citizen-centered, data-driven state government through technology, interagency collaboration and analytics.

Lamont publicly announced the new appointment and the initiative at the first cabinet meeting of his administration on Monday.

The new chief performance officer is David Wilkinson, the former commissioner of the state Office of Early

See **INITIATIVE**, Page 4A



HARRISON CONNERY REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Produce was low Monday afternoon at the Reidville Drive Stop & Shop in Waterbury as employees worked to restore normal operations after an 11-day strike.

MARKET: Staff back, stocking in progress

Continued from Page One

scrubbing shelves and restocking produce. A manager at the Watertown location said he had no idea when the next delivery would arrive.

"We're happy to be back on the inside," said Myers. "I've already seen some of the regulars, we couldn't have done it without them. The response from the community is really what hooked us up."

In Watertown, customer Jeffery Santopietro said it was his first time back since the strike began.

"I wouldn't cross a picket line," he said. "When big companies try to take out the little guys, that's when we have problems."

He said he wasn't surprised by the lack of fresh produce and meat.

"It's very difficult to have a company as large as Stop & Shop be shut down for 10 days and be able to stock the shelves overnight," he said. "The store looked well staffed (today)."

Peggy Walsh found herself at Stop & Shop to buy on-sale Easter items and dog food, which she said is cheaper at the major retailer than at independent stores. She said she refused to cross the picket line in solidarity with the workers.

"You feel for them, they're fighting for their rights," she said.

Thirty-one thousand Stop & Shop employees represented by five United Food & Commercial Workers Local Unions in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts went on strike April 11 following months of contract negotiations with Ahold Delhaize, Stop & Shop's corporate owner.

The strike crippled 294 stores across the three states through Easter, typically a busy period for grocery re-

TODAY'S POLL

VOTE ONLINE AT REP-AM.COM



Will you go back to shopping at Stop & Shop now that the strike is over?

FIND RESULTS OF YESTERDAY'S QUESTION ON PAGE 2A.

tailers. Though many stores were open during the strike, unionized delivery drivers refused to deliver fresh perishable items during the strike.

Stores in Waterbury, Naugatuck, Watertown, Cheshire, Torrington, Litchfield, North Canaan, Southbury and Winsted were affected.

Workers said they were fighting to prevent their wages, health insurance and pension plans from being stripped.

"We just wanted to keep everything the same," said Myers. "I missed a week's worth of pay but for all this it was worth it."

Details of the new labor agreement won't be released until after the local unions hold a ratification vote later this week, but employees on Monday said the new agreement will look similar to the old one.

Paul Sorcinelli, assistant produce clerk at the Reidville Drive store, has been with the company for 33 years. As he stocked shelves with bright yellow lemons and oranges, he acknowledged he earns more than the average wage for his position, but feels he's earned it in exchange for a lifetime of service, especially in light of Ahold Delhaize's reported \$1.8 billion in profits last year.

"They don't say that the people that make these wages have been here 30 years," he said.

FORECAST: Deficits still loom for 2020-21

Continued from Page One

projected deficits of \$1.5 billion for the upcoming 2020 fiscal year and \$2.2 billion for the 2021 fiscal year.

The two-year gap could narrow when OPM and the legislature's Office of Fiscal Analysis release updated revenue estimates on April 30 for 2019 and the three succeeding fiscal years.

In the April budget outlook, OPM analysts reported withholding taxes deducted directly from employee paychecks are now expected to raise an additional \$100 million than previously estimated last month.

The biggest projected increase was \$400 million to the new tax for pass-through businesses that was estab-

lished in response to federal tax changes. This tax was budgeted to raise \$600 million, but now it is expected to raise \$1 billion.

Lawmakers and former Gov. Dannel P. Malloy established this tax because President Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress capped the federal deduction for state and local taxes at \$10,000. Under this workaround, the income of S corporations, partnerships and limited liability companies are taxed at the top personal income tax rate of 6.99 percent, and the state provides an offsetting corporate or personal income tax credit for individuals and companies that are members.

Because this type of tax remains deductible at the federal level, pass-through

businesses are able to claim this new state tax as a deductible expense against their federal taxes and pass along the benefit of the deduction to their members.

This option is not available to publicly-traded companies.

OPM reported a \$200 million reduction in its projection of estimated and final payments, but still this component is expected to raise \$84.9 million more than budgeted. Taxpayers who use this filing option pay income taxes in four yearly installments, with the first payments due every April 15 and the final payments due every Jan. 15.

Part of the decline in estimated and final payments could be attributable to the availability of the new pass-

through entity tax.

Before OPM released its April budget report, Scott L. Jackson, the state tax commissioner, advised Gov. Ned Lamont and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz during a public meeting of Lamont's cabinet that income tax collections were robust.

"I am pleased to report that receipts have been strong," Jackson stated.

After the meeting concluded, Lamont told reporters that Connecticut was not seeing a decline like neighboring New York state, where income tax collections fell \$3.4 billion from last year and overall revenue was down \$3.7 billion.

"We haven't seen a great fall-off like what you saw in New York," he said.



STEVEN VALENTI REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

The 2:03 p.m. train pulls into the train station in Waterbury Monday. Metro-North Railroad has changed the departure time of a main line train that connects to the Waterbury branch.

TRAIN: Waterbury branch impacted by change

Continued from Page One

Central Terminal at 4:11 p.m. arrives in Bridgeport in time for him to transfer onto a Waterbury-bound train that departs at 5:54 p.m.

"I keep asking: What do we tell our employers?" he said. "It's not three or five minutes — it's a half-hour!"

Lisa Slinsky also transfers from the mainline to the Waterbury branch. She picks up the train in South Norwalk at 5:03 p.m. — 17 minutes earlier than before the new schedule took effect.

"I have the flexibility in my schedule to accommodate this if I hustle," she said. "But not everyone has the flexibility brought by seniority to leave work 20 minutes earlier every single day."

Metro-North said the change was made because track repairs were causing delays to the 4:42 p.m. train out of Grand Central Terminal, making it late for its connection in Bridgeport.

"This was done to provide

HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR NEW HAVEN LINE:

▶ Morning peak — 48 mainline trains depart initial stations between one and 10 minutes earlier and have schedules lengthened by one to six minutes, depending on the trip length.

▶ Afternoon peak — 42 mainline trains depart Grand Central Terminal at the same time as they did previously but have their schedules lengthened by one to six minutes, depending on the trip length.

▶ Off-peak and nights — 83 westbound trains depart their initial station between 10 minutes earlier and four minutes later and have their schedules lengthened by one to 11 minutes, depending on the trip length and the time of day. Meanwhile, 53 eastbound trains depart Grand Central Terminal at the same time as they did previously, but have their schedules lengthened by one to 11 minutes, depending on trip length and the time of day.

riders with a more realistic travel time due to the various maintenance projects on the mainline, which have caused delays," said Michael Donnarumma, district superintendent for the New Haven Line.

That doesn't make sense to Jim Gildea, chairman of the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council, who also rides the

Waterbury branch. Rather than running the connecting train earlier, he suggests postponing the departure of the Waterbury branch train from 5:54 p.m. to just after 6 p.m., allowing the 4:42 a.m. train from Grand Central Terminal to once again serve as a Waterbury branch connection.

"Most riders would rather

get home six or eight minutes later than to leave 30 minutes earlier," Gildea said.

The Waterbury branch runs from Bridgeport to Waterbury, which is the northernmost point served by Metro-North.

Riders have long advocated for more reliable and more frequent service on the Waterbury branch, which still runs on diesel-fueled trains. Work is underway that includes installing signals, passing sidings and Positive Train Control, and riders are optimistic it will lead to more service on the Waterbury line.

But riders say anything that makes the branch's limited service even more inconvenient will undermine those efforts. Gildea said some commuters are driving to Bridgeport to pick up a train on the mainline, avoiding the cumbersome commute on the Waterbury line.

The state Department of Transportation said it's reviewing the time changes with Metro-North.

INITIATIVE: Goals, standards emphasized

Continued from Page One

Childhood under Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, and a former director of the White House Office of Social Innovation under President Barack Obama.

Wilkinson had also cochaired the Digital Strategy Committee of the Lamont transition team with Joanne Collins Smee, chief commercial officer of Xerox Corp.

Lamont and Wilkinson said modernizing and streamlining digital services will be a big part of the administration's initiative to make state government more user-friendly, cost-effective, data-informed, and results-driven.

"As a CEO, my teams used data to help build better, more efficient and more responsive experiences for our customers, and state government should be no different," said Lamont, who had founded and run a specialized cable television business.

Wilkinson said analytics will be used to develop policy goals and strategies for achieving objectives, including increasing collaboration among state agencies.

"We will also unleash data to drive results," he said.

Wilkinson briefly outlined the initiative during the near-

ly two-hour cabinet meeting that was held in public. He said its purpose is to lay out clear goals for state agencies, set high standards, and hold agencies and the governor's office accountable.

"You name it, we're in the business of outcomes and results. What are we buying with our dollars? Too often we focus on process and compliance rather than outcomes and impacts," Wilkinson said.

He will report directly to Paul Mounds, Lamont's chief operating officer, and Melissa McCaw, the secretary of the state Office of Policy and Management.

"We can go further and faster when we row together," Mounds said. "We will work closely with commissioners to develop measurable goals, forge cross-agency partnerships, and clear a path to success."

He said two of the chief focuses will be on results and reducing redundancy.

In addition to Mounds and McCaw, Wilkinson will also collaborate closely with Josh Geballe, the commissioner of the state Department of Administrative Services, to help manage transformation efforts that will make state digital services easier to use.



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Wednesday, May 8

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Aqua Turf Club
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Pre-registration and
pre-payment is required.
Register at stmh.org or
call (877) 783-7262.

Join us for our fifth annual **Sparkle! Waterbury**, the area's premier women's health event. Our Spirit of Women Network has brought together resources to empower and support you — mind, body and spirit. Take action for your good health in these fun and inspiring ways!

- Visit with experts representing a wide range of services available at Saint Mary's
- Get "Desserted with the Docs" and engage with our physicians in our island oasis!
- Take advantage of the opportunity to connect with great community resources
- Pamper yourself with a relaxing chair massage (sessions are limited)
- Learn about new spring fashion trends
- Take home an exclusive tote bag filled with goodies and great info
- Enjoy a wide selection of delicious foods (dinner served from 5:30-7:00pm)
- Enter into our drawing to win one of our fabulous baskets

...and of course, cupcakes for all!