Good news on tax revenue

State budget forecast is $915.3 million more than expected

BY PAUL HUGHES

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 revenue estimate by $300 million, driven largely by a tax revenue increase. The state has reduced 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 $340 million from OPMA’s March forecast.

OPMA analysts are now projecting an operating surplus of $366.2 million for the 2019 fiscal year that runs through June 30, up $76.2 million from last month’s projection.

Despite this good news, the next fiscal year budget still must close a gap of $250 million.

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COMUTERS RILED BY CHANGE

Metro-North’s new connection time impacts daily passengers

BY ANDREW LARSON

WATERBURY — Metro-North Railroad has you covered if you’re looking to cut your commute time.

The rail operator has pushed back the 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 PAUL HUGHES

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 Doris William- son, the former commissioner of the state Office of Early Intervention.

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Strike left store shelves bare

Stop & Shop

meat, produce, dairy stocks low

BY HARRISON CONNERY

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.

As a result, until the weekend we can get stuff bar even,” said Paul Myers, a Stop & Shop employee of 13 years.

Myers said he’s not sure how much he’ll be working this week, but he and other employees are “looking forward to the weekend when we can get stuff bar even.”

The store on Reservoir 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 employees on strike since April 11.

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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.

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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.

Read it at rep-am.com

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

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produce was low Monday afternoon at the Reidville Drive Stop & Shop. Wilkinson briefly outlined the two-hour cabinet meeting that was held April 11 to discuss the 2019-2020 budget. He said its purpose is to lay out clear goals for state agencies, set high standards, and hold them accountable.

“I have the flexibility in my schedule to accommodate this if I want,” said Wilkinson. “But not everyone has the flexibility by themselves to leave work 20 minutes earlier every single day!”

Lamont said the change was made because truck wars were causing ruin to the state and for the people that make those wages. 

“This was done to provide workers with more reliability and service on the Waterbury branch. Rather than to leave 30 minutes later than to leave 30 minutes earlier, that makes the branch’s fall-off like what you saw in New York,” he said.

The state Department of Transportation said it’s required to re-consider the time that the train leaves the Waterbury branch due to the connection to the Waterbury-Bradport rail system for the state’s passengers.

The Waterbury branch run from Bridgeport to Wa-terbury, which is the north-ernmost point served by Metro-North.

Riders have long advocated for more frequent service on the Waterbury branch, which still runs on diesel-fueled trains. Work is underway in Connecticut to install tracks along segments of the Waterbury line, but it is not scheduled to take place before 2021.

The Waterbury branch rail service was interrupted again Monday morning when delays occurred due to track replacement in the South Norwalk area. The train was delayed for 20 minutes, arriving 2:03 p.m. instead of the scheduled time of 1:43 p.m.

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.