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WEEK IN REVIEW

For the week of Monday, June 1, through Saturday, June 6

LOCAL NEWS

Deal made to avert 20 police layoffs

A last-ditch negotiation session between Stamford's police union and the city resulted in a tentative agreement early Friday that will avert 20 officer layoffs.

Police union president Sgt. Joseph Kennedy said he and officials resumed negotiations at 5 p.m. Thursday, striking a tentative agreement just after midnight to bring all officers back to work immediately. Kennedy declined to detail specific concessions until rank-and-file officers were notified.

Flanked by Mayor Dannel Malloy and Police Chief Brent Larabee on Friday, Kennedy said during a news conference held at police headquarters that in addition to preserving raises, the tentative compromise also resolved an impasse over higher medical co-pays.

Starting July 1, officers also will pay higher medical insurance premiums — a key barrier earlier in the negotiations. Officers will pay \$48 a week, instead of \$10, for a family insurance plan.

The agreement, which requires approval of the Board of Representatives and Board of Finance, also provides a no-layoff clause for officers through June 2011. Further details of the compromise deal were not released Friday.

"The bottom line is that 20 people will not leave work," Kennedy said.

Malloy said with the agreement, city negotiators and 11 labor unions had agreed to more than \$3 million in concessions, avoiding 85 to 100 layoffs. To avoid downsizing, some unions negotiated to defer salary increases while others accepted furlough days and other cuts.

The layoffs arose from a two-

month standoff between the police officers' union and the city over wage increases and benefits. In April, the Board of Finance cut nearly \$800,000 from salary accounts to offset a tax increase.

State legislators make bid to save Wright Tech

Stamford's legislative delegation hopes a bipartisan maneuver in the final hours of the regular session last week will save J.M. Wright Technical School from closing or give the city control of the building if it does.

A few minutes before the session ended at midnight Wednesday, the House of Representatives and the Senate passed a mammoth bill with a small amendment requiring that the state lease Wright Tech to Stamford for \$1 annually for 20 years if it is closed.

Grappling with a fiscal crisis, Gov. M. Jodi Rell proposed closing Wright Tech to save \$5 million a year.

"The hope and expectation is that Wright Tech stays open as a vocational and technical high school, and we never need this bill," said state Rep. James Shapiro, D-Stamford, whose district is home to Wright Tech. "In case the wheels come off for whatever reason, we believe local folks will care more about the future of Wright Tech than a distant state government."

Shapiro would not say what options Stamford might have regarding the building if the school is closed.

"We could explore those at the time," he said. "The state's only plan is to board up the windows."

The bill containing the Wright Tech amendment authorized the state to convey unused land to cities and towns throughout Connecticut, so it is popular with many legislators. But it still needs Rell's approval.

The administration, including Lt. Gov. Michael Fedele of Stamford, who has been trying to save Wright Tech, was not pleased with the Stamford delegations' efforts. Enrollment at Wright Tech has been dropping.

Last fall, the state Board of Education authorized Wright Tech to plan a new college preparatory curriculum with Norwalk Community College. But in December, the board voted to recommend closing Wright Tech for two years as part of the 10

END OF THE ROAD



KATHLEEN O'ROURKE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seniors Taylor Kurtz, left, and Jen Joseph embrace as the Westhill High School softball team meets at its field Wednesday to hear the announcement that their loss to the Norwich Free Academy will be upheld and the 2009 season had ended.

percent spending cuts Rell requested of all departments to address the budget deficit.

Westhill softball season ends in a ruling

The Westhill High School softball team's season ended Wednesday not on the field, but in the offices of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, the state's governing board.

The Vikings' successful appeal of its 4-3 loss to Norwich Free Academy in the second round of the state tournament Tuesday was overturned Wednesday because there is no recourse for appeals, according to article 6.3 in the CIAC's guidelines. Westhill finished the season at 20-5.

The controversy stemmed from a decision by home plate umpire Tommy Oliver in the eighth inning Tuesday to remove Westhill pitcher Jen Joseph from the game after she had not officially been re-entered into the game after departing for a pinch runner, though Joseph had

subsequently pitched one and a third innings.

The score was 3-3, and NFA went on to score what proved to be the winning run later in the inning.

After the contest ended, there was a one-hour delay in which it was determined that since Westhill coach Tom Pia should have received a warning for not informing Oliver he was reinserting Joseph, the game would be picked up Wednesday at the point Joseph departed.

NFA contested the decision Wednesday morning.

Westhill coach Tom Pia and athletic director Mike King informed the players of the ruling as they made their way onto the Westhill field for the game.

"I feel badly for our seven seniors that their careers had to end this way," Pia said.

Proposed hikes in rail, bus fares are slammed

Lawmakers and rail and bus advocates Monday urged Gov. M. Jodi Rell to drop her proposal to hike CT-

Transit bus fares by 40 percent and Metro-North Railroad fares by 10 percent to balance the state budget.

The increases are economically unfair and damaging to transit, opponents said.

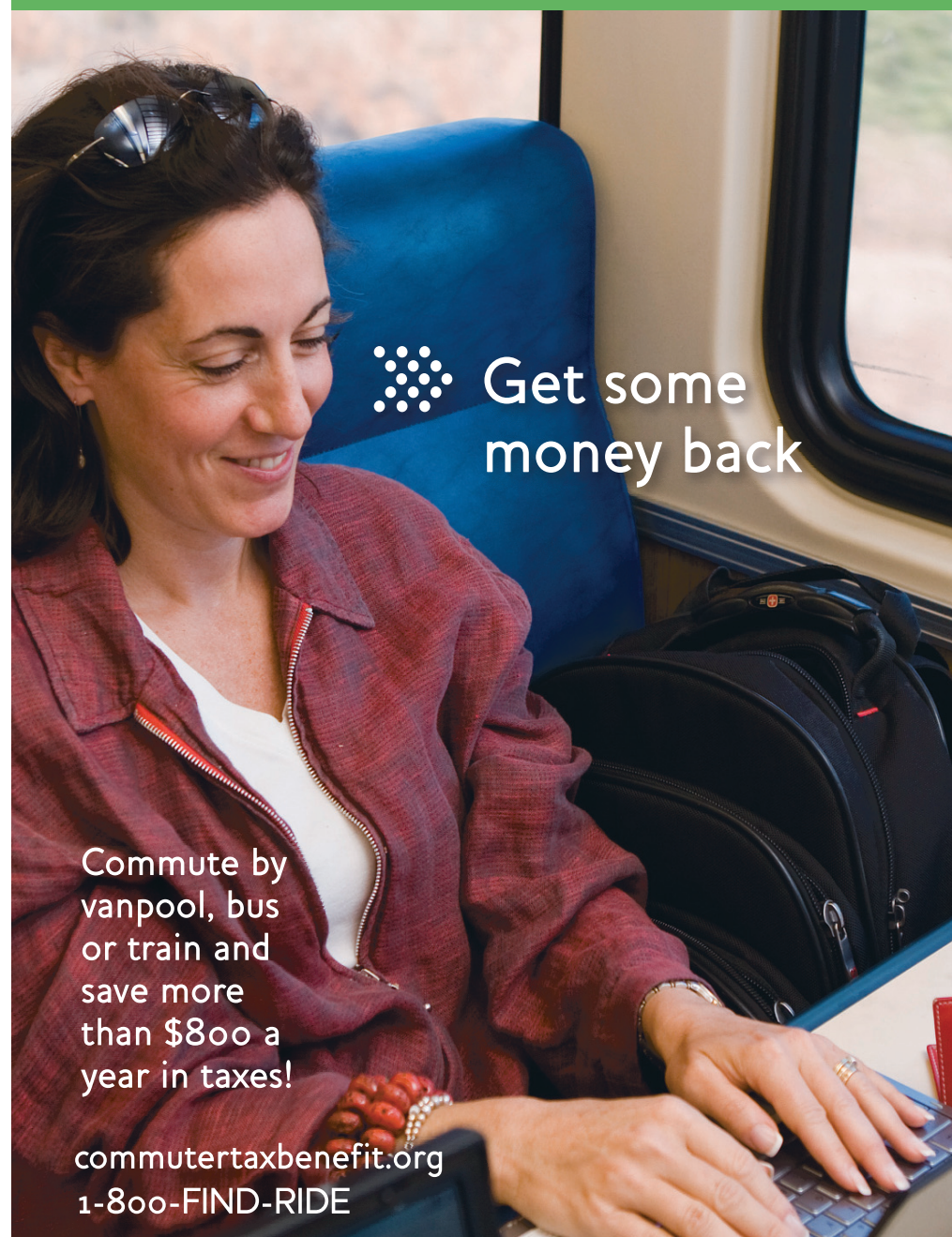
"Keeping mass transit affordable is how you encourage people to stay off the highways," said Jim Cameron, chairman of the Connecticut Rail Commuter Council.

Members of Transit for Connecticut, a coalition of transportation advocacy groups and planners, said a bus fare hike from \$1.25 to \$1.75 would hurt lower-income workers and undermine the state's goal of encouraging use of mass transit.

Rell proposed the hikes last week as part of a revised budget that included another \$1.3 billion in spending cuts to close an \$8 billion gap over the next two years.

The fare increases are needed to cover Metro-North Railroad and CT Transit deficits and ensure the Special Transportation Fund remains balanced, said Jeffrey Beckham, spokesman for the state Office of Policy and Management.

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SPEAKERS



CURRENT TRENDS IN ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES
Katherine D. Schoyer, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine



PRESERVATION OF FERTILITY; FICTION OR A REALITY?
Glenn L. Schattman, M.D.
Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine



MANAGING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESSES AND STRAINS OF INFERTILITY
Linda D. Applegarth, Ed.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Clinical Reproductive Medicine and Psychiatry

DATE:
Monday • June 15, 2009
TIME:
5:00pm
Registration & Refreshments
6:00 – 8:00pm
Lectures and Q&A Panel

LOCATION:
Hilton Rye Town
699 Westchester Avenue
Rye Brook, NY 10573

TO RESERVE A SEAT PLEASE CONTACT:
914.242.8161 or email us at
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For details visit us at
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