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VOTE POSSIBLE NEXT WEEK

Car Tax Gone In Compromise Plan

Teachers To Pay More, Higher-Ed Takes Cut, Other Details Unclear

By **CHRISTOPHER KEATING**
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In a break from a longtime Connecticut tradition, residents would no longer pay property taxes on their cars under a tentative bipartisan budget deal, lawmakers said Thursday.

On Thursday, details trickled out about the still-under-wraps deal brokered by Republican and Democratic leaders with-

out input from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy. The agreement would eliminate major cuts to higher education, require teachers to pay more toward their retirement and include a scaled-back financial rescue for Hartford.

The plan does not call for sales or income tax increases, but the earned income tax credit, which assists the working poor, would be cut back. Taxes on tobacco also would increase.

"The car tax would be totally eliminated

in the second year," House Republican leader Themis Klarides said. "You would no longer pay a tax on your car."

She said no votes will be taken until next week as legislators await the written details of a budget that could stretch longer than 900 pages.

When asked how money would be generated to fill the coffers for municipalities, funding now paid by motorists,

BUDGET, A4

Bipartisan budget deal would:

- ▶ Eliminate property tax on cars
- ▶ Reduce cuts to higher education
- ▶ Require teachers to pay more for pensions
- ▶ Scale back earned income tax credit
- ▶ Increase taxes on tobacco products

Still unclear:

- ▶ Municipal aid to towns
- ▶ Education cost-sharing grants
- ▶ Cuts to social services

WHITE HOUSE AIDE

Kelly: Trump Spoke 'Bravely'

Defends Call To Gold Star Widow

By **ANNE GEARAN, PHILIP RUCKER and JOHN WAGNER**
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — White House Chief of Staff John Kelly unequivocally defended President Donald Trump's calls to the families of four fallen soldiers, on Thursday using his credibility as a retired general who lost a son on the battle-

ON NIGER: McCain Demands Answers, Pentagon Opens Probe. **A3**

field to try to help his boss contain a public relations crisis. In an extraordinary, emotional appearance in the White House briefing room, Kelly described in painful detail the trauma of losing service members. He also excoriated a Democratic congresswoman for publicizing her account of Trump's call Tuesday with the widow of one of the four young men killed in an ambush in Niger.

KELLY, A4

HARTFORD CREDIT

Moody's Warns Of Debt For Decades

By **MATTHEW ORMSETH**
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Moody's Investor Service issued a dire warning to lenders Thursday: Hartford is likely to default on its debt by November and, if it doesn't change course, will run up annual deficits exceeding \$60 million through the next 20 years.

On Sept. 26, Moody's downgraded the city's bond rating, reflecting the investor service's belief that "in the likely event of a default," bondholders may recover as little as 65 percent of their investment.

Moody's projects that the city's operating deficits will reach \$60 million to \$80 million per year through 2036, largely driven by fixed costs, which command 23 percent of Hartford's 2018 budget, according to a

MOODY'S, A4

AUTUMN FUN

LIKE THEM APPLES

KATHLEEN HENRIQUES, 10, of Prospect, climbs a tree so she can pick the bigger apples toward the top at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield on Thursday. Connecticut apples are available for picking through the end of October at most farms and orchards.



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BRISTOL INVESTIGATION

Mayor 'Complicit,' Probe Finds

Independent Investigator Cites Cockayne In Long-Running Feud

By **DON STACOM**
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BRISTOL — Mayor Ken Cockayne circulated compromising photos of council member Jodi Zils Gagne after her husband gave a political rival airtime on his small internet radio station, an investigative report concludes.

Cockayne then tried to thwart a city

investigation after Gagne complained to the personnel director of sexual harassment, and later threatened in a text message to Gagne's husband that "you and Jodi will pay," according to the city-commissioned report by an independent attorney. Cockayne and Gagne are second cousins.

Cockayne's attorney released a statement Thursday denying the accusations and attacking the report as biased, inaccurate

and stemming from "political mud-slinging."

The report's findings, which were released Thursday, cap a bitter monthslong feud between Cockayne and Gagne, both Republicans running for re-election Nov. 7.

The battle has divided their families and shaken the local Republican Party. It also triggered a social media war, with both sides

COCKAYNE, A4

Health Care Battle

Democrats pressed a bipartisan bill that would preserve subsidies for low-income Americans under the Affordable Care Act, even as GOP leaders seek greater concessions before bringing it up for a vote. **World & Nation, Page A3**

Out Of State? In-State Tuition

New York and New Jersey students will be allowed to pay in-state tuition at Western Connecticut State University. **Connecticut, Page B1**

Dealership Thefts

Hartford police warn dealerships about a rash of break-ins in which thieves steal keys in order to steal cars. **Connecticut, Page B4**

Van Gogh, On Film

A new film uses hundreds of painters to tell what happened after the death of Vincent van Gogh. **Living, Page D1**



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