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Top tax scofflaws owe \$185M

Day Kimball hospital, estate of Aaron Hernandez among 25 biggest debtors in state, records show

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

Though Connecticut has been rolling up large budget surpluses in recent years, hundreds of tax scofflaws owe millions of dollars

in overdue state taxes.

The state's top 25 scofflaws owe \$185 million combined for personal, business, sales, and hospital taxes, according to the latest public records as of July 10 from the tax department. Over-

all, the tax department estimates that the state is owed \$3 billion in unpaid taxes including three different categories: individuals and businesses that do not file at all, those who under-report their income, and those who correctly calculate their income but then do not pay what they owe.

Tax Commissioner Mark Boughton, who was appointed to

the position by Gov. Ned Lamont, said his team continues its efforts even in times of surplus.

"Our expectation is that if there's a legitimate liability on our books, we expect it to be paid," Boughton told The Courant in an interview. "We will do every thing we can — every collection method, every tool in our tool box — to go out and collect those dollars. This is really

the taxpayers' money. Every time we don't collect a dollar, that just raises the liability on everybody else."

With seasoned attorneys and auditors, the state tax department researches multiple cases to track down tax scofflaws in Connecticut and beyond. Sometimes that

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A world of possibility



Quinnipiac University hosted its annual "Camp No Limits" for children and adolescents with limb loss or limb differences and their families

at its York Hill Campus in Hamden. The camp, according to Quinnipiac, helps children increase their functional independence and features adaptive recreation and life skills programs. **Above:** Dominic Zeccola dances with his daughters, Josephine Zeccola, 9, and Rosalie Zeccola, 6, all of Katonah, N.Y., at the four-day overnight camp. **Left:** Anna Cosgrove, 13, of Milwaukee, stretches during a program offered by the camp.

AARON FLAUM/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS

DOWNTOWN HARTFORD

A boost for some vacant stores?

\$2M leasing program could inject some life into Trumbull Street

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

The redevelopment of the Hartford Civic Center in 2006 added a soaring apartment tower and eliminated a shopping mall, but storefronts that also were created along Trumbull Street have remained largely vacant, used for storage and the occasional pop-up store.

But \$2 million recently approved by state lawmakers could inject some life into those spaces, providing financial assistance to encourage leases in storefronts that flank the main entrance to the newly-rechristened PeoplesBank Arena.

This new push — still in its earliest stages — is aimed at building on the success of the city's \$9 million Hart Lift storefront revitalization program that provided matching grants, focusing heavily on downtown, especially along the pedestrian-only Pratt Street.

The investment would come as PeoplesBank Arena — downtown's sports and entertainment complex — is in the midst of a \$145 million renovation that is expected to be nearly completed by this fall. The arena project is aimed at bringing more concerts to Hartford; offering more options for seating and ticket pricing; and reversing the state-run arena's money-losing track record, running at about \$2 million annually.

"Given the investment in the arena, we thought it would be a miss if we didn't put

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Trump details plan to slap 30% tariffs on EU, Mexico

By Aamer Madhani
Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — President Donald Trump on Saturday announced he's levying tariffs of 30% against the European Union and Mexico starting Aug. 1, a move that could cause massive upheaval between the United States and two of its biggest trade partners.

Trump detailed the planned tariffs in letters posted to his social media account. They are part of an announcement blitz by Trump of new tariffs aimed at allies and foes alike, a bedrock of his 2024 campaign that he said would set the foundation for reviving a U.S. economy that

he claims has been ripped off by other nations for decades.

In his letter to Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, Trump acknowledged that the country has been helpful in stemming the flow of undocumented migrants and fentanyl into the United States. But he said the country has not done enough to stop North America from turning into a "Narco-Trafficking Playground."

"Mexico has been helping me secure the border, BUT, what Mexico has done, is not enough," Trump added.

Trump in his letter to the European Union said that the

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WATERBURY

A baseball dream survives some tough hops

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

WATERBURY — Victor Cuevas played baseball in the original Roberto Clemente League in Waterbury over 50 years ago. He was 8 years old and played for the St. Cecilia's Church community school team.

He is 61 now but still remembers the feeling he got from playing back then. When his parents separated, the fathers who helped out became surrogate fathers to him, as did his coaches. He had a sense of community. He went on to play baseball in high school and college and for a semipro team in Waterbury.

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The Roberto Clemente Waterbury Little League team has faced controversy in its first chartered year since 2008. GERALDO REYES JR.

In Morris, more than just a store

A gift shop in a historic location has grown into a community destination where anyone who walks through the front doors becomes part of one big family. **Sunday CT, Page 1**

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