



WYMANews

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WYMANews

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COMPTROLLER'S AUDIT FINDS UP TO \$49 MILLION IN SAVINGS AT DSS

An audit administered by the Comptroller's office has determined that the Department of Social Services (DSS) could save up to \$49 million a year in its budget for the HUSKY health insurance program.

The HUSKY plan serves more than 200,000 lower-income children and teenagers at an annual cost of about \$800 million. The audit examined how DSS determined the rates to be paid to health care providers in the program, and whether there was a sound actuarial basis for lowering that rate.

"We have identified significant savings that could be achieved if DSS paid its providers more in line with industry standards, instead of the 24-percent increase it granted providers last year," Comptroller Wyman said. "The state has an obligation to our taxpayers to negotiate the lowest price it can get from its vendors and I am hoping that this audit could lead to the renegotiation of some of these enormous contracts."

The audit concluded that rates paid to HUSKY providers could be reduced by 5 percent to 6 percent – saving an estimated \$41 million to \$49 million annually. Following release of the audit's results,

Governor M. Jodi Rell recommended that the savings be incorporated into the state budget for 2010-2011.

The audit - requested by Democratic leadership in the House and Senate – was conducted by Milliman Inc. with the assistance of members of the Comptroller's staff. Cost of the audit was less than \$100,000.

"In times of multi-billion-dollar deficits it is especially important that the state negotiate the lowest delivery price it can get from its vendors," Comptroller Wyman said. "I believe that the money spent on this audit will pay dividends for years to come."

The audit also recommended that DSS's accounting and bill-paying procedures can be improved by integrating into the state's Core-CT computer system, which would allow the Comptroller and the legislature to independently review the DSS budget on an ongoing basis.

The full audit may be viewed online at: <http://www.osc.state.ct.us/articles/dssaudit.pdf>



Connecticut State Capitol

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E-NOTIFICATION

WYMANews and Press Releases

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Annual Black History Month Essay Contest Winners

State Comptroller Nancy Wyman announced the results of her ninth annual Black History Essay Contest, which this year focused on students' reactions to the election of President Barack Obama.

The event was open to high school juniors and was sponsored by the Office of the State Comptroller with the support of New Alliance Bank, Bank of America and People's Bank. Winners receive U.S. Savings Bonds of between \$1,000 and \$100.

"These essays not only demonstrate the profound effect the election of President Obama has had on Connecticut's students, but show how fortunate we are to have such articulate, inspired young people as our next generation of leaders," Wyman said.

See winners on Page 2

Annual Black History Month Essay Contest Winners

The following are this year's winners and an excerpt from his or her essay:



1) Shaniece Jones/New London Science and Technology Magnet High School

"When I am in school and I listen to my teacher, I find myself hearing the words of Obama: 'Yes, We Can.' I vow to make a difference. This election has made me a new person. I am now a strong believer in faith, I strive to be a helper to my peers and I stand for change in the world."

2) Shanique Wilson/Hartford Public High School

"I can identify with Mr. Obama. Though from humble beginnings and faced with many challenges I too shall rise to achieve academic victory and become the successful lawyer that I aspire to be some day because I too have a dream!"



3) Candice Lobban/ Hyde Leadership School, Hamden

"Unfortunately, there are still people in the world who aren't happy with Barack Obama as President, but when you think about how you could become the next African-American President, those people don't seem to matter."



4) Gul Khan/Central High School, Bridgeport

"The election of Barack Obama is not only a victory on a personal level for the African-American community, but also a triumph for Muslim-Americans like myself in the post-September 11th world. Obama truly symbolizes progress for all people in the United States, no matter what their race may be."



5) Bryan Sih/Danbury High School

"Being Asian-American, I have questioned the possibility of an Asian-American President in the future. This campaign has proved to me that America is not caught in its old web of racism and prejudices, which is a beautiful and moving change to witness."

6) Carlanna Dyer/ Hartford Public High School

Barack Obama " has made me realize that we are NOT the same. We say this to try to make people believe that we have no differences and that we are the perfect country. But that is exactly what America is not about. We come in all different shapes, sizes and colors."



State Comptroller Nancy Wyman stated that the 2009 budget deficit has improved slightly to \$911 million, due to action by the General Assembly that offset a continued drop in tax revenue.

While overall tax revenues declined by about \$15 million since last month, the recent passage of a "deficiency bill" to cover state agency fiscal shortfalls by reducing other appropriations resulted in a net \$3 million improvement in the deficit projection.

The biggest drop in revenue was a \$10 million dip in the payroll-withholding portion of the income tax. The state

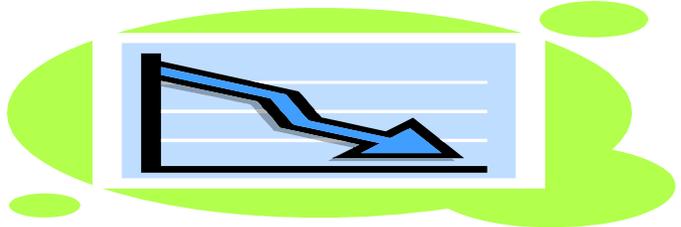
has lost more than 63,000 jobs since May 2008.

"Connecticut's job picture has been in steady decline for more than a year and the income tax has bottomed out right along with it," Wyman said.

Overall collections of the income tax, including capital gains payments, are down 15 percent from last year. The tax was expected to bring in about \$7.6 billion, but will likely fall about \$1.3 billion short of that estimate.

The sales tax, expected to produce about \$3.7 billion, will bring in about \$420 million less than projected.

Latest State Financial Projection



Taxes that corporations pay on profits are expected to fall about \$200 million under the original estimate of about \$790 million.

Wyman's deficit projection includes about \$550 million of deficit-mitigation steps and state employee labor concessions approved by the legislature.

Although the 2009 fiscal year ended June 30, the state continues to collect certain tax accruals through July 31. A final deficit figure will be issued in September. Stay up to date by visiting www.osc.state.ct.us.

Where has Wyman been lately ... Visit www.osc.state.ct.us/public/events/ for more



Easter Seals of CT Honoree
Cathy Poulin and Judy O'Connor



Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce
Citizen of the Year Angela Arnold



Rivera Memorial Foundation
Scholarship Recipients, Oakville



SBA Small Business Person of the Year
Christopher Bartlett, North Haven



4th Annual Women Who Dare
Hartford



Credit For Life Fair
Middletown

CONNECTICUT'S WALL OF HONOR TRIBUTE



Two Connecticut soldiers killed in Iraq in 2008 were added to the Wall of Honor tribute in the State Capitol complex.

Photographic portraits of Marine Cpl. Christian Cotner of Waterbury (left) and Army First Lt. Thomas J. Brown (right) of Shelton were hung on the Wall during a ceremony attended by members of both their families, as well as the families of many of the 42 other soldiers on the Wall.

The Wall includes a framed color portrait of each service member, and a podium displaying a brass plate bearing their name, hometown, branch of service and the year and location of their death. It is located in the Veterans Alcove along with other military monuments in the concourse between the Capitol and the Legislative Office Building.

The Wall was conceived by Comptroller Nancy Wyman and Hartford radio host Brad Davis, who co-chaired its 2007 dedication and hosted today's addendum ceremony.



In her remarks, Comptroller Wyman said the men and women on the Wall are honored for the way they lived, both in and out of uniform, and for what their sacrifice means to Connecticut and the nation.

"They lived in freedom, they fought for freedom and freedom is what they died for," Wyman said. "And that is why they are heroes."

- Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Chapman - Windsor Locks
- Navy SEAL Petty Officer Jason Dale Lewis - Brookfield
- Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan Bruckenthal - Ridgefield
- Marine Staff Sgt. Phillip Jordan - Enfield
- Marine Cpl. Kemaphoom Chanawongse - Waterford
- Marine Lnc. Cpl. Lawrence Philippon - West Hartford
- Marine Lnc. Cpl. John Schmidt III - Brookfield
- Marine Sgt. David Coullard - Glastonbury
- Marine Cpl. Stephen Bixler - Suffield
- Marine Capt. Brian S. Letendre - New Britain
- Marine Cpl. Jordan Pierson - Milford
- Marine Lnc. Cpl. Philip Johnson - Enfield
- Marine Cpl. Kevin J. Dempsey - Monroe
- Marine Cpl. Christian Cotner - Waterbury
- Army PFC Wilfredo Perez, Jr. - Norwalk
- Army Staff Sgt. Richard Eaton, Jr. - Guilford
- Army Sgt. David Travis Friedrich - Naugatuck
- Army PFC Anthony D'Agostino - Waterbury
- Army Sgt. Maj. Philip Albert - Terryville
- Army PFC Jeffrey Braun - Stafford
- Army Capt. Eric Paliwoda - Farmington
- Army Sgt. Benjamin Gilman - Meriden
- Army Spec. Tyanna Avery Felder - Bridgeport
- Army Sgt. Felix DelGreco - Simsbury
- Army PFC Melissa Hobart - East Haven
- Army Spec. Jacob Martir-Gutierrez - Norwich
- Army Chief Warrant Officer William Brennan - Bethlehem
- Army Sgt. Joseph M. Nolan - Waterbury
- Army Lt. Col. Michael J. McMahon - West Hartford
- Army Staff Sgt. Henry Irizarry - Waterbury
- Army Spec. Robert Hoyt - Ashford
- Army Staff Sgt. Thomas Vitagliano - New Haven
- Army Spec. Christopher Hoskins - Danielson
- Army Major Stephen C. Reich - Washington
- Army PFC Nicholas Madaras - Wilton
- Army Capt. Jason R. Hamill - Salem
- Army Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Phaneuf II - Eastford
- Army Sgt. Richard Ford - East Hartford
- Army PFC Stephen K. Richardson - Bridgeport
- Army 1st Lieut. Keith Heidtman - Norwich
- Army PFC Orlando E. Gonzalez - Bridgeport
- Army PFC Andre Craig - New Haven
- Army Sgt. Jason Lantieri - Killingworth
- Army First Lt. Thomas J. Brown - Shelton