

EXCLUSIVE

State, union officials brace for legal fallout from scandal

CT to pay law firm up to \$250k to handle federal subpoenas, other issues

By Jacqueline Rabe Thomas and Joshua Eaton

STAFF WRITERS

The top brass at the Connecticut State Police, the governor's office and the union representing troop-

ers are securing legal representation as investigations into the ticket writing scandal heat up.

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong has entered into a contract worth up to \$250,000 to hire a five-person team of

private-practice attorneys and support staff — with hourly rates ranging from \$220 to \$475 — to help the governor's office and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection with a wide swath of services, including re-

sponding to subpoenas, conducting research and providing advice, a copy of the contract shows.

Separately, the troopers' union "will likely be offering legal representation"

Scandal continues on A4



Christian Abraham/Hearst Connecticut Media

An exterior view of the State Police/Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection headquarters in Middletown



Ned Gerard/Hearst Connecticut Media

Aydin Artis, a sixth grader at Madison Middle School, poses with his mother, Michelle Artis, author of the book "I Am Different" in Trumbull on Dec. 12.

'You are still no different from anyone else'

Trumbull boy in wheelchair hopes new book inspires kids

By Shaniece Holmes-Brown

STAFF WRITER

TRUMBULL — Michelle Artis said she was surprised the first time she saw her 11-year-old son, Aydin, do a handstand in his wheelchair, something that has become his signature move.

She found out he did the handstands at school for his peers too and could not deny how happy it made him.

"He's so good at it so I decided that I'm just going to let him do it," she said. "Now, it has truly become his signature."

She said it was moments like these that inspired her to write her first book, "I Am Different," chronicling Aydin's life living with a wheelchair and showing how independent he is despite having a disability. The book is available at

Book continues on A4



Artis plays basketball in the gymnasium at Madison Middle School.

Battle over apartments reaches the CT Supreme Court

By Ken Dixon

STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — The state Supreme Court had some tough questions Friday for lawyers representing neighbors and the Fairfield Planning and Zoning Commission's fight against the height and scope of a proposed five-story 40-unit apartment building that town officials claim is too close to the Old Post Road historic district.

During two hours of hearings on the developer's lawsuit against the town, the panel of six justices, with the addition of state Appellate Judge Robert W. Clark, pushed back against attorney Barbara M. Schellenberg, representing the town, as well as attorney Joel Green, speaking for neighbors opposed to the

Battle continues on A5

Supporters to revive effort to honor teacher after it fails

By Richard Chumney

STAFF WRITER

STRATFORD — Local residents who want a new wing at Stratford High School named after longtime English teacher Rubye McNeil plan to redouble their efforts to honor the late educator, despite the school board's recent decision to reject the initial request.

David Harden, McNeil's grandson, said he intends to revive the proposal early next year now that the balance of power on the board has shifted with the recent addition of a handful of newly elected members.

"I won't give up," Harden said. "I will continue to push for it and I will submit this as many times as I have to."

McNeil, who died in 1993 after a bat-

Honor continues on A4

Killing of Yale student haunts loved ones and investigators 25 years later

By Randall Beach

CORRESPONDENT

Suzanne Jovin got up extraordinarily early for a college student. It was Friday, and she had a lot to do.

Intent on finishing her crucial senior essay, the 21-year-old used her student ID card at 4:24 a.m. to pass through the gate at her residential college at Yale University. Working in a nearby computer room for much of the morning, Jovin told a fellow student she was in a rush because she was also facing a deadline to apply to graduate schools. She was planning to apply to Columbia, George Washington, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Tufts and Yale.

Just before noon, Jovin picked up the keys for a Yale station wagon she would use later that day to transport people to a pizza party she was organizing for the Best Buddies program at Trinity Lutheran Church, four blocks from campus. As her mother had done at Yale, Jovin as a freshman began volunteering with the Yale chapter of Best Buddies, an international organization that pairs students with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By her senior year, she was running the program.

By 1:30 p.m., she was back in her apartment near the residential college, spending a few hours working on more

Jovin continues on A10



Hearst CT Media file photo

Ellen Jovin, sister of slain Yale student Suzanne Jovin speaks to the media in November 2007 asking for anyone to come forward with information in her sister's death.

Alex Jones offers \$55M to families



Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

Sandy Hook families get \$55 million offer from Akex Jones. The amount is a fraction of \$1.5B awarded by the jury.

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