

RAIDERS FALL

NINA LESTRUD, TORRINGTON, LOSE IN CLASS M VOLLEYBALL FINAL, 3-0, PAGE 1B

THE HIGHS, THE LOWS

YALE BEATS HARVARD, 21-14, IN "THE GAME," PAGE 6B
BOSTON COLLEGE DESTROYS UCONN, 30-0, PAGE 1B

Box store brings the business

Hundreds of shoppers rushed to the new Ocean State Job Lot in Torrington on Saturday. The retailer fills the empty place where Big Kmart once stood. PAGE 3A

Trump welcomes Romney

President-elect Donald Trump met with Mitt Romney in New Jersey on Saturday, putting aside a year of conflict. Trump said the sit-down "went great." PAGE 2C

Boston strong in Bantam

 Boston Marathon bombing survivor Celeste Corcoran, who lost both her legs in the 2013 attack, was on hand at Bantam Cinema on Saturday for a showing of HBO's documentary, "Marathon: The Patriots Day Bombing." PAGE 3A

Exhibit revisits Saturday fun

Remember Saturday morning cartoons? A push by William Hanna and Joe Barbera changed how both children and adults watched TV forever. PAGE 1E

OPINION OF THE DAY: "Let's take the high road as a state and avoid the bridge that has led many young adults and their families into a lifetime of suffering, addiction and death." — Richard A. Lupia, Oxford
READ THE FULL LETTER ON PAGE 11A

RA WEB EXTRAS

TODAY AT REP-AM.COM

- Find content at bit.ly/ra_webextras
- ▶▶ **THE CHAMPS!** Visit thezone.rep-am.com to watch a video from Seymour's victory (and Torrington's loss) in the Class M state volleyball championship.
 - ▶▶ **LET'S GO SHOPPING** Watch a video from the soft opening of Ocean State Job Lot in Torrington.
 - ▶▶ **MARATHON DOC** Watch the trailer from the HBO documentary, "Marathon: The Patriots Day Bombing."
 - ▶▶ **HUSKY FOOTBALL** Watch a video report from Uconn's loss to Boston College.

Back to budget battle

Growing fixed costs to complicate Malloy-legislature talks

BY PAUL HUGHES
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

HARTFORD — A spike in fixed costs, shrinking revenue and feeble economic growth are setting up another taxing round of budget deliberations for Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and the legislature. By the latest estimates, Malloy and legislators are go-

ing to have to close a gap of more than \$1 billion in the upcoming 2018 fiscal year to balance the next two-year budget plan. The signals coming from Hartford suggest most of the balancing will be accomplished through reducing spending. This was how a \$960 million gap in the 2017 budget was closed.

The big problem: projected growth in fixed costs for pension contributions, retiree health benefits, debt service, entitlements and federal mandates. In the state's lagging recovery from the Great Recession, predicted economic gains are insufficient to check the widening disparity between

See **BUDGET**, Page 7A

MORE INSIDE

- ▶▶ State lawmakers may give tax breaks costing an estimated \$7.1 billion a second look, **Page 7A**.
- ▶▶ A look at who stands to lose funding amid the budget crisis, **Page 7A**.

RA SPECIAL REPORT

SOLD FOR SEX

Human trafficking is a crime of mind games, addiction and intimidation, and police say it is happening here

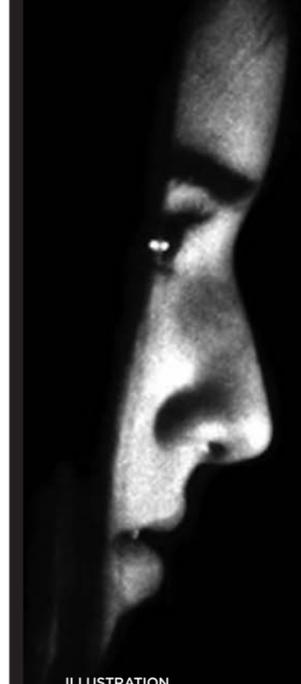


ILLUSTRATION FROM FREEIMAGES.COM

BY TRACEY O'SHAUGHNESSY
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

The girls were 16, one just barely. Rootless and searching. Both were short and thin, one a bit more timid. She met her new friend when they had both run away from foster homes.

Neither were street-smart. For a couple of months, they holed up in a series of Waterbury houses before they heard of a place they could stay in Watertown. One weekend in February, they set out for it.

These two teens — vulnerable, longing for attention, stability and money — became victims of what police are calling the latest criminal epidemic to sweep Connecticut and the nation: the manipulation and sale of juveniles for sex.

Last week, two Connecticut men were convicted in separate cases. The U.S. Attorney's office said Romane St. Christopher McKenzie, 24, of Hartford, was advertising sex for sale with a 15-year-old girl on backpage.com. He sold her for sex at motels in Enfield and South Windsor. The girl bought crack cocaine from McKenzie, who goes by his street names of Wookie, Rude, and Rude Boy, police said.

McKenzie was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison.

Also last week, Ramon Gomez, 40, of Uncasville, pleaded guilty to sex trafficking and drug charges. He pimped out a 17-year-old girl in a Groton motel room, and sold heroin which was given

See **SEX**, Page 12A

SEX TRAFFICKING: A CASE STUDY

Police say drugs are a major tool, along with manipulation and intimidation, when it comes to grooming someone for sex trafficking. Bridgeport police say Brandon "Boots" Williams used heroin in his efforts to traffic a 17-year-old girl, **Page 12A**.

The FBI estimates nearly 300,000 teens are victims of sex trafficking. And U.S. Attorney Deirdre M. Daly says it is "hidden in plain sight," **Page 12A**.

A look at what Connecticut's law says about human trafficking, and what hotels, state agencies and adult entertainment facilities must do to comply, **Page 12A**.

 Visit rep-am.com to watch videos featuring representatives from the Waterbury State's Attorney's office speaking about how victims are lured into the life.

 High **41** Cloudy and cold with a chance for rain
Low **28** and snow. Page **8B**

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