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Budget Chaos Consumes Legislature

A drop in the projected budget surplus for the current fiscal year has upended the budget discussion at the State Capitol. Until this week, the surplus projection for the fiscal year that ends on June 30 was pegged at \$550 million. Then, new estimates based on April tax collections arrived and over 90 percent of the surplus disappeared and is now pegged at \$43 million. As a result, Gov. Malloy and the Democratic leadership shelved plans for a tax refund of \$55 per taxpayer (\$110 for joint filers). The lower surplus numbers caused a new \$300 million hole in next year's budget and the key leadership are trying to resolve the issue right now. We expect that the leadership has rebalanced the budget proposal and that it will be taken up in the House and Senate this weekend. One casualty in the discussions is said to be Keno, a bingo-like gambling game authorized by the Legislature last year. Legislators have decided to cancel plans to move forward with it.

Senate Passes Bill on "Intimidation" of Immigrant Workers

The Senate has passed legislation to impose fines and other penalties on employers who threaten an employee based on their citizenship status. According to The Hartford Courant, "State Labor officials say they've encountered several cases of employers who try to use intimidation to keep immigrants-both legal and undocumented-from complaining to authorities about violations of their rights as workers." The bill, S.B. 371, would permit the state to close a firm for up to 60

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days if they make such threats. The bill now moves to the House.

Running Bamboo and Outdoor Wood Furnaces

A bill to establish a \$100 fine against a person whose running bamboo plants spread to a neighboring property is pending in the Senate. The bill, S.B. 72, prohibits placing the Bamboo within 40 feet of an adjoining property. Meanwhile, a bill to continue current state siting requirements for Outdoor Wood furnaces is pending in the House. S.B. 66 had previously passed the Senate.



Deer Hunting on Sundays

The House has passed a bill that will permit bow and arrow hunting on some private property on Sundays. The impetus for the bill, H.B. 5080, is the increase in the state's deer population in certain areas of the state. The Senate still needs to act on the proposal.

Violent Video Games

State Rep. Debra Lee Hovey, who represents the Sandy Hook area of Newtown, is continuing to call for more warning notices and an excise tax on video games that display violence. "The science is clear and overwhelming; the playing of violent video games by children and teens does lead to observable behavior changes," she said. Citing data from an Iowa State study, Hovey said that even children with no previous signs of violent tendencies were likely to show signs of increased aggression after periods of playing violent games.



Adjournment is Wednesday, May 7

The 2014 session will adjourn at midnight on Wednesday, May 7. As of this writing only 14 bills have passed



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both chambers-one of the lowest numbers in years. We expect the pace to pick up substantially in the last few days.

UCONN's Professor Mark Brand Recognized with an Excellence in Research Award

Professor Mark Brand was recognized with the *Excellence in Research Award* for his work on Invasive Ornamental Plants. Dean Weidemann, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, presented the award.



[Click here to read the write up](#)

Save the Date:

CNLA SUMMER FIELD DAY IS JULY 16th

Jason Scire is the Chair of this year's event to be held at VanWilgen's Garden Center in North Branford. More information to follow.

Get your Ad in for the May Issue of CNLA Magazine!

Calling all businesses-the next issue of the *CNLA Magazine* will be published and printed in May.

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[Magazine advertising form](#)

The Louis A. Magnarelli Memorial Fund

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has established The Louis A. Magnarelli Memorial Fund to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli. For those who would like to contribute and make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund visit The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Research Foundation, Inc. website:

<http://www.ct.gov/caes/foundation>

Summer Courses in Horticulture: NVCC

Summer courses are being offered at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Classes start on June 2, 2014. To register online go to : www.nv.edu/admissions

Contact: Christopher Tuccio for more information:
(203) 596-8634



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