

From the front page

BRIDGEPORT

Suspect in estranged wife's stabbing posts \$1.3M bond

By Daniel Tepfer
Staff Writer

BRIDGEPORT — Police were scrambling late Monday afternoon after getting word that Eric Stiggle, who allegedly kidnapped and stabbed his estranged wife, had posted a bond of more than a million dollars.

Last Tuesday in court, the 39-year-old Stiggle vowed revenge on his mother-in-law and said he would return to his wife's home here. At the time, he angrily shouted that no one would stop him. He had to be restrained by judicial marshals.

Following that court appearance, Stiggle, who is represented by a public defender, was being held in lieu of \$1.3 million bond

and a Superior Court judge ordered him to undergo a mental competency examination.

But on Monday afternoon, Stiggle walked out of the Bridgeport Correctional Center after posting the bond through a bail bondsman.

A law enforcement official said Stiggle should "definitely" be considered dangerous. Police were rushing to the wife's home.

On May 30, police said Stiggle, of New London, confronted his former wife at her home on Wilson Street in Bridgeport.

Police said he forced his way into her apartment and began choking her — first with his hands, then with the cord from a cell phone charger. They

said the victim bit Stiggle on the hand and managed to break free of him but he grabbed a pair of scissors and began stabbing her over and over, telling her he intended to rape her.

Bleeding from her many wounds, police said the victim again managed to break free from Stiggle, locking herself in the bathroom. She screamed for help out the window. But they said Stiggle broke the door down, dragging the woman into the bedroom.

Police said a female neighbor heard screaming coming from the victim's apartment and looked in through the open doorway. Within seconds, police said Stiggle had grabbed her, too, and forced her down on a bed.

He was poised to stab the neighbor when his former wife interceded, taking the blade thrust in her hand, police said.

Stiggle then grabbed his former wife by her bloody arm and dragged her out of the apartment house, stopping to grab a bottle of rum on the way out.

Once outside police said he shoved her into the back seat of her car and began driving away.

15 Bridgeport workers will lose jobs Friday

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The concessions were included as a line item in the City Council-approved budget. The target numbers were obtained by dividing the total amount needed in concessions by the percentage of the city budget that each union's total salaries make up.

So far, only the Building Trades union and unaffiliated employees have agreed to concessions.

The 33 employees in the Building Trades union agreed to increase their health-care premium from 12 to 18 percent beginning July 1, 2010 and gave up a plumber position for the fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2011. With these actions they met their target goal of \$64,945.

Although the builders signed their deal with the city June 28, it was never formally announced.

The unaffiliated employees' concessions, meanwhile, were announced by Mayor Bill Finch in a news release last week, although several of these employees claimed to have read about the

"agreed" concessions in the newspaper, according to sources.

This group of employees, comprised of appointed, elected and other non-union positions, including the mayor, will see its health-care premium increase from 15 to 25 percent beginning Jan. 1.

They will also each take three furlough days, and three positions will remain unfilled — deputy tax assessor, senior labor relations officer and director of parks and recreation.

These actions will lead to a total savings of \$366,860, not \$344,686 as was previously reported. This number is \$25,269 more than the target number requested of these 47 employees.

The city is also in the process of finalizing concession agreements with the 11 employees in the City Attorney's Union, which was asked for \$92,086 in concessions, and the five employees in the Printers Union, which was asked for \$21,235 in concessions.

Negotiations with the remaining unions are continuing.

STATE NEEDS ANTICIPATED

Senior surge poses transit challenge

By Martin B. Cassidy
Staff Writer

ORANGE — Facing a surge of older Connecticut residents in the coming decade, state and local transportation providers and social service agencies face a financial challenge supplying enough bus and other transportation for seniors and the disabled, officials said Monday.

"Right now, we have a very fragmented system statewide," said state Sen. Gayle S. Slossberg, D-Milford, who has formed a committee to consider ways to improve the state's senior transportation options.

Overseeing subsidized senior transportation is complicated by state regulations that determine seniors' eligibility for different types of service based on their mobility and what fare they will pay, said Donna K. Carter, executive director for the New Haven Transit District.

Service in addition to travel to doctor's appointments and other destinations will be expected by people over 65 living in their homes, Carter said at the first meeting of the recently formed Connecticut Senior Transportation Steering

Committee on Monday at Laurel Estates, an assisted living facility.

"Whether it's getting to the senior center for socialization purposes, or to the grocery store, the baby boomers are the next generation we'll be dealing with going forward," Carter said.

Slossberg said she hopes the committee of transportation and social service officials from Milford, New Haven, West Haven and Orange could offer ideas to more efficiently provide senior transportation.

Connecticut is trying to reduce costs in its long-term-care system by moving Medicaid patients in nursing homes back into communities to live more independently.

Slossberg cited a 2006 Connecticut Commission on Aging assessment that projected the state's population of residents age 65 and over will increase 64 percent between 2006 and 2030, while the working population ages 21 to 64 will only grow 5 percent.

"My goal is to bring this issue about the senior population to the Legislature in a more comprehensive way," Slossberg said. "I'm not sure everybody is aware of the population explosion of seniors to come."

State SAT scores up slightly

Continued from A1

scores rise to 509 for reading, 513 for math and 512 for writing. Statewide, 36,076 public and private high school seniors took the test.

Among public school students, the 2010 results also show:

- The performance gap between minority and non-minority students persists, although the gap between black and white students' average scores narrowed slightly in reading and math.

- The performance gap between males and females continues, with females excelling in writing and males in math.

The average scores of local high schools are not yet available.

Bob Schaeffer, public education director of FairTest, a vocal critic of the SAT and other standardized testing, characterized the national 2010 SAT results as stagnant.

He blamed policies that force schools to test annually and teach to the test for leaving "more" children behind.

"Fortunately, more and more colleges have recognized the folly of fixating on the narrow, often biased, information provided by standardized tests and moved toward test-optional admissions," Schaeffer said.

The College Board, on the other hand, put the focus of its 2010 score release on just how many college-bound students are taking the test. The ones that do the best on the test, according to College Board President Gaston Caperton, are the ones who take four years of English, three or more

years of math, three or more years of natural science and three or more years of social science and history.

Students who do, score, on average, 151 points higher on the SAT than those who don't, according to the College Board.

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United States Environmental Protection Agency New England

Raymark Industries, Inc. Superfund Site
Stratford, Connecticut

EPA announces a 30 day public comment period on the Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Raymark Industries, Inc. Superfund Site, Operable Unit 6. The public comment period begins September 16, 2010 and extends through October 16, 2010.

Two types of public meetings will occur with respect to the Proposed Plan. The first will be a Public Information Meeting on September 15 to explain the proposed remedies and answer questions. This meeting will focus on a discussion of the Proposed Plan and is considered informational only. Comments that are made during this meeting will not be part of the official record.

Public Informational Meeting
Wed., Sept. 15, 2010, 7-9 p.m.
Stratford High School
44 N. Parade, Stratford, CT

The second type of meeting on October 6, a Public Hearing, will occur during the official comment period. At this meeting, EPA will provide a brief summary of the cleanup proposal and then the floor will be open for spoken comments. A stenographer will be present to record all of the comments offered during the hearing.

Public Hearing
Wed., Oct. 6, 2010 at 7p.m.
Stratford Town Hall Council Chamber
2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT

Copies of the proposed plan will be available for the public starting on September 13 at Stratford's Library, Town Hall, and Health Department and will also be available at both meetings and on EPA New England's website: www.epa.gov/nep/superfund/sites/raymark. More detailed information concerning the cleanup alternatives evaluated for the Proposed Plan is available in the Raymark Industries, Inc. Operable Unit 6 Feasibility Study and the accompanying Administrative Record. Both will be available for review beginning September 15 on the EPA website and at the Site information repositories located at the Stratford Public Library, 2203 Main Street and at EPA's Records and Informational Center, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA.

EPA and the CT Department of Environmental Protection encourage you to attend the public meetings. For further information about these meetings or the public comment process, call Jim Murphy of EPA's Public Affairs office at (617) 918-1028, or toll-free at 1-888-372-7341.