

'Not a good sign'

Education advocates concerned about declining national test scores

By Natasha Sokoloff
STAFF WRITER

Despite improving statewide test scores, Connecticut education advocates say declining national proficiency rates reflect persistent is-

sues among students in the state as well.

In another sign that students have yet to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, federal testing data released this month shows that high school students

across the United States have lost ground in math and reading.

The latest results from the National Assessment of Education Progress, also known as "the Nation's Report Card," show math and reading

scores among 12th graders and science scores among eighth graders dropped to historic lows in 2024.

And while individual state scores for those grades and subjects were

Scores continues on A6



Brittany Newman/Associated Press
U.S. high school students have lost ground in math and reading, the Nation's Report Card shows.



Tyler Sizemore/Hearst Connecticut Media
The former Bridgeport Harbor Station power plant is imploded early Sunday. The plant's three smokestacks, including the 500-foot red-and-white striped edifice that is considered by many a local landmark, were left standing and will be leveled next spring.

Implosion takes down Bridgeport power plant

Iconic South End smokestacks slated to come down next year

By Brian Lockhart and Jessica Bravo
STAFF WRITERS

BRIDGEPORT — A staple of Bridgeport's seaside skyline received a bit of a facelift early Sunday as city officials detonated a large portion of the shuttered

coal-fired power plant in the South End.

Around 4 a.m., officials set off a series of charges that imploded the city's distinctive power plant, which held a prominent location just off Interstate 95 for many years. A large plume of smoke could be seen

across the city's harbor as the plant was demolished, and several residents reported feeling the earthquake-like ripple waves from the implosion in the early morning hours of Sunday.

While much of the plant was detonated Sunday

morning, the plant's three distinctive smokestacks — considered a local landmark by some — will remain in place until they, too, are torn down next year.

Located along the harbor, the facility was retired in 2021 as part of an arrange-

Plant continues on A6

Speed cameras coming to Stratford

By Brian Lockhart
STAFF WRITER

STRATFORD — The town is now the sixth municipality to receive the OK under a two-year-old state law to install traffic cameras for cracking down on motorists who speed and run red lights.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation announced its approval this week of Stratford's application, submitted in April by Republican Mayor Laura Hoydick's administration.

That document outlines five locations

Stratford continues on A5

State falls short on EV adoption goal

Millions to electrify Conn. vehicle fleet go unspent

By Alex Putterman
STAFF WRITER

In 2023, Connecticut's legislature allocated millions of dollars to help electrify the state's fleet of vehicles and promote adoption of electric vehicles more widely, as part of a broader effort to reduce the state's transportation emissions.

Two years later, almost all that money remains unspent.

According to state figures, Connecticut's

EV continues on A5

Fiber artists rethink buying as cost of yarn rises

By Cassandra Day
STAFF WRITER

Fiber artists and shop owners are beginning to feel the pinch as a result of a recent presidential order to add tariffs to imported goods valued at less than \$800 were exempt from tariffs.

The closure of the national chain store Joann Fabrics and other businesses specializing in yarn, overall rising costs and new tariffs on goods coming from overseas

has made engaging in fiber arts a more expensive hobby — a challenge for a community whose members might be older and on a fixed income.

Seventeen years ago, Elsa Pepe, who has been knitting since she was very young, founded the Hamden Senior Center's Power of Yarn knitting and crocheting group, which meets Thursdays.

Over the last few years, the price of yarn has become unaffordable for Joanne Wilder, one of those

members. She used to use Joann's angel hair yarn for its softness to make caps for people undergoing chemotherapy, but it's not available anymore.

"No matter how expensive it got, I was still buying that," she said.

Wilder said she will supplement her shopping by visiting thrift shops, as they often have a solid selection of affordable yarn.

Otherwise, she added, "I don't know what I'm

going to do — take things apart like in the old days?"

Donna Swarr, a member of the Middletown Skein Scene group is dismayed how fewer shelves are dedicated to yarn at large retailers.

"There is very, very little yarn available at the big-box stores, maybe one aisle and a half," she said.

"It's incredible," said Swarr, who formerly frequented Joann Fabrics

Yarn continues on A5



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media
Theresa Teta, left, and Crystal Robinson of Hamden talk about a crocheted piece at the Hamden Senior Center on Sept. 18.

Advice/puzzles.....B8
Classified.....B6
Comics.....B9

Nation & world.....A7
Obituaries.....A8
Opinion.....A4

Public notices.....B6
Sports.....B1-5
Television.....B7

8 52433 00116 7

© 2025
Hearst Media
Services CT
LLC



Weather: Partly sunny, less humid. High: 76. Low: 59.
Page A10

Fly Avelo

Nonstop from Hartford to: Cancun • Montego Bay • Punta Cana

\$20 OFF round trip base fares* with promo code FLYBDL20

BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL

*Restrictions apply. Discount applies to round trip base fares only. Travel by 4/30/26. Must be purchased by 11:59 p.m. PT on 11/30/25. See AveloAir.com Contract of Carriage for full details.