

'AI is taking away some entry-level jobs'

Recent Conn. college grads frustrated by lack of jobs, AI and tariff-shy employers

By Tracey O'Shaughnessy
STAFF WRITER

Gen Z is desperate for work. Battered by artificial intelligence, employers worried about tariffs, and hamstrung by a lack of job and internship experience, many college graduates are fighting to secure jobs even as rents remain high and sizeable college debt payments loom. The number of job listings for the entry-level corporate jobs traditionally available to young college graduates has fallen 15% even as the number of applications for each job has accelerated 30%, according to the career platform Handshake. For the first time on record, joblessness among the highly educat-

ed has climbed above the overall unemployment rate, the Financial Times reports, noting the situation is worse for men, where unemployment has risen from less than 5% to 7 % over the past year, the news organization reports. Many graduates, living at home while applying madly to online jobs, never hear back from their targeted employers, leaving them continually retooling their resumes and cover letters. "80% of the time, I don't hear back," said Maeve Stone, 22, a recent college graduate from West Hartford. For others, like Kayleen Yacyk, who graduated from the University of Connecticut in May, it's worse. She estimated she has applied for

more than 150 jobs without even a single returned phone call. "You spend all these four years learning and being prepared to enter the world, and now I don't have anything to show for it," Yacyk said. "I have a lot of friends in the same boat." A survey released this month found that nearly one in four Gen Z workers regret attending college. The survey, by Resume Genius, found 23% regret going to college and 13% would've chosen a skilled trade or no-degree career. The feeling is particularly acute for men, with 28% expressing regret. The labor market for recent college graduates "deteriorated noticeably," dipping to 5.3% in the second quarter of 2025, with the underemployment rate for college grads at more than 41%, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. That's the highest read-



Courtesy of the University of Connecticut School of Business

The job market for Gen Z is harder than it has been in years, economists say.

ing since 2021. Among those who graduated last year, 58% are still looking for their first job, according to Kickresume. That's compared to only 25% of millennials and Gen

Jobs continues on A6

Not every PICTURE

tells a



STORY



Photos by Christian Abraham/Hearst Connecticut Media

Fairfield National's Jimmy Taxiltaridis tries to land safely back at second but is called out during the U.S. Championship game against Nevada at the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pa., Saturday. At top, left, Fairfield parents look defeated after the loss. Above right, a promo for the battle for third place in the series.

Images from loss don't fully capture the journey of Fairfield National

SOUTH WILLIAMS-PORT, Pa. — Luca Pellegrini exhausted his allowable pitch count and left the mound for the final time as a Little League baseball player just after 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, a day that marked the end to Fairfield National's summer joy ride by running counter to its euphoric themes.

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That's what happens in sports, more often than not. The final moments and images rarely depict with accuracy the value of a journey. Fairfield National won't go down as world champions, Images continues on A4



Mike Anthony
COMMENTARY

Fairfield tops Aruba to finish 3rd at LLWS

By Kevin Roberts
STAFF WRITER

Fairfield National ended its stay at the Little League Baseball World Series with a win on Sunday, a day after falling in the U.S. championship game, its first loss in Williamsport. After Saturday's loss to Nevada, it was about hitting the reset button. "Yesterday was definitely difficult," Fairfield National manager Brian Palaz- Third continues on A4

Conn.'s parochial schools see growth, expand

Amid church closures

By Brian Zahn
STAFF WRITER

Over the last decade Connecticut diocesan officials have made the decision to close churches and merge parishes. Officials said the trend is not the same with Catholic schools. In many cases, Catholic officials have cited the significant costs of maintaining aging churches alongside dwindling participation and population in parishes as a cause for closing churches. In 2017, the Archdiocese of Hartford made the significant decision to close 26 churches and nearly halve the number of parishes from 212 to 127 at the time. Enroll continues on A6

EAST HADDAM

Preserve offers all-terrain wheelchair for visitors

By Ciara Hooks
STAFF WRITER

Connecticut's natural terrain got a little easier to navigate for those with mobility issues as the Nature Conservancy in Connecticut has introduced a all-terrain wheelchair that is now available to visitors of all ages. TNC 's Burnham Brook Preserve, located in East Haddam, joins Madison's playground at Surf Club Park, Clinton Town Beach in Clinton, Short Beach in Stratford and more providing accessibility in nature. This past July accessibility mats were installed throughout Surf Club Park to afford everyone the ability to visit its playground and the entire beach. The mats extend from the parking lot to the playground to the concessions and to the beach. Wheelchair continues on A6