

'They have financial obligations'



Ned Gerard/Hearst Connecticut Media file photo
The passenger concourse in the main terminal at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks on Feb. 25.

'Frustrated' federal employees in Conn. miss first full paychecks, airport workers turn to food bank

By Alex Putterman
STAFF WRITER

Federal employees in Connecticut missed their first full paychecks this week amid a government shutdown that shows no sign of ending. Though many of Connecticut's more than 7,000 federal employees continue to

be paid during the shutdown due to the way their agencies are funded, others have either been placed on furlough or forced to work without pay. After collecting partial paychecks earlier in the month for a pay period that began before the shutdown, they received \$0 paychecks this week. Kevin Curtiss, New England regional

vice president for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, said the union's members, including about 60 in Connecticut, are generally frustrated by the situation and afraid what will happen if they miss further paychecks. "They have financial obligations and they have families they need to provide for," Curtiss said. "And without knowing when that paycheck is going to come, you end up feeling frustrated, and there's a little bit of fear for your family and for yourself." **Workers continues on A6**

AND SO IT BEGINS

INSIDE:

SHOOTING FOR MORE

THE PIECES ARE IN PLACE

BUILT FOR A TITLE RUN

After an men's championship and 14 women's titles, UConn's powerhouse program remains hungry

Best basketball team in New Haven

Blindfolded, some of the best basketball players in the world

» College basketball is back this week and our 16-page preview bumper section looks at all of the Connecticut programs. The reigning NCAA champion UConn women's basketball team begins pursuit of a 13th title on Tuesday, while the UConn men kick off the season Monday against New Haven. For more, see Sports or go to ctinsider.com/sports.



Courtesy of Tweed New Haven Regional Airport/Avports

An architectural rendering of the proposed new passenger terminal that would be built on the East Haven side of Tweed New Haven Regional Airport, as seen from the air.

TWEED NEW HAVEN
Official warns airport expansion in peril

By Mark Zaretsky
STAFF WRITER

NEW HAVEN — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that it has jurisdiction over nearly 15 acres of wetlands that might be affected by the proposed Tweed New Haven Regional Airport expansion project and will need to approve plans before the project can go forward. Meanwhile, Avports CEO Marc Ricks met Thursday with Greater New Haven business leaders in a meeting hosted by the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce and, according to one involved official, Tweed New Haven Airport Authority Chairman Robert Reed, was to have offered a blunt assessment of the situation. "Key points to be communicated by Mr. Ricks include the critical need for consent from both New Haven and East Haven to advance the project," Reed wrote in a letter sent to authority members. "At this moment, there is no consensus from either municipal leader, and without their agreement, Avports is unable to proceed with the project." New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker responded Friday that as far as he is concerned, "nothing's changed." and he **Tweed continues on A6**

*** ELECTION 2025 ***

Registrar: 'We don't need two weeks'

Low early voting turnout has Connecticut officials questioning 14-day period

By Eric Bedner
STAFF WRITER

While municipal elections routinely see a far lower voter turnout than others

like a presidential year, early voting numbers show even fewer voters than expected, leading some registrars around Connecticut to question whether 14 days of early voting is necessary.

As of Friday, early voting accounts for 15.5% of what the state Secretary of the State's office expects for the overall turnout.

Voting continues on A6



Hearst Connecticut Media file photo
Jay Austin gives out stickers to voters at the Danbury High School polling station on Nov. 5, 2024.

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