

THE NEWS-TIMES

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Conn. CEOs made up to \$35M last year

By Paul Schott
STAFF WRITER

Eversource Energy has long been one of the most scrutinized companies in Connecticut. The pressure has escalated in the past couple of weeks. The largest energy-de-

livery company in New England is under fire from a number of politicians, including Gov. Ned Lamont, for a proposed rate increase. Lamont has also taken aim at the eight-figure pay of Eversource's chief executive officer, although Ever-

source officials deny that their proposal is linked to executive compensation. The furor illustrates that while large companies' shareholders generally express few objections to CEOs' earnings, corporate giants should expect more skepticism from

elected officials and the general public about the huge income gaps between top executives and rank-and-file workers. "To summarize what's happening here, one of the most profitable utility companies in America, whose CEO earns 94

times the average worker and walks away with \$60 million if the company is sold, is asking Connecticut families to dig deeper to help out their bottom line," Lamont said in part of a statement about the proposed rate hike.

Huge pay disparities across corporate America

While Lamont has assailed the compensation of Eversource CEO, Chairman and President Joseph Nolan Jr., eight-figure CEO pay is routine *CEOs continues on A4*



Courtesy of Ryan Fox

Ryan Fox, right, and his girlfriend pose in front of the "Welcome to Ushuaia" sign at the end of their nearly yearlong journey.

'We figured now or never'

Danbury native quit his job, hopped on a bike and ended up at the 'End of the World'

By Tyler Fedor
STAFF WRITER

DANBURY — For Danbury native Ryan Fox, the hardest part of his year-long bike ride that started in Edmonton, Canada and took him through the East Coast to the tip of South America, wasn't the distance, bike issues or possibly catching E. Coli in Mexico.

It was the day before he and his girlfriend, Katie Seybert, began their bike journey. Seybert was a light sleeper who tossed and turned all night because of the air conditioner, keeping Fox up, too.

"How the heck are we going to be on the road for a year in situations way less comfortable in this one when we're not even able to sleep in this basement," Fox said.

The couple, who live in Anchorage, Alaska, quit their jobs to be able to tackle the daunting miles, including the Pan-American Highway through Central and South America. Fox, who



Ryan Fox fixes a flat tire on a bike. On the right is a llama. Fox said he had to make multiple repairs to his bike during his yearlong journey from Canada to the tip of Argentina.

was a teacher, said he also "lived pretty frugally" to save up for the trip.

The two set off on their bikes from Edmonton on May 27, 2025 and arrived in Ushuaia, Argentina, also known as the

"End of the World," on May 6, ending their trek.

"Seeing the world on a bicycle is the best possible way to immerse yourself in different cultures in the landscape," Fox said. "You're dealing with the

highest of the highs and the lowest of the lows, and you're feeling and smelling and touching everything."

This type of long-distance escapade isn't new for Fox. He previously hiked the Appalachian trail from Maine to Georgia over four months, hiked 1,500 miles along the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Oregon and has cycled across the United States four times.

Fox said he and Seybert were "believers in capitalizing on opportunities when they came up." They had the money saved up and none of their relatives were sick and needed caring for, he said.

"We figured now or never," Fox said.

Ryan said he could make a "strong guess" that fewer than 200 people bike the entire Pan-American Highway every year.

From Canada, he went through North Dakota, Minne- *Fox continues on A6*

New AI law extends into the classroom

By Natasha Sokoloff
STAFF WRITER

Connecticut's new artificial intelligence law stretches beyond tech regulation and into the classroom, cementing AI in public school curriculum and launching initiatives to prepare students and teachers for the age of AI.

Signed into law on June 2, the landmark act is a sweeping effort to implement regulations over the continuously emerging technology, from consumer protections to workforce development.

The bill — which was approved by the legislature in May — has wide-ranging implications for schools, students and teachers in Connecticut, including social media and AI chatbot restrictions, new curriculum, teacher training, higher education partnerships and more. *AI continues on A6*

Troconis appeals denial of petition to overturn conviction

By Lisa Backus
STAFF WRITER

Michelle Troconis is appealing a judge's denial of her bid to overturn her conviction and 14½-year prison sentence in the disappearance and death of Jennifer Dulos based on claims of ineffective counsel.

Attorneys for Troconis claim in the appeal filed Thursday that state Superior Court Judge Carl Schuman erred when he denied a habeas petition that argued attorney Andrew Bowman provided "ineffective assistance of counsel" by advising Troconis to sit for three police interviews before her arrest.

"Because Bowman's advice to the petitioner fell within the wide range of reasonable professional assistance and because he was compe- *Troconis continues on A4*

Youth gambling concerns spur call for advertising restrictions

By Ken Dixon
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — With a surge in sports wagering by younger people and the World Cup soccer tournament starting this week, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal on Friday joined problem-gambling specialists in pushing for federal legislation to protect minors from targeted advertisements on social media.

During a noontime news conference across the street from the PeoplesBank Arena Sportsbook, Blumenthal and the advocates stressed that they are not against gambling as entertainment, but warned that there is a

clear rise in young people with gambling addictions.

"The simple fact is we're seeing a gambling epidemic in the United States of America," Blumenthal said. "It particularly affects young men and boys and they are the targets of the gambling industry and social media. There's nothing mysterious about what's happening here. The gambling industry is purposely and relentlessly targeting boys and young men and young people in general, reminiscent of Big Tobacco, because they know that once they successfully target a young person, that addiction will be very very difficult to overcome."

Blumenthal stressed he believes there is nothing morally wrong with gambling or sports betting, but it needs safeguards. He said a bipartisan bill he has co-sponsored with Republican U.S. Sen. Katie Britt of Alabama would provide enforceable safeguards. The bill, awaiting action in the Senate as a similar bill may emerge in the U.S. House of Representatives, would include oversight of advertisements and potential civil and criminal penalties for certain gambling promotions aimed at youth.

"We, in effect, want to ban advertising campaigns that are aimed at young people and

Gambling continues on A6



Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

The sports book and bar in the PeopleBank Arena, in a 2023.

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Weather: Mostly sunny.
High: 79. Low: 52.
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