

WVIT-TV, Hartford, CT, NBC Affiliate

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HELD ITS ANNUAL "RODEO FOR SNOW PLOW DRIVERS" TODAY, NBC CT'S NEW HAVEN BUREAU REPORTER DIANA PEREZ HAS THE STORY. 3 3 3 DON'T LET THE NAME FOOL YOU, THIS ROADEO HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BULLS AND HORNS THIS ROADEO IS ABOUT GETTING READY FOR PLOWS AND SNOW. 3 3 3 IT'S NICE TO GET THE PLOW ON THE TRUCK BEFORE THE WINTER FEEL IT OUT. A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THE FIRST SNOW FLAKES HIT THE GROUND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PULLS OUT ITS BIG DOGS FOR A TEST RUN. RUN. 3 YOU LEARN YOU CANT TURN THE TRUCK THAT FAR OR YOU BACKED UP TOO FAR YOU CAN JUDGE YOUR DISTANCES AND YOU'RE ALL SET AFTER THAT. AND PLOWS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES GETTING A PRE-SEASON WORKOUT. THIS YEAR 31 DRIVERS OR SNOW FIGHTERS WERE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK PERFORMANCES. 3 3 IT'S A NICE CHANCE TO GET YOUR DRIVING UP TO PAR WITH THE PLOW ON THE TRUCK. TO SPICE THINGS UP A LITTLE JUDGES GIVE OUT TROPHIES TO THE BEST DRIVERS. SINCE 2001 THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAS BEEN TRAINING ITS DRIVERS HERE WITH WRITTEN TESTS THEN THEY'RE BROUGHT TO THE COURSE FOR A HANDS-ON TEST OF THE ROAD. 3 3 3 WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE SAFETY AND TRAINING AND BEST PRACTICES. 3 3 YOU GOTTA KNOW WHATS UNDER THE HOOD OF THE TRUCK YOU GOTTA KNOW THAT THE BRAKES WORK ITS ALL LITTLE THINGS BUT IT ADDS UP. THERE AREN'T ANY SPECTATORS AT THIS ROADEO - BUT THERE IS A SIMPLE MESSAGE TO DRIVERS WHO WATCH THE PLOWS SLOWLY CLEAN THE ROAD. ROAD. 3 STAY BEHIND US DON'T CUT IN FRONT OF US WE'RE UP TRYING TO GET THE ROADS CLEAN JUST BE PATIENT WITH US. ACCORDING TO THE DOT THIS IS A PAID DAY OF WORK FOR THE EMPLOYEES. THE EVENT ITSELF COSTS THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS. IN HADDAM DP NBC CT NEWS. 3 **HARTFORD AND BRIDGEPORT, BETTER COLLEGE TOWNS THAN NEW HAVEN? GO FIGURE. FIGURE. THAT'S WHAT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH SAYS. ITS SURVEY RANKED HARTFORD THE THIRD-BEST COLLEGE TOWN AMONG MID-SIZED METRO AREAS. THING IS, THEY LUMP STORRS, NEW BRITAIN, AND MIDDLETOWN IN WITH HARTFORD. IN THE "SMALL METRO" DIVISION, BRIDGEPORT RANKED SECOND, NEW HAVEN 18TH. AS A YALE SPOKESWOMAN TOLD THE HARTFORD COURANT: "I SIMPLY FIND THAT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND."** 3 3 3 WE'RE COVERING CONN. IN WEST HARTFORD, WHERE TOWN-OWNED ROCKLEDGE GOLF COURSE HAS CUT ITS GREENS FEES BY 7-DOLLARS FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON. THEY'RE ALSO GIVING GOLFERS A COUPON FOR THE "SNACK SHACK. " 3 GET YOUR RESUMES READY - THE HOLIDAY INN IN WATERBURY IS HOLDING A JOB FAIR FOR THE HOTEL AND ITS COCO KEY WATER RESORT, IT'S THURSDAY FROM NOON TO SEVEN, THE HOTEL IS LOOKING TO FILL MORE THAN 50 PART-TIME JOBS, THEY REALLY NEED LIFE GUARDS. 3 3 FINALLY SHOPPERS ARE GETTING SOME MUCH NEEDED RELIEF AT THE GROCERY STORE. STORE, AFTER A "HUGE RUN-UP" IN FOOD PRICES LAST YEAR, THE LABOR DEPARTMENT SAYS PRICES FOR DAIRY, MEAT, FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND BEER ARE "ALL DOWN. ", THE LABOR DEPARTMENT SAYS PRICES ARE "DOWN" FOR A "SEVENTH MONTH" IN A ROW. ROW. 3 3 "It does seem like the prices have gone down recently. I'd say within the last 3 months prices are dropping. " 3 "Every little bit helps. " helps. ", ANALYSTS SAY THINGS LIKE WEATHER AND OIL PRICES CAN EFFECT HOW MUCH YOU PAY FOR YOUR GROCERIES, IN THIS CASE "LOWER FUEL COSTS" AND FRUGAL CUSTOMERS HELPED EDGE PRICES DOWN. 3 THERE ARE JOBS OUT THERE IF YOU'RE WILLING TO DO THE WORK, AND NOW IS THE TIME TO IMPROVE YOUR RETIREMENT I-Q. BRAD DRAZEN HAS THOSE STORIES AND MORE IN OUR HARTFORD , 3 3 3 FEW WORKERS UNDERSTAND THEIR RETIREMENT

SAVINGS PLANS. ACCORDING TO A NEW SURVEY BY THE HARTFORD, ONE IN THREE AMERICANS SAY THEY HAVE LITTLE OR NO UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RETIREMENT PLAN. THREE IN FOUR SAY THEY HAVE LESS THAN A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING. EMPLOYEES INDICATED THEY HAD A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OTHER BENEFITS, SUCH AS MEDICAL COVERAGE AND LIFE INSURANCE. INSURANCE. 3 AND THERE ARE JOBS OUT THERE FOR PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO NETWORK. IF YOU'RE LOOKING, HUMAN RESOURCE EXPERTS SAY IDENTIFY THE COMPANY YOU WANT TO WORK FOR, THEN DO YOUR RESEARCH. USE THE INTERNET AND YOUR OWN NETWORKS, TO LEARN ABOUT THE COMPANY'S HISTORY AND CULTURE. THAT WAY, YOU'LL BE READY TO TELL HOW YOUR SKILLS FIT IN COME INTERVIEW TIME. YOU SHOULD ALSO TALK TO MORE THAN ONE PART OF THE COMPANY, AND BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY. 3 3 THE NEW YORK APARTMENT WHERE BERNARD MADOFF CONFESSED HIS MASSIVE PONZI SCHEME IS GOING UP FOR SALE. THE US MARSHALS SERVICE PLANS TO PUT THE 4,000-SQUARE-FOOT DUPLEX IN A 12-STORY DOORMAN BUILDING ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE ON THE MARKET. THE PRICE WON'T BE SET UNTIL BROKERS ARE SELECTED LATER THIS WEEK. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HARTFORD BUSINESS JOURNAL, I'M 3 APPLE'S STEVE JOBS APPEARED IN PUBLIC TODAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE TAKING A MEDICAL LEAVE EARLIER THIS YEAR. YEAR. HE UNDERWENT A LIVER TRANSPLANT 5 MONTHS AGO, AND HAS SAID LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT IT. BUT HE APPEARED AT AN APPLE EVENT TODAY, TAKING THE STAGE TO A STANDING OVATION. JOBS THANKED SEVERAL PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE LIVER DONOR WHO SAVED HIS LIFE. 3 3 Tonight: Patchy fog after 1am. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 51. North wind between 6 and 8 mph. 3 Thursday: A slight chance of showers after 1pm.