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6★ Metro/Sports Final

\$1.00 in Fairfield County and outside Connecticut

75¢

Still Working, But Unhappily

Downsizing Spawns Job Dissatisfaction

By ERIC GERSHON
COURANT STAFF WRITER

For 25 years, Jan Melnik, a career coach in Durham, has been helping people look for work, from salesmen to real estate brokers to fed-up physicians looking for different avenues of employment.

Some clients come to Melnik jobless. But most, 85 or 90 percent, she says, are fully employed—unhappily.

Connecticut's Median Wage

In 2007 dollars:

2000	\$18.03
2001	\$18.88
2002	\$18.77
2003	\$19.21
2004	\$19.02
2005	\$18.32
2006	\$18.26
2007	\$18.51

SOURCE: Connecticut Voices for Children

As employers have reacted to more than a year of economic turmoil by cutting staff, slashing budgets and expecting more from fewer workers, she finds an even larger number of people getting less pleasure from work.

"People just aren't getting a sense of reward and personal accomplishment," said Melnik, founder of Absolute Advantage. "They're being thwarted by circumstances totally outside of their control."

To the unemployed desperate for a paycheck, seeking personal fulfillment from a job may seem a luxury. In

PLEASE SEE **JOB**, PAGE A8

▶ HURRICANE SPEEDS TOWARD A CRASH LANDING

▶ REPUBLICANS FORCED TO BOW TO STORM'S POWER

RACING INLAND

Millions Jam Highways Ahead Of Storm Gustav

By HOWARD WITT | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NEW ORLEANS — With Hurricane Gustav speeding toward New Orleans from one direction, frightened area residents jammed highways out of town in the other on Sunday, fleeing ahead of a powerful storm that officials said could overwhelm the fragile levee system still not completely repaired after Hurricane Katrina's damage three

► **Evacuations:** 1.9 million from Louisiana coast; thousands leave Mississippi, Alabama, southeast Texas.

► **On guard:** Police, National Guard patrol New Orleans; mayor issues stern warning against looting.

► **Waiting:** Forecasters expect Hurricane Gustav to hit midday today

► **Inside:** Thousands refuse to leave, hunker down in New Orleans. Page A3

► **On the Web:** For the latest developments on Hurricane Gustav, visit www.courant.com/gustav

years ago.

As heavy rain began falling in the city Sunday night, National Weather Service forecasters predicted that the hurricane would make landfall midday today near Morgan City, La., 70 miles west of New Orleans. But powerful winds were expected to pummel the city well before then.

Gustav was expected to crash into land as a dangerous Category 3 storm, somewhat diminished from earlier predictions but still packing winds over 115 mph and capable of kicking up 14-foot storm surges and dumping up to 20 inches of rain.

The forecast meant that New Orleans will lie on

PLEASE SEE **HEADED**, PAGE A3



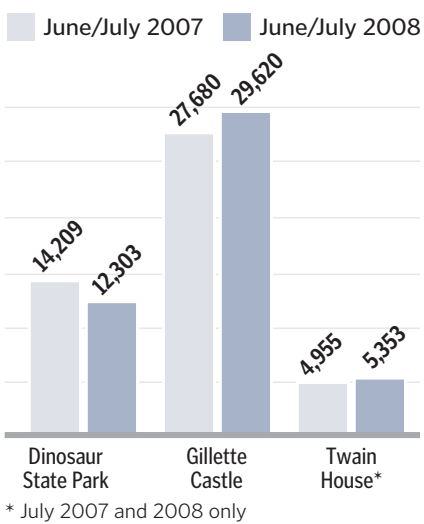
TOM PENNINGTON / FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

VISITORS Danny Veal and Paul Kusic of Orlando, Fla., drag their luggage down a deserted Bourbon Street in the French Quarter as New Orleans residents flee Hurricane Gustav. Veal and Kusic were kicked out of the hotel they were staying in after it closed to prepare for the storm.

CONNECTICUT

Close To Home

Connecticut's "Staycation Destination Program" to promote in-state vacations ends today. While some popular destinations report increased visits in June and July, the final results are not in. Page B1



Chance For McCain To Stand Apart

By WAYNE SLATER
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

MINNEAPOLIS — For John McCain and the Republicans, Hurricane Gustav carries both political peril and opportunity.

The storm is an unwelcome reminder of the Bush administration's bungled response to Katrina three years ago — but also a chance to show that the party of nominee-to-be John McCain is different.

The initial hurdle was cleared Sunday, when McCain largely suspended his convention's opening day today, avoiding the prospect of TV split screens showing delegates reveling in St. Paul while a killer storm was lashing the Louisiana coast. The convention will open at 4 p.m. Eastern time today and adjourn by about 6 p.m., with no

evening speeches or events.

"We have to go from a party event to a call to the nation," McCain said as he and his running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, visited an emergency management center in Mississippi.

If the response to Gustav is fumbled, Republicans will take another hit, even if McCain has little control over the situation. But if he — and the governors of all five Gulf Coast states, Republicans all — can show the right mix of compassion and leadership, they might reverse some of the damage to their political brand.

The storm makes landfall on Labor Day, the traditional kickoff point for the fall campaigns, when voters generally tune in and candidates

CURTAILED

► Convention program cut from 7 hours to 2½ hours today; Joe Lieberman will not give a speech to open the convention

► President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney scrap plans to address convention

INSIDE

► Networks and cable outlets shift their coverage to the Gulf of Mexico. Page A4

► Joe Biden takes the scripted Obama campaign into the realm of improvisational theater. Page A5

ON THE WEB

For the latest information on the Republican National Convention schedule, visit www.courant.com/vote08

PLEASE SEE **STORM**, PAGE A4

THE INSIDE STORY

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LOTTERY A6

MOVIES D4

NATION A3

OBITUARIES B4, B5

CONNECTICUT

Tree-Top Landing

Two people are stuck in a vintage airplane for several hours Sunday after the plane crashes into trees about 300 yards from the Skylark Airpark runway in East Windsor. Page B1

LIFE

Night Skies

The cool, clear nights of the past two weeks have been great for stellar viewing. Watch for Jupiter as dark falls. Page D2

HEALTH

Emergency Drills

Medical workers at the University of Kansas Hospital take part in training drills designed to save newborns and their mothers. Page D3

AT WORK

Keep On Truckin'

Ruby S. Johnson, 93, is an extreme example of a maturing trend: working older. She's not delaying retirement. She's forgoing it. Page C11

NATION/WORLD

Familiar Struggle

Less than a week after the Olympic Games, China struggles with the aftermath of an earthquake that killed at least 27 people. Page A7

SPORTS

Carey Steps Up

Playing a career-high 31 minutes, Jamie Carey's 12 points and resilient style help the Connecticut Sun defeat the Seattle Storm, 80-76. Page C1

SPORTS

Yankees Lose, 6-2

The Blue Jays' Roy Halladay beats the Yankees for the fourth consecutive time this season. Page C1

Red Sox Lose, 4-2

Jim Thome ties Mickey Mantle for 14th place with 536 career homers, as the White Sox beat the Red Sox 4-2. Page C1

WEATHER

Complete forecast, PAGE B6

Today



Sunny. Winds 10 to 15 mph. High of 85.

Tonight



Mostly clear. Winds 5 to 10 mph. Low of 60.

LIFE

Rocking 50s

Madonna, left, turned 50 and set out on a new music tour. For many of her generation, this isn't their parents' 50s. Page D1



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