

# BUSINESS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008

THE HARTFORD COURANT SECTION E

▼ Dow Jones -45.44, 12,608.92	▼ Nasdaq composite -1.35, 2,361.40	▼ S&P 500 -2.65, 1,367.53	▲ Courant-Bloomberg CT +0.20, 376.16	▲ Russell 2000 +1.62, 712.27	▲ 10-Year T-Note Yield +0.04%, 3.59	▲ Gold, cash price +\$2.25, \$890.00	▲ Oil +\$3.85, \$104.83
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## No Insurance, Early Deaths Linked

By **DIANE LEVICK**  
COURANT STAFF WRITER

Three adults die prematurely each week in Connecticut on average because they lack health insurance, and more than 1,100 died over seven years, says a new report that's likely to weigh on consciences in the debate over health care reform.

The estimates focus on uninsured residents aged 25 to 64 from 2000 through 2006 and will be released

today by Families USA, a 25-year-old organization that advocates affordable health care for all Americans.

Dozens of previous studies have found that people without health insurance tend to forgo preventive care and tests and postpone or forgo care when they have a medical problem.

Families USA builds on two previous national studies on the same subject. In 2002, the Institute of Medicine estimated that 18,000 adults

nationwide die prematurely each year because they don't have insurance; the estimate of the Urban Institute, an economic and social policy research group, was at least 22,000 in 2006.

Families USA is the first to do a state-by-state look at the anguishing statistics, which consumer advocates and public officials hope will bring more urgency to the push for health care and insurance reform.

"As this report demonstrates, a

lack of health insurance has immense repercussions — twice as many people died from lack of health insurance as died from homicide in 2006," said U.S. Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro, D-3rd District. "This is shocking and is further evidence that we can no longer delay addressing this country's growing health care crisis."

Although DeLauro was referring to national homicide data, her comment holds true for Connecticut, too.

Families USA estimates that 150

Connecticut adults died in 2006 due to a lack of insurance, and FBI statistics show 108 murders in the state that year.

The report shows "universal health care is a matter of life and death for a number of people, said Juan A. Figueroa, president of the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut. "Needless to say, one life to lose is too many."

PLEASE SEE **DEATHS**, PAGE E4

### CT INC: FORBES DINER



SHANA SURECK / THE HARTFORD COURANT

**OWNER** Helmi "Mo" Ali is shown in front of the former Forbes Diner, which now sits behind the other New Haven restaurant Ali owns, the New Star Diner on Lombard Street. Ali moved the Forbes Diner to make room for a Dunkin' Donuts. The interior of the New Star Diner is shown below.

## ROUTE UNCLEAR

By **JESSE LEAVENWORTH**  
COURANT STAFF WRITER

**N**ow that the Forbes Diner has been plucked from its footing of more than 50 years, the owner and everyone else who loves its classic, stainless-steel form are hoping for a resurrection.

But relocating the New Haven diner will not be cheap, and the owner will have to compete with the power and reach of franchised chains.

The owner, Helmi "Mo" Ali, moved the 1957 diner in February to make way for a new Dunkin' Donuts on Forbes Avenue. Business had been lagging, Ali said.

The diner's vestibule and two main sections now rest on log cribbing behind the other city restaurant Ali owns, the New Star Diner on Lombard Street. Ali is looking for a new location for the Forbes Diner in the city or a nearby town. He's willing to run both diners, he said, but if the price is right, he will sell the Forbes.

Whoever relocates the 80-seat diner will have to make a significant investment, according to Steve Harwin, who has transported and rehabilitated many old diners.

"You can spend half a million dollars quite easily on relocating a diner," said Harwin, the owner of Diversified Diners in Cleveland, Ohio.

PLEASE SEE **DINER**, PAGE E4



### FINDING A NEW LOCATION FOR CLASSIC NEW HAVEN DINER WON'T BE EASY OR CHEAP

## Business Closings Set A Record

2,752 In State In First Quarter

By **JANICE PODSADA**  
COURANT STAFF WRITER

A record number of Connecticut businesses closed in the first three months of this year, evidence that the nation's economic troubles are bearing down on the state.

At least 2,752 businesses folded, the highest number of business stops for the first quarter since at least 2000, according to a report that Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz released Wednesday.

In March alone, 1,107 businesses informed state officials that they had ceased operations.

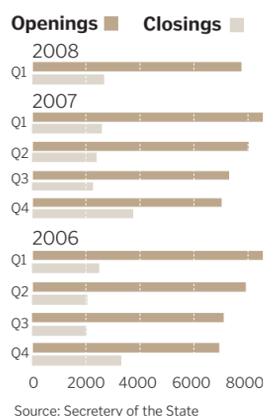
"Businesses are struggling with the high cost of utilities and gasoline, housing and real estate and, of course, health insurance," Bysiewicz said.

Business starts are also down this year, she said. In the first three months of the year, a period normally characterized by a surge in entrepreneurial optimism, the number of business starts in the state reached its lowest level since the first quarter of 2003, Bysiewicz

PLEASE SEE **CLOSINGS**, PAGE E4

### Starts And Stops

The quarterly number of businesses opened and closed in Connecticut over the last three years.



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