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STATE



Gov. Dannel Malloy

Malloy election year plan calls for tax refund

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Selling Hospital

Backup plans in the works if deal should die

By **JUSTIN MUSZYNSKI**
STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL — Bristol Hospital officials took advantage of a legislative breakfast Thursday to bring

up the hospital's proposed acquisition by the Tenet Healthcare Corp.

The bill that would have allowed the partnership among

Connecticut hospitals was vetoed by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy in October.

"We've been working very productively with Governor Malloy

and his administration," said Marie O'Brien, Bristol Hospital's chairman of the board.

Kurt Barwis, president and

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Adult Education holds graduation

By **SUSAN CORICA**
STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL — For many of the students who received their General Educational Development diplomas Thursday evening, it was their last chance to earn one before changes in curriculum and testing meant they would have had to start the process again.

Bristol Adult Education held a dinner graduation at Nuchie's Restaurant in Forestville to honor 89 students.

Eight were awarded their high school diplomas through the Credit Diploma Program, seven through the National External Diploma Program, and 74 received the state GED diploma.

Maria Groody, director of Bristol Adult Education, noted that, last spring, Bristol became the first school district in the state to offer the new version of the GED test, which is administered online and aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

All districts were required to offer the online test as of the end of 2013.

This is the last group to finish with the old GED, and it was a challenge to try to help everyone finish in time, Groody said.

"Most of these students had already

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Mike Orazzi | Staff

Bristol Adult Education graduates at Nuchie's on Thursday evening.

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Bristol Central basketball takes on Maloney

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One-day course teaches first aid for pets

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Working with the governor to make the acquisition a reality

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CEO of Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group, discussed the influence the partnership would have if Bristol Hospital were to become a for-profit establishment.

"We're talking about hospitals having the ability to capture data to represent the impact they've had on patients' health," said Barwis. "For example, someone that was not able to work, but can now."

"In order to do this we need to become part of a much bigger system than we are now," he said. "We're driving toward that. This relationship is so important to us."

Barwis said the acquisition could be completed

this year, depending on what the legislature does. He also said Tenet is prepared to put billions of dollars into Connecticut through this proposed collaboration, which would create employment opportunities throughout the state.

He affirmed though that the hospital is not putting all its eggs in this one basket. Should this partnership not come to fruition, the hospital board has a several backup plans.

Vincent Petrini, senior vice president, public affairs, Yale-New Haven Health System, said there are three areas this partnership would benefit: enhancing quality, creating access and driving efficiencies.

"There is no cost associated

with this," said Petrini, "and it will allow the hospitals to work in a collaborative fashion to do those three things. But to do these things you've got to create this network."

During the questions and answers portion of the presentation, one audience member asked if Bristol Hospital will lose control of its own operations should this acquisition go through.

"It's a network we're talking about here," said Barwis. "I don't think the fear that you have will become a reality. I think the exact opposite will come true."

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From left: Kurt A. Barwis, FACHE, president and CEO, Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group; James Iacobellis, senior vice president, government and regulatory affairs, Connecticut Hospital Association; Kimberly Hostetter, senior vice president and chief administrative officer, Connecticut Hospital Association; Marie O'Brien, chairman, Board of Directors, Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group; and Vin Petrini, senior vice president, public affairs, Yale New Haven Health System at Thursday's legislative breakfast.

Persistence paid off for 89 graduates

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started taking the old test. If they didn't finish before the end of December they would have had to start all over again, because you couldn't combine scores with the 2002 version with the 2014 version," she said.

"We called people back from as far back as five years ago that still had to finish maybe just one subtest and said, 'Come on in. You don't want to lose all that work that you did.' That's why we had 74 (state GED) graduates, when normally we have 30 to 40," she said.

There were so many new graduates that she decided to hold a special graduation for them in January instead of waiting until June.

Unfortunately, those unable to pass all the subtests in time will have to start from the beginning, Groody added. "We've already contacted them and told them we are here to help them."

Maureen Wagner, GED administrator for the state Department of Education, addressed the graduates at Thursday ceremony, noting that many were older than typical high school graduates.

"But here you are tonight, celebrating what's probably an occasion you might not have

thought would happen five or 10 years ago," she told them, "and for that I know you're very grateful."

"But it didn't just happen to you. You worked really hard and your teachers supported you, and I want you to just really enjoy this moment and realize that what it took to get here was incredible persistence," Wagner said.

Persistence is what makes people get out of bed in the morning and come to GED class even when it's cold and snowy outside, she said. "We do it because we're persistent, and those are the kind of people that will make it in this world."

Many of the students may not have thought about what their next steps will be because they have been so focused on getting their diplomas, Wagner said. "I encourage you to take some time to think about what that might be for you, because if you've done this you can do anything."

"If you ever doubt yourself, remember this night and say, 'I did that, I can do this,'" she concluded. "I'm very proud of all of you and congratulations."

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Bristol Adult Education graduate Damien McCormick and his son, Malik, during the ceremony at Nuchie's on Thursday evening.

THE GRADUATES ARE:

CREDIT DIPLOMA:

Alyssa Sperdutti, earned in August 2013; Philip Bouchard, Steven Bouchard, Brandon Cortes, Kimberly Kearney, Fabian Melendez, Josh Perry, and Brook Taylor, earned in January 2014.

NATIONAL EXTERNAL DIPLOMA:

Paul Brunoli, Dolores Bradley, earned in July 2013; Brenda Begin, earned in August 2013; Keith Mickel, earned in September, 2013; Jonathan Galante, earned in October 2013; Jamie Newberry, Damien McCormick, earned in January 2014.

GED STATE DIPLOMA

(*INDICATES HONORS DIPLOMA):

Isaac Acevedo, Michael Anelli, Ashley Arendt, Crystal Barriault, Jessica Bartucca, Keith Beltran, Kymber-Leigh Berube, Rosa Birkenberger, Jillian Bogli, Katie Bohlman.

Ryan Brown*, Robert Bruce, Carlos Carrasquillo, Michael Costello, Jacqueline Cote, Paxton Davenport, Eric Davis, Brittany DelSanto, Drena Delude, James Donica.

Hicham el Bakhar, Chelsey Fentner, Christopher Fontaine, Anh Frederick, Albert Fuller, Daniel Gamboa-Caban, Steven Gilbert, Sonia Gonzalez, Kaylee Grice, Bernie Hamlin.

Dillon Harrison, Alexis Hoeger, Nancy Hubbell, Norman James,

Alexis Jankauskas*, Brandon Jones, Joseph Jurado, Leanna Kuhn, Emily Landeen, Marc Leduc.

Ricky Leduc, Scott Lee, Shannon Lollar, Alex Lopez, Rosemary Lugo, Daniel Marcano, Madison Martin, Marc Matthews, Ebony McDonald, Ashley Morin, Dustin Mullen, Gino Nicoletti*, James Norman, Elmer Ortiz-Hernandez, Indira Osorto, Elizabeth Paradis, Kevin Paradis, Jenny Pelkey, Samantha Pinette, Sarah Pio.

Monserate Rivera, Autumn Roberts, Kirsten Ryan, Kerry Scanlan*, Bonnie Sirignano, Leah Skudzienski, Anna Skudzienski, Christina Stafford, Magdalene Szalaj, Michelle Teixeira.

Dylan Tomasi, Michael Tousignant, Mateusz Wesolowski, Amber Wysocki.

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