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Groundbreaking



Mike Orazzi | Staff

Officials kick off construction of Bristol Hospital's new Wound Care center on the north side of the main hospital building on Bradley Street Thursday morning.

Hospital starts work on wound care center

By JUSTIN MUSZYNSKI
STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL — Bristol Hospital officials on Thursday broke ground on a new Wound Care Center, which will specialize in treating patients with chronic and non-healing wounds.

The 5,561-square-foot building will be constructed prior to installation on the site on the north side of the main hospital building on Brewster Road. The wound care facility will occupy 2,600 square feet and will take up the first floor of the building. The second floor will house some relocated administrative services from the

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GOP lawmakers challenge 1199 contract

By BRIAN M. JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

SOUTHINGTON — Two local Republican lawmakers are taking issue with a pending contract between health care union District 1199 and the Personal Care Attendant Workforce Council, claiming the agreement could force homebound special needs patients into nursing homes.

The Personal Care Attendant Workforce Council has the authority to bargain and enter into agreements on behalf of attendants who provide personal home care.

State Rep. Rob Sampson, R-Wolcott, said the pending agreement represents a "power grab" by the union, one that could eliminate some home-based health care programs for the disabled.

"This is not just a power grab but also a money grab," said Sampson. "I am fearful it will hurt

those most at risk. And for what — to create another class of taxpayer-funded union dues?"

"People who are disabled and employ personal care attendants maintain an independence that helps them thrive and contribute," said state Sen. Joe Markley, R-Southington, "They live on their own for less than the state would pay to keep them institutionalized. I see no need to change this successful arrangement, especially by adding costs which might force people into nursing homes."

A union official said Sampson and Markley are "needlessly spreading fear to the elderly and disabled people of Connecticut."

Markley explained that people are able to apply for personal-care assistants only as long as their costs would be less than going into a nursing home. Unionizing care assistants could increase the cost of care they provide, he said.

"I don't think it is appropriate to be in a union when you don't work for the state," he said. "Care assistants need to be controlled by the



State Rep. Rob Sampson, left, and state Sen. Joe Markley at an event in the state Capitol last year.

people they work for, and to do that they need to be able to dismiss them or train them to suit their needs. Unionizing would mean creating a uniform standard, and every individual has their own separate needs."

Dave Pickus, president of SEIU 1199 New
See CONTRACT, Page 2

Too much money

By **STEVE COLLINS**
STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL — The state wants too much money for the city to consider buying a former group home next door to the Bristol Public Library on High Street.

The state is seeking \$275,000 for the large Victorian-style building at 23-25 High St., said officials who were thinking about buying it, razing it and putting another parking lot on the parcel.

“That’s an expensive parking lot,” said city Councilor Mary Fortier.

Library leaders had hoped the city could buy the property and create a new lot with about 20 spaces there.

“We have no use for the house,” said Donna Papazian, a longtime library board member.

City Councilor Eric Carlson said the building remains sturdy, but any buyer would have to pay quite a bit for cosmetic renovations

“The price is a little bit steep,” Carlson said. “I would be surprised” if the state can get as much as it wants for it.

Built in 1900, the five-bedroom house is valued by the city assess-



Mike Orazzi | Staff

City rejected a chance to buy 23-25 High St. Victorian, a former group home the state is selling.

or’s office at \$395,000.

Melissa Simonik, a city lawyer, said she doesn’t know if the state price is negotiable. Carlson said the price tag may decline if no buyers emerge.

Carlson said it would probably take another \$50,000 to knock down the house and more than that to pave the cleared lot, making it unlikely that the bottom line would be reasonable enough for the city to consider the project.

“The library will have to find another place for parking,” Carlson said.

Jeff Boyko, chairman of the library board, said it is looking at possible space on the west side of Main Street as well.

Center will specialize in treatment of chronic and non-healing wounds

Continued from Page 1

main hospital building, clearing space there for other programs, officials said.

The entire project is estimated at \$1.5 million, to be funded entirely by the hospital, said Kurt Barwis, president and CEO of Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group Inc.

The center will treat patients with wounds stemming from conditions including bed sores, diabetes and surgical procedures. It will feature three treatment rooms and two hyperbaric chambers, with room for a third chamber in the future. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is used to deliver oxygen under pressure, which helps concentrate it to the tissue, promoting better healing while fighting bacteria.

The hospital’s current wound care program, primarily based in the hospital’s wellness center, will be moved to the new building once it is ready this fall.

Barwis said the proximity of the new center to the hospital will be one of its key benefits.

“Being able to walk rather than drive” from the hospital to the wound care center, Barwis said, “is one of our clear advantages to having the center right on campus.”

“In addition to having hyperbaric therapy available to patients, we now have placed the various components of lymphedema expertise under one roof,” said Cathy Milne, a board-certified wound nurse practitioner, in a news release. Milne, who could not be present at the ground breaking, oversees the current wound care program and will continue that duty once the new center opens.

Lymphedema is a physical therapy treatment that applies pressure in a set of hand motions

on a patient’s swollen lymph nodes, which reduces congestion of the fluid relieving the patient of discomfort.

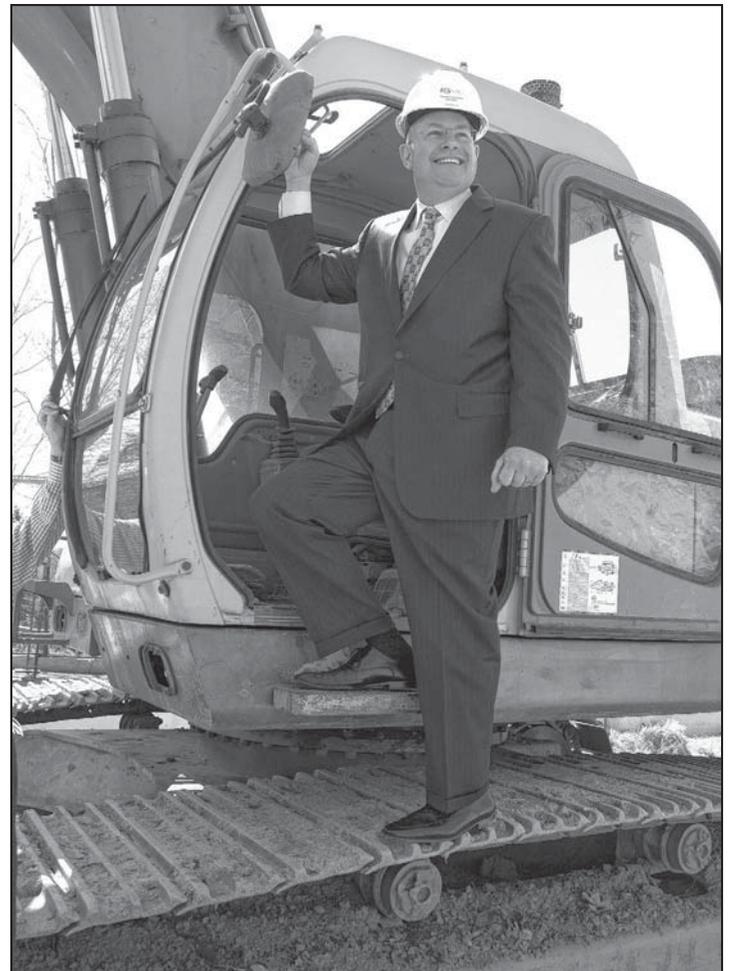
“This new center comes as great news to patients and the community,” said Sheila Kempf, the hospital’s chief nursing officer.

“We will continue to look to the future and challenge ourselves to provide the best quality care,” Barwis said.

“I am pleased to see Bristol

Hospital continue to grow and meet the medical needs of our community and surrounding towns,” said Bristol state Rep. Whit Betts, who could not make the groundbreaking event. “To accomplish this kind of capital expansion is a real credit to how well the hospital is being financially managed.”

Justin Muszynski can be reached at (860) 584-0501, ext. 7250, or jmuszynski@bristolpress.com.



Mike Orazzi | Staff

Bristol Hospital President Kurt Barwis stands ready to get things going on construction of a new wound center at Bristol Hospital.

Convicted sex offender charged with probation violation

By **JUSTIN MUSZYNSKI**
STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL — A convicted sex offender was charged Thursday with going to Arizona in violation of his terms of probation.

Christopher Agritelly, 30, of no certain address, pleaded guilty to first-degree sexual assault in 2007 in connection with a July 2006 incident in Bristol. According to the arrest warrant, Agritelly was living with the victim’s mother when he woke up her 6-year-old son and forced the child to perform oral sex on him. The warrant also said Agritelly performed oral sex on the boy.

Agritelly was sentenced in November 2007 in New Britain Superior Court to 15 years in prison, suspended after seven years, as well as 15 years of probation. He was released in February 2013 and put on probation, under conditions including that he get

his place of residence approved by his supervising officer and not sleep anywhere else without permission.

Between May and June of last year, his probation officer reported, Agritelly failed to appear at four appointments.

Two Bristol detectives went to Phoenix, where Agritelly was being held by the local sheriff’s office, Tuesday to bring him back to Connecticut. He was booked Thursday at the Bristol Police Department and charged with a violation of probation.

Agritelly was arraigned in Bristol Superior Court Thursday, where his bond was set at \$500,000. He is scheduled to appear in New Britain Superior Court Friday.

Justin Muszynski can be reached at (860) 584-0501, ext. 7250, or jmuszynski@bristolpress.com.

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