

The Bristol Press

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Golf tourney benefits local soup kitchen

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Stanley to make a \$690 million acquisition

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TO OUR READERS:

The Polish edition moves to Thursday next week. Look for your bilingual supplement every Thursday in The Bristol Press and the New Britain Herald.

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Beaming with pride

Downtown hospital facility seen as start of bright future

By JUSTIN MUSZYNSKI
@MUSZYNSKIBP

BRISTOL — Standing on a construction site filled with dirt and gravel, with the skeleton of a three-story building as a backdrop, Bristol Hospital President and CEO Kurt Barwis spoke Tuesday of his expectations for the hospital's new Ambulatory Care Center.

Barwis said he sees the building on the corner of Main Street and Riverside Avenue filled at this time next year with physicians, staff and patients — marking one of the first steps in the city's planned downtown revitalization.

"All along we have said we see this building serving as a springboard for future development on the former downtown mall site," Barwis said at Tuesday's ceremonial event, during which hospital leaders, state and city officials, and community members signed one of the final beams for the second floor of the 60,000-square-foot Ambulatory Care Center.

"I drive past this property every morning on the way to

See **AMBULATORY**, Page A2



Mike Orazzi | Staff

From left, Bristol Hospital President and CEO Kurt Barwis, hospital board Vice Chairman John Lodovico Jr., Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu and hospital board Chairman Doug Devnew sign a beam at the construction site Tuesday.

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HOW TO REACH US

Main number (860) 584-0501
Newsroom (860) 584-0504
Classifieds (860) 583-2378

NEWS TIPS

(860) 584-0501
editor@BristolPress.com

SPORTS SCORES

(860) 584-0504 or
(860) 584-0506
bpsports@centralctcommunications.com

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Ambulatory Care Center to be ready in 2019

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work,” Barwis continued, with about 100 onlookers from the hospital, the community and the media listening. “A couple of weeks ago, when the steel started going up, I looked over and I think that was probably the first time — you know, you could see drawings all day long — but the first time I realized what impact this building is going to have in the city, and it’s going to long outlast me and my life.”

The Ambulatory Care Center, which is slated for completion next spring, will house a number of sub-specialties, including cardiology, neurology, orthopedics and rheumatology, as well as space for laboratory and physical and occupational therapy services.

Barwis hinted that the Ambulatory Care Center, construction of which began in the spring, may not be the only building hospital officials erect on the site that sat vacant for years.

“If the past is any indication of the future, we do have space, ultimately, to construct another building next to it sometime,” Barwis said. “I’m really hopeful and excited that we can get to that point in a very short term.”

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu said the completion of the construction will eventually lead to the filling of the other parcels at the corners of the old mall site.

“We have some interest, and we also have some flutterings in some of these other vacant retail spaces that have been sitting here for far too long,” Zoppo-Sassu said.

“It is a pleasure to be here for a number of reasons, but the



Mike Orazzi | Staff

Construction workers listen to a speaker at Tuesday’s ceremonial event on the site of Bristol Hospital’s new Ambulatory Care Center in downtown Bristol.

most important one is the fact that this is a critical turning point for our community,” the mayor said. “Today, I think that we’re at the precipice of a very exciting future for downtown where we can let go of the post office, let go of the retail and talk about what Bristol’s going to be for the future generations.”

Although the project, announced in 2015, has had its setbacks, officials representing the hospital and the developer acknowledged that all parties involved, including city leaders, worked very hard to get a deal done that would benefit everyone involved.

Richard Rendina, chairman and CEO of the project’s

developer, Florida-based Rendina Healthcare Real Estate, compared the process to a puzzle.

“Every deal has its own nuances,” Rendina said. “I like to compare it to a jigsaw puzzle. Right when you think you’ve got the puzzle put together, one of the pieces changes shape and you’ve got to figure out how to put it all back together again. That, for sure, happened on this project, like it does on many others.”

It took “a lot of hard work and dedication” to get this done, Rendina continued.

In addition to having benefits for the city’s downtown, Barwis said the new building has helped the hospital in physician

recruitment, which he called very competitive in Connecticut.

“In terms of recruitment, we’ve actually had quite a few physicians in this last recruitment cycle that kind of focused on the fact that we were going to have this exciting new facility to work in, and I think it’s helped us significantly,” Barwis said.

According to representatives from Rendina, the steel structure should be done by the end of August. The next step will be decking and slabs for the first and second floors.

Justin Muszynski can be reached at 860-973-1809 or jmuszynski@bristolpress.com.

LOTTERY

For Aug. 7

Play 3 day: 6-6-4
Play 4 day: 8-6-2-9

For Aug. 6

Play 3 night: 7-6-5
Play 4 night: 1-8-6-8
Cash 5: 2-4-12-22-29

CORRECTION

In a story on Page A3 of Tuesday’s Press, an incorrect number of participants was reported for the Bristol Chamber of Commerce’s annual golf tournament, which took place Monday in Farmington; 176 golfers took part. Also, the Chamber, and not John Leone, runs the tournament.

BRISTOL POLICE BLOTTER

Bristol police report the following:

Sierra Rogers, 23, of 26 Lincoln Place, was charged on Aug. 2 with violation of probation.

Frederick Blasius, 60, of 48 Stoddard Road, Waterbury, was charged on Aug. 3 with operation while under the influence and speeding.

Frederick Cocchiola, 49, of 351 Straits Turnpike, Watertown, was charged on Aug. 5 with simple trespassing on railroad property, interfering with an officer and disorderly conduct.

Luis Agustin-Lopez, 35, of 400 Divinity St., was charged on Aug. 6 with creating a public disturbance.