## Deadline passes in UConn Health-Aetna fight

More than 15,000 face 'out-of-network' charges

By Liese Klein STAFF WRITER

More than 15,000 Connecticut customers with Aetna health plans face uncertainty this week after the insurer and UConn Health saw their contract end without an agree-

Both sides ramped up their rhetoric on Tuesday after the Nov. 30 contract deadline expired without a deal, making UConn Health doctors and Farmington's John Dempsey Hospital "out of network" for those with Aetna policies.

UConn Health has argued that it needs higher rates from commercial insurers to offset rising expenses and inadequate reimbursements from government programs. Aetna links the hospital system's demands for higher rates surging health-care costs in the state.

"We continue to await a reasonable proposal from UConn Health and the opportunity to engage in a collaborative dialogue," a spokesman for Aetna said in an emailed statement. Aetna, the Hartford-based insurance division of CVS Health, offers health plans

to a range of customers including state of Connecticut retirees.

"We remain hopeful that Aetna will return to the table with a fair, sustainable proposal so we can restore in-network access as quickly as possible," UConn Health said in its own emailed statement.

UConn Health has said more than 15,000 patients of UConn doctors have Aetna as their health insurance company.

Aetna continues on A7



Bill Sikes/The Associated Press

Aetna's Hartford headquarters. The company failed to strike a new deal with UConn Health as of a Nov. 30 deadline.



Courtesy Person to Person

The Giving Fund, co-sponsored by Hearst Connecticut Media, Greenwich-based Family Centers and Darien-based Person to Person, tells the stories of local residents in need of a helping hand.

# Annual Giving Fund kicks off

Stories of neighbors in need of assistance

By Susan Braden STAFF WRITER

Now in its 42nd year, the Giving Fund, co-sponsored by Hearst Connecticut Media, Greenwich-based Family Centers and Darien-based Person to Person, tells the stories of local residents in need of a helping hand.

The goal is to provide small monetary donations to families striving to cover the cost of necessities from rent and utilities to transportation costs and medical bills — or







### The Giving Fund

even winter clothes and food. Each week, The Stamford Advocate and Greenwich Time will highlight stories of residents who need immediate assistance and every story carries a unique case number, allowing you to direct your donation to a specific individual or to the broader Giving Fund.

To make a donation, simply cut out the coupon in the paper and mail it in with a check payable to the Giving Fund.

You can also donate online at tinyurl.com/2r57s89e.

For more information or to make a donation by phone, contact Bill Brucker, chief advancement officer for Family Centers, at 203-869-4848 or email wbrucker@familycenters.org.

The names in the stories Giving continues on A7

#### **Newsmax** host ramps up criticism of Lamont

McCaughey weighs run for governor



Dan Haar COMMENTARY

Betsy McCaughey, a former lieutenant governor of New York, conservative New York Post columnist and host of a Sunday morning show on Newsmax, is taking sharp aim these days at Gov. Ned Lamont in Con-

necticut, where she grew up and has lived for most of the last decade. Now we know why.

McCaughey's screeds against her fellow Greenwich resident, a staple of her active X account, have lately

Haar continues on A4

#### Trump donor ends lawsuit against CT dealership

By Eric Bedner STAFF WRITER

The man who was reported by the New York Times to have given the Trump administration \$130 million to help pay troops during the federal government shutdown in October has withdrawn a lawsuit against a Connecticut car dealership.

Timothy Mellon, who has a net Lawsuit continues on A4

#### Completed New Haven-to-Mass. trail could boost economy

By Eric Bedner STAFF WRITER

An 81-mile trail stretching from New Haven to Northampton, Mass., that is expected to be finished in five to six years likely will lead to significant economic

boosts to surrounding areas, including more jobs and higher property values, according to a new analysis.

The trail through Connecticut and Massachusetts is just a small section of the overall East Coast Greenway that eventually will run continuously from Maine to Florida. The shared-use path follows the historic north-south route of the Farmington Canal, from New Haven to Northampton. It is already 80% complete (65 miles) and final plans envision a continuous corridor for walking, running and biking with connections to urban districts, town centers, neighborhoods and natural landscapes.

Cambridge Econometrics' economic impact analysis released this month shows the potential significant new revenue streams, jobs and higher property values.

"The greenway serves as a major recreational and transportation asset for the region, and a completed trail would further enhance the benefits of the path," Trail continues on A7

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Hearst Media

\$7 \$7

\$7



Weather: Increasingly windy; a

	APP: Eggplant Burrata over Polenta	<b>⊅1</b> ∠
	SOUP: Chickn Soup with Orzo	\$7
	RISOTTO with Bay Scallops, Mushrooms & Leeks in a Lite Cream Sauce	\$23
	MUSHROOM RAVIOLI with Prosciutto & Peas in a Lite Cream Sauce	\$23
	*CHICKEN with Eggplant, Ham & Cheese in a Brown Sauce	\$22
	*RED SNAPPER PIZZAIOLA	\$24
	*PORK CHOP with Mushrooms & Leeks	\$24

\*Entrées Served with Pasta, Salad or Vegetable

This Week's Specials

Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo Sauce Wedge: Grilled Chicken BLT with Gorgonzola & Balsamic

ls expire 12/10/25

\$26 \$15 WE NOW HAVE LONG HOT PEPPERS ON PIZZA

snow shower in the afternoon. High: 42. Low: 14. Page A10

Housemade Desserts

Ricotta Cheesed \$1.50 Mini Cannoli \$10 with Powdered Suga



**Mario The Baker** 

