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Norwalk Hospital advances pancreatic cancer research

Patients helping with critical breakthroughs

By Liese Klein
STAFF WRITER

If not exactly a death sentence, a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer has long been some of the worst news you can get from your doctor.

Now several new breakthroughs announced this year are changing the outlook for pancreatic cancer patients, said Dr. Richard Frank, chief of clinical and translational cancer research at Northwell Health's Norwalk Hospital.

"It's an exciting time in pancreatic cancer research and advancements," Frank said. "Let's hope it's just the beginning."

Most notably, the FDA on May 1 announced it would fast-track the first targeted therapy for pancreatic cancer, an experimental drug that doubled the survival time of patients with advanced cancers compared to standard chemotherapy. The drug, called daraxonrasib, works by shutting down a mutated gene known to cause pancreatic cancer, Frank said.

"Every cancer has its own targets or genes that drive it. But pancreatic cancer has been unable to be targeted until now," Frank, who runs clinical trials for cancer patients at Norwalk Hospital, said. "That's the other reason this is so monumental, such a game-changer."

Frank's research at Norwalk Hospital focuses on early detection of pancreatic cancer, which often causes few if any symptoms in its initial stages.

"If a pancreatic cancer could be caught at stage 1, the cure rate is 50% or higher, versus stage 4 — which is where most people are diagnosed — and there's no five-year survival," Frank said. He is looking for more patients with several important risk factors to be part of a screening study that uses MRI scanning to find tumors at the earliest stages.

One key risk factor is a new type 2 diabetes diagnosis after age 50 along with significant weight loss, a sign that an early malignancy may be interfering with the ability of the pancreas to secrete insulin to control blood sugar.

Cancer continues on A6



Dan Haar/Hearst Connecticut Media

Ned Lamont speaks during the Connecticut Democratic Convention Saturday at the Bushnell in Hartford, after earning the party's endorsement. Josh Elliott, below, won the right to a primary challenge against Lamont.

Dems endorse Lamont as Elliott forces primary

By Paul Hughes
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — Gov. Ned Lamont prevailed Saturday in a state convention battle for the Democratic endorsement for governor, but Hamden state Rep. Josh Elliott won the right to a primary challenge, capping a tumultuous week in Connecticut politics for both Democrats and Republicans.

A quarter of the 1,969 delegates to the Democratic

State Convention backed Elliott over Lamont when the voting at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford wrapped up early Saturday afternoon.

The convention vote reflects the feelings of party insiders after nearly eight years of Lamont's leadership. In a primary election Aug. 11,

Democrats continues on A4



By Ken Dixon
STAFF WRITER

UNCASVILLE — Delegates at the Republican State Convention on Saturday morning quickly moved past the problems of former front-runner

Erin Stewart and embraced state Sen. Ryan Fazio of Greenwich in a first-ballot nomination for governor.

The more than 1,100 delegat-

es picked Fazio to lead the Republican ticket to challenge the Democrats, presumably to be led by Gov. Ned Lamont, in the fall election. Matt Corey, a Manchester business owner, won the nomination for lieutenant governor after state Rep. Tim Ackert of Coventry withdrew in a late-morning roll call vote.

The vote in the gubernatorial race — 92% for Fazio — left candidate Betsy McCaughey, the former lieutenant governor

GOP continues on A4

Republicans nominate Ryan Fazio for governor

Amid primary, Dems disagree on disagreeing

HARTFORD — As Democratic Party leaders from 168 Connecticut towns (Canterbury was a no-show) shouted out their delegate count for Gov. Ned Lamont or state Rep. Josh Elliott at the convention Saturday to endorse a candidate for governor, two side remarks said a lot about the state of the party, and about politics in Connecticut.

It was a given that Lamont, seeking a third, 4-year term as one of the more popular governors in the nation, would take home his own party's endorsement. He did, polling 75 percent of the delegates at The Bushnell, a gem of a concert hall that's poorly suited for political conventions.

It was also clear from the energy

in the room for Elliott, a Hamden Democrat challenging Lamont from the left with a tax-the-rich platform, would easily qualify for a spot on the Aug. 11 primary ballot. He did, fetching 501 delegate votes, or 25 percent — well more than the 15 percent he needed to qualify.

Less clear: what this primary, **Haar continues on A6**



Dan Haar

COMMENTARY



Brian Lockhart/Hearst Connecticut Media

A city-hosted tour for prospective new operators of Bridgeport's entertainment arena on Thursday.

Bidders tour arena after Islanders exit

By Brian Lockhart
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — Lisa Fedick knows a little something about ice rinks. So perhaps it should be no surprise the longtime Wonderland of Ice manager took time off from that Glenwood Avenue business Thursday morning to join the third and final

tour offered prospective operators of the city's 10,000-seat sports and entertainment arena.

"We just wanted to walk through the facility," she said. "We'd like to see how hockey stay in Bridgeport."

After 25 seasons, the Bridgeport Islanders — formerly the Sound Tigers — minor league team is

headed to Canada. There was plenty of evidence Thursday that the packing-up of equipment and uniforms is well underway as visitors wound their way into and through the locker room.

The tour also included the arena floor, de-iced in preparation for a handful of college graduations — the remaining dates on the

facility's otherwise empty online calendar following some recent concerts, including the Foo Fighters. Besides being the main tenant, the Islanders annually booked all sorts of other events at the Total Mortgage Arena through Oak View Group company.

Fedick was joined **Arena continues on A6**

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Services CT
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Weather: Warm with sunshine and a few clouds.
High: 77. Low: 63. **Page A10**

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Expert
Every. Second.
Counts.

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Tuesday | Noon
May

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Join a LIVE conversation with our stroke experts and learn what a Certified Comprehensive Stroke Center means for you.



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