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Speculation building

NBC Sports: Reports say tax break may help bring facility to Clairol site

Staff reports

STAMFORD — Anticipation continues to build for the announcement of a deal that would bring NBC Sports jobs to the former Clairol site. Though several sources hinted that the news would be released from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's office early next week, there has been no confirmation of a deal or an announcement. "I'm certainly cognizant that people would like to see new employers come to the state," Malloy said Thursday. "I will tell you quite frankly we have an offer

out to an employer that would be moving jobs from another state." The rumors are swirling as the General Assembly prepares for a special session on jobs next week. Earlier this month, Malloy announced a partnership named "Startup Connecticut." If approved by the Legislature on Wednesday, the initiative would help grow companies that are under five years of age. NBC Sports spokesman Chris McCloskey would not comment on the speculation of a possible relocation to Connecticut. NBC Sports merged earlier this year with all of Comcast's sports as-

sets, including Versus, the Golf Channel and 11 regional sports networks. Any move may not affect all elements of the network. State Rep. Carlo Leone, D-Stamford, who represents the Blachley Road area that used to house Clairol, said he has asked the governor's office about the possible deal, but has not received any response. "I assumed if there's any truth to the matter that they're in discussions and not at liberty to say," Leone said. Leone has been an advocate of the state's film tax credits program and said if the speculation

is true, it would be vindication for any criticism the program has received. WTNH reported Thursday that the deal would involve about \$30 million in tax breaks to bring the network's sports division to the Clairol plant. The NBC deal, WTNH reported, involves 440 jobs for a \$30 million investment. The 32.68-acre campus on Blachley Road was purchased in March 2010 by a partnership affiliated with Steven Wise Associates LLC, Norwalk-based Spinnaker Real Estate Partners and the Connecticut Film Center. **See Reports on A4**



WIZARDS ON THE FIELD



KEELIN DALY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Team Zaryen, a soccer team made up of Haitian amputee athletes, plays a match with players from Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford on Thursday. The "Haitian Inspiration Tour" is also bringing amputee soccer clinics to wounded American soldiers who have lost limbs in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many members of Team Zaryen lost limbs in the 2010 earthquake that struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The team is co-sponsored by Project Medishare and the Knights of Columbus. For more on the game and the program, see **Page A3**.

Neighbors right about rooming house

On the night of Oct. 12, residents of Wood Ridge Drive South waited for a police officer, fire marshal, health inspector, zoning enforcement officer and social services worker to emerge from their neighbor's house.

They wanted the answer to a question that has loomed in their neat, quiet, family neighborhood for more than 15 years — is No. 81 an illegal rooming house?

The answer is yes, according to a letter that Zoning Enforcement Officer James Lunney wrote to Michael Pedicini, owner of 81 Wood Ridge Drive South, two days after the Safe Houses Task Force visit.

"Based upon the inspection results, it has been determined the residence is being used as a rooming house," Lunney wrote. "Rooming houses are not allowed in the R-10 zoning district, which is limited to one-family homes."

Pedicini altered the floor plan of his home to create illegal units, officials said. The 2,500-square-foot house, a raised ranch built in 1964, has nine bedrooms, six bathrooms and two kitchens, said Capt. Charles Spaulding, assistant fire marshal.

"We found overloaded electrical receptacles and numerous extension cords throughout, and

See Neighbors on A4



ANGELA CARELLA

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES REVIEW MEASURES

Malloy advances \$807M jobs plan

By Ken Dixon
Staff Writer

HARTFORD — Gov. Dannel P. Malloy on Thursday presented the General Assembly with an ambitious, \$807 million program aimed at reviving the state's stagnant economy while promoting jobs in bioscience, business and infrastructure repair. A key part of the package drew immediate skepticism from minority Republicans, who said they had unanswered questions about the administration's plans to spend \$291 million in a billion-dollar partnership with the Maine-based Jackson Laboratories for a 170,000-square-foot development on the grounds of the UConn Health Center. The two-part legislation, reviewed during a pair of committee meetings

and an afternoon-long public hearing, sets the agenda for the Oct. 26 special session on job creation in which lawmakers will be asked to approve long-term state borrowing for the initiatives. The Jackson lab project would include a \$192 million forgivable loan and \$99 million in grants supporting genetic research that would be bonded over 20 years. The average cost to taxpayers would be \$15 million a year, with the highest cost, \$85 million, next year. Catherine Smith, the state's commissioner of Economic Development, who helped make Malloy's pitch to lawmakers, said that 6,600 jobs, including about 4,000 indirect jobs, would result from the Jackson Laboratories deal. The other half of the legislative

package, totaling \$516 million over the next two years, includes \$340 million to replenish the state Manufacturing Assistance Act, with \$60 million targeting small business assistance; \$25 million in startup loans and support; \$50 million to repairs roads and bridges; job-creation tax credits; and orders to streamline regulatory procedures in state agencies. Malloy told reporters that he has worked hard to get a bipartisan consensus on the legislative package, particularly the section focused on developing employment opportunities, small businesses and road and bridge work. "What you have before you are the things that we have agreement on," the governor said. "It's a significant package." **See Malloy on A4**

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WEATHER



High 61 **Low 45**

Partly cloudy. Full weather report on **Page A14**.



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