

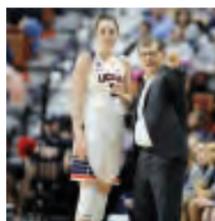
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CONNECTICUT

Lawsuit questions emergency care

Seymour woman died during surgery

By Lisa Chedekel
Conn. Health I-Team Writer

In surgery, when something goes wrong, minutes become hours.

Minutes are the focus of a lawsuit filed by the family of a 29-year-old Seymour nurse who died in February 2015 after undergoing minor elective sinus sur-

gery at the North Haven Surgery Center. The suit alleges that the center waited as long as 29 minutes to call an ambulance after Katherine O'Donnell's blood pressure and pulse fell to critical levels on the operating table - and that doctors continued to proceed with surgery, even as their efforts to resuscitate her failed.

The case raises questions about

how well equipped freestanding surgical centers are to handle emergencies, and what sanctions they face for alleged lapses in care. The lawsuit alleges that the center and Fairfield Anesthesia Associates, LLC, which handled anesthesia in the case, failed to properly respond by stopping



Katherine O'Donnell

the surgery immediately and calling a "Code Blue" emergency when O'Donnell's blood pressure and oxygen levels plummeted.

Records show the state Department of Public Health investigated the incident in March 2015 and found that "the standard of care was met" for anesthesia and surgical services. The agency cited the center for two minor violations related to documentation, but did not raise concerns about the time that elapsed before an

ambulance was called. No other state action is pending, a DPH spokesman said.

O'Donnell, known as Katie to her family and friends, was a dog lover and avid New York Yankees' fan who worked as a licensed practical nurse at a visiting nurse agency in Stratford. She was in good health when she went in to the North Haven Surgery Center on Feb. 25 for elective sinus surgery, records show.

LAWSUIT » PAGE 6

TORRINGTON

SUPPORT BLOOMS AT 'DRISCOLL TELETHON'



N.F. AMBERY PHOTO

Mary Ingoldsby and her granddaughter Yasmin Ingoldsby, 5, had their eyes on a "Hello Kitty" and "Frozen"-themed gift basket at the raffle.

Money raised again for St. Jude Research Hospital

By N.F. Ambery

TORRINGTON » The Thomaston Center School's Grades 4 through 6 Chorus, conducted by music teacher Kate Zitnay, sang spirited renditions of contemporary songs, including pop singer Ellie Goulding's "Burn," to appreciative family members in the Torrington High School auditorium as well as to those watching on local television Sunday afternoon.

The children's performance, as well as various acts that followed by The Center for Dance Arts; Torrington High School Jazz En-

semble; the Connecticut Firefighters Pipes and Drums; and local singer Bekah Heiland singing Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling In Love," were part of the 37th annual, recently renamed Tim Driscoll St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Telethon.

Organizer Kristin Raymond said more than 1,000 visitors were expected through the day to see live local musical acts in the school's Little Theater from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday (as of 1 p.m. several hundred visitors had already gone through).

Kevin Driscoll; his sister Kristin Raymond; and their cousin Derek Turbacuski emceed the live music performances. At one point, Raymond and Driscoll also paid tribute to their father, the late longtime organizer Tim

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N.F. AMBERY PHOTO

Kevin Driscoll; his sister Kristin Raymond; and their cousin Derek Turbacuski hosted the 37th annual, recently renamed Tim Driscoll St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Telethon.

FALLS VILLAGE

Nader urges citizens to take back their government

By Catherine Guarnieri
cguarnieri@registercitizen.com
@LCTCat on Twitter

FALLS VILLAGE » Activist and consumer advocate Ralph Nader lectured to a filled auditorium Friday evening at Housatonic Valley Regional School, urging attendees to get more civically involved with their communities and legislators. Nader presented three principles to convey his call to action, and noted that they are not "pie-in-the-sky" aspirations, but are attainable by the ordinary citizen.

Nader said it is not just enough to know that the economy and government is rigged, but to know HOW they are rigged, or change cannot be effected.

"It is not enough to know what the abuse is, or what the injustice is," he said. "You have to have

NADER » PAGE 2

CONNECTICUT

Students set for test drive of new SAT

By Linda Conner Lambeck
The Connecticut Post

BRIDGEPORT » Connecticut high school juniors will be among the first in the nation to take the brand new SAT when it is given in school on Wednesday.

Katie Hoffkins, 17, a Fairfield Warde High School junior, admits to feeling pretty confident.

Having already taken the PSAT, the practice test for the college preparedness exam, in its old format as well as the new version, Hoffkins dubbed the second one easier.

"Because there is no vocab section anymore, because they allow you to guess, I got a higher score," Hoffkins said.

SAT » PAGE 2

NEW HAVEN

Rapper makes a career out of his passion

When considering what it takes to become a successful rapper, good parenting might not jump to mind. PAGE A6



TORRINGTON

Police: Man hits pole in altercation

A city man was recently arrested after police say he hit a telephone pole while driving. PAGE A3

STATE

'More sustainable food options'

What started as a way to save meat at home so it could be sent to soldiers abroad is making a comeback. PAGE A6

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