

White House proposes Head Start rules rollback

Nearly 5,000 Connecticut families would be affected

By Natasha Sokoloff and Colin Tiernan

The Trump administration is moving to overhaul Head Start by rolling back the regulations that some experts and advocates say

have made the childcare program a lifeline for the neediest children and families in Connecticut and in the nation. The proposal would rescind more than 1,000 regulatory provisions for Head Start centers, includ-

ing longstanding rules for staff-to-child ratios, group sizes, program hours, curriculum expectations, discipline and more, according to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking posted online on Thursday morning.

Federal officials told reporters Wednesday evening that the new proposal would strip back the standards currently spelled out in more than 100 pages and prioritize local control. It's a dramatic effort to deregulate the decades-old early education program, which provides federally

Head continues on A7



Young students play together at Head Start on Foster Street in Danbury in 2013.

'A perfect storm'

Bethel mother advocates for mental health awareness after son's death

By Kaitlin Keane

Having struggled with his mental health for over a decade, Carolyn Greene remembers how her son, Myles Greene, would take on "the weight of the world." "He was an empathic young person," said Carolyn Greene, of Brookfield. "He took on every news story that he heard, he took on every friend's story he ever heard, he took on all the sad that is out there in the world and internalized that marginalization ... He could feel what that felt like." Recalling her son's struggle, she said he had a hard time finding things that brought him joy, and he vocalized to her on occasion that he didn't feel like he "processed the world the way other people processed the world." Myles Greene, of Bethel, died by suicide on June 25 at the age of 24. "He suffered for a long time, and he's been honest with therapists, he's been honest with us. You can't make somebody stay here. I always thought my life could be strong for the both of us," Carolyn Greene said. A celebration of Myles Greene's life was held July 30 at Michael's Tap Room, welcoming over 500 friends, family members, colleagues and other well-wishers in attendance, according to Carolyn Greene. She said the weeks since her son's death have been "the most

Mother continues on A7



In the weeks following her son Myles Greene's death, Carolyn Greene has been advocating for mental health awareness in his honor.

Feds seek detention of 2 men in kidnapping of Danbury couple

Son pleaded guilty for his role in \$245M crypto theft

By Jesse Leavenworth

In recently filed motions, federal prosecutors laid out reasons to detain two Missouri men charged with conspiring to rob millions in cryptocurrency from a Danbury man after kidnapping his parents. Sedrick Louis, 32, John Davis, 34, and Martel Williams, 27, all of St. Louis, each face a charge of conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery, U.S. District Attorney for Connecticut David X. Sullivan announced Tuesday. The charges are connected to an August 2024 scheme to kidnap a Danbury couple whose son, Veer Chetal, pleaded guilty last year to his role in a \$245 million Bitcoin theft. Soon after the theft, prosecutors say the Missouri men, at the direction of the

Louis and Davis both pleaded not guilty and have been detained since their arrests on June 25, Sullivan said. Williams also pleaded not guilty and was released on an unspecified bond, according to the prosecutor.

scheme's masterminds, traveled to Connecticut, stalking Chetal and his parents for two days and waiting for a chance to violently force a transfer of the stolen cryptocurrency, Sullivan said. The suspects, however, left Connecticut without carrying out the kidnapping, federal authorities said. A group of Florida men took over and successfully grabbed Chetal's parents on Aug. 25 after ramming the Lamborghini they were in and stuffing the couple into a van, according to Danbury police. The plan

failed, however, when the van crashed, and all six suspects were arrested, police said. The Florida men and other suspects in the kidnapping scheme have pleaded guilty to their roles, according to prosecutors. Louis and Davis both pleaded not guilty and have been detained since their arrests on June 25, Sullivan said. Williams also pleaded not guilty and was released on an unspecified bond, according to the prosecutor. In motions for the pretrial

detentions of Louis and Davis, federal prosecutors stressed the seriousness of the charges, the 20-year maximum sentence each faces and the suspects' criminal records. Beginning in 2014, Davis, who has "no legitimate employment history," has had "a steady stream of charges brought against him, typically involving his repeatedly driving without a valid license," the motion to detain says. In 2025, he was charged with unlawful use of weapons, possession of controlled substances and aggravated flight from police, among other charges, the motion says. "What raises particular concern is the fact that the seriousness of the defendant's conduct appears to be escalating rather than the reverse," the motion says. Danbury continues on A4

ELECTION 2026 Connecticut's summer of high-stakes primaries

By Ken Dixon

HARTFORD — Next week's Democratic primaries — 13 in all — feature prominent, veteran elected officials who are fighting for their political lives at the height of the summer vacation season. The five Republican primaries will determine challenges to sitting Democrats in the General Assembly and two of the state's Democratic members of Congress. Gov. Ned Lamont's path to a possible historic third four-year term has another obstacle besides state Sen. Ryan Fazio of Greenwich, the Republican candidate for governor. Democratic state Rep. Josh Elliott of Hamden, a 10-year member of the General Assembly, is campaigning against Lamont from the left, with an agenda including higher taxes on the state's wealthiest. First District U.S. Rep. John Larson, a member of Congress since 1999, who in May narrowly lost the Democratic nominating convention to Luke Bronin, the former mayor of Hartford, is facing the biggest opposition of his career, in a four-way primary that includes fourth-term

Primaries continues on A4



Ken Dixon and Dan Haar/Hearst Connecticut Media Josh Elliott and Gov. Ned Lamont

Lamont attacks Elliott, oddly quiet about \$15B in surpluses



Dan Haar

COMMENTARY

Starting in the summer of 2025, I told anyone who asked about Gov. Ned Lamont's re-election chances that he had 14 billion reasons to assure himself a win. Plus, he had a relaxed and confident personal style that would float him above any campaign mudslinging and burnish his image as a steady skipper. Those 14 billion reasons — the combined budget surpluses he racked up as governor — grew to \$15 billion by this summer. That's the total the state has paid down its pension fund debt above what was required (\$1 billion including a payment next month); added to the rainy-day fund (\$2.5 billion since 2019); and set aside to pay for Trump administration cuts and early childhood education (\$1.5 billion).

Haar continues on A4