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# The Bulletin

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gymnastics gold. B1**

PONEMAH

## State investing in mill revamp



AARON FLAUM/THE BULLETIN

The Lofts at Ponemah Mills project was among the recipients for loans as part of a state affordable housing initiative. The mill is in Taftville.

### \$3M loan part of affordable housing package

By **ADAM BENSON**  
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Projects in Norwich and Sprague will be included in the first round of state subsidies under a sweeping affordable housing package unveiled Wednesday by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy that seeks to create more than 1,000 new rental units over the next decade.

That includes a \$3 mil-

lion gap financing loan for the Lofts at Ponemah Mills, a 116-unit housing complex that will include 28 minimum affordable apartments as part of an overall \$26.61 million redevelopment of the Taftville site, state officials announced.

"I think the message from the state is, 'We'll ante up on this,' and that should encourage others to do the same thing," said Robert Mills, executive director of

the Norwich Community Development Corporation, the city's economic development arm. "I'm thrilled."

The loan's interest payments will be deferred for 30 years.

#### Modernize housing

Malloy and other state leaders rolled out the administration's plan to spend \$300 million to build up and modernize Connecticut's public housing stock

during an afternoon press conference at the Capitol. Officials on Wednesday named developments in Bridgeport, Guilford, Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk and Norwich as initial candidates for gap financing.

Two more rounds of targeted state funding are expected this fiscal year.

"Housing is a key component of our success to get

See **MILL, A7**

CASINOS

## Foxwoods tackling \$2.2B debt

### \$30M line of credit is part of agreement

By **JAMES MOSHER**  
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The tribal owner of Foxwoods Resort Casino has reached an agreement to restructure \$2.2 billion in debt obligations, making a big bet that business will improve over the life of the agreement, according to an analyst.

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation reached accord with steering committees of lenders and bondholders including Bank of America, the casino said Thursday in a press release.

#### Working capital facility

The agreement includes a \$30 million working capital facility, or line of credit, for the tribe with a 30-month term beginning on the restructuring date. Bank of America and Wells Fargo will arrange the facility.

The date will be determined by the outcome of talks with lenders that were not on the steering committees, Foxwoods President and CEO Scott Butera said.

#### Other creditors

Agreement with the other creditors is expected to be achieved "very quickly," he said. Creditors on the steering committee represent "a significant portion" of all those holding debt, Butera said, declining to give an exact number.

"This represents a critical step forward for our business," he said. "This plan will once again put Foxwoods and MPTN on solid financial footing and allow us to continue to provide an outstanding entertainment environment for our guests."

Tribal sovereignty issues

See **CASINO DEBT, A7**

IN COURT

## Heroin dealer lands 18 months in prison

By **GREG SMITH**  
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NEW LONDON — Before sentencing him to 18 months in prison, New London Judge Patrick J. Clifford on Thursday told a 54-year-old heroin dealer from Norwich he was getting a bit too old to be dealing drugs.

John R. Barry Jr., with a last known address at 49 Sachem St., pleaded guilty to one count of sale of narcotics. The plea agreement resolved all his pending cases, which included four counts of sale of heroin, along with marijuana possession and cultivation charges.

An arrest warrant affidavit

in his case reveals that Norwich police used an unnamed confidential informant to make "controlled purchases" of heroin from Barry on four separate occasions in January.

With a search warrant in hand on Jan. 30, Norwich police raided his apartment. Inside, police said they found Barry and his wife, Michelle Barry, in the living room. John Barry was holding a bag of heroin and preparing it for injection, police said. The couple admitted to being addicts. In the bedroom, police said they discovered a marijuana growing operation with about 80 plants in

See **HEROIN, A7**

#### EASTERN CONNECTICUT, A3

##### Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival

Check out today's schedule of events in our local section, and check in at NorwichBulletin.com all weekend for photos, videos and other updates from the festival.



#### BUSINESS, B7

##### Retailers see boost as back-to-school shopping starts

#### LOCAL, A4

##### Bicyclists go on 192-mile trip as cancer fundraiser

#### LOCAL, A3

##### State considers larger swimming area at Gardner

#### GOOD MORNING

##### HAPPY 55TH ANNIVERSARY:

Tom & Josie Piechowski, of Preston

HAPPY GRAMS: Page B4

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Sports .....B1  
E. Connecticut A3

Living.....B6  
Business .....B7

Classified .....B4  
Editorials.....A6

Lotteries .....A2  
Movie times ....A2

Obituaries.....A4  
Puzzles .....B5, B8

94/68

Partly sunny, hot, humid  
Forecast, A8