

Report: Swampscott arrest lawful; investigation flawed

By **Tréa Lavery**
ITEM STAFF

SWAMPSCOTT — An independent report on the December arrest of a Black Lives Matter protester found that officers from the Swampscott Police Department had probable cause for the arrest, but made missteps in their investigation.

The 117-page report, produced by New Hampshire-based consulting company Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI), and four retired police chiefs, was released in a redacted form on Tuesday afternoon.

“This report ensures that the town of Swampscott has objectively and effectively conducted

a top to bottom review of how the Swampscott Police Department handled this incident,” said Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald in a statement. “It is imperative that the findings contained in this report now result in changes to ensure that the Swampscott Police Department meets the highest ethical

and professional standards of public safety and public service.”

The arrest occurred at a December 12 pro-Donald Trump protest in Swampscott’s Monument Square. Ernst Jean-Jacques, also known as “Shimmy,” was taking part in a counter-protest with the group Out Now when Trump support-

er Linda Greenberg, 80, threw water at him from a plastic bottle. In a video from the incident, Jean-Jacques reaches toward Greenberg, but accounts differ as to what happened next.

Jean-Jacques, identified as Person 1 in the report, was

ARREST, A2

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Role of women in ministry keeps growing, but ...



The Rev. Heather Ardrey



Salvation Army Capt. Helen Johnson

By **Steve Krause**
ITEM STAFF

Women are doing much of the work in today’s churches. But even so, there is still that one elusive role that, so far, women have not been able to attain: that of Roman Catholic priest.

However, says Saugus’ Kathleen Sullivan — a former employee of St. Margaret’s Church — just about every other important role within the Catholic Church

is filled by women.

“It’s true now,” she says. “Most of the staff of the churches are made up of women, whether they’re paid employees or volunteers. Most of the people who do the work are women.”

So why can’t they take the last step, and become priests so they can administer all the sacraments?

There is no easy answer to the question. In an essay in the Catholic Exchange

from August 2019, theologian J.P. Nunez acknowledges that women can recite homilies and perform the sacraments with the same proficiency as men.

But, he writes, women cannot be the same physical manifestation of Jesus Christ that a man can be. Even deeper, Nunez argues, there’s a symbiotic, almost nuptial, relationship between the priest and Christ.

MINISTRY, A3

Farm Ave. in Peabody a done deal

By **Steve Krause**
ITEM STAFF

PEABODY — The Peabody Zoning Board of Appeals Monday night unanimously approved a 116-unit apartment building on Farm Avenue — one of three major projects proposed in the city.

The other two proposed projects — the former J.B. Thomas Hospital property known as HDG King Street, LLC; and 40 Oak Street Development, LLC — were tabled to April 12 and May 3 respectively.

A motion to table King Street was read and approved at the start of Monday’s Zoom meeting while a brief discussion on Oak Street centered around a report submitted to the board that it deemed inadequate to address the flooding concerns around Oak Street. It was then decided to move the proceedings to a later date.

The Residence at Farm Avenue LLC is considered a “friendly 40B” because it helps the city reach the number of affordable housing units approved by the state, as contained under Chapter 40B. And as attorney Jason Panos, who represented the developers, said, it will help revitalize a section of the city that needs attention.

FARM, A2

Saugus to develop plan to clean up Westford Street

By **Elyse Carmosino**
ITEM STAFF

SAUGUS — Town Manager Scott Crabtree will partner with the Saugus Department of Public Works to develop a plan to improve roadway conditions on Westford Street.

The decision was made in response to a petition submitted to the Board of Selectmen Tuesday asking that a number of improvements be made to the highly-traveled street.

Created by resident Mark Sacco, the petition, which describes the street as a “misdesigned roadway” developed during the baby boomer era in an attempt to keep up with an increased demand for suburban housing close to Boston, requests that the town install a catch basin for storm drainage and repair the road’s uneven surfaces.

“Basically we’re just looking for an improvement of the road condition out

PLAN, A3

COVID-19 up among Nahant youth

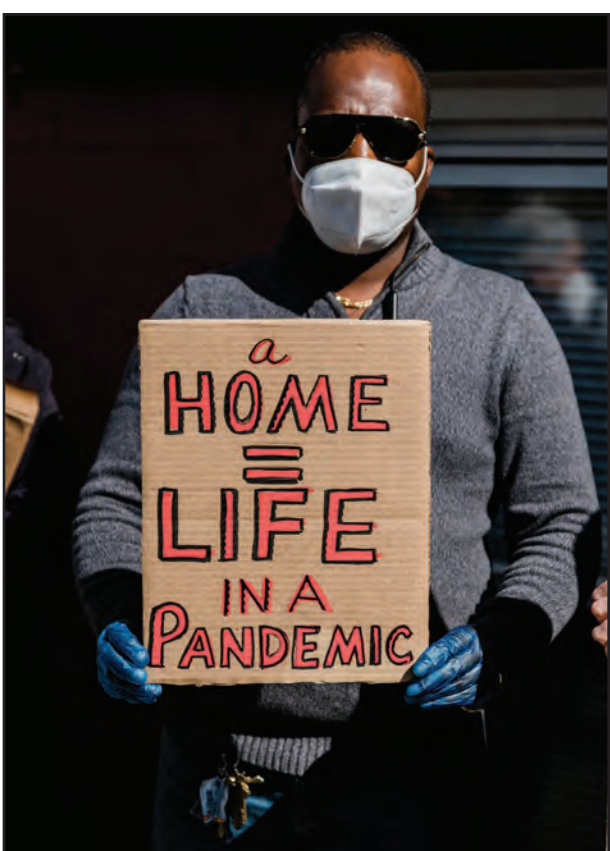
By **Elyse Carmosino**
ITEM STAFF

NAHANT — Nahant has seen a rise in COVID-19 cases this month, Public Health Nurse Deb Murphy announced.

During a joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health, Murphy said the community, which saw a decline in virus cases in February, reported nine active cases among residents since March 1.

“Our numbers looked like they were starting to go down in February, but

YOUTH, A2



ITEM PHOTO | SPENSER R. HASAK

Wilner Sully, a member of Lynn United for Change, holds a protest sign as he stands with other demonstrators calling to prevent the eviction of Damaris Llanos from her Washington Street home on Tuesday.

Lynn eviction draws protest

By **Allysha Dunnigan**
ITEM STAFF

LYNN — Activists from Lynn United for Change protested the impending eviction of a Lynn couple in front of their Washington Street home Tuesday morning.

Damaris Llanos and her partner had been struggling to pay their rent since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, ac-

ording to Lynn United for Change organizer Isaac Simon Hodes, who explained that Llanos’ partner, a barber, had been unable to work for several months due to barbershops being shut down.

Llanos had been under the impression that the state’s Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)

PROTEST, A3

INSIDE

Opinion

Do we need vaccine passports? A4

LOOK!

Salem Hospital receives collection of antique pacemakers. A8

Sports

Saugus volleyball pushes past Winthrop. B1

Peabody volleyball beats Beverly in five-setter. B1

CORRECTION

Due to misinformation supplied to the *Item*, the email addresses listed in a story about the Lynnfield Police’s patch program were incorrect. They are cdecarlo@town.lynnfield.ma.us and jsantos@town.lynnfield.ma.us.

COVID-19 Vaccines in MA: What You Need to Know



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TWO DOSES are required to be fully vaccinated

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REMAIN VIGILANT between doses and following your second dose

Learn when you can get the vaccine at mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases



OBITUARIESA2
OPINIONA4
POLICE/FIREA5

LOOK!A8
SPORTS B1-2
COMICSB4

DIVERSIONSB5
CLASSIFIED B6-7
FOODB8



HIGH 51°
LOW 45°
PAGE A8

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OBITUARIES

Ann Ames

1926 - 2021

PEABODY - Mrs. Ann (Yanchun) Ames, age 94, formerly of Lynn, passed away on Sunday, March 21, 2021 after a brief illness. She was the beloved wife of the late Wilbur W. Ames. Born in Lowell, she lived all of her life in Lynn. She was the daughter of the late Timothy and Mary (Denicvich) Yanchun, and was a graduate of Lynn Classical High School. Ann was a cook in the Lynn School System for 20 years. She started at Breed Junior High School and then became head cook at Lynn Classical High School.

When she was young Ann was an avid bowler. She and Wilbur loved to go to casinos. She was devoted to her family. Ann was the sister of the late Basil Yanchun, Mary Zagaja, Michael Yanchun, Stanley Yanchun and Sophie Vaczy. She was the cherished aunt of Carol Vaczy Wallis and her husband Keith of Peabody, of William Vaczy of Lynnfield, of the late Ronald Vaczy, of Sandra Faragi of Saugus, of the late Susan Wyatt, of Noreen Lebell and her husband Ralph of Plaistow, NH, of Timothy Yanchun of Saugus and of Cathleen Leonard and her husband Byron of North Andover, and was the adored great-aunt of several great-nieces and great-nephews.



Service Information: Ann's Graveside Funeral Service will be held at 1:00 PM on Thursday in Pine Grove Cemetery. Relative and friends are invited to gather inside the Boston Street gate at 12:45 PM. In lieu of flowers donations in Ann's name may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 101A 1st. Avenue, Waltham, MA 02451. Arrangements by Cuffe-McGinn Funeral Home 157 Maple Street, Lynn. To share a memory or leave online condolences please visit www.cuffemcgin.com



Maria Stannas, 79

1942 - 2021

LYNN - Maria (Boufasi) Stannas, age 79, of Lynn, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, March 21, 2021. She was the wife of Kostas Stannas, with whom she shared nearly 60 years of marriage. Born and raised in Corfu, Greece, she was the daughter of the late Sperios and Sophia Boufasi. She came to the United States and had lived in Peabody before moving to Lynn 46 years ago.

Maria worked in the restaurant business for many years. She loved dancing and music and enjoyed gardening and birds. She also loved to cook. Her greatest joy came from spending time with her family. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, always putting her family's needs before her own.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her three children; Andrew Stannas and his wife Kim, Cynthia Stannas, and Sophia Starling and her husband Bryan; eight grandchildren; Tiffany Stannas, Kayla Starling, Sydney Starling, Maria Champa, Michael Copans, John Copans, Taylor Bacon and Nicholas Stannas; eight great-grandchildren; as well as her brother-in-law, John Stannas.

Service Information: Her funeral will be held on Friday



at 11AM in St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 54 S. Common St., Lynn. Burial will be in Pine Grove Cemetery, Lynn. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited are asked to wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines. Her visitation will be in the church on Friday from 10AM-11AM, prior to the service. Those who prefer may make donations to St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 54 S. Common St. Lynn, MA 01902. Arrangements by the SOLIMINE FUNERAL HOME, Lynn. Directions and guestbook at www.solimine.com



Ella (Anderson) Johnson, 72

1948 - 2021

LYNN - Mrs. Ella Johnson 72 of Lynn, MA passed away at home on Friday March 12, 2021 after a brief illness surrounded by her loving family.

She was one of 13 children born to the late Charles Sr. and Jane "Annie" Anderson on October 1, 1948 in Lynn Massachusetts where she attended school.

She would later in life be united in Marriage to Elijah Johnson, who also preceded her in death, and then she met William "Doug" "Kinfolk" Alexander with whom she shared 40 years with until he preceded her in death.

Ella was also preceded in death by Her Parents, Charles Sr. and Jane "Annie" Anderson. Three brothers Charles Jr. (Koone) Edward and Robert Anderson

One son, Elijah Johnson, Three grandsons: Kevin Eaton, Marvin Johnson and Gregson Johnson and one granddaughter Monique Johnson.

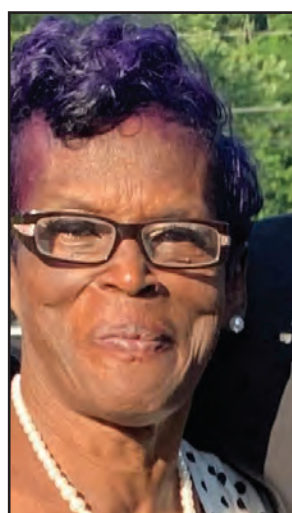
Ella is lovingly remembered and leaves to mourn her passing 8 children all of Lynn MA. Three sons, Edward Anderson, George Johnson, and Calvin Johnson. Five daughters and two Sons-in-law; Crystal (Anderson) Wilson (Michael Wilson); Joyce (Johnson) Wallace (Leroy Wallace), Calvena Johnson, India Johnson, Melinda Johnson. She also leaves 32 Grandchildren and 27 Great-Grandchildren.

She also leaves to Celebrate her life her siblings; two brothers and two Sisters-in-Law; George Anderson, wife (Minnie) Eugene Anderson, wife (Caretha).

Seven sisters and one Brother-in-law; Lizzie Hope, Mary Johnson, Annie Simpson, Barbara Brown, Naomi Stringer, husband (Richard), Joanne Anderson and Missionary Susan A. Brooks.

And a host of Nieces, Nephews and Cousins, and She was also preceded in death by her 5 Brothers-in-law.

Ella had such a passion for this city she not only attended Lynn Public schools, she would later on in life work for the Lynn



Public School Department for many years until she became unable to work any longer. She was loved and respected by so many and she LOVED with her whole heart. Always had kind and comforting words no matter the situation.

Her Greatest Joy, She Loved going to Church she was one of the very first Members to join Cathedral of Faith International Ministries 18 years ago, where she remained a faithful member until her passing.

"She Loved her Pastor", Pastor Gwendolyn Wheeler., and she had a unique way of saying that.

Ella also enjoyed Playing cards and the Lottery...and was and will always be The Queen when it came to hosting parties at the Brotherhood and her Famous Backyard Cookouts in Celebration of her Son Eli.

Service Information: Visiting hours will be held in the Solimine Funeral Home 426 Broadway on Friday, March 26, 2021, from 4:00PM-8:00PM. Due to restrictions on gatherings, her Funeral Service on Saturday will be private. Burial will be held on Saturday at 11:30AM in Pine Grove Cemetery, friends may gather at the main gate of the cemetery on Boston Street. Directions and guestbook at www.solimine.com



COVID-19 up among Nahant youth

YOUTH

From A1

Unfortunately in March, that's reversed itself a little bit," Murphy said. "The cases seem to be trickling in one or two every day."

The rise may have come from a recent outbreak at Swampscott High School, which Nahant students also attend.

However, Murphy did note one positive piece of data: The age of residents testing positive is now trending downward — a fact she attributed to the increase in elderly residents who have received the vaccine.

Nearly one-third of Nahant's population is aged 65 or older and qualified for the vaccine under Phase 2 of the state's rollout plan, which began February 1.

"It's very interesting to see, statewide and here in our own town, the age group now of the people who are testing positive," Murphy said. "As you can imagine, and it makes perfect sense, that as the older people have been getting vaccinated, the average age of the people who are testing positive right now (has gone down)."

She said the highest number of cases have been detected in people ages 0 to 19, with the second-highest number detected in those ages 20 to 29.

"If you look at the graph, the oldest people are way down at the end, and the youngest people are coming in first," she said, noting that between March 1 and March 14, a total of 547 people in Nahant were tested for the virus.

With a population of just over 3,500, Nahant has seen a total of 243 cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began last March, including eight deaths.

Since Monday, a number of new groups now qualify to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, including workers in restaurants, retail, transportation, funeral homes, and public health departments.

To accommodate the expected increase in vaccine demand, Murphy said hours of operation at Lynn Vocational Technical Institute and other Lynn Board of Health vaccination centers — which have partnered with the Nahant Health Department to include Nahant residents -- will be expanded.

"It's great we're opening up, and hopefully by the middle to end of April, everybody will be able to come to a clinic and get a vaccine," Murphy said. "I think that's what we're all looking forward to right now."

Elyse Carmosino can be reached at ecarmosino@itemlive.com.

Swampscott arrest said to be lawful; investigation flawed

ARREST

From A1

arrested and charged with felony assault and battery on a person over the age of 60, as police and some witnesses say they believe he punched Greenberg, Person 2 in the report. Jean-Jacques and his attorney maintain that he simply tried to take the bottle away from her, and reached toward her with an open hand, not a closed fist.

MRI conducted interviews with 14 SPD officers and studied other materials and videos from the event from January to February.

The report found that police acted with probable cause in the arrest, as two officers independently came to the conclusion that Jean-Jacques punched Greenberg, and that the arrest was not influenced by Jean-Jacques' race, age, gender or apparent political affiliation; however, based on video from the scene, the authors of the report found that the conclusion that he punched Greenberg was incorrect.

"In the case of police review of the 12/12/20 action in Swampscott, the ability to review video imagery in the calm of the aftermath with multiple angles and at slow and stop speeds has allowed a clearer picture of the incident to emerge," the report says. "After reviewing the videos, it is evident to MRI that (Jacques) did not make a fist as (he) moved forward."

The report further states that based on Greenberg's admission to having thrown the water, there is probable cause for charging her with assault and battery. In interviews included in the report, SPD officers say that this possibility was brought up, but they decided against it as they did not see Greenberg throw the water. MRI found that police acted within their policy discretion when making this decision.

Jean-Jacques and his attorney may still file assault charges against Greenberg in court.

However, the report did conclude that the initial post-arrest investigation in the arrest was "conducted in a disjointed and cursory manner; as such, the investigation was inconsistent with industry standards and best practices." MRI identifies several instances in which officers failed to follow up with witnesses, and notes that no officer attempted to interview Jean-Jacques before arresting him or after advising him of his Miranda rights.

In addition, the arresting officer, identified as "Officer E" in the report, was found to be at fault for telling Jean-Jacques to "shut the (expletive) up" while escorting him away from the scene. Officer E said in an interview with MRI that he said this as a de-escalation technique. MRI found that this statement went against the department's regulations and "could have just as easily served to 'escalate' rather than 'de-escalate' an already adversarial crowd of protesters."

The report deferred to the state attorney general to determine whether Jean-Jacques was the victim of civil rights violations, as his attorney alleges. It also left the outcome of the criminal case up to the criminal court to determine.

On January 22, Select Board Chair Peter Spellios and Vice Chair Polly Titcomb released a letter asking Essex District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett to drop the charges against Jean-Jacques.

The Select Board will discuss the results of the report in their meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday. Jean-Jacques will next appear in Lynn District Court for his criminal case on March 29.

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Farm Ave. in Peabody a done deal

FARM

From A1

"We've accomplished this in the middle of a pandemic," said Panos. "This will be truly transformative. This project will be done in a part of the city that needs a lot of attention, and, frankly, needs a lot of love."

The area is sparsely populated, and contains a lot of industrial, trucking and mulch operations. It is also near the city's landfill and Department of Public Safety building.

Chapter 40B says that developers can seek a permit from the ZBA that allows them to get past most zoning rules as long as a percentage of the development — in this case 25 — are set aside for affordable housing.

The project had the backing of Mayor Ted Bettencourt, who told Janelle Chan, undersecretary of the state's Department of Housing and Community Development that it would add to the city's subsidized housing inventory, and ensure that the project, when completed, would exceed the required affordable housing quota.

Bettencourt also wrote to Chan, telling her the project would provide quality units at rental prices the city needs to sustain itself. He said the project fits with the city's

overall plan to redevelop the section of Farm Avenue that runs alongside Route 128.

The Residences at Farm Avenue would be located on land owned by Farm Avenue Two Lots LLC, whose managers are Michael and Elaine Weiss — who are also managers of The Residences at Farm Avenue LLC. Those lots were bought in February 2014, and make up a little more than three acres near the intersection of Forest Street.

The project's 116 units include 57 one-bedroom apartments, 47 two-bedroom, and 12 three-bedroom units. Six would be accessible to people with disabilities.

Structurally, the complex would have five floors of apartments above a ground-level parking garage with 152 spaces in a parking lot and inside the garage. The project also calls for 29 affordable units to those earning a maximum of 80 percent of the area median income.

"This has been a very good process," said Panos after the vote was taken. "There are a lot of people to thank, particularly Mayor Bettencourt, who stood behind us all the way. I also want to thank the board for asking the very tough questions that will make this a better project."

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Role of women in ministry keeps growing, but ...

MINISTRY From A1

However, the church does seem to be moving on this issue, even though — as Sullivan points out — the wheels of change turn slowly.

“Pope Francis has allowed for a committee to study deaconship, which is an ordained step toward priesthood,” said former St. John the Evangelist Co-Director of Religious Education Sister Michelle Sherliza. “Women are asking. It hasn’t been approved by Rome, but with the decline in the number of priests, this will become an option. But it moves slowly.”

Though this was a similar issue with other denominations, it is not anymore. And it has not been for a long time.

Capt. Helen Johnson is the co-pastor of the Lynn Salvation Army citadel on Franklin Street, Lynn, along with her husband, Capt. Kevin Johnson. Hers is not an adjunct position. They share responsibilities equally.

“Ours is very much a team ministry,” said Capt. Helen (as she prefers to be called). “And when it comes to duties, we do the

things we’re best at. He may handle the finances and I may handle ministering to the kids. And we take turns preaching.”

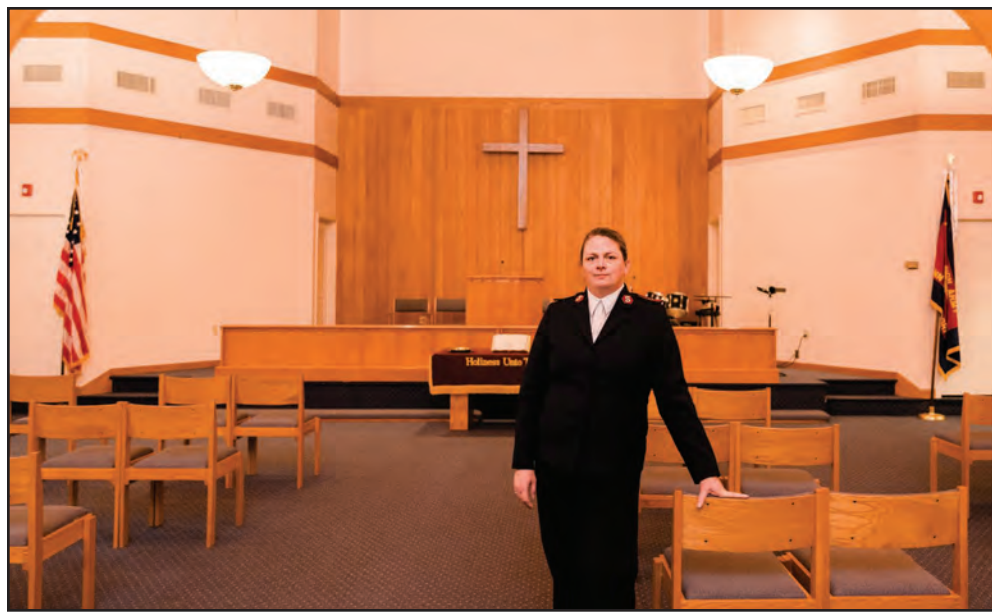
The Rev. Heather Ardrey, pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene (Iglesia Hermosa del Nazareno) on Eastern Avenue, Lynn, says that while being a woman in the ministry can be a challenge at times, it is largely a blessing — especially in this part of the country. But both Capt. Helen and Rev. Ardrey have encountered difficulties elsewhere.

“A captain in the Salvation Army is on a par with a pastor,” said Capt. Helen. “I notice sometimes that people will automatically give my husband the title, but do not give me the same title. They’ll just call me ‘Helen.’”

The Rev. Ardrey recalls preaching in the Marshall Islands, “and after preaching one Sunday, I got emails telling me I shouldn’t be preaching.”

They also can see where being a woman could get in the way of doing the type of sensitive counseling ministers often give their parishioners.

“With us, that doesn’t present that much of a problem,” Capt. Helen



ITEM PHOTO | SPENSER R. HASAK

Capt. Helen Johnson is a pastor at the Salvation Army in Lynn.

said. “He’ll talk to the men and I’ll talk to the women if the issues are sensitive enough to warrant that.”

With the Rev. Ardrey, the line is a little finer.

“It would depend on how comfortable they are in talking to me,” she said. “I’m very careful with things like that. I prefer meeting in public places, like over a cup of coffee or down at the beach. The most important thing is for everyone to be comfortable.”

“The need for mental health support varies,” she said. “Sometimes it

is better if a man shares something with another man, and there are men in our community who are willing to help out in that manner. I also make people aware that there are other things in place (for counseling). That’s important for anyone.”

Both, however, find their careers rewarding.

“My parents were also Salvation Army officers,” Capt. Helen said. “As a teen, I revolted against it. But when I was about 20, I went to Nepal, and saw the poverty there. I got struck with this desire to

help and to do something that was part of the solution.”

“It is always a gift to be invited into the lives of people,” the Rev. Ardrey says. “You share their joys, share their pain. It is an honor.”

Sister Michelle, who worked under four pastors, including Monsignor John Carroll, credits Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council with giving the Catholic Church a huge nudge forward.

“He allowed for lay ministers, lectors ... he was a man of vision. He moved

the church forward, and we’re still feeling that.

“We developed a dynamic parish at St. John’s,” she said. “We visited the sick and gave Communion. We reached out to the spiritual side of ministry. It was quite an experience. God was present in our lives, and it just came together. We were able to perform wonderful things.”

And while she won’t speak against the Church’s reasoning for its views on priesthood, it’s not difficult to see where her feelings might fall.

“I think it’s part of the society in which we’ve grown up,” said Sister Michelle, who was the DRE at St. John’s for 34 years, beginning in 1973, before moving to Columbus, Ohio, where she is now. “The right for women to vote, all the different areas where women have strived — it’s a matter of justice, and equality, in all of society in which women assume positions equal to men. I think it will happen eventually. If we keep moving forward, eventually we’ll see change. We leave it in the hands of God to direct us.”

Steve Krause can be reached at skrause@item-live.com.

Lynn eviction draws protest

PROTEST From A1

program was covering the rent she had missed and that she would begin making monthly payments again on April 1, according to Hodes.

However, she received a 48-hour notice last Friday after a Lynn District Court judge granted the landlord permission to evict. A constable and moving truck were scheduled to evict the tenants at approximately 10 a.m. Tuesday, but did not show up at the couple’s 172 Washington St. home due to a last-minute court date scheduled to revisit this matter, according to Hodes.

Despite that outcome, the protest against the eviction proceeded as planned.

“Evictions like this are immoral and threaten public health,” said Drenusha Jusufi, a member of Lynn United for Change, in a statement. “We can’t let this happen. This situation shows why we need our state government to do more to protect against unnecessary evictions during the pandemic. The ‘COVID-19 Housing Equity Bill’ ... would prevent cases like this.”

Llanos had previously applied for assistance from the government, and the state’s RAFT program gave her landlord \$10,000 earlier this month. RAFT offers financial assistance to stabilize housing situations when tenants are facing eviction, foreclosure, loss of utilities, and other housing emergencies caused by loss

of income, increase in expenses, or both. According to Lynn United for Change, Llanos received a written letter stating that the RAFT program made a payment to her landlord on her behalf, which, Hodes said, means that her landlord is required to commit to preserving the tenancy.

Hodes said Lynn United assisted Llanos over the weekend with signing an affidavit that is required by the federal eviction ban through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The advocacy group presented copies of that document to the couple’s landlord, Steven Lasoff, who is the owner of Paramount Properties and owns a number of buildings in the city.

Lasoff did not respond to a request for comment.

Hodes said that a legal aide filed a motion this past Monday night, which claimed that there were a number of legal issues with the case. Following that motion, the couple’s eviction case was scheduled to be revisited in court on Tuesday morning, but a positive virus case in the clerk’s office in Lynn District Court postponed the hearing to Wednesday.

Approximately 20 protesters gathered in front of Llanos’ building on Washington Street, holding signs and chanting phrases that included “the people united will never be defeated” and “housing is a human right.”

The protesters said they were prepared to block the constable and moving truck,

if needed. Some of the activists said that they wanted to show their support and fight for Llanos’ “human right” to have a home.

Goldean Graham, a member of Lynn United, said she was upset with “the injustice evictions” that have been occurring throughout the pandemic. She noted local officials haven’t offered much help to prevent the evictions.

“Why now, during a pandemic?” she said. “People have lost so much, and are being evicted from their homes — the only homes they know.”

Graham said people have struggled and lost their homes due to the pandemic, noting that their fellow Lynn residents will show up and fight for those people until the evictions stop or more help is given to them.

Llanos’ attorney Jolie Main said that “while there are protections in place for tenants during the pandemic, they’re only helpful when tenants know they exist and can utilize and enforce those rights.”

“That’s the importance of tenants having access to a lawyer so they know their rights and ensure they are able to assert them,” she said. “A case like Ms. Llanos is a perfect example of why it matters. Evictions are confusing as it is but here the landlord proceeded with two concurrent cases, one in District Court and one in Housing Court. Tenants often have trouble navigating a complicated process. It is so important that they get connected with a lawyer to

help them out.”

Cindy Rodriguez and Dawn Duncan, two longtime members of Lynn United, said that they showed up to the protest to “pay it forward,” explaining that they had gone through a similar situation.

“About 90 percent of us here have been through the exact same thing,” Rodriguez said. “But as you start to learn and know your rights, you get less and less afraid.”

They both noted that it is very hard and scary to go through an eviction situation, which can feel very lonely. Duncan said Lynn United helped her with her housing issues, which included assisting her with her legal issues and the confusion she felt throughout the process. In turn, she wants to do the same for Llanos.

Llanos thanked everyone who showed up to support her on Tuesday morning and said that she doesn’t feel alone anymore. Participants praised her for having the courage to stay and fight, given the circumstances of going through the hardship during a pandemic.

The court is scheduled to revisit Llanos’ case on Wednesday morning and Tuesday’s protesters said that they planned to show up at her home again to show their support and fight for her home, depending on the outcome of the eviction hearing.

Allysha Dunnigan can be reached at adunnigan@itemlive.com.

Saugus to develop plan to clean up Westford Street

PLAN From A1

here,” Sacco said.

The petition also states that the amount of debris in the roadway, as well as tripping hazards on both sides of the street, poses significant risks to travelers, and stormwater that seeps through the road’s surface could potentially impact underground infrastructure.

Selectman Jeff Cicolini, who made a motion to defer the petition to the town manager, said it was possible the cost of the plan could be built into the town’s future planning under its water and sewer enterprise accounts.

However, Crabtree said the street’s needed repairs

are extensive.

“The DPW director has been out there and what I’m told is that there’s a lot more involved than repaving,” he said. “It’s a much bigger project than just repaving and we wouldn’t be able to repave unless we do something with the stormwater issues and drainage.”

Crabtree said he would provide a status update on the project in three months, which would give the town time to assess the situation and figure out a plan for improving the street.

“I think three months is enough time to get an idea of what the scope (of the project) is,” he said.

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New virus cases reported in Lynn, Lynnfield, Revere, Salem, and Saugus

By Gayla Cawley ITEM STAFF

Lynn, Lynnfield, Revere, Salem and Saugus reported new coronavirus cases on Tuesday.

In Lynn, 39 new cases were reported to bring the city’s caseload to 16,198. Of that total, 318 cases are active, 203 people have died, and 15,677 have recovered from the virus, according to city data.

Saugus has reported 53 new cases since last Fri-

day to bring the town’s total numbers to 3,763 cases and 67 deaths, according to the town website.

In Salem, 12 new cases were reported to bring the city’s caseload to 4,272. Seventy-eight people have died, the city reported.

Lynnfield (1,104 cases, 29 deaths) reported five new cases, Revere (9,979 cases, 159 deaths) reported two new cases, Nahant (243 cases, eight deaths) reported no change in its statistics, and num-

bers were not updated in Marblehead, Peabody, or Swampscott.

Peabody had 6,526 cases and 305 deaths as of Monday, Marblehead had 1,213 cases and 31 deaths as of last Friday, and numbers have not been updated in Swampscott (994 cases, 19 deaths) since last Thursday.

Gayla Cawley can be reached at gcawley@item-live.com. Follow her on Twitter @GaylaCawley.

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OPINION

Dolores Huerta, Carol Jenkins and Eleanor Smeal

Don't limit equality

For the second time in a century, a global pandemic has occurred at the height of a determined movement to expand women's rights under the U.S. Constitution. In 1918, the Spanish Flu nearly halted the drive for ratification of the 19th Amendment on women's suffrage. But advocates rallied, they lobbied President Wilson for support and urged Congress to pass a joint resolution adopting the amendment, followed by ratification by the states resulting in final certification in August 1920.

Today, the campaign for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is in the middle of another global pandemic with women losing jobs at a much higher rate than men, especially affecting women of color. In these first 100 days of the Biden-Harris administration, there is a real opportunity to make Constitutional history again with lasting change for women's rights and gender equality by adding the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

The ERA was approved by Congress in 1972 and says, very simply, that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."

President Biden and the United States Senate now have the opportunity to rally as well. In mid-March, the House of Representatives passed a joint resolution clearing the way for the ERA to be added to the Constitution. If the Senate also adopts the resolution, it could

become part of the Constitution this year.

The ERA has already been ratified by the necessary three-fourths of the states when Virginia became the 38th last year. Earlier, Nevada ratified in 2017 and Illinois in 2018. However, the ERA has yet to be formally enshrined into the Constitution because of an arbitrary timeline in the amendment's preamble — not the legislative text sent to the states for approval — which set 1979 for ratification. Congress changed the timeline by extending it to 1982.

Congress can again weigh in by removing the timeline and recognizing the final three states since Article V of the Constitution puts the amending process with the Congress and ratification with the states.

The Senate should approve a joint resolution entitled "Removing the Deadline for Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment," which would declare that notwithstanding any earlier strictures Congress recognizes that the ERA is relevant today and needed.

The vast majority of Americans across demographic and party lines agree that women should have equal rights with men in this country. In a 2020 Pew Research Center survey, more than nine in 10 U.S. adults said it is very important (79 percent) or somewhat important (18 percent).

Fully 78 percent of U.S. adults — including majorities of women, men, Republicans and Democrats, favored adding the ERA to the Constitution.

Four generations have

now been involved in organizing hundreds of peaceful ERA marches and rallies that led up to the 2017 Women's March, events which galvanized millions of women and men nationwide to new levels of political activism.

The #MeToo movement sparked public outrage over sexual assault and misogyny in the workplace. In 2020, women again far outnumbered men as voters with a gender gap that has become decisive in presidential, Senate and House elections. And women and men alike supported the Equal Rights Amendment by electing a Pro-ERA majority of members in the House and Senate.

An estimated one million more women than men have lost their jobs during the COVID-19 lockdowns and the pandemic shows that the vast majority of essential workers are women, who are disproportionately Black women and Latinas, and who still have the majority of caregiving responsibilities.

These along with other economic realities demand that Congress approve the ERA resolution. It will mark an historic commitment to women's rights by ensuring equality under the law for current and future generations.

Dolores Huerta is president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation and Co-Founder of the United Farm Workers. Carol Jenkins is president of the ERA Coalition. Eleanor Smeal is president of the Feminist Majority Foundation. For more information go to: ERAyes2021.org

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

History hits home

To the editor:
"A Grim Toll Reprised" by Thor Jourgensen (Item, March 22) provided a stark reminder of the similarities between the Spanish Flu and COVID-19 today.

To those Lynn victims of 1918, may I add the name of my maternal uncle, John Boland, age 24, who succumbed on September 21 of that year. His obituary in the Lynn Telegram

that day read: "John F. Boland, Jr., was born in Lynn and attended Cobbet Grammar School... Everything was done for him, but his condition was such that medical assistance was to no avail. He was a well-known young man of the city, a member of Lynn Lodge, and the Valladolid Counsel Knights of Columbus.

"He attended St. Mary's

Church and was a member of the Holy Name Society of that parish. Besides his mother and father, he is survived by a brother Arthur Boland, a student at Lynn English High School, and two sisters, Annie and Sarah Boland."

*Helen Breen
Lynnfield*



The Daily Item

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EDITORIAL

Do we need vaccine passports?

Editorial from the Bloomberg Opinion editorial board

Once people have been vaccinated against COVID-19, they're safer to dine out, fly on airplanes, attend concerts and movies, work out at the gym, go to the office, cross borders and otherwise move about — as long as they wear masks around other people indoors, avoid large groups and keep their distance. How can they demonstrate that they have this protection? By showing a "vaccine passport," perhaps in the form of a smartphone app.

Israel, the United Kingdom, the European Union and other governments are creating such digital documents, as are private organizations. President Joe Biden is assessing whether the U.S. should have them.

Yet vaccine passports have met resistance. Critics, including the World Health Organization, worry that they might exacerbate inequality, undermine privacy or simply not work very well. These concerns ought to be addressed, but they shouldn't veto a useful tool for speeding a post-COVID return to normal life.

First, inequality. "Vaccination is just not available enough around the world and is not available certainly on an equitable basis," Michael Ryan, head of health emergencies at the WHO, said earlier this month. Vaccine passports, he said, might allow this inequity to be "further branded into the system."

There's no question that the vaccine rollout should be managed with equity in mind, and care should be taken to ensure that passports don't make this any harder. Proof of vaccination can be provided in different ways, so that people who don't have smartphones, for instance, aren't excluded. But the main thing is to deliver vaccines as quickly and equitably as possible — both within countries and globally. Denying freedom of movement to people who, once vaccinated, pose little danger to themselves or others merely introduces another kind of injustice. On what basis do you deny people activities and contact with others if little risk is involved?

Privacy is another concern. People resist revealing their personal medical details to strangers. But a vaccine passport can say that a person is free of COVID-19 or protected against it without going into details about tests or shots, or any other health characteristics — just as credit cards can be used to buy things without revealing a person's bank account or credit history. Governments should demand such standards of privacy and accuracy for vaccine passports.

For example, CommonPass, a digital vaccine passport being developed by the nonprofit Commons Project and the World Economic Forum, will access users' vaccination records and lab results — to protect against forgery — but use them to validate their inoculation and infection status without revealing details. Passports should be able to provide a simple yes-or-no answer to the question "Does this person meet this facility's COVID-related entry requirements?"

But would the passports actually work as intended? They certainly couldn't guarantee that someone is virus-free or safe from infection, because tests and vaccines provide less-than-total protection. Someone infected with the coronavirus may test negative early on; someone who has been vaccinated retains a small risk of being infected. And medical science doesn't yet know whether vaccinated people can transmit the virus, or how long vaccine protection will last. Nevertheless, passports can signify that the bearers are guarded against severe disease and death, and are less likely than the unvaccinated to carry the virus and infect other people. In other words, what risks they take and pose to others are tolerably low — if they wear masks and take other precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

Keep in mind, vaccine passports are also meant to be temporary. As populations are more broadly inoculated and COVID-19 fades, the world will be able to again operate without them. In the meantime, they can encourage widespread vaccination, and enable airlines, restaurants, offices and other businesses to come back to life quickly and safely.

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POLICE/FIRE

All address information, particularly arrests, reflect police records. In the event of a perceived inaccuracy, it is the sole responsibility of the concerned party to contact the relevant police department and have the department issue a notice of correction to the Daily Item. Corrections or clarifications will not be made without express notice of change from the arresting police department.

LYNN

Arrests

Jovanny Bencosme, 29, of 167 N Common St., was arrested and charged with drug possession with intent to distribute at 6:43 a.m. Tuesday.

Cory Berard, 32, of 15 Nelson St., was arrested and charged with two counts of trespassing and breaking and entering for a misdemeanor at 4:03 p.m. Monday.

Gabriel Colon, 36, of 220 Chatham St., was arrested and charged with firearm possession without a firearm identification card at 1:47 a.m. Tuesday.

Anthony Pennant, of 39 Boylston St., Boston, was arrested on warrant charges of 13 counts of malicious destruction of property and two counts of trespassing at 12:23 p.m. Monday.

Accidents

A report of a motor vehicle hit and run crash at 11:22 a.m. Monday at 99 Essex St.; at 12:51 p.m. Monday at Sunshine Laundry at 28 Joyce St.; at 6:44 a.m. Tuesday at 66 Henry Ave.

A report of a motor vehicle crash at 1 p.m. Monday at 89 Euclid Ave.; at 4:20 p.m. Monday at Essex and Washington streets; at 8:59 p.m. Monday at 80 Boston St.

A report of a motor vehicle crash with personal injury at 7:55 a.m. Tuesday at 1067 Western Ave.

Assaults

A report of an assault and battery at 7:22 p.m. Monday on Broad Street; at 9:57 p.m. Monday on Kingsley Terrace.

Breaking and Entering

A report of a breaking and entering at 6:16 a.m. Tuesday at 2 Kingsley Terrace.

Overdose

A report of an overdose at 10:47 p.m. Monday on Wyman Street; at 11:57 p.m. Monday on Webster Street.

Theft

A report of a larceny at 9:55 a.m. Monday at 500 Essex St.; at 12:03 p.m. Monday at 391 Essex St.; at 12:11 p.m. Monday at 47 New Park St.

Vandalism

A report of motor vehicle vandalism at 3:43 p.m. Monday at 9 Mall St.

A report of vandalism at 5:46 p.m. Monday at Keane Park on Adams Street Extension.

MARBLEHEAD

Complaints

A report of suspicious activity at 7:59 p.m. Monday on Circle Street. A caller reported there was a man sitting on the wall a few houses up from her. She didn't know how he got there or what happened, but said he was covered in blood. The caller later called back to report that a car had pulled up and picked up the man, but that there was a pool of blood left behind. Police could not find the man.

PEABODY

Accidents

A report of a motor vehicle crash at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday at 12 Wheeler St.

Breaking and Entering

A report of an attempted burglary at 10:47 p.m. Monday at 16 Paleologos St. A caller reported she thought someone was trying to break into her house. The caller was taken to Salem Hospital.

Fire

A mulch fire near a building at 39 Cross St. was reported at 2:33 p.m. Monday.

Vandalism

A report of vandalism at 12:22 a.m. Tuesday at 32 Margin St. A resident reporting hearing noise in the front driveway and saw two suspects on camera vandalizing two vehicles before fleeing the area. Police were unable to locate the suspects.

SAUGUS

Accidents

Police received a call at 2:26 p.m. Monday for a motor vehicle crash in the vicinity of Pratt Overpass on Broadway.

Police received a call at 5:39 p.m. Monday for a motor vehicle crash with non-fatal injuries on Lincoln Street and Seagirt Avenue.

Vandalism

Police received a report of vandalism at 2:52 p.m. Monday on Richardson Circle.

SWAMPSCOTT

Animal control

A caller reported a loose dog to police at 2:16 p.m. Monday on Nichols Street. Animal Control was notified and the dog was returned to its owner.

A caller reported a loose dog with no collar or tags at 7:10 p.m. Monday at the Machon School on Burpee Road. Animal Control was notified.

Complaints

At 7:36 p.m. Monday, a resident of Pine Street reported suspicious harassing behavior to police.

At 8:10 p.m. Monday, a caller from Sutton Place reported annoying phone calls related to a social media post.



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Juan Jimenez, 60, lies down in his car which is now his home, in Pamplona, northern Spain.

Cars become home for Spain's pandemic casualties

By **Álvaro Barrientos**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAMPLONA, Spain — When the social worker called to tell Javier Irure that he was being evicted, the 65-year-old Spaniard couldn't fathom that he could end up homeless after five decades of manual labor.

"I grabbed some clothes, a few books and other things, wrapped them up in a bed sheet and told myself, 'I have one more roof to put over my head: my car,'" Irure said from inside the old Renault Clio compact that has been his shelter for the past three months.

Irure belongs to the multitude of economic victims of the coronavirus pandemic. He managed to avoid getting COVID-19, but the labor slowdown caused by restrictions

on movement and social activities the Spanish government imposed to control the spread of the virus proved lethal to his financial stability.

Irure, who started working at age 13 as a hotel bellhop, was working as a professional cleaner when the pandemic hit Spain last year and dried up his sources of income. It was not long before Irure was turned out of his rented apartment.

He tried to get help from public social services, but he relies on aid from local charity group Ayuda Mutua.

"You feel like a pendulum" dealing with the official bureaucracy, Irure said. "Going from one window to another, from calls that are never answered to vague promises."

The pandemic has been particularly hard on Spain's economy due to

its reliance on tourism and the service sector. The country's left-wing government has maintained a furlough program to reduce the impact, but over a million jobs have been wiped out.

While close-knit families have sustained many citizens who otherwise might have ended up destitute, confining people at home also has strained Spanish family life, as seen in a spike in divorce rates. The breakdown of households has left more individuals on their own.

Catholic aid organization Caritas Española said earlier this month that around a half-million more people, or 26% of all its aid recipients, have reached out for help since the start of the pandemic. Caritas opened up 13 centers dedicated to assisting the homeless since the pandemic began.

Like Irure, Juan Jiménez had no option but to live in his car, a second-hand Ford where he has slept for close to a year.

Jiménez, 60, saw his mortgage payments spiral out of control and his marriage crumble after he and his wife bought a bigger house. The 620 euros (\$740) he received in government aid in recent months went to his seven children, he said.

"I dream of having all my children under one roof, but it is better that I am here," Jiménez said. "They have their lives, and I would only be a problem."

Jiménez and Irure move their cars from one parking spot to another on the outskirts of the northern Spanish city of Pamplona, where they once had homes. They do so to avoid drawing attention to themselves.

Regal Cinemas, 2nd largest chain in U.S., to reopen in April

By **Jake Coyle**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Regal Cinemas, the second largest movie theater chain in the U.S., will reopen beginning April 2, its parent company, Cineworld Group, announced Tuesday.

Regal had been one of most notable holdouts in the gradual reopening of cinemas nationwide. For nearly half a year, its 7,211 screens and 549 theatres in the U.S. have been dark. Doors will open early next month with attendance limited to 25% to 50% capacity in about 500 locations.

Cineworld also agreed to a new multi-year deal with Warner Bros. Beginning next year, the studio's releases will have a 45-day exclusive window at Regal cinemas, roughly slicing in half the traditional period. That doesn't apply to Warner releases this year, which are streaming simultaneously on HBO Max when they open in theaters.

"We are very happy for the agreement with Warner Bros." said Mooky Greidinger, chief executive of Cineworld. "This agreement shows the studio's commitment to the theatrical business and we see this agreement as an important milestone in our 100-year relationship with Warner Bros."

Regal's April 2 reopening coincides with the release of Warner Bros.' "Godzilla vs. Kong."

The agreement is the latest in a reordering of



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Regal Cinemas on 42nd Street is temporarily closed due to COVID-19 in New York.

the theatrical marketplace — a sea change accelerated by the pandemic but viewed as long-incoming by some analysts given the rise in streaming services.

Universal Pictures last November agreed to deals with AMC and Cinemark — the first- and third-largest chains — to shrink the theatrical window to 17 days, or three weekends. Greidinger at the time said the company didn't

see "any business sense" in that model.

The Walt Disney Co. on Tuesday said it would release several of its largest upcoming films, including the Marvel movie "Black Widow" simultaneously in theaters and on Disney+.

In the United Kingdom, where Cineworld is targeting a May reopening, the Warner agreement shortens the theatrical window to 31 days but can be ex-

tended to 45 days if a film reaches a certain box-office threshold.

About half of North American theaters were open as of last week, according to data firm Comscore. In the past few weeks, theaters have been allowed to reopen in New York and Los Angeles — the two largest U.S. markets — for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

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Swampscott Fire Department run training drills at house scheduled for demolition

By **Tréa Lavery**
ITEM STAFF

SWAMPSCOTT — Firefighters ran training drills Tuesday at a home on Nichols Street that is scheduled to be demolished.

Smoke leaked out of the windows and doors of the small, one-story building while members of the Swampscott Fire Department went in and out, and climbed up ladders to cut holes in the roof with a chainsaw to allow for ventilation.

"We try to take the op-

portunity to get some practice whenever there's a building being demolished," said Fire Chief Graham Archer. "Today, they're practicing searches and forcible entry."

Archer said that the department will have four training groups practicing on the building on different days this week before it is demolished. Running the drills allows them to be better prepared when they face a real fire.

Tréa Lavery can be reached at tlavery@item-live.com.

Swampscott Police investigating rope hanging from tree

ITEM STAFF REPORT

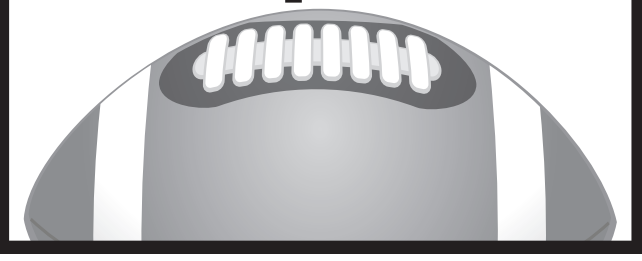
SWAMPSCOTT — Police are investigating a length of rope that was found hanging from a tree in Linscott Park behind Hadley Elementary School on Monday.

The rope was tied with a

loop at the bottom, giving it a noose-like appearance. The end of the rope was hanging approximately four feet from the ground.

Police ask anyone with information to contact the department at 781-595-1111.

Catch up with your favorite team in Item Sports!



Pandemic takes a political toll on Massachusetts governor

By Steve LeBlanc
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Early last March, when the COVID-19 crisis still felt like a remote threat, Charlie Baker flew off with members of his family to a ski vacation in Utah.

It would be the last taste of normalcy the Republican governor would enjoy for the next year.

Three days later, on March 9, 2020, Baker cut his vacation short and returned as the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts shot up to the then-startling number of 41. Baker and the state that twice elected him governor were about to be tested in ways unimaginable just weeks earlier.

For Baker, the pandemic has had a kind of inverse impact on his popularity in Massachusetts, one of the hardest-hit states with a confirmed death toll approaching 17,000.

When fear was running high in the early months of the crisis and Baker was taking dramatic steps to shut down the state, the public's confidence in him remained high — only to fall as vaccines arrived and Baker stumbled with a botched vaccination website rollout and efforts to more fully reopen businesses like restaurants even as new variants of the virus lurked.

Other governors who were hailed early on the COVID-19 crisis — including California's Gavin Newsom and New York's Andrew Cuomo, both Democrats — have also seen their stars dimmed as critics questioned some of their pandemic-related decisions.

As cases shot up, Baker began holding daily press conferences to unveil a dizzying series of orders meant to limit the spread of the virus. He shuttered



FILE PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker speaks at a mass coronavirus vaccination site at the Natick Mall in Natick.

schools, closed nonessential businesses, set curfews, issued mask mandates, delayed elective surgeries and ordered the construction of field hospitals.

Initially, Baker's frank approach to delivering even the most unsettling news won plaudits.

Baker would later say that as governor, he'd anticipated grappling with disasters like blizzards, hurricanes, floods and even the occasional tornado — but not a pandemic that would claim thousands of lives and upend everyday life.

"I don't know about you, but every day to me feels kind of like a month," Baker joked during one recent press conference. "I was 27 when this all began and now I'm 64 and it just happened like that."

Part of Baker's appeal was as an adversary of then-President Donald Trump.

"He was the Republican that Democrats could like," said Erin O'Brien, a political science professor at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. "He made decisions that a lot of Republicans weren't ready to do."

A technocrat with a background as a health

care executive, Baker would ironically see his political fortunes begin to fade with the release of vaccines and the hope of an end to the pandemic.

Critics cast Baker's plan to vaccinate the population in phases — beginning with medical workers and individuals in long-term care facilities before moving on to those 75 and older — as too cumbersome. Many other New England states have staggered vaccine availability first to at-risk populations and frontline workers before moving on to wider, older swaths of the population and eventually the general public.

They also faulted the initial lack of a single website to book vaccine appointments.

When the administration created a vaccine finder site, Baker faced new fallout when it crashed the day vaccines were made available to those 65 and older.

More recently, Baker came under pressure from teachers' unions pressing him to bump up educators in the vaccine waiting line if he wanted to shift back to in-classroom learning. Baker largely conceded.

"This pandemic has

shown the governor not to be the great manager that he convinced Massachusetts he was," said Democratic state Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz.

She said there are many strategies Baker hasn't tried to reach out to minority communities — like creating mobile vaccination programs to reach Black, Hispanic and other minority residents, further perpetuating racial disparities highlighted by the pandemic.

Louis Elisa, one of the founding members of the Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition, said the pandemic has been "absolute hell" for the Black community, many of whom are frontline workers.

"It was just a complete failure of communication, a total breakdown," Elisa said. "Almost every day we were being put at risk with almost no support."

Elisa said it took months before there was a major testing center set up in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood, the city's traditional center of Black life. The situation has begun to improve — the state started using an athletic complex in Roxbury as a mass vaccination center — but the administration should have hit the ground running earlier, he said.

Baker has also lost focus on working class areas like New Bedford and its immigrant community, including many from Central America who work processing fish, said Helena DaSilva-Hughes, executive director of the Immigrants' Assistance Center. As recently as early March, New Bedford was among a handful of Massachusetts communities still considered at highest risk of coronavirus transmission, although it has since dropped off the list.

Learning setbacks a top concern for parents

By Collin Binkley and Hannah Fingerhut
ASSOCIATED PRESS

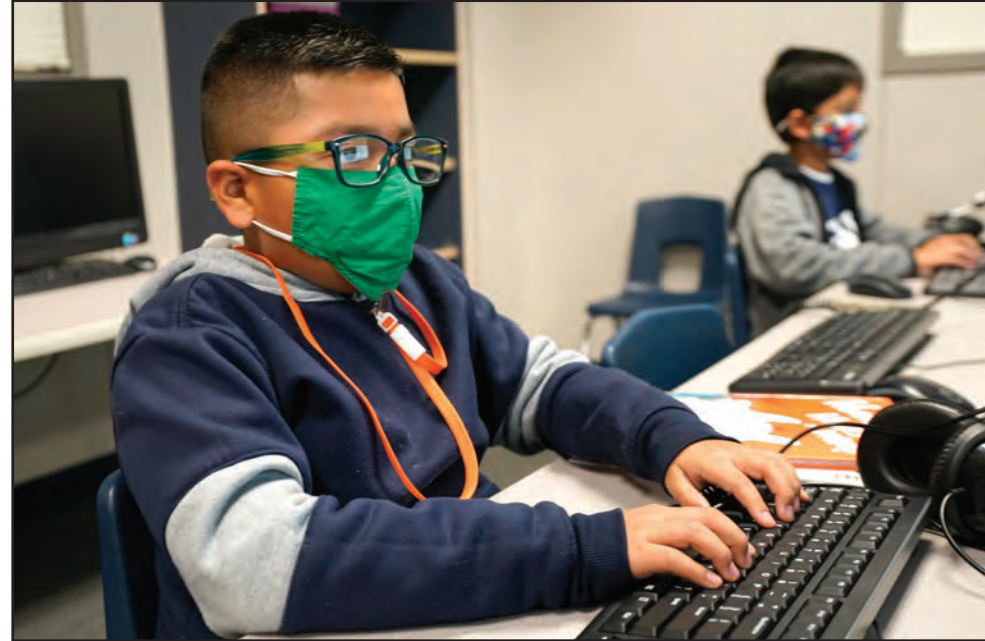
BOSTON — Parents across the U.S. are conflicted about reopening schools. Most are at least somewhat worried that a return to the classroom will lead to more coronavirus cases, but there's an even deeper fear that their children are falling behind in school while at home.

Sixty-nine percent of parents are at least somewhat concerned that their children will face setbacks in school because of the coronavirus pandemic, including 42 percent who say they're very or extremely worried about it, according to a new poll from The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Nearly as many, 64 percent, say they are at least somewhat concerned that in-person instruction will lead to more people being infected, but it's only 33 percent who say they are very or extremely worried about the risk.

That tension reflects the fears of a nation on the cusp of a widespread return to classroom teaching. More than a year after the pandemic started, more schools are now opening their doors to students or plan to do so in coming weeks.

Parents' concerns about their children falling behind were even stronger in an AP-NORC poll last July, after the school year was interrupted in the spring by the burgeoning pandemic. Concerns about the spread of the virus in



FILE PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students wear face masks work on computers at Tibbals Elementary School in Murphy, Texas.

general also have ticked down to a low point as many look hopefully to a chance to ease back to normal.

Pressure to reopen schools has come from parents, state officials and President Joe Biden, who has vowed to have most of the nation's elementary schools open five days a week in his administration's first 100 days. Even as many schools already offer some level of in-person teaching, there's growing demand to bring students back every day.

For parents, concerns about the pandemic's impact go beyond academics — most also worry at least some that their children will fall behind socially and lose access to school sports and other activities, the poll found.

Maria Sanchez, a mother of four in Hawthorne, Calif., said the past year has been especially trying

for her youngest daughter, Naomi, who's now in sixth grade. Before the pandemic, Naomi was a star student who mostly earned As and Bs. But since classes moved online last year, it hasn't been uncommon to see Ds on her report cards, Sanchez said.

"It just seems so hard for her to understand anything," Sanchez said. Naomi logs on for every class, she added, but the comfort of home makes it harder to focus. "She doesn't take notes. She's not writing anything," Sanchez said. "She's not learning anything."

Sanchez welcomed the recent news that Naomi's school is planning a return to classroom instruction. But her relief was joined by fears about the virus spreading within the school district, where she works as a food services manager.

"Even though I'm happy

they're opening the school and my daughter gets to go back and do her best, I'm still concerned about the virus," she said.

Last month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines saying schools can safely reopen with masks, social distancing and other measures even if teachers have not received vaccines. Even in areas with higher virus rates, the agency said, younger students are generally safe to continue with classroom instruction.

Despite the CDC's guidance, however, Americans remain divided over what's needed for a safe reopening. Most say masks are important, but it's not a universal expectation: 62 percent say it's essential to require masks among students and teachers, while 22 percent say it's important but not essential, the poll found.

Ex-METCO director gets probation in larceny case

SALEM (AP) — The former head of Marblehead's METCO program charged with stealing from a fund meant to be used for students in need has admitted to sufficient facts and the case could be dismissed if he complies with conditions of probation for a year.

Francois Fils-Aime, 48, used the fund built with donations to pay restaurant tabs and for contributions to charities, churches and political campaigns, prosecutors said.

Fils-Aime admitted to sufficient facts for a guilty finding to two counts of larceny Monday in Salem Superior Court, where a judge granted a continuance without a finding, The Salem News reported.

Fils-Aime will spend a year on unsupervised probation, must perform 100 hours of community service, and pay \$10,000 in restitution. If he complies with the conditions and stays out of further trouble the charges will be dismissed.

The METCO program, or Metropolitan Council on Educational Opportunity, brings children from the city to attend classes at better funded suburban schools.

Fils-Aime mispent more than \$10,000 of the fund's money over a period of several years, prosecutors said.

Richard Gedeon, Fils-Aime's lawyer, called his client a "trustworthy person" who had made some mistakes.

Retired RI Supreme Court justice to mediate teacher contract

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A retired Rhode Island Supreme Court justice was hired to mediate between the Providence Teachers Union and the state's Department of Education in contract negotiations.

The two parties agreed to hire Frank Flaherty, who retired from the state's highest court last year, to mediate during contract negotiations, the Boston Globe reported on

Tuesday.

The two sides will split Flaherty's hourly fee of \$350 per hour, Department of Education spokesperson Emily Crowell told the newspaper. He started attending negotiation meetings several weeks ago.

The teachers have been working without a contract for the past year and relations with the education department have been acrimonious. Some 270 teachers were informed Friday that they will need to apply for different jobs this spring as a result of ending one-year positions and failure to meet certification requirements for teaching students whose first language is not English.

In response, the vast majority of the union's 2,500 members approved a vote of no confidence in state Education Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green.

Cod fishing season to reopen in Gulf of Maine

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Federal fishing regulators are reopening the recreational fishery for cod in the Gulf of Maine for two weeks while they consider the future of the industry.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Monday that recreational anglers and for-hire vessel operators can harvest cod from the Gulf of Maine from April 1 to April 14. They're limited to one cod per day.

Cod fishing was once the backbone of the New England economy, but the fishery collapsed after years of overfishing and is vulnerable to environmental changes. The New England Fishery Management Council has recommended status quo measures for recreational Gulf of Maine cod fishing for the 2021 fishing year, which starts May 1.

NOAA said it's still considering the council's recommendation and expects to make a determination soon.

The commercial catch of cod is well-documented in New England. The fish is still available to consumers because of foreign sources.

Massachusetts man pleads guilty to running steroid ring

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A Massachusetts man who authorities say imported large quantities of raw steroids that were then processed and packaged for redistribution throughout the U.S. pleaded guilty Tuesday to multiple charges that could send him to prison for 40 years, federal prosecutors said.

Under terms of a plea agreement, David Esser, 47, of North Attleborough, will forfeit more than \$640,000 in assets derived from his criminal activity, the U.S. attorney's office in Providence, Rhode Island, said in a statement. That includes more than \$160,000 in cash and bank accounts; cryptocurrency valued at almost \$270,000; and 13 properties purchased by Esser in Pennsylvania, four vehicles, and jewelry valued at about \$214,000, prosecutors said.

He faces 40 years in prison at sentencing scheduled for June 7 after pleading guilty to

conspiracy to distribute anabolic steroids, conspiracy to distribute anabolic steroids while on release, and money laundering.

Esser arranged for the importation of raw steroids from suppliers primarily based in Hong Kong, prosecutors said. The raw steroids were shipped to various locations in the U.S. where people who worked for Esser converted the raw steroid into liquid form, packaged the product in vials, and shipped the vials back to North Attleborough.

From there, Esser and others shipped the product to customers across the nation, prosecutors said.

Esser was released on \$50,000 bond following his initial arrest in February 2020, but was re-arrested in December when it was alleged he arranged to resume the sale, packaging, and distribution of steroids, authorities said. He was detained without bail after the second arrest.

Lynn Drug Task Force Hotline

781-477-4444 CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
or text the word **tiplynn** and your tip to "tip411" (847411)

Spanish menu available

All reports of neighborhood activity will be investigated.
Callers may remain anonymous.

Girl's solo journey to U.S. border shows risks parents take

By **Adriana Gomez Licon**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISSION, Texas — The Honduran girl, 7 years old and surrounded by strangers in the pre-dawn darkness, was determined to keep pace with the other migrants headed for the U.S. border.

Her father, she told an Associated Press journalist, had traveled with her by bus for 22 days across Mexico. Then, he went back to their homeland -- but not before he placed her in the hands of a young man who was to help her cross the river into Texas.

"He just said to go on my own and take care of myself," she said.

What happened to the man who was to be her guide is unclear, but the pony-tailed girl met up with a group and pressed on, vigorously swinging her arms to keep up as they trekked north through the Rio Grande Valley on Sunday under a half-moon. Temperatures had dipped into the mid-50s; the girl wore a yellow jacket decorated with cartoonish drawings of trains, and a black mask to protect her from COVID-19.



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

A 7-year-old migrant girl from Honduras, left, walks with Fernanda Solis, 25, center, also of Honduras, and an unidentified man as they approach a U.S. Customs and Border Protection processing center.

The AP is not using the girl's name. It does not normally name children without permission from their parents, and the identity of her father could not be obtained.

But her journey illustrates the extraordinary risks taken by migrant parents to get their children across the border, even if it means abandoning them for the most perilous part of the trip.

These desperate decisions represent a dilemma for the fledgling administration of President Joe Biden as it attempts to

restore an orderly asylum system: In trying to adopt a more humane approach to protect minors traveling alone, more children may be put at risk.

Nearly 9,500 migrant children arrived at the border in February, up 60 percent from a month earlier. The government is rushing to set up more facilities to house them and speeding up the process to place them with relatives in the U.S. The city and county of San Diego said Monday that its downtown convention center would host migrant chil-

dren for an average of 30 to 35 days.

Single adults are almost always expelled, while families are sometimes expelled and sometimes allowed to remain in the United States to pursue asylum.

The girl did reach the United States. A fellow Honduran migrant, 25-year-old Fernanda Solis, said she found her crying alone on a dirt path north of the Rio Grande after midnight, as a helicopter hovered overhead and border agents addressed migrants through a loudspeaker.

Solis tried to comfort the girl, who was cold, hungry and thirsty. She told her they could walk together to turn themselves over to Border Patrol agents and seek asylum.

The girl gained confidence as she walked a route commonly used by Central American migrants. She answered questions unhesitatingly: She turns 8 next month. She should be going into third grade, though she did not complete second because of the pandemic.

She pressed ahead to a country where she knows no one but a family member in South Carolina.



FILE PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Zuckerberg testifies before a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. Facebook has allowed groups, many tied to QAnon and militia movements, to glorify violence during the 2020 election, a new report has found.

Report: Extremist groups thrive on Facebook despite bans

By **Barbara Ortutay**
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

A new outside report found that Facebook has allowed groups — many tied to QAnon, boogaloo and militia movements — to glorify violence during the 2020 election and in the weeks leading up to the deadly riots on the U.S. Capitol in January.

Avaaz, a nonprofit advocacy group that says it seeks to protect democracies from misinformation, identified 267 pages and groups on Facebook that it says spread violence-glorifying material in the heat of the 2020 election to a combined following of 32 million users.

More than two-thirds of the groups and pages had names that aligned with several domestic extremist movements, the report found. The first, boogaloo, promotes a second U.S. civil war and the breakdown of modern society. The second is the QAnon conspiracy, which claims that Donald Trump is waging a secret battle against the "deep state" and a sect of powerful Satan-worshipping pedophiles who dominate Hollywood, big business, the media and government. The rest are various anti-government militias. All have been largely banned from Facebook since 2020.

But despite what Avaaz called "clear violations" of Facebook's policies, it found that 119 of these pages and groups were

still active on the platform as of Feb. 24 and had just under 27 million followers. Facebook said late Monday that of the 119 that Avaaz found, only 18 "actually violated" Facebook's policies. Four had already been removed before Monday and Facebook has now taken down the remaining 14.

Facebook acknowledged that its policy enforcement "isn't perfect," but said the report distorts its work against violent extremism and misinformation.

The company said in a statement that it has done more than any other internet company to stanch the flow of harmful material, citing its bans of "nearly 900 militarized social movements" and the removal of tens of thousands of QAnon pages, groups, and accounts. It added that it is always improving its efforts against misinformation.

On Thursday, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai are slated to testify before Congress about extremism and misinformation on their platforms.

Facebook has tightened its rules against violence, hate and misinformation in the past year. In October, it banned QAnon groups across its platform. Before that, it would remove them only if they expressly supported violence. It has also banned extremist and militia movements and boogaloo groups with varying degrees of success.

Damage from virus: Utility bills overwhelm some households

By **Michael Liedtke and Cathy Bussewitz**
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

SAN RAMON, Calif. — Millions of U.S. households are facing heavy past-due utility bills, which have escalated in the year since the pandemic forced Americans hunkered down at home to consume more power.

And now, government moratoriums that for months had barred utilities from turning off the power of their delinquent customers are starting to expire in most states. As result, up to 37 million customers — representing nearly one-third of all households — will soon have to reckon with their overdue power bills at a time when many of them are struggling with lost jobs or income.

A study done by Arcadia, which runs a service that helps households lower utility bills, found that the average past-due amount by those in its network was roughly \$850.

The crisis has emerged as one of the repercussions of the recession that was touched off by the viral pandemic. Though the economy has achieved considerable gains in recent months, about 9.5 million jobs remain lost.



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mikel Hays is forced into performing a financial triage after he lost all three of his part-time jobs shortly after the pandemic struck.

And many people have lost income even while remaining employed, leaving them unable to buy food, pay rent or afford utility bills.

President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion rescue aid package, enacted into law this month, will provide some support. It includes \$5 billion earmarked for people who need help with power and water bills. Combined with other government financing allotted for energy aid since the pandemic began,

the total available to help struggling households pay utility bills is about \$9.1 billion.

But all that assistance represents just a fraction of the \$27 billion in past-due balances of U.S. households, according to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, which helps low-income consumers. The aid will be distributed through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Caught in the squeeze

are people like Paula Desper, who lives in Lancaster, Pa., with her husband and the youngest two of their five children, ages 7 and 10. Desper worries about how her family will manage once the utility shutoff moratorium lifts soon in Pennsylvania.

"It's come to the point where I look at a bill, and either I'm going to pay a bill or I'm going to buy food," said Desper, 45. "I've got two little children. I will go without food. My children will not."

Biden to talk up health insurance cost cuts in visit to Ohio

By **Alexandra Jaffe and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will showcase health insurance cost cuts in a speech in Ohio on Tuesday during what may be the best time for Democrats to talk up the

Affordable Care Act since it became law.

Biden's COVID-19 relief law pumps up "Obamacare" premium subsidies to address longstanding problems of affordability, particularly for people with solid middle-class incomes. More taxpayer assistance means, in effect, that con-

sumers who buy their own policies through HealthCare.gov will pay hundreds of dollars less out of their own pockets.

"The ACA is over a decade old and this is literally the first time that Democrats have been successful at improving it," said analyst Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser

Family Foundation. "Democrats have succeeded politically by selling the ACA's protections for pre-existing conditions, but affordability has always been a challenge. And now Democrats have successfully improved the premium help available under the law."

Biden's speech Tuesday in Columbus, the capital of a political battleground state, is part of a mini-buzz by the White House. Newly minted Health Secretary Xavier Becerra will echo Biden's comments Tuesday in Carson City, Nev., and join a Florida-themed Zoom event. Second gentleman Douglas Emhoff will pitch the relief bill in Omaha, Neb.

The numbers show that the Biden administration does have a product that consumers may want to hear about.

The COVID-19 legislation cuts premiums paid by a hypothetical 64-year-old making \$58,000 from \$1,075 a month to about

\$413, based on Congressional Budget Office estimates. A 45-year-old making \$19,300 would pay zero in premiums as compared with about \$67 on average before the law. People who have even a brief spell of unemployment this year can get a standard plan for zero premium and reduced co-pays and deductibles.

New and existing customers will be able to take advantage of the savings starting April 1 by going to HealthCare.gov. States that run their own health insurance markets will offer the same enhanced assistance, although time-tables for implementation may vary.

Biden has opened a special sign-up period for uninsured people to get coverage through HealthCare.gov through May 15, and the early response has been strong. By spreading the word about the higher subsidies, the White House is hoping to super-charge enrollment.

But the 11 million people who already have private plans through the health law will also benefit.

Republicans see Biden's sweeter subsidies as an example of Democratic overreach on the COVID-19 bill. Policy consultant Brian Blase, a former health care adviser in the Trump White House, expects most of the additional taxpayer assistance will merely substitute for what private households would have otherwise paid.

Their complaints notwithstanding, Republicans may face a political dilemma. The higher health care subsidies are keyed to the pandemic and expire by the end of 2022. That will let Democrats set up election-year votes to make the new benefits permanent, or add even more.

The COVID-19 bill follows Biden's strategy of building on the Obama-era health law to move the U.S. toward coverage for all.



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden speaks with members of the press on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.

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Oh, say can you see?



ITEM PHOTOS | JULIA HOPKINS

Morning fog rolls through Revere Beach.



Beachgoers walk the shoreline in the early morning..

Salem Hospital receives collection of antique pacemakers

By Tréa Lavery
ITEM STAFF

SALEM — A Swampscott cardiologist has donated his collection of antique pacemakers for display at Salem Hospital.

Dr. Lawrence Block joined Lynn's North Shore Medical Group in 1987, where he worked with **Dr. Stephen Trachtenberg**, one of the first cardiologists on the North Shore to implant pacemakers in patients. The devices were introduced in 1960.

"Since 1960, pacemakers have become immensely smarter and more sophisticated," Block said. "They have gone from being the size of a hockey puck, to something that resembles a double-stuff Oreo cookie and today, save millions of lives around the world every year."

Block, who now works at North Shore Physicians Group, said that Trachtenberg would save the devices that he removed from patients, sterilize them and keep them in a shoe box. The older models were removed more often than modern ones, as their batteries did not last as long.

When Trachtenberg retired, he passed the collection, which included pieces from 1964 to 1990, on to Block, who continued to add to it.

"I saved many that I removed through the 1990s, and by the year 2000, I had enough devices that I thought I should mount, label, and hang them," Block said.

He explained that since their introduction, the technology in pacemakers has improved significantly.

"Initially, the pacemaker had a single wire which went through a vein into the right ventricle," Block



COURTESY PHOTO | SALEM HOSPITAL

L-R Cardiologists Dr. Lawrence Block, Dr. Michael Katcher, and Salem Hospital President David Roberts with the collection of historic pacemakers donated by Block.

said. "By 1990, two-wire systems were developed where one wire went into the atrium as well, enabling coordination of the upper and lower chambers and improving the heart's pumping function. Later, the devices became rate-responsive, detecting patient activity and increasing the heart rate automatically. And today the batteries last up to 10 years or more."

The collection of historic devices will be displayed in the Pacemaker Clinic at Salem Hospital.

Dr. Michael Katcher, director of cardiac electrophysiology and pacing at Salem Hospital, said the hospital has seen the improvements made

by modern technology in pacemakers and defibrillators, and that the antique collection is a good reminder of those improvements.

"We have put in several thousand pacemakers and defibrillators at Salem Hospital and several times each month someone is resuscitated by their defibrillator," Katcher said. "I want the community to appreciate how far Salem Hospital has come in the field of electrophysiology since the early years, and to know that we are on the cutting edge of these technologies."

Tréa Lavery can be reached at tlavery@item-live.com.

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Councilor honored by YMCA of Metro North

By Allysha Dunningan
ITEM STAFF

LYNN — Lynn City Councilor **Fred Hogan** has been chosen as the "YMCA of Metro North Volunteer of the Year."

According to the president and CEO of YMCA Metro North, **Kathleen M. Walsh**, Hogan has been the YMCA's biggest cheerleader and has shown what it is to truly support the organization.

"Throughout the pandemic, you were our hero," she said. "Working closely with our branch staff helping provide food, diapers, resources and humor as we navigated the pandemic. When we need

anything, you answer our call."

The YMCA of Metro North will be hosting a virtual and in-person annual meeting on Thursday, May 20 to honor Hogan and other award winners. The event will be broadcasted live from the new Lynn YMCA and will host a Zoom event for guests. Award winners will be invited to join to accept their awards and will be given the opportunity to say a few words.

Hogan said that he is honored to receive the amazing recognition from the YMCA of Metro North.

"Giving back to the community is something I have done for the past

25 years in Lynn and will continue to do for the residents of Lynn," he said. "I would like to thank all the volunteers who stood beside me and put in the work during the COVID-19 pandemic, from collecting diapers to passing out food and school supplies. Without a great team this recognition would not be possible."

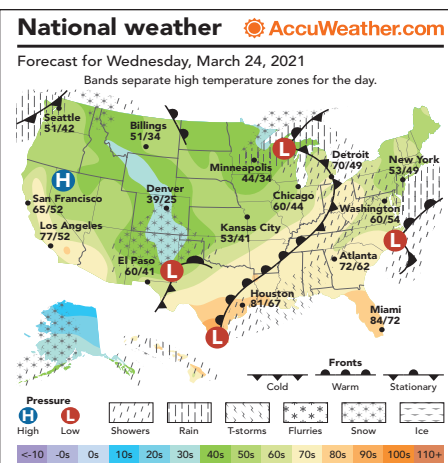
Walsh said the YMCA is so happy to honor Hogan and thanked him for his continued efforts to share their mission, articulate their vision and promote the great work their team members do every day.

Allysha Dunningan can be reached at adunningan@itemlive.com.

WEATHER

SUN, MOON, TIDES

Sunrise today 6:39 a.m.
Sunset today 7:01 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 6:37 a.m.
High tide today 9:04 p.m.
Low tide today 2:47 p.m.
High tide tomorrow 9:53 p.m.



TODAY'S FORECAST

Cloudy. High 51F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.
Tonight: Cloudy with periods of rain. Low near 45F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 80%.



TODAY
P' Cloudy | High 51, Low 45

MARINE FORECAST

E winds 5 to 10 kt. Waves 1 foot or less. Areas of fog. Vsbly 1 nm or less.
Tonight: SE winds 5 to 10 kt. Waves 1 foot or less. Patchy fog. Showers likely. Vsbly 1 nm or less.



TOMORROW
P' Cloudy | High 63, Low 51



FRIDAY
Rainy | High 64, Low 44

LOTTERY

MASS. EVENING:

Tuesday..... 4631
Monday..... 7743
Sunday..... 9673
Yesterday's payoff:

EXACT ORDER

All 4..... \$5,440
First or last 3 \$ 762
Any 2 \$65
Any 1 \$ 7

ANY ORDER

All 4..... \$227
First 3 \$127
Last 3 \$127

MASS. MID-DAY:

Tuesday..... 0780
Monday..... 6290
Sunday..... 2922
Yesterday's payoff:

EXACT ORDER

All 4..... \$4,029
First or last 3 \$564
Any 2 \$48
Any 1 \$ 5

ANY ORDER

All 4..... \$336
First 3 \$94
Last 3 \$94

Saugus pushes past Winthrop in NEC clash

VOLLEYBALL

By Mike Alongi
ITEM SPORTS EDITOR

WINTHROP — The Saugus volleyball team won its second game in as many days Tuesday evening, earning a hard-fought 3-1 victory over Northeastern Conference foe Winthrop at Chris Tsiotos Court. The Sachems won by set scores of 25-21, 25-15, 24-26, 25-20.

“We knew what to expect coming into this game after they beat us a couple of weeks ago, so we kind of knew how they were going to play us,” said Saugus coach Gina Vozzella. “We went on a few good runs throughout the game, but we definitely still need to work on our consistency over the course of an entire match.”

Ava Rogers played well in

the win for Saugus, earning a number of service points, kills and blocks throughout the night.

Prior to the game, Winthrop honored its group of five seniors — Katie Gannon, Carolyn Kinsella, Caroline Earl, Adyana Barbarisi and Xhona Kokoneshi — for their contributions to the program over the years.

Saugus honored its five seniors — Paige Prezioso, Serena Cacciola, Carissa Sargent, Haley McLaughlin and Madison Niles — prior to Monday night’s 3-1 win over Salem.

“Four of them have been four-year players for us and our three captains, Maddie, Paige and Serena, are great leaders on and off the court,” said Vozzella. “They really bring a lot to our team and we’re going to miss them when they’re gone.”

Saugus opened up with

a 3-0 lead in the first set, but Winthrop slowly battled back to tie things at 6-6 before taking the lead. The Vikings extended that lead out to 14-9 before Saugus called a timeout, but Winthrop continued to push its lead to as many as eight points.

But this time, Saugus battled back. The Sachems rallied to tie the score at 19-19 before taking back the lead, going on a 9-3 run to close the set and win it 25-21.

Saugus took that momentum right into the second set, jumping ahead 9-1 before Winthrop called a timeout. The timeout didn’t help things much, as Saugus stretched its lead to 14-2 and later 21-10. Despite a small run late in the set from Winthrop, the Sachems remained in control and took the set 25-15.

SAUGUS, B2



ITEM PHOTO | JULIA HOPKINS

Saugus freshman Ava Rogers gathers under a ball during a win over Winthrop Tuesday.



ITEM FILE PHOTO | JULIA HOPKINS

Peabody’s Sarah Broughton had 11 kills in a win over Beverly Tuesday.

Peabody comes out on top in five-setter at Beverly

SCHOOL ROUNDUP

By Mike Alongi
ITEM SPORTS EDITOR

The Peabody volleyball team put forth one of its hardest-fought efforts of the season Tuesday evening, battling back and forth with Northeastern Conference foe Beverly before pulling out a 3-2 victory. The Tanners won by set scores of 25-16, 27-25, 17-25, 28-30, 15-9.

Abby Bettencourt had another strong game with 21 assists and 13 kills, while Isabel Bettencourt had 10 assists and 10 kills. Sarah Broughton added 11 kills in the win.

Peabody (2-3) hosts Sa-

lem Thursday evening (5:30).

VOLLEYBALL Lynn Tech 3, Nashoba 1

Jasinairy Camilo led the way for the Tigers with 10 aces, five assists and one kill, while Daleri Garcia added six aces and six kills. Derlande Montas continued her strong season with seven kills and two blocks.

Tech (3-2) has a rematch with Nashoba Thursday (4).

Danvers 3, Marblehead 0

The Magicians fell by set scores of 15-25, 24-26, 9-25.

Lilith Thompson had nine kills in the loss, while

Abby Schwartz added two aces and seven digs. Anna Schluter contributed two kills and four blocks.

Marblehead (2-3) has nearly a week off before traveling to Beverly Tuesday (5).

SWIMMING Lynn Tech 80, Greater Lawrence 45

The Tigers had a pair of double-winners in Liam Donovan and Zakariya Bidoundane, with Donovan winning the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle and Bidoundane winning the 200 individual medley and the 100 butterfly. Jeffrey Bucko added a win in the 100 breaststroke, while Jeremiah Arzola finished second in the 50 freestyle

and the 100 freestyle. Rashaud Newhall finished second in the 100 backstroke and the 200 freestyle and Mario Rivera finished second in the 100 butterfly. The Tigers also swept the relay events, with the team of Bidoundane, Bucko, Rivera and Ryan Lindquist winning the 200 medley relay, the team of Arzola, Lindquist, Donovan and Trevor Powers winning the 200 freestyle relay and the team of Arzola, Powers, Rivera and Donovan winning the 400 freestyle relay.

Tech (2-0) will take on Greater Lawrence again next Tuesday (3).

Energy high among Patriots’ newest players

By Kyle Hightower
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — The first time Kendrick Bourne walked into the New England Patriots’ team facility last week, he didn’t know what to expect.

During his four NFL seasons in San Francisco, the 25-year-old receiver developed a perception from afar about a “stuck up” franchise that won often but appeared to do so devoid of joy and levity.

It didn’t take long at all for those notions to melt away after he signed on to be part of the Patriots’ growing free agent class that will be tasked with erasing the sting of a humbling 7-9 season in 2020.

“The first day in the building, I could feel how natural our connection was between the players, the first time meeting each other,” Bourne recalled Monday. “It was just natural energy, positive energy.”

He left that day with a new sentiment.

“They’re going to turn it around in one year. I can honestly see it,” Bourne said. “I think it’s going to be an awesome year. And I can’t wait.”

Welcome to the New England Patriots’ new beginning, in which one of the league’s notoriously frugal regimes has suddenly

become one of its biggest spenders.

New England entered free agency with about \$69 million in salary cap space, behind only Jacksonville (\$74 million) and Indianapolis (\$71 million).

As of Monday, the Patriots have already made 22 transactions since the new league year began on March 17, coming to agreements with 19 free agents and adding another via trade.

That group is collectively guaranteed about \$175 million in salary over the life of their contracts, a number roughly equal to what team owner Robert Kraft paid to acquire the team in 1994.

The spending spree gives new additions such as former Eagles defensive back Jalen Mills, who signed a four-year, \$24 million deal, lots of confidence.

“It goes to show that they not only believe in us as individuals, but they believe in the guys that were signed and the team that they we already have,” Mills said. “Those additions and also with the draft coming up, we’re going to make a difference. And that’s all you want as a player.”

PATS, B2



FILE PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newly signed Patriots tight end Jonnu Smith (left) set career highs in receptions (41), receiving yards (448) and touchdowns (eight) last season with the Titans.

Smith eyeing ‘fresh start on the journey’ with Patriots

By Kyle Hightower
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Jonnu Smith’s NFL career hasn’t been short on highlights.

His first experience with free agency wasn’t without its share of tears.

Coming off his fourth season with the Tennessee Titans, Smith was one of the most sought tight ends on the market, fresh off a 2020 season in which he set career highs in receptions (41), receiving yards (448)

and touchdowns (eight).

He expected to get interest but wasn’t sure where it would come from. When he heard that one of the first calls came from the New England Patriots, it got his attention.

“I just dug deeper and kind of connected with the man upstairs and that kind of just led me to my decision,” Smith said. “It was one of the greatest days of my life, one of the most exciting days in my life, one of the most his-

toric days of my life. Just to be able to start a new chapter, a fresh start on the journey.

“Now, I’m ecstatic. ... I cried all I could.”

Leaving behind the Titans franchise that drafted him in the third round in 2017 and signing a four-year, \$50 million deal with the Patriots has placed him near the top of New England’s growing free agent class. Only edge rusher Matt Judon, who was given a four-year, \$56

million contract, has been signed for more by New England this offseason.

The Patriots also added former Chargers tight end Hunter Henry to a three-year, \$37.5 million deal. The investments are part of an effort to significantly upgrade the tight end position following the departure of Rob Gronkowski and the struggles of the passing offense last season.

SMITH, B2

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Table with columns for WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, and FRIDAY, listing various sports like Basketball, Soccer, Hockey, Volleyball, Track, and Girls Basketball with specific matchups and times.

TV/RADIO

Table listing TV and radio broadcasts for various sports including Baseball, Pro basketball, Women's college basketball, Figure skating, Golf, Pro hockey, Men's soccer, and Tennis.

NBA

Table for Eastern Conference NBA statistics, showing columns for Atlantic Division and Southeast Division with W, L, Pct, and GB.

Table for Western Conference NBA statistics, showing columns for Southwest Division, Northwest Division, and Pacific Division with W, L, Pct, and GB.

Table of Tuesday's and Wednesday's NBA games, listing teams, times, and locations.

NHL

Table of NHL statistics, showing East Division and Central Division with GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, and GA.

Table of NHL statistics, showing West Division and North Division with GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, and GA.

Table of Tuesday's and Wednesday's NHL games, listing teams, times, and locations.

TODAY IN SPORTS

March 24

Main article text for 'Today in Sports' detailing various events, sports results, and news items for March 24th.

Saugus volleyball pushes past Winthrop in NEC matchup



ITEM PHOTO | JULIA HOPKINS

SAUGUS From B1

In the third set, it was a back-and-forth battle from start to finish. Saugus took an 11-6 lead early and forced a Winthrop timeout, but the Vikings battled right back to tie the score at 15-15.

Saugus re-established control in the fourth set, scoring the first four points and running ahead 12-5 before Winthrop called a timeout. The Sachems continued their strong play from there, hanging on to secure the match.

Winthrop (2-3) travels to Masconomet Thursday (5:30).

Saugus (2-2) plays on the road at Beverly Thursday (5).

"The girls are really pumped up right now because this is the best record they've had in a couple of years," said Vozzella. "Getting a couple of wins under our belt has given them a lot of confidence, so we're just hoping to keep that rolling. We need to keep working on our communication and our consistency, and hopefully we can keep the positive momentum going."

Saugus' Madison Niles serves the ball during a win over Winthrop Tuesday.

New Pats tight end Smith eyeing 'fresh start on the journey'

SMITH From B1

In the past two seasons a group of Patriots tight ends that has included Ben Watson, Devin Asiasi, Ryan Izzo, Matt Lacosse and Dalton Keene combined for just 54 catches for 672 yards and three touchdowns.

Smith said he welcomes the opportunity to play alongside Henry, who himself is coming off a career-best 60 catches in 2020.

"I've seen the success the Patriots had in the past with two-tight end sets and I'm just confident in their ability to allow us to make plays," Smith said. "That's what we're all there for. So whatever needs to be done, that's what I'm going to do. ... (Henry's) a great tight end. I'm excited to be out there battling with him, competing with him and making each other better."

In four seasons with the Titans, the 6-foot-3, 250-pound Smith garnered praise around the league for his ability to not only catch the ball but for his creativity in the open field once the ball was in his hands.

In the run up to the AFC wild-card matchup between New England and Tennessee in 2019, Patriots coach Bill Belichick called him "probably the best in the league" at gaining yards after the catch.

"As a player, man, I take everything with a grain of salt, I don't get too deep into things good or bad, because at the end of the day I've got to go out on the field and perform at a certain level and that's all that matters," Smith said. "Coming from him,

of course, you can't maybe take that with a grain of salt. It was definitely a pleasure coming from him."

Being hard to bring down was a staple of what made Gronkowski such a weapon in New England. It's something Smith said he's always taken pride in, going "all the way back to elementary (school) and Pop Warner."

"Back in the day we called it 'stop the Mo' — you couldn't tackle the guy, but you had to stop his motion," Smith said. "Growing up in the church yard playing those games, me and my friends, I guess it translated — never let the first guy bring you down."

It's that mentality that the Patriots are also hoping he brings to New England.

To get a jump start on

building some early chemistry, he's already had conversations with QB Cam Newton, who he plans to work out with soon.

"It was a great conversation. He gave me a warm welcome. He's a hell of a guy," Smith said. "He's a competitive man. I've known that since I've watched him in college. I'm excited to go out there and compete with him."

NOTES: The Patriots signed defensive lineman Davon Godchaux and re-signed kicker Nick Folk. Godchaux, who spent the past four seasons in Miami, inked a two-year, \$16 million deal. Folk appeared in all 16 games in 2020 and signed a one-year, \$1.6 million contract.

In addition, the Patriots released kicker Justin Rohrwasser, along with linebackers Cassh Maluia and Michael Pinckney.

Energy already high among new additions to Patriots' roster

PATS From B1

New England has been the beneficiary of a free-agent market saturated with talent because of the reduction in the league's salary cap because of the revenue lost last season because of COVID-19. It left many teams with fewer dollars to spend. Those — such as the Patriots — who did have cap space, are contending with fewer competitors.

It's a sign that the six-time Super Bowl champions are focused on putting 2020 far behind them.

In an interview with NBC Sports, Kraft, likened this offseason to the speculating in the stock market.

"You take advantage of corrections and inefficiencies in the market when you can, and that's what we did here," Kraft said.

What it's netted them is a group that on paper fills in the gaps that were most glaring during last season, which marked the Patriots' first time at home for the



FILE PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Patriots agreed to terms on a new three-year, \$22.5 million contract with free agent receiver Kendrick Bourne.

playoffs since 2008.

Quarterback Cam Newton is back on a one-year deal following a spotty first season in which pandemic restrictions robbed him of participating in an offseason program. He also

struggled in the passing game without experienced or dependable receivers.

That should be improved with the additions of Bourne and Nelson Agholor at receiver, as well as tight ends Jonnu Smith

and Hunter Henry.

Henry said he's already spoken with Newton and worked out Monday in California with Jarrett Stidham, who served as the backup to Newton last season.

NATION

Officials: Gun in supermarket shooting bought 6 days earlier

By **Patty Nieberg and Thomas Peipert**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boulder, Colo. — Police on Tuesday identified a 21-year-old man as the suspect who opened fire inside a crowded Colorado supermarket, and court documents showed that he purchased an assault rifle less than a week before the attack that killed 10 people, including a police officer.

Supermarket employees told investigators that Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa shot an elderly man multiple times outside the Boulder grocery store before going inside, according to the documents. Another person was found shot in a vehicle next to a car registered to the suspect's brother. The documents

did not say where the gun was purchased.

Authorities said Alissa was from the Denver suburb of Arvada and that he engaged in a shootout with police Monday afternoon inside the store. The suspect was being treated at a hospital and was expected to be booked into the county jail later in the day on murder charges.

Investigators have not established a motive, but authorities believe he was the only shooter, Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty said.

A law enforcement official briefed on the shooting told The Associated Press that the gunman used an AR-15 rifle, a lightweight semiautomatic rifle. Officials were trying to trace the weapon. The official was not



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kiefer Johnson places a bouquet of flowers into a makeshift fence put up around the parking lot outside a King Soopers grocery store where a mass shooting took place a day earlier.

authorized to speak publicly and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

The suspect's family told investigators they believed Alissa was suffering some type of mental illness, includ-

ing delusions. Relatives described times when Alissa told them people were following or chasing him, which they said may have contributed to the violence, the official told AP.



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighters work in extinguishing hotspots from a fire that burned down the Evergreen Court Home for Adults.

Care home fire leaves resident dead, firefighter missing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y. — A fire swept through a suburban New York assisted living home and caused a partial collapse early Tuesday, killing one resident and leaving a firefighter missing, officials said.

Two other firefighters and multiple other residents were sent to hospitals. A second resident thought for several hours to be missing was later found unharmed, officials said.

Flames gutted the Evergreen Court Home for Adults in the Rockland County community of Spring Valley, about 30 miles north of New York City. It had an estimated 100 to 125 residents, but authorities were working to determine the exact number, Rockland County Fire coordinator Chris Kear said.

One resident died after being taken to a hospital, Kear said. The person's name was not immediately released.

"This was a devastating loss," Kear said at a news briefing.

Rescuers searched

through rubble for a firefighter who issued a mayday call from the third floor, Kear said. Other firefighters rushed to try to help their colleague, but the flames were too intense.

"The extent of the fire, the volume of fire, the conditions, were just too unbearable where firefighters went in it, and they just could not locate the firefighter, and they had to back out," he said at a later news conference.

Authorities initially said they believed a resident the missing firefighter was trying to rescue was unaccounted for, as well. They said that person was later found but provided no details.

Two other firefighters were taken to hospitals. One was released, while the other was expected to stay overnight for treatment for smoke inhalation, Kear said.

Officials believe about 20 residents were taken to hospitals, some with serious injuries, Kear said.

Other residents were taken by bus to another facility, state Trooper Steven Nevel said.

Jury set for ex-cop's trial in Floyd death; starts Monday

By **Steve Karnowski and Amy Forliti**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minneapolis — A jury has been seated for the trial of a former Minneapolis police officer in George Floyd's death, with opening statements set for Monday in a case that led to weeks of protests and a national soul-searching about racial justice.

The final juror was chosen Tuesday, wrapping up a process that took more than two weeks and was complicated by worldwide attention to Floyd's death, even before the city of Minneapolis announced a \$27 million settlement to his family during the fourth day of jury selection.

Attorneys and the judge worked through more than 100 people, dismissing most because they acknowledged strong views about an encounter that was captured on bystander video.

The panel now includes 15 jurors. Twelve will deliberate, with two alter-



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defense attorney Eric Nelson, left, defendant and former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, right, and Nelson's assistant Amy Voss, back, introduce themselves to potential jurors.

nates; Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill has said he will excuse the extra juror when opening statements begin on Monday if the 14 others still are able to serve.

Derek Chauvin is charged with murder and manslaughter in the May 25 death of Floyd. The Black man was declared

dead after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against his neck for about nine minutes while he was handcuffed and pleading that he couldn't breathe. The widely seen video set off street protests in Minneapolis, some violent, that spread across the U.S. and the world.

The final juror chosen, a

white man in his 20s, is a married accountant who said he had a somewhat negative opinion of Chauvin, saying it seemed like the length of his restraint on Floyd was longer than necessary. But he said he would be able to put that aside and weigh the case based on the evidence.

He said Floyd's death sparked discussions about racism at work, and he decided to educate himself by reading a book about the subject. He said he respects police and views Black Lives Matter somewhat favorably. However, he said some of the frustrations boiled over and may have been a factor in violent unrest in Minneapolis.

He also said he understands that professional athletes who kneel during the national anthem are trying to start a dialogue on race, but "I would prefer if someone would express their beliefs in a different manner."

Illinois city 1st in U.S. to offer Black residents reparations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EVANSTON, Ill. — Using tax money from the sale of recreational marijuana, the Chicago suburb of Evanston has become the first U.S. city to make reparations available to its Black residents for past discrimination and the lingering effects of slavery.

The City Council on Monday voted 8-1 to begin making good on its pledge to distribute \$10 million over the next 10 years with the distribution of \$400,000 to eligible Black households. Each qualifying household would receive \$25,000 for home repairs, down payments on property, and interest or late penalties on property in the city.

The move by the Illinois community comes as hundreds of communities and organizations across the country are considering providing reparations. In Evanston, besides revenue from a 3 tax on the sale of recreational marijuana, a small portion of the money — \$21,340 — is coming to the city in private donations.

Qualifying residents must either have lived



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Evanston has become the first U.S. city to make reparations available to its Black residents for past discrimination and the lingering effects of slavery.

in or been a direct descendant of a Black person who lived in Evanston between 1919 to 1969, or that person's direct descendant, who suffered discrimination in housing because of city ordinances, policies or practices. Also, residents who also experienced discrimination due to the city's policies or practices after 1969 can qualify.

Alderman Robin Rue Simmons, who proposed the program that was adopted in 2019, said groups in support of reparations have offered pro-bono legal assistance if the program is challenged in court.

"This is set aside for an

injured community that happens to be Black, that was injured by the city of Evanston for anti-Black housing policies," Simmons said.

At the same time, Simmons suggested that the money is just a start to right the wrongs of the past.

"We all know that the road to repair and justice in the Black community is going to be a generation of work," Simmons said. "It's going to be many programs and initiatives, and more funding."

The City Council acted after dozens of citizens addressed the body and the plan received some push-back from several.



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

University of Vermont student walks toward a tent leading to a COVID-testing site on campus in Burlington, Vt.

U.S. colleges tout hopes for return to new normal this fall

By **John Seewer**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOLEDO, Ohio — Colleges throughout the U.S. are assuring students that the fall semester will bring a return to in-person classes, intramural sports and mostly full dormitories. But those promises come with asterisks.

Administrators say how quickly campus life comes back will depend on the success of the nation's COVID-19 vaccination efforts and the ability to avoid widespread outbreaks.

Universities saw their budgets hammered during the coronavirus

pandemic, which emptied dorms and led to declines in enrollment, and are facing pressure to reopen fully. A flood of announcements from schools describing their plans has begun as high school seniors and returning students are making decisions about where they will be next fall.

Some students are waiting to decide until they know what to expect on campus, and others are still worried about the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

Like many colleges, Ashland University in Ohio is seeing that freshmen who have been accepted are

slower to enroll this year. To give them a push, the university is offering a semester of free tuition next spring for first-time students who come in the fall and promising no tuition increases over four years.

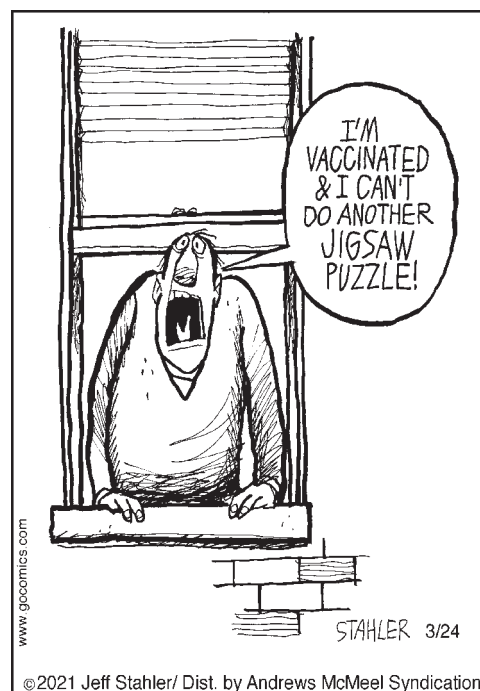
Many students are feeling "burned out" by a year of virtual classes and limited activities and asking themselves if they're willing to invest in another year if virus protocols are still in place, said Carlos Campo, president of Ashland, which is planning for almost all classes to be in person and for clubs, intramurals and Greek life to resume normal activities.

COMICS

OFF THE MARK / MARK PARISI



MODERATELY CONFUSED / JEFF STAHLER



DILBERT / SCOTT ADAMS



ROSE IS ROSE / PAT BRADY



GARFIELD / JIM DAVIS



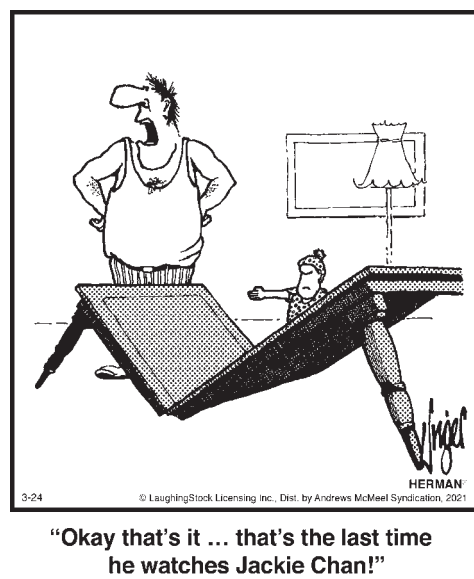
ARLO AND JANIS / JIMMY JOHNSON



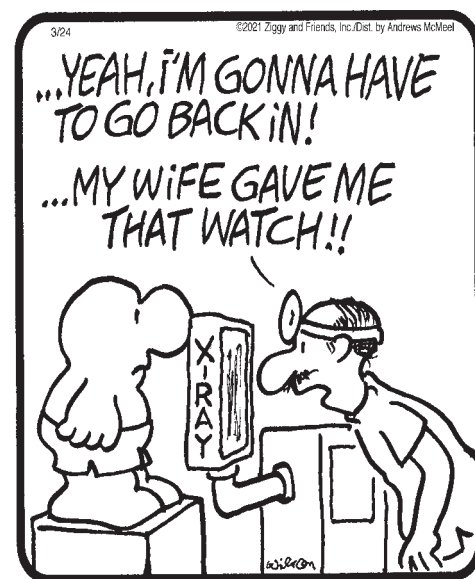
THE BORN LOSER / ART AND CHIP SANSON



HERMAN / JIM UNGER



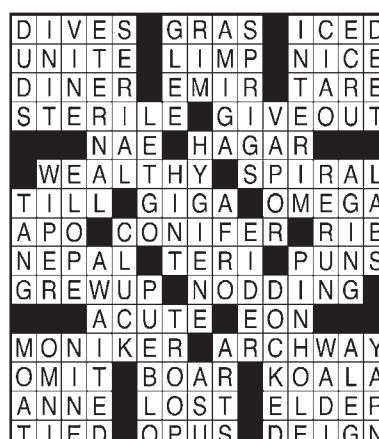
ZIGGY / TOM WILSON



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Church part
 - Not more
 - Postgame discussion
 - Theater companies, briefly
 - Castaway's refuge
 - Insurance center
 - Debatable
 - Make headway
 - Roomy vehicle
 - Plenty
 - Yard tool
 - Han or Ming
 - Not let forget
 - Swift
 - Lampoon
 - Do in
 - Touche
 - provoker
 - Contender
 - de-sac
 - Awkwardly
 - USN rank
 - Egged on
 - Carnaby Street locale
 - "Lonely Boy" singer
 - More beloved
 - Takes care of
 - Go off the track
 - Ginger-haired person
- DOWN**
- Pistol-packing
 - Shaggy flower
 - Soup utensil
 - River mouth
 - Computer device (2 wds.)
 - That, to Juanita
 - Slender
 - Sir, in Seville
 - Kitchen herb
 - Retired professors
 - No gentleman
 - Cry of discovery
 - Poor review
 - Government property org.
 - Movie director — Craven
 - Cry of dismay
 - "The Pink Panther" actor
 - Guzzled

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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- Bus station
- Bride in "Lohengrin"
- Low-drifting clouds
- Put out bait
- Pool problem
- Anesthetic
- Dreamer
- Deserted
- Tasks
- Red-faced
- Guanabara Bay port
- Insect killer
- Tibet's capital
- Drop syllables
- Nest on a crag
- Large appliance
- "Family Ties" son
- Consumer org.
- Rapper — Kim
- Keogh relative
- "Gal" of song

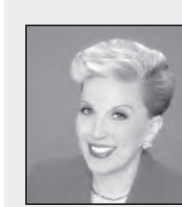
Couple feels cast adrift after friend's diagnosis

DEAR ABBY: My beautiful 17-year-old stepdaughter, "Amelia," recently became sexually active. She's in a "serious" relationship with the boy she had sex with. They have been together for six months, and from what she's told me, they both gave each other their virginity and protection was used. She has not disclosed this to her parents.

My husband and Amelia are very close, but she and her mom recently had a falling-out. Amelia pledged me to secrecy, and I immediately scheduled her to see an OB/GYN to get her on birth control.

My question is, should I tell my husband? I feel awful not telling him, but she has told me she doesn't want either of her parents to know. I'm grateful she comes to me for things like this, but eventually, it's going to come out when my husband sees the explanation of benefits from the insurance.

Amelia's mom and I have a solid relationship, and my husband and her



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Over the years, she has occasionally had online contact with Brad and even told him that she appreciated him talking with our son because our son has few friends. But now our son, who knows nothing about the affair or how bad it hurt me, has become friendly with Brad. It is very difficult hearing him talk about things they do together. Should we tell our son about the affair?

STRUGGLING STEPMOM

DEAR STEPMOM: It isn't necessary to betray your stepdaughter's confidence to get her the help she needs. Go online to plannedparenthood.org, locate the nearest Planned Parenthood clinic and share that information with Amelia. The organization provides a wide range of low-cost services to women and men, including family planning, STD diagnosis and treatment, and birth control on a confidential basis. You should also encourage Amelia to discuss this with her parents. She is behaving responsibly in wanting to protect herself.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for decades, but 10 years ago she had, at the least, a texting affair with "Brad," a longtime friend of her brother's. Her brother, who knows about the affair, lives on a large tract of land owned by their father. Brad is there often to go hunting with her brother. My wife and I used to visit frequently, but now there is some concern that Brad might be there and we'll have a conflict, so we don't go as much. The affair was very upsetting to me, but my wife insisted we keep it quiet so her brother could continue his friendship with Brad.

STILL HURT IN TEXAS

DEAR STILL HURT: Tempting as it may be to "out" your wife to your son, keep that information to yourself. I question the wisdom of Brad having been encouraged to cultivate a relationship with your son since this friendship is the fruit of that decision. Because you prefer not to hear what your son and Brad are doing, the next time it comes up, change the subject. He may or may not catch on and question you about the reason, but if he does, all you need to say is you'd rather not discuss it.

BRIDGE

BENEFITING WITH MAJORS OUTRANKING MINORS

Here is another of Anne Maverick's senryu mentioning a bidding convention: Opener bids one / With five-five in the majors / Use Michaels Cue-Bid.

In the old days, if an opponent opened one of a suit and you overcalled two of that suit, you told everyone that you had game in your own hand. That cropped up about once a decade. Then a bridge player from Miami with unimaginative parents had an imaginative idea. Michael Michaels proposed that if an opponent opens one of a minor and you overcall two of that minor, you show at least 5-5 in the majors. Or, if he opens one of a major, overcalling two of that major shows at least 5-5 in the other major and either minor.

There is no specific range for a Michaels. First, you find the right strain; then you worry about the correct

level.

In today's deal, against four spades, West leads the heart ace: nine, eight, four. He continues with the heart king: 10, two, five. What should he do next?

Some deals are much easier to defend with one particular opposing hand face up on the table. Here, if South were the dummy, it would be much harder for West.

Now, though, he can see that his side's only chance to defeat the contract is to collect two trump tricks, which requires a trump promotion. South surely has the spade ace for his jump to game.

West leads a low heart at trick three and hopes partner ruffs with the spade queen, a so-called uppercut. Then, when South overruffs, West gains two trump tricks.

North 03-24-21
 ♠ 9 8 6 5 3
 ♥ J 10 9
 ♦ A K Q J 10
 ♣ —

West East
 ♠ K 10 ♠ Q 2
 ♥ A K Q 7 6 3 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ 9 4 ♦ 7 6 3
 ♣ Q 8 2 ♣ J 9 7 5 4 3

South
 ♠ A J 7 4
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ 8 5 2
 ♣ A K 10 6

Dealer: West
 Vulnerable: East-West

South West North East
 4♠ 1♥ 2♥ Pass
 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ♥ A

WHAT TO WATCH

Wed Mar 24

5:30 p.m. NBCSN NHL Hockey Wednesday Night Hockey features an NHL triple-header on NBCSN with the Anaheim Ducks at the Minnesota Wild, the Buffalo Sabres at the Pittsburgh Penguins and the L.A. Kings at the San Jose Sharks.

8 p.m. ABC The Goldbergs: "Love Triangle" Meddling mom Beverly (Wendi McLendon-Covey), convinces son Adam (Sean Giambrone) that his sweet girlfriend Brea (Sadie Stanley) is about to break up with him.

8 p.m. CW Riverdale: "Chapter Eighty-Five: Destroyer" After the Bulldogs lose several football games, Archie (KJ Apa) and Veronica (Camila Mendes) come up with a plan to boost school spirit. Jughead (Cole Sprouse) turns his attention to a student who he thinks might need his help. Betty (Lili Reinhart) seeks guidance from Cheryl (Madelaine Petsch) after being faced with a difficult decision to make. Finally, Kevin (Casey Cott) is forced to face a dark moment from his past.

8:30 p.m. ABC American Housewife: "How Oliver Got His Groove Back" Katie plays matchmaker by impersonating Oliver on his social media account to win over a girl. Meanwhile, Lonnie helps Greg dig up dirt on his political rival.

9 p.m. ABC The Conners: "Walden Pond, a Staycation and the Axis Powers" Yelp! An angry Jackie (Laurie Metcalf) discovers competing restaurants are posting negative reviews of the Lunch Box online and enlists her boyfriend, Neville (Nat Faxon), to help confront them.

9:30 p.m. ABC Call Your Mother: "California Jeanin" As Jean's birthday approaches, Jackie and Freddie compete over who is getting her the best gift. Jean's best friend, Sharon, surprises her in Los Angeles, but their time spent celebrating quickly takes a turn.

11:15 p.m. Syfy The Pole: "That Woman" As the media targets Helenor (voice of Sasheer Zamata), Nick (voice of Bobby Moynihan) crumbles under the pressure of the nice union.

12 a.m. IFC Baroness von Sketch Show The female-led Canadian sketch comedy series ends its five-season run tonight.

HOROSCOPE



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Be clear regarding what you want to do and how you plan to proceed, but don't expect others to tag along or agree with you. Be open to suggestions, but don't let anyone push you.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

If you are anxious, you'll make a mistake. Take a moment, think things through and consider all your options. Don't give anyone a chance to railroad you into something you don't need or want.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Pull out all the stops and take action. It's what you do, not what you say, that will make the difference. A chance to work alongside someone you trust and respect will make your life easier.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Rethink your motives and what you are trying to achieve. Rework your plan to fit the results you expect and forge ahead. Don't let a physical or emotional attraction jeopardize your position.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Stop before you make an irreversible mistake. Spend more time honing your skills and figuring out what you want. Personal improvement will lead to a better life, friendships and insight.



VRIGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Keep your life simple and your discussions truthful. Observe the changes going on around you and consider what's best for you before you make a move. Don't ignore what's happened in the past.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Focus on fitness, health and spending time with the people you love. Get involved in activities that push you to be and do your best, and you'll find contentment and satisfaction.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Mull over your plans, and elaborate on what it is you want to pursue. The changes you implement are best done in secret until you have everything in place. The less friction there is, the easier it will be.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Steer clear of joint ventures. You will do well if you put your time and money into personal and home improvements. Don't trust anyone who makes unrealistic promises. Concentrate on what you can do by yourself.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

It's time to do things differently. Keeping up with the changing times will ensure that you don't get left behind. Update your surroundings and sell items you no longer use.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Take control and sort through anything you've left unfinished. You'll feel better once you have everything in place. Tackle something you have been putting off due to other people's interference.



PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Be quiet about your plans. The less anyone knows about your goals, the easier it will be for you to get things done. Don't let yourself be controlled by others any longer.

REMIND REWIND

The '70s Teen



EVENING STANDARD / GETTY IMAGES

By David Cohea

REMIND MAGAZINE

If you were a high school teen in the '70s, everything was cool and far out unless it was bogus or a drag. Some things were still the same as earlier decades, but not much — shop for boys, home ec for girls. Technology was slowly creeping forward. Typewriters were electric and slide rules were replaced by electronic calculators. Toward the end of the decade, the brainiacs started fooling with Apple II computers and Atari game consoles. Boys' hair tumbled over collars. Girls were allowed to wear pants. Classrooms tended to be open and were often painted orange. Books

were covered with brown paper bags, which got a suede feel after months of use. In fashion, it was baggies and platform shoes, Hang Ten T-shirts and Earth Shoes. Army and jean jackets were ubiquitous, as were jumper dresses and H.I.S. jeans and shirts. There wasn't much on TV for teens, but the music was killer. There was soft rock, hard rock, soul, funk, disco, punk. Everyone had a stereo at home and in their car, often featuring an eight-track tape player. Albums became anthems: Led Zeppelin II. The Dark Side of the Moon. Frampton Comes Alive!, Born to Run. Artists became titans: Alice Cooper, Stevie

Wonder, Yes, Joni Mitchell, the Rolling Stones, Foreigner, Bee Gees, the Clash. Album-oriented FM stations played whole sides of Quadrophonia and Thick as a Brick. Concerts swelled to arena size. Kids danced the hustle, the bump and the bus stop. Everyone rode minibikes and roller skates and had clackers and mood rings and Pet Rocks. ID bracelets were popular as tokens of going steady. Car culture was still big. In 1970, two bucks would fill up the tank, but when the oil embargo hit in 1973, gas guzzlers became less popular than fuel-miserly Chevy Novas and Dodge Darts. Still, there was nothing like a roaring Pontiac

Firebird Trans Am with "Radar Love" blasting away. For the social cliques, they tended to separate into three groups — hard partiers, weekend warriors and straight arrows. For those so inclined, there was Miller Lite, the first of the "light" beers, and Boone's Farm. Pot smokers were furtive but everywhere. (See Dazed and Confused.) Drive-in movies were still popular, and movies popular with teens included American Graffiti, Jaws, Animal House, Carrie, Halloween and the first Star Wars. For teens of the '70s, high school memories were freaky-deaky, grody, gnarly, jiggy or just plain dy-no-mite!

EVENING TV LISTINGS WEDNESDAY'S TV MARCH 24, 2021

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-1:00) and broadcast stations, listing various TV programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and various news and entertainment shows.

CABLE STATIONS

Table listing cable channels (A&E, AMC, BRAVO, DISC, DISN, ESPN, etc.) and their respective programming for Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

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LEGALS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Docket No. ES14P0598GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Resignation or
Petition for Removal
of Guardianship of a Minor
Essex Probate and Family Court
36 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970

In the interests of **Midjeyana Emmanuel**
of **Lynn, MA**
Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a minor filed by:

Lynda Emmanuel on **February 11, 2021**
will be held **03/30/2021 09:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**

Located **Salem Probate**, www.zoomgov.com/j/1611913371 or call **646-828-7666 (Virtual)**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: February 25, 2021

Pamela Casey O'Brien
Register of Probate

Item: March 24, 2021

Trial Court of Massachusetts
The Superior Court
Docket Number 2077CV01300
Essex County Superior Court - Lawrence
43 Appleton Way
Lawrence, MA 01841
ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

CASE NAME: **Chaavhi, Abdelaziz O et al**
vs.
Puleo, Marguerite C et al

RE: The Heirs, Devisees and Personal Representatives of Elizabeth C. Puleo

WHEREAS a civil action has been begun against you in our Superior Court by **Abdelaziz O Chaavhi** wherein it is seeking to;

Dispute Concerning Title

We **COMMAND YOU** if you intend to make any defense, that on **04/27/2021** or within such further time as the law allows you do cause your written pleading to be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court named above, in said Commonwealth, and further that you defend against said suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and receive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein.

Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suit may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence.

It appearing to this Court that no personal service of the Complaint has been made on the defendant a deputy sheriff having made a return on the summons that after diligent search he can find no one upon whom he can lawfully make service, a copy of which is hereto attached and made part of this notice, it is **ORDERED** that notice of this suit be given to them by publishing, once a week for three successive weeks, the last publication to be at least 20 days before said return in the:

Newspaper: The Daily Item
City/Town: City of Lynn

CLERK OF COURTS/ ASST. CLERK
Thomas H Driscoll, Jr.

DATE ISSUED
03/16/2021

Item: March 24, 29 and April 5 2021

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RELOCATING?



"Helpful tips" for a S-M-O-O-T-H trouble-free move!

Designate a drawer for essentials such as **sheets and towels** for quick access the first night you move into your new home.

Plan a **garage/yard** sale before you move.

Fresh coffee, baking soda, or charcoal in a sock, placed inside your **refrigerator** will keep the inside smelling fresh and clean.

LEGALS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
Essex Probate and Family Court
36 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970
Docket No. SU20D0431DR

Ivette Susana Quinones vs. **Hector Joel Quinones**

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court

grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

Shlomo Lambroza, Esq.
Law Office of Sam Lambroza
192 Marlborough St
Suite 2
Boston, MA 02116

your answer, if any, on or before **05/06/2021**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
WITNESS, Jennifer M R Ulwick, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 9, 2021

Pamela Casey O'Brien
Register of Probate

Item: March 24, 2021

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Docket No. ES21P0676EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate of: **Carmella L. Cormier**

Also Known As: **Carmella Louise Cormier**

Date of Death: **01/08/2021**

Essex Division

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner: **Robert C. Cormier** of **Enosburg Falls VT**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Robert C. Cormier of **Enosburg Falls VT**

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

Item: March 24, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE
SAUGUS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Saugus Board of Selectmen will conduct a public hearing on the application of: Winthrop Motor's, Inc., Paulo Cabral, President, for a transfer of the Special Permit, (S-2), formerly of Edd's Auto Exchange, Inc., to allow storage of vehicles for sale, to be located at 961 Broadway, on Assessor's Plan 1029, Lot A-1. Application is also made for Class II Auto Dealer's License at 961 Broadway, Saugus, MA.

This hearing will be held in the Saugus Town Hall Auditorium, 298 Central Street, unless quarantine advisory is still in place, the hearing will be held by Zoom Video Conference on 04/06/21 at 7:30 PM.

Anthony Cogliano, Chairman
Temp. Clerk, Janice Jarosz

Item: March 17, 24, 2021

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NOTICE

Don't pay to find work before you get the job. Legitimate job placement firms that work to fill specific positions cannot charge an upfront fee. For free information about avoiding employment service scams, write the Federal Trade Commission at Washington, D.C., 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center,
1-800-876-7060

NOTICE

For more information and assistance regarding the reliability of business opportunities, work-at-home opportunities, employment services and financing, the Daily Item urges its readers to contact the Better Business Bureau Inc., 290 Donald Lynch Blvd., Suite 102, Marlborough, MA 07152-4705 or call 508-652-4800

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The Daily Item



INTERNATIONAL

Netanyahu fights for survival as Israel votes again

By Josef Federman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was fighting for his political survival on Tuesday as the country held its fourth parliamentary election in two years.

The election is widely seen as a referendum on Netanyahu's divisive rule, and once again, opinion polls were forecasting an extremely tight race. Exit polls were scheduled to be released by Israel's three major TV stations after the end of voting at 10 p.m. (2000 GMT), but it could be several days before the true outcome of the race is known.

The three-month campaign was largely devoid of substantive issues and focused heavily on Netanyahu's personality and whether he should remain in office. In contrast to past elections where he faced off against a clear rival, this time a diverse array of parties is trying to topple him, having little in common beyond their shared animosity toward him.

"Vote, vote, vote, vote, vote," Netanyahu said after casting his ballot in Jerusalem, his wife, Sara, at his side.

Netanyahu, 71, who even after 12 years in office remains a tireless campaigner, continued throughout the day. At one point, he marched along a Mediterranean beach imploring people over a megaphone to go vote.

"This is the moment of truth for the state of Israel," said one of his challengers, opposition leader Yair Lapid, as he voted in Tel Aviv.

Netanyahu has emphasized Israel's highly successful coronavirus



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, cast their ballots at a polling station as Israelis vote in a general election, in Jerusalem.

vaccination campaign. He moved aggressively to secure enough vaccines for Israel's 9.3 million people, and in three months the country has vaccinated some 80 percent of its adult population. That has enabled the government to open restaurants, stores and the airport just in time for election day.

He also has tried to portray himself as a global statesman, pointing to the four diplomatic accords he reached with Arab countries last year. Those agreements were brokered by his close ally, then-President Donald Trump.

Netanyahu's opponents, including a trio of former aides who share his nationalistic ideology but object to what they say is his autocratic leadership style, see things far differently.

They say that Netanyahu bungled many aspects of the pandemic, particularly by allowing his ultra-Orthodox allies to ignore lockdown rules and fuel a high infection rate for much of the year. Over

6,000 Israelis have died from COVID-19, and the economy remains in weak shape with double-digit unemployment.

They also point to Netanyahu's corruption trial, saying someone who is under indictment for serious crimes is not fit to lead the country. Netanyahu has been charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in a series of scandals that he dismisses as a witch hunt by a hostile media and legal system.

Even Netanyahu's reputation as a statesman has suffered a bit in recent days. The United Arab Emirates, the most important of the four Arab nations to establish official diplomatic ties with Israel, last week made clear that it did not want to be used as part of Netanyahu's re-election bid after he was forced to call off a visit to the country. The Biden administration also has kept its distance, a contrast to the support he received in past elections from Trump.

In a reminder of the

country's many security challenges, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a rocket into Israel late Tuesday, setting off air raid sirens in southern Israel. The Israeli military said the rocket landed in an open space.

Opinion polls forecast a tight race, with a possibility of both Netanyahu and his opponents falling short of securing a parliamentary majority yet again. That could plunge the country into an unprecedented fifth consecutive election later this year.

Tuesday's election was sparked by the disintegration of an emergency government formed last May between Netanyahu and his chief rival at the time. The alliance was plagued by infighting, and elections were forced after they failed to agree on a budget in December.

"It would be better if we didn't have to vote, you know, four times in two years," said Jerusalem voter Bruce Rosen. "It's a little bit tiring."

UK reflects on 'grief and loss,' a year from first lockdown

By Pan Pylas
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — The U.K. has a lot to reflect on.

A year to the day since Prime Minister Boris Johnson first put the country under lockdown to slow the fast-spreading coronavirus, Britain paused Tuesday to remember those who have died after contracting COVID-19 and reflect on a 12-month period that has turned life upside down.

The U.K. has registered more than 126,000 virus-related deaths, the highest pandemic death toll in Europe and one of the highest in the world. The country has spent much of the past year in period of lockdown.

The country observed a minute's silence at noon to remember the dead as part of a national day of reflection organized by the end-of-life charity Marie Curie. Later, people are being encouraged to stand on their doorsteps at 8 p.m. with phones, candles and flashlights to signify a "beacon of remembrance."

Johnson thanked the British public for their "courage, discipline and patience."

"For the entire British people it has been an epic of endurance and privation," Johnson said at a televised news conference. "Of children's birthday parties canceled, of weddings postponed, of family gatherings of all kinds simply deleted

from the diary.

"And worst of all in that time we've suffered so many losses. And for so many people, our grief has been made more acute because we have not been able to see our loved ones in their final days, to hold their hands or even to mourn them together."

Queen Elizabeth II sent a bouquet of flowers to London's St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where her husband, Prince Philip, was recently treated for a heart condition.

"As we look forward to a brighter future together, today we pause to reflect on the grief and loss that continues to be felt by so many people and families, and pay tribute to the

immeasurable service of those who have supported us all over the last year," she said in an accompanying note.

London's skyline will turn yellow when landmarks including the London Eye, Trafalgar Square and Wembley Stadium light up at nightfall. Other notable buildings that will be illuminated include Cardiff Castle and Belfast City Hall. Churches and cathedrals plan to toll bells, light thousands of candles and offer prayers.

Few foresaw the scale of death and grief to come when Johnson, in a prime-time televised address on March 23, 2020, issued a "very simple instruction" for people to stay at home.



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

A health worker holds a vial of the AstraZeneca vaccine to be administered to emergency services personnel during a mass COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

Missteps could mar long-term credibility of AstraZeneca shot

By Maria Cheng
AP MEDICAL WRITER

LONDON — AstraZeneca's repeated missteps in reporting vaccine data coupled with a blood clot scare could do lasting damage to the credibility of a shot that is the linchpin in the global strategy to stop the coronavirus pandemic, potentially even undermining vaccine confidence more broadly, experts say.

The latest stumble for the vaccine came Tuesday, when American officials issued an unusual statement expressing concern that AstraZeneca had included "outdated information" when it reported encouraging results from a U.S. trial a day earlier. That may have provided "an incomplete view of the efficacy data," according to the statement.

AstraZeneca responded that the results, which showed its shot was about 79% effective, included information through Feb. 17 but appeared to be consistent with more up-to-date data. It promised an update within 48 hours.

"I doubt it was (U.S. officials') intention to deliberately undermine trust in the AstraZeneca vaccine," said Dr. Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at the University of East Anglia. "But this will likely cause more vaccine hesitancy."

Even if the damage is limited to AstraZeneca itself, it would have far-reaching effects since the shot is cheaper and easier to store than many of its rivals' and thus is expected to be widely used in the developing world. International health agencies have repeatedly said the vaccine is safe and effective, but it's not the first time the company has run into problems with public trust.

Partial results from its first major trial — which Britain used to authorize the vaccine — were clouded by a manufacturing mistake that researchers didn't immediately acknowledge. Insufficient data about how well the

vaccine protected older people led some countries to initially restrict its use to younger populations before reversing course. U.S. officials suspended an AstraZeneca study for an unusual six weeks while they sought details about problems reported in Britain before deciding the vaccine wasn't to blame. Meanwhile, the European Union has complained about delays in vaccine deliveries from the company.

Then last week, more than a dozen countries temporarily halted their use of the AstraZeneca shot after reports of rare blood clots in some people who received it. The European Medicines Agency concluded the shot did not increase the overall incidence of clots, but the unwanted attention appears to have left a mark.

In Norway, a top official warned Monday it might not be able to resume its use of the vaccine because so many people were rejecting it.

"People clearly say that they do not want the AstraZeneca vaccine," Marte Kvittum Tangen, who heads a Norwegian doctors' association, told broadcaster NRK.

Last week in Bucharest, Romania, vaccination coordinator Valeriu Gheorghita said 33,000 AstraZeneca immunization appointments had been canceled in 24 hours and that about a third of the 10,000 people scheduled to receive the vaccine did not show up. In Belgrade, Serbia, a sprawling exhibition center set up for people to get the AstraZeneca vaccine was mostly deserted on Monday.

"This is unfortunately more about perception than it is the science," said Dr. Bharat Pankhania, a specialist at Britain's University of Exeter.

"We have now seen, on several parameters, that the AstraZeneca vaccine provides protection and is safe," he said. "But the narrative for the public has not been as clear."

Ethiopia's leader says atrocities reported in Tigray war

By Rodney Muhumuza
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KAMPALA, Uganda — Ethiopia's leader on Tuesday said atrocities have been reported in Tigray, his first public acknowledgment of possible war crimes in the country's northern region where fighting persists as government troops hunt down its fugitive leaders.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also admitted, after repeated denials by authorities, that troops from neighboring Eritrea have gone into Tigray, where their presence has inflicted "damages" on the region's residents.

"Reports indicate that atrocities have been com-

mitted in Tigray region," Abiy said in an address Tuesday before lawmakers in the capital, Addis Ababa.

War is "a nasty thing," he said, speaking the local Amharic language. "We know the destruction this war has caused." He said soldiers who raped women or committed other crimes will be held responsible, even though he cited "propaganda of exaggeration" by the Tigray People's Liberation Front, the once-dominant party whose leaders challenged Abiy's legitimacy after the postponement of elections last year.

Commenting on the reported presence of Eritrean troops in Ethiopia, Abiy said they crossed the



PHOTO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed responds to questions from members of parliament at the prime minister's office in the capital Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

border and moved across Tigray, "causing damages to our people ... We won't accept that."

He suggested the Eritre-

an soldiers are not there with his blessing. "The argument the Eritrean government presents for this is that it is a nation-

al security issue because Ethiopian troops are going after (Tigrayan) forces in other locations, so they want to keep controlling border areas," he said. "But they have told us they don't have the willingness to stay as long as we control trenches along the border."

Abiy spoke as concern continues to grow over the humanitarian situation in the embattled region that is home to 6 million of Ethiopia's more than 110 million people. Authorities haven't cited a death toll in the war, but a trio of opposition groups based in Tigray say more than 50,000 have been killed.

The United States has characterized some abuses in the Tigray war as

"ethnic cleansing," charges dismissed by Ethiopian authorities as unfounded. It also has urged Eritrean troops, who are fighting on the side of Ethiopian government forces, to withdraw from Tigray.

The Ethiopian prime minister, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 for his efforts to make peace with Eritrea, faces pressure to end the conflict in Tigray as well as to institute an international investigation into alleged war crimes, ideally led by the United Nations. The government's critics say an ongoing federal probe simply isn't enough because the government can't effectively investigate itself.

FOOD

A day of free sandwiches? If Chicago deli gets 30 days of perfect mask wearing, apparently so

By Josh Noel
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Manny's Cafeteria & Delicatessen is staking a mountain of free corned beef — and pastrami and salami and, yes, even turkey if you must — on keeping that mask on at the legendary Chicago restaurant.

The 79-year-old institution that has been a backdrop for generations of politicians, celebrities and those of us simply in search of a quality corned beef on rye, announced on social media last Sunday night that it would “give away free sandwiches for the day” if staff could go 30 days without needing to remind customers to mask up during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dan Raskin, the fourth-generation owner of Manny's, said in an interview that he would follow through on the day of free sandwiches should his customers earn it.

He doesn't think they will.

“It's ridiculous the amount we have to ask people to do it,” he said of mask reminders. “It's multiple times a day — probably multiple times an hour.”

Manny's mask scofflaws aren't generally motivated by malice, Raskin said. Most often, the reminders come



PHOTO | HRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

A worker waits on a carryout order at Manny's Deli on South Jefferson Street in Chicago last year.

when someone is walking mask-free to the restroom. Or when someone pulls one down to order (which violates the whole point of wearing the masks, folks).

Occasionally someone walks into the restaurant without a mask, having (they swear!) forgotten it in the car. Or sometimes people let their masks droop below the nose for comfort —

though that issue seems to have abated.

“People wear their masks better than they did,” Raskin said. “Ninety-five percent of customers had them below their nose six months ago.”

Most of the mask issues, he said, seem to be “accidental and people not thinking about it.” But people need to think about it, Raskin said.

“Whether people agree

with the science or not, we're going to go on the side of safety,” he said.

Manny's issued its challenge a day after a Florida woman's Tweet blew up in which she said her employer would give away free donuts for a day if the business could go 30 days without asking people to wear masks.

It's not going well.

Raskin said he wasn't aware of the Florida wom-

an's Tweet, and didn't know if his social media director knew of it when proposing the idea for the challenge at Manny's.

However, the difficulty of getting customers to be masked and mindful persists in Chicago and well beyond — including at Seaside Brewing in Oregon, which on Facebook threatened a surcharge on uncooperative customers.

The Manny's initiative is largely about raising awareness, Raskin said, and “trying to educate people in a fun way.”

Through the first two hours of business on Monday morning, customers had done their part, Raskin said: Manny's workers hadn't had to remind a single customer to wear a mask.

Just 29 days to go, Chicago!

Earn brownie points with the king of them all

By Arthi Subramaniam
PITTSBURGH
POST-GAZETTE

There are brownies, and then there is the king of brownies.

I'm talking about ones with bananas and peanut butter that would get Elvis Presley's blessings.

The signature trademark of a good classic brownie is that it should be chewy, gooey and not overbaked. It does not have to be fancy and topped with swirls or glazes. Nor does it need to feature hard-to-find ingredients. A recipe free of fuss will be just fine.

If it has a nice sheen, that's great. If it is a crackly top, that is great, too. And if it strikes the right balance between chewy, cakey and fudgy and has a deep chocolate flavor, that's the best.

I like a fudgy brownie but not one that is so



PHOTO | PAM PANCHAK/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS

Bananas and peanut butter make the King of Brownies super tasty without making them greasy.

ridiculously rich that I can't even get halfway through it. Or I have to wash it down with cold milk or water. At the same time, I am not crazy about thick cakey brownies where the flour dominates.

A brownie also needs

to be one that is intensely chocolaty but not bitter. One that is sweet but won't hurt my teeth. And one that can remain moist even after a couple of days.

It's easy to overbake brownies as it is often hard to tell when they are

done. The usual visual cues that indicate something is browned enough on top don't work here because the brownies are already, well, brown. Determining the doneness through the aroma can be tricky, too.

The best way to check for doneness is to insert a toothpick or a cake tester in the center of the brownies. If the tester comes out with a few moist crumbs sticking to it, the brownies are baked perfectly. On the other hand, if it comes out clean, they have been overbaked.

The sky's the limit when it comes to the add-ins. Nuts, chocolate chunks, dried fruits, mint chips, coconut flakes and cream cheese work well when mixed into the batter, and so do pretzels, graham crackers and marshmallows.

Salt accentuates the sweetness, so be sure to add a dash of it in the batter. For a hint of spice, a little bit of ancho chili powder or cayenne pepper can do wonders.

There are add-ins I avoid at all costs, and curry powder, potato chips and bacon are among them. They are just not my type of flavoring for brownies. Also, when things like matcha are added, I think it is just plain wrong to call it a

brownie anymore.

In “Flavor for All: Everyday Recipes and Creative Pairings” by James Briscione and Brooke Parkhurst, a recipe that is boldly titled “The King” of Brownies caught my eye. Like the famed Elvis sandwich, the brownies call for bananas and peanut butter that act as both moistening and flavoring agents.

Chocolate chips are melted with butter and brown sugar and blended with bananas, flour and cocoa powder. After the batter is poured into a prepared pan, spoonfuls of peanut butter are dropped on top and then dragged with a butter knife to create swirls.

After about 25 minutes in a 350-degree oven, the brownies turn not chewy, but super soft. And they are rich but not greasy. Although the banana and peanut butter flavors are unmistakable they don't smack you in your face.

They are the kind of brownies you can go bananas or nuts over. And who knows? The king of rock 'n' roll might have, too, if he knew about it.

‘THE KING’ OF BROWNIES

PG tested
The bananas and peanut butter are moistening and flavoring agents here, making the brown-

ies super soft. Then there is the mesmerizing aroma. While the banana-y presence is unmistakable, it does not smack in your face.

- 2 ripe bananas
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar, divided
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- ½ cup creamy peanut butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-9-inch baking pan.

Combine the banana, egg, ½ cup of brown sugar and vanilla extract in a bowl with an electric mixer until smooth.

Combine the remaining ½ cup brown sugar and butter in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, until the sugar has melted.

Remove from the heat. Add chocolate chips and stir until smooth.

Beat the butter-chocolate mixture into the banana mixture. Add the flour and cocoa and stir to combine.

Transfer the batter to the prepared pan. Drop spoonfuls of peanut butter over the top of the batter and then drag a butter knife through it to create swirls.

Bake for about 25 minutes, until the edges are set and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out slightly moist.

Let cool completely in the pan on a wire rack before cutting into squares. Store in an airtight container or tightly wrapped in the refrigerator for up to 10 days.

Makes 16 brownies.
Adapted from “Flavor for All: Everyday Recipes and Creative Pairings” by James Briscione and Brooke Parkhurst (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; October 2020)

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