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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

Cease-fire deal brings hope

As he caps 50 years of service, Biden warns of 'oligarchy' of the ultrawealthy

Takes effect Sunday if Israeli Cabinet OK's it; Hamas sees 'historic moment'



BASHAR TALEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

As news of the cease-fire deal spread Wednesday, celebrations began in the Gaza Strip, this one on a street in Khan Yunis.

Healey takes aim at shelter guarantee

Calls for changes in law to tighten up the system

By Matt Stout and Emma Platoff
GLOBE STAFF

Governor Maura Healey on Wednesday proposed foundational changes that would upend the state's unique right-to-shelter law, including adding a form of residency requirement that could make newly arrived migrants, whose numbers have swamped the system, no longer eligible for beds.

The proposals, if adopted by the Legislature, would dramatically rewrite the law that guarantees homeless families and pregnant women shelter. Healey unveiled the requests in a letter — but not actual legislation — she sent to the Legislature's Democratic leaders one day before she is slated to deliver her annual State of the Commonwealth address.

"My proposed changes will allow us to continue to ensure the safety of our system, support cities and towns in addressing the needs of unhoused families in their communities and put us on the path toward a more fiscally sustainable" program, Healey wrote in her letter.

Healey, a first-term Democrat, said last week that she was open to rewriting the shelter law, which the state adopted 40 years ago and requires it to provide shelter for homeless families. It's the only statewide law of its kind in the country, but Healey said the measure's "original intent" was not to cover the "waves and waves of people," including migrant families, who

SHELTERS, Page A10



Pam Bondi, President-elect Donald Trump's pick for attorney general, refused to explicitly say she would defy White House pressure during a confirmation hearing that repeatedly turned heated. Senator Marco Rubio, the choice for secretary of state, struck a moderate tone at his hearing. **A2.**

Opponents of the Wu administration's redevelopment of White Stadium fought back by pitching a much less expensive alternative for the Franklin Park sports facility. **D1.**

Federal officials are scrapping a proposed speed limit for ships around Cape Cod and the Islands that was intended to protect whales but would have eliminated fast-ferry service for key parts of the year. **B1.**

Chilly power

Thursday: Cool, clouding up. High 29-34. Low 21-26.

Friday: Sunny, not as cold. High 34-39. Low 25-30.

High tide: 12:38 a.m., 12:45 p.m.

Sunrise: 7:10 Sunset: 4:38

Weather and Comics, D5-6.
Obituaries, C9.

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By Erica L. Green
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — As he and President-elect Donald Trump publicly claimed credit for the breakthrough in the Mideast, President Biden on Wednesday warned that an "oligarchy" of the ultrawealthy is emerging in the United States, sounding the alarm about unchecked power as he gave a farewell speech to the nation just days before he surrenders office to a man he disdains.

In an address from the Oval Office, Biden expressed concern about the "dangerous concentration of power" and issued a plea for the preservation of democratic ideals and institutions under the administration of Trump.

"Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power, and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms, and a fair shot for everyone to get ahead," Biden said.

While Biden did not explicitly name Trump, his remarks went straight at the tension at the heart of the incoming administration, in which billionaires like Elon Musk are positioned to wield enormous influence over the next four years. Are they really populists intent on shaking up the

BIDEN, Page A7

THREE STEPS TO AN END OF WAR

Phase 1
Hamas will release 33 hostages, Israel will release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners

Phase 2
After 42 days, if the two sides declare a "sustainable calm," then Hamas will free the remaining male hostages, Israel will release additional prisoners and withdraw from Gaza

Phase 3
The two sides will exchange bodies of hostages and fighters, Gaza border will reopen, and a rebuilding plan implemented



AMIR LEVY/GETTY IMAGES

In Tel Aviv, emotions ran high at a rally calling for the return of the hostages.

By Adam Rasgon, Patrick Kingsley, Aaron Boxerman, Ronen Bergman, Peter Baker, and Isabel Kershner
NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — Negotiators announced Wednesday that they had reached a cease-fire deal for the war in the Gaza Strip, 15 months after a devastating Hamas-led attack on Israeli soil set off a relentless military campaign with few parallels in recent history.

In the attack that set it all in motion, the Oct. 7, 2023, raid on southern Israel led by Hamas fighters, some 1,200 people, most of them civilians, were killed, stunning Israelis. In the months that followed, an estimated 45,000 Palestinians in Gaza, many of them also civilians, were killed and entire towns leveled.

On Wednesday, Palestinians were allowing themselves to hope for an end to the long months of hunger, destruction, and fear, while Israelis were anxiously readying themselves to welcome home dozens of men and women taken hostage by Hamas during the 2023 attack.

Under the terms of the provisional deal, reached in the waning days of the Biden administration, the Israeli military will begin to pull back its force and Hamas will

CEASE-FIRE, Page A7



'All living hostages need to be brought home immediately, they are living in hell, in utter hell. Their lives are in great danger. We know that.'

TAMAR DAVIS *of Brookline, whose cousin Omer Neutra (seen in a poster at left), an Israeli American serving in the army there, was killed in the Oct. 7 attacks. His body hasn't been recovered. Locally, the cease-fire deal was met with relief.* **B1.**

Another blow to red meat: study links it to dementia

By Kay Lazar
GLOBE STAFF

Regularly eating red meat has been linked with heart disease, diabetes, and several types of cancer. Now there's fresh evidence tying some popular types of red meat to yet another health concern: it could be bad for your brain.

A new study by Boston researchers finds that long-term consumption of processed red meat, such as hot dogs, sausage, and bacon, is linked to an elevated risk of dementia. The findings come on the heels of sobering research published on Monday from a separate team of scientists that estimates the number of Americans who develop dementia each year will double by 2060, to roughly 1 million new cases a year, largely because of the aging population.

As scientists and policy makers search for ways to protect Americans' health — and stave off chronic illnesses— attention is increasingly turning to reforming the American diet.

In the meat study, published online Wednesday in the journal Neurology, researchers at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health and

PROCESSED FOOD, Page A6

Newton's mixed-level classes not closing achievement gap

By Christopher Huffaker
GLOBE STAFF

Four years ago, Newton sought to make its teaching instruction more inclusive, creating high school classrooms where students at different achievement levels could learn together, so that a child taking honors history might be seated next to a student taking standard history. Now, amid debate over whether this type of teaching works, a growing body of state data suggests the changes have done little to close achievement gaps between white and Asian students and Black and Latino students — but also do not appear to have made things worse.

The courses have come under fire from a group of teachers and parents who say they work for neither lower- nor higher-achieving students. Superintendent Anna Nolin said the district should have provided more training when the courses were rolled out in 2021 but vowed to complete an analysis of current systems before doing a broader overhaul of curriculum, assessments, and levels — with an eye toward a fall 2026 rollout.

With the district having failed to collect any data to measure the classes' impact, a Globe analysis shows the classes have not succeeded in bridging the

NEWTON, Page A10

The Nation

Firefighters see gains as they battle LA blazes

Winds, arsonists still complicate their approach

By Jaimie Ding, Christopher Weber, and Julie Watson
ASSOCIATED PRESS



LOREN ELLIOTT/NEW YORK TIMES

Altadena resident Joshua Brown, who lost his home in the wildfires, checked his phone at the Pasadena Convention Center.

LOS ANGELES — Firefighters reported significant gains Wednesday against the two massive wildfires burning around Los Angeles while also extinguishing smaller blazes set by arsonists in recent days as a final round of windy, flame-fanning weather moved through Southern California.

With winds picking up again, much of the nation's second-most populous metropolitan region was still on alert for new outbreaks and flareups from the fires that have killed at least 25 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

Gusts whipped up to 50 mph in the mountains, but many areas saw relatively light winds late in the morning, according to the National Weather Service. Better conditions expected in the coming days should help fire crews to make even more headway and allow residents to return to their neighborhoods to begin rebuilding.

Still, firefighters and police faced new challenges. Since the beginning of the wildfire outbreak last week, authorities have arrested about half a dozen people accused of setting new, small fires that were quickly knocked down.

One suspect admitted starting a fire in a tree "because he liked the smell of burning leaves," Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell said. Another said "she enjoyed causing chaos and destruction," the chief said Wednesday.

Authorities have not determined a cause for any of the major fires that are on track to become the nation's costliest fire disaster.

LA officials, who already were criticized for hydrants running dry, faced more questions. Fire officials chose not to double the number of firefighters on duty last Tuesday as winds increased, and only five of more than 40 engines were deployed, according to internal records obtained by The Los Angeles Times and interviews with fire commanders.

The department also did not call in off-duty firefighters until after the Palisades Fire erupted.

Los Angeles Fire Chief Kristin Crowley defended her decisions. "I can tell you and stand before you, we did everything in our capability to surge where we could," she told a news conference.

Crowley insisted that despite "limited capacity" within the department, crews were able to respond swiftly by calling for assistance from other agencies and seeking help from off-duty firefighters.

More manageable winds on Tuesday allowed firefighters to make gains on the two most destructive fires. Almost half of the Eaton Fire just north of LA was contained, and one-fifth of the fire that destroyed much of the seaside neighborhood of Pacific Palisades was surrounded.

Both of those fires broke out Jan. 7 in conditions similar to what was expected Wednesday, though winds were higher last week when they pushed flames at remarkable speed and carried fire-sparking embers for miles.

The weather service issued red-flag warnings — indicating temperatures are warm, humidity is low, and strong winds are expected — through Wednesday afternoon from the Central Coast south to the border with Mexico.

Weary and anxious residents said they were ready to make a hasty escape amid the threat from intense winds.

Javier Vega, who said he feels like he has been "sleeping with one eye open," and his girlfriend have planned out how they can quickly pack up their two cats, eight fish, and leopard gecko if they get orders to evacuate.

"Typically on any other night, hearing helicopters flying overhead from midnight to 4 in the morning, that would drive anyone crazy," Vega said. But figuring they were helping firefighters to keep the flames from threatening their neighborhood, he explained, "it was actually soothing for me to go to sleep."

Los Angeles authorities promised to do everything they could to help people recover and rebuild. But Mayor Karen Bass acknowledged there is no way to replace much of what has been lost.

"You've lost memories, family. All of the experiences that took place there are gone, and gone unexpectedly, gone rapidly," Bass said.

Earlier this week, the mayor issued an executive order to eliminate red tape and allow people to live in tiny homes and trailers while they rebuild.

Thomas Martin works with Calvary Disaster Relief, a group that responds to disasters all over the world. Most times, he shows up after floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes, helping people repair their roofs and rip out soggy carpet.

"This is different," he said. "This is total devastation. There's nothing much we can do other than pray for the folks."

With almost no rain in more than eight months, the brush-filled region has had more than a dozen wildfires this year, mostly in the greater Los Angeles area.

Rubio, Bondi make their cases as Cabinet hearings continue

Transportation, CIA nominees also testify

BOSTON GLOBE WIRE SERVICES



KENNY HOLSTON/NEW YORK TIMES

Pam Bondi, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to serve as attorney general, was sworn in at confirmation hearing.

Senate hearings are scheduled this week for several of President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet picks, including Senator Marco Rubio for secretary of state and Pam Bondi for attorney general. Many nominees have met with senators individually. Now, they'll go before the committees overseeing the agencies Trump wants them to run. This is what happened on Wednesday.

Rubio of Florida called for an end to the war in Ukraine, said Europe must decrease its reliance on Washington, and declared America's competition with China the defining question of the century during his confirmation hearing Wednesday to be secretary of state.

The friendly, five-hour hearing before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, which also touched on how Rubio would approach conflicts in the Middle East, was less than halfway over when the panel's chair made a major announcement: Israel and Hamas had sealed an agreement to begin a temporary cease-fire and partial hostage release in the Gaza Strip. Rubio had no specific comment on the agreement.

Rubio had earlier defended Israel's conduct in the war in Gaza, blaming Hamas for using civilians as human shields and calling the deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza "one of the terrible things about war."

But Rubio was perhaps most fluent and animated during his discussion of China, which, he warned, aimed to overtake the United States as the world's preeminent power. "The Chinese believe we are a great power in inevitable decline and they are on an inevitable rise," he said.

In contrast to Trump's more gleefully disruptive nominees, Rubio struck a decidedly moderate and mainstream tone unlikely to alarm the foreign policy establishment. There was no talk of picking fights with allies, reclaiming the Panama Canal or conquering Greenland.

Rubio even called the State Department a valuable source of expertise and said its influence should be enhanced.

Rubio, 53, is a member of the committee that questioned him, and he was largely greeted with bipartisan praise and even humor.

The friendly reception underscored the relative ease with which he is expected to be confirmed once Trump officially nominates him to succeed Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Also Wednesday, Pam Bondi, Trump's pick for attorney general, was on the Hill. She refused to explicitly say she would defy White House pressure — or admit that Trump lost the 2020 election — and instead offered a promise that "politics will not play a part" in her work at a confirmation hearing Wednesday that repeatedly turned heated.

Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee accused her time and again of failing to answer simple questions on election denialism, prosecution of the news media, and her stance on an administration meddling in the department. But the committee's members from the Republican Party, which controls the Senate, were united in their support for Bondi, appearing to give her a smooth path to confirmation.

Bondi sought to project the image of an independent, crime-fighting prosecutor, while repeatedly expressing loyalty to Trump and her belief that he had been the victim of politically motivated prosecutions by the Justice Department. She did not endorse Trump's contention that the special counsel who brought two criminal cases against him, Jack Smith, should be prosecuted, but said what she had "heard on the news" about his conduct was "horrible."

Bondi tangled several times with Democrats on the committee, including Senator Adam Schiff of California. On the first round of questions, he asked her if she saw any factual basis to investigate members of the congressional committee that examined the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. Bondi refused to answer, calling the question hypothetical, and when he pressed her, she shot back that he should be more worried about crime rates in California.

But in the second round of questions, as Democrats appeared to be growing resigned to her eventual confirmation amid friendly Republican questioning, Schiff took a different tone, saying the point of their questions was to determine what she would do when "loyalty to the president conflicts with your duty."

That moment, he said, had come for many of Trump's advisers during his first term. "What you do in that moment will define your attorney general-ship," he said.

Bondi told the committee that she wouldn't have accepted the nomination if she thought Trump would try to weaponize the department or drop a case that the White House objected to.

Also in Washington, Trump's pick to head the Transportation Department promised to scrutinize Boeing's safety issues, streamline regulations, and not interfere in ongoing agency investigations into Elon Musk's electric car company if confirmed as secretary.

Former Wisconsin congressman Sean Duffy said at his Senate confirmation hearing that he would "restore global confidence" in Boeing, hire more air traffic controllers, and create federal rules for self-driving cars instead of leaving that to the states, something Musk's Tesla has been pushing for to help speed development of the technology.

And Trump's pick for CIA director, John Ratcliffe, offered his vision for a more aggressive spy agency as he faced questions about his decisions to declassify intelligence and ability to deliver unvarnished assessments.

Material from The New York Times and the Associated Press was used in this report.

Daily Briefing

Hawaii volcano eruption resumes

HONOLULU — People were flocking to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Wednesday to get a glimpse of fountaining lava.

The eruption that began Dec. 23 in a crater at the summit of Kilauea volcano has paused periodically. It resumed Wednesday morning as a "small sluggish lava flow," and then increased into a fountain that appeared to be 200 feet high, the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said.

By the afternoon, visitors to the national park on the Big Island were able to see two fountains from an overlook.

The observatory said it was possible fountain heights would increase as more gas-rich lava erupted.

"The park is already very busy with people eager to see the eruption, and we expect visitation to increase as the news gets out again," Jessica Ferracane, park spokesperson, said in an email.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park encompasses the summits of two of the world's most active volcanoes: Kilauea and Mauna Loa.

The eruption is visible from many public overlooks in the park. The lava is not posing a hazard to homes or infrastructure.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SMU seeks to sever ties to church

The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments Wednesday in a battle over whether Southern Methodist University can separate from the United Methodist Church. The university, founded in Dallas by Methodists in the early 20th century, has been trying to extricate itself since 2019 amid turmoil in the denomination over gay clergy and same-sex marriage.

At stake is the question of who controls the university: its own board or the church that founded it and wrote its ownership into the school bylaws. The case will determine whether one of the flagship institutions of Methodism will remain connected to the church, the country's second-largest Protestant denomination.

In Austin Wednesday, the justices sounded wary of allowing the school to sever the relationship. The court's new chief justice, Jimmy Blacklock, concluded the hearing saying that the court should be "very, very hesitant to undermine what seems to be over 100 years of settled expectations."

In 2019, the private university changed its articles of incorporation and named its own board as its "ultimate authority." That displaced a regional governing body of the church.

NEW YORK TIMES

Gate OK'd for 'Sex and the City' building

NEW YORK — Thinking about toasting Carrie Bradshaw with a cosmo while posing on the front steps of her iconic Manhattan brownstone from "Sex and the City?"

Think again.

The city's Landmarks Preservation Commission approved an application for a gate Tuesday after Barbara Lorber, who has owned the building since 1978, lamented "the endless presence of interest in my celebrity staircase." The three-story building in Greenwich Village was used for exterior shots of the apartment occupied by Bradshaw, played by Sarah Jessica Parker.

"I'd hoped for literally decades that this would pass," Lorber told the commission during heartfelt testimony. "But at this point, I think even someone as stubborn as I am has to admit that this isn't going away in the near future."

The stoop has been chained off with a "no trespassing" sign. But one neighbor told the commission that the chain has failed to deter fans, who create a nuisance on the block.

Eight commission members unanimously approved the application, which is a necessary step in the historic West Village neighborhood.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global health experts look to new definition of obesity

Would reduce reliance on BMI, add new measures

By Jonel Aleccia
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A group of global experts is proposing a new way to define and diagnose obesity, reducing the emphasis on the controversial body mass index and hoping to better identify people who need treatment for the disease caused by excess body fat.

Under recommendations released Tuesday night, obesity would no longer be defined solely by BMI, a calculation of height and weight, but combined with other measurements, such as waist circumference, plus evidence of health problems tied to extra pounds.

Obesity is estimated to affect more than 1 billion people worldwide. In the US, about 40 percent of adults have obesity, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The whole goal of this is to get a more precise definition so that we are targeting the people who actually need the help most," said Dr. David Cummings, an obesity expert at the University of Washington and one of the 58 authors of the report published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology journal.

The report introduces two new diagnostic categories: clinical obesity and pre-clinical obesity.

People with clinical obesity meet BMI and other markers of obesity and have evidence of organ, tissue, or other problems caused by excess weight. That could include heart disease, high blood pressure, liver or kidney disease, or chronic severe knee or hip pain. These people would be eligible for treatments, including diet and exercise interventions and obesity medications.

People with pre-clinical obesity are at risk for those conditions, but have no ongoing illness, the report says.

BMI has long been considered a flawed measure that can over-diagnose or underdiagnose obesity, which is currently defined as a BMI of 30 or more. But people with excess body fat do not always have a BMI above 30, the report notes. And people with high muscle mass — football players or other athletes — may have a high BMI despite normal fat mass.

Under the new criteria, about 20 percent of people who used to be classified as obese would no longer meet the definition, preliminary analysis suggests. And about 20 percent of people with serious health effects but lower BMI would now be considered clinically obese, experts said.

"It wouldn't dramatically change the percentage of people being defined as having obesity, but it would better diagnose the people who really have clinically significant excess fat," Cummings said.



REBECCA BLACKWELL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manatees gathered near the warm-water outflows of a Florida Power & Light Company power plant, where the company operates the free Manatee Lagoon attraction.

Manatees flock to power plant for lifesaving warm waters

Florida utility offers family visiting days

By David Fischer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. — A polar vortex that has hit much of the United States with ice and snow has dealt a glancing blow to Florida, dropping coastal temperatures and causing the Sunshine State's manatee population, still recovering from a mass starvation event several years ago, to seek warmer waters.

Besides inland natural springs, a popular destination for the docile aquatic mammals is the warm-water outflows of about a dozen power plants around Florida. Manatees have been attracted to the warm-water discharges for decades, following a watery travel route that mother manatees have taught to manatee calves. Public viewing areas are located near power plants in Riviera Beach, Fort Myers, and Apollo Beach.

Dozens of the sea cows, which can grow up to 10 feet long and 1,200 pounds, have been congregating for the past week near Florida Power & Light Company's Riviera Beach plant, where the company opened the Manatee Lagoon attraction in 2016. The two-story, 16,000-square-foot complex is free and open to the public. They are hosting a family-friendly ManateeFest on Feb. 1.

"Manatees are such a special species that we have in our waters here in Florida, because they are a sentinel species, which means that they're an indicator for any water problems that we may have or any environmental issues we may have," Manatee Lagoon education manager Rachel Shanker said. "They're kind of the first animals to start to respond to any changes in the environment. And because they're so charismatic, people really take note of that."

The facility is open all year, but the best chance to see the animals is from Nov. 15 to March 31, when Florida water temperatures can drop below 68 degrees, which is deadly to manatees. While boating collisions are the top man-made threat to manatees, cold stress is the most common natural threat.

"So during the power generation process, that power plant puts out clean, warm water, and that warm water draws the manatees in when it gets cold," Shanker said.

Ocean water is sucked in from the bay and used to cool the plant, but no chemicals or other substances are added to the water, Shanker said. The warm water discharged from the plant is the same ocean water, just warmer, and completely safe for wildlife.

The number of manatees near the power plant can fluctuate, but Shanker said Friday that the most they have counted this year is about 85.

> 'Manatees are . . . an indicator for any water problems.'
> RACHEL SHANKER
> *Manatee Lagoon education manager*

"The manatees come here to Manatee Lagoon for that warm water, but we don't have a large population of seagrass right here on our property," Shanker said. "And so they'll come here to Manatee Lagoon to get warm, then when they start to get hungry, they will travel out to find those seagrass beds, and they'll go feed until they get full, and they get cold, and they'll come back to our warm water to get warm."

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 565 manatee deaths were recorded in 2024, similar to the 555 deaths recorded a year earlier. Those numbers are down significantly from 2021, when officials recorded over 1,100 manatee deaths, mostly caused by starvation. Pollution from farm, urban, and other sources has decimated the seagrass on which the animals depend.

"The center of those problems was in the Indian River Lagoon, where over the years, they've had these problems with all these algal blooms," FWC manatee veterinarian Martine de Wit said. "And that affected the water clarity and quality, and seagrass had died off in that area."

Indian River Lagoon is located along the Atlantic Coast in central Florida. State waters are home to more than 8,000 manatees with at least a third living or migrating through Indian River Lagoon.

State wildlife officials tried to mitigate the casualties by temporarily feeding lettuce to manatees. After two especially deadly winters, seagrass in the area began to recover, and manatee deaths have dropped.

"Seagrass is resilient, and it came back on its own, and manatees found it," de Wit said.

While overall deaths have come down over the past two years, records show a spike in dead calves for this past year. The seagrass famine left many manatees so malnourished that they were physically unable to reproduce for several years, de Wit said. When the food returned, those previously starving animals all began reproducing at the same time.

"When you have higher pregnancy rates, more manatees being born, you always have a proportion that does not make it," de Wit said. "I think that was just a measure of the reproduction coming back after all those lean years since 2020."

The Fish and Wildlife Service on Monday rejected efforts by several Florida environmental groups to get the manatees back on the endangered species list. The manatee was downgraded from endangered to threatened in 2017 and will remain in that classification.

DOYLE

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The World

Attacks prompt power cuts in Ukraine

Kremlin targets energy grid in massive raid

By Cassandra Vinograd
NEW YORK TIMES

KYIV — Ukraine said Russian forces had unleashed a "massive" missile attack on the country's infrastructure Wednesday, forcing officials to impose emergency power cuts to relieve pressure on the country's battered grid.

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine said that air defenses had shot down at least 30 of the more than 40 missiles that Russia launched in a barrage targeting gas and energy facilities.

"Another massive Russian attack. It's the middle of winter, and the target for the Russians remains unchanged: our energy infrastructure," he said in a statement on social media from the capital, where temperatures hovered just above freezing.

Air, land, and sea-based missiles — including at least one ballistic missile — were launched in the barrage, along with dozens of attack drones, according to Ukraine's air force. It said energy facilities in the Kharkiv, Lviv, and Ivano-Frankivsk regions had suffered damage, but emphasized that not all missiles that evaded air defenses had struck their targets.

Russia's Defense Ministry confirmed that it had used "precision weapons and strike drones" against critical gas and energy infrastructure, asserting in a statement that "all designated facilities have been hit."

The Russian military has repeatedly targeted the Ukrainian energy infrastructure in campaigns to wear down the country in wintertime. The attacks on power plants and substations have left the country's energy network on the verge of collapse, experts say.

On Wednesday, air-raid sirens wailed at around 5:45 a.m. in Kyiv, the capital, as most of the country was put on alert for missile launches. Poland's military protectively scrambled fighter jets.

As Ukrainians huddled in shelters into a third hour and the air force warned of incoming cruise missiles, the energy minister, Herman Galushchenko, announced emergency steps.

"Due to the massive attack, the transmission system operator is applying preventive restriction measures," Galushchenko wrote in a statement on Facebook.

Emergency power shutdowns were briefly applied in six regions across the country, including Kharkiv in the northeast and Zaporizhzhia in the south, according to Ukrenergo, the national electricity operator.

Two critical infrastructure facilities were hit in western Ukraine's Lviv region, according to the head of the regional military administration, Maksym Kozytskyi. He later said that two houses and two outbuildings had also been damaged. Facilities in the Ivano-Frankivsk region also came under attack, authorities there said.

The attack came a day after Moscow threatened to retaliate for what it said was Ukraine's latest use of Western-made long-range missiles to strike inside Russia.

Ukraine's energy network has been so battered by the strikes that officials have been forced to seek out alternatives — like renting floating power plants and scavenging scrapped ones from the region — to ease pressure on the grid and prevent a crisis.

Also on Wednesday, Poland's prime minister appeared to confirm the conclusions of Western intelligence officials who had warned of a Russian plot to blow up cargo aircraft over Western countries.

"I can only confirm that Russia planned acts of air terror, not just against Poland but against airlines across the globe," the prime minister, Donald Tusk, said during a meeting with Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky.

Tusk did not elaborate, and it was unclear whether officials believed that Moscow was continuing to actively plan such an action.

Officials first became aware of the plot over the summer, when incendiary devices placed at shipping hubs in Britain and Germany ignited fires that caused minimal damage. In November, four Western officials briefed on intelligence about the operation said the fires had been part of a test of security measures carried out by Russia's military intelligence service, known as the GRU.

The ultimate goal of the plot was not known, but intelligence agencies started an investigation into whether the intent was to destroy planes on American or European runways, or even blow up an aircraft midair.

By the fall, the White House became so concerned that President Biden ordered his national security adviser and the CIA director to warn top aides of Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, that such plotting could provoke a severe reaction from the United States.

Any acts of sabotage that caused mass casualties would represent a serious escalation of conflict between Moscow and Washington, and the United States would hold Russia responsible for "enabling terrorism," a senior official told The New York Times.

While the Kremlin has denied that its agents engage in sabotage, Western officials say Moscow has ordered its intelligence services to find ways to bring the war in Ukraine, soon to enter its fourth year, to Europe and the United States.



YURIY DYACHYSHYN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Above, a resident stood next to a crater following a missile strike on the village of Sknyliv, Ukraine, Wednesday. At left, a Ukrainian man surveyed what was left of his house.

As some Syrians seek justice, others seek vengeance

Attacks grow on former members of Assad regime

By Raja Abdulrahim
NEW YORK TIMES

Bashar Abdo had just returned home last month after four years in the Syrian military when a mob of neighbors and others armed with guns and knives swarmed his family's front door and accused him of being a thug for the ousted regime.

His sisters and sister-in-law tried to block the crowd as he hid. But people stormed in and found Abdo, 22, in the kitchen. They stabbed him before dragging him outside, even as his sister, Marwa, clung to him. There, he was shot.

The account, shared by Abdo's family, was confirmed by local police in the northwestern city of Idlib. Video footage widely shared on Syrian social media and verified by The New York Times captured the gruesome scene that followed: As his sister gripped his lifeless body, neighbors continued to kick him. She begged them to stop, saying he was already dead.

"This is your fate," one man yelled. Other verified video footage shows a crowd shouting expletives after Abdo's body was tied by the neck to a car and dragged through the streets. It is not clear who filmed the video.

Marwa Abdo recalled those moments in an interview with the Times four days later. She vowed revenge, a sign of the growing threat of a cycle of violent retribution in a new Syria.

The country is emerging suddenly and unexpectedly from 13 years of civil war and more than five decades under the Assad dynasty, which maintained its grip on power with fear, torture, and mass killings.

The killing of Abdo underscores the complicated reckoning ahead in Syria, where the wounds remain fresh and anger is close to the surface. Many Syrians want accountability for crimes conducted during the civil war. Others are seeking vengeance.

At least 500,000 Syrians were killed during the war, most of them in airstrikes carried out by Syrian warplanes and helicopters or in prison under torture or in mass executions, according to Syrian human rights groups. Many people remain unaccounted for.

Officials with the new interim Syrian government, headed by the Islamist rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, are racing to set up courts and police forces to address decades of grievances. They are urging citizens to forgive and not take matters into their own hands.

Ahmad al-Sharaa, the head of the rebel alliance that overthrew the Assad government, has said that it will hunt down and prosecute senior figures for crimes that include murdering, wrongly imprisoning, torturing, and gassing their own people, but rank-and-file conscripted soldiers would receive amnesty.

In a recent interview, al-Sharaa said that "justice must be sought through the judiciary and the law. Not ... individuals."

"If matters are left that everyone takes revenge, we will have transformed into the law of the jungle," he said.

Some Syrians have said that while al-Sharaa may choose to forgive, they will not. Last week, the mayor of Dumar, a suburb of Damascus, was killed by residents who accused him of informing on people and getting them arrested under the former government, according to the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Abdo was a soldier — a conscript — in the Syrian military for four years. But his family said he tried to defect twice by failing to return after he was given a few days' leave. In the end, he spent a month in a military prison for his attempts to desert and was released when the rebels who overthrew the Assad government captured the prison as part of their lightning-fast sweep through the country, several family members said.

At first he was afraid to come home, but when he heard that al-Sharaa had said that soldiers like himself would be given amnesty, he felt safe enough, his family said. Not long after he got back, the mob was at the door.

In response to questions about the killing, the police in Idlib, who are affiliated with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, which has ruled the province for years, said in a statement that they were investigating the killing but that the Abdo family was "notorious for working with the regime."



IVOR PRICKETT/NEW YORK TIMES

Bashar Abdo was a soldier in the Syrian military for four years, but his family said he tried to defect twice.

DAILY BRIEFING

84-year-old UK man fights off robbery attempt

LONDON — An 84-year-old British man beat back a mugger half his age who tried to rob him at a laundry in the north of England.

Ron Croker was drying his clothes last week when the masked thug accosted him at the unstaffed Coin-Op Launderette in Maltby in South Yorkshire. In the altercation caught on a camera, it appeared the two were struggling over the pair of jeans Croker was folding when the man attacked him.

But the would-be robber wanted his wallet, and Croker wasn't giving it up without a fight. Croker pushed the man out the door, and told him if he came back, "I'm gonna ... kill you." The man took another run at Croker, who pushed back and swung the pants so the legs swatted the thief, who retreated.

"I've had fights and scuffled when I was younger, but when he was coming at me I thought I couldn't back down," the former construction foreman told The Times of London. "There was no one there to help me. It was either me or him and I won."

Police said they charged a suspect with attempted robbery.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kosovo closes 'parallel agencies' catering to Serbs

PRISTINA, Kosovo — Kosovo's authorities on Wednesday said they had closed all so-called parallel institutions used by the country's ethnic Serb minority and financially supported by neighboring Serbia, in a move condemned by the European Union.

The offices include the local Serb administration and postal and tax agencies in 10 municipalities where ethnic Serbs live in Kosovo.

"From today on, the chapter of Serbia's illegal criminal parallel structures in the Republic of Kosovo is closed," Interior Minister Xhelal Svecla said.

The EU said the status of Serbia-supported structures was meant to be resolved through EU-facilitated dialogue on normalization of ties between Serbia and Kosovo.

"Kosovo's recent actions against and closure of Serbia-supported structures, conducted in the midst of the election campaign for the 9 February parliamentary elections, go against its obligations towards the European Union under the normalization process," the EU said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women pivotal in ancient Celtic social structure

Female family ties were at the heart of social networks in Celtic society in Britain before the Roman invasion, a new analysis suggests.

Genetic evidence from a late Iron Age cemetery shows that women were closely related while unrelated men tended to come into the community from elsewhere, likely after marriage.

An examination of ancient DNA recovered from 57 graves in Dorset in southwest England shows that two-thirds of the individuals were descended from a single maternal lineage. The cemetery was used from around 100 BCE to 200 AD.

"That was really jaw-dropping," said study co-author Lara Cassidy, a geneticist at Trinity College Dublin. "It's never been observed before in European prehistory."

The findings, published Wednesday in the journal Nature, suggest that women stayed in the same circles throughout life, maintaining social networks and probably inheriting or managing land and property.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

S.Korea detains president, but crisis exposes fractures

Yoon surrenders after bodyguards yield to officials

By Choe Sang-Hun, Jin Yu Young, and Victoria Kim
NEW YORK TIMES

SEOUL — President Yoon Suk Yeol of South Korea sounded defiant just over a year ago when the opposition-dominated National Assembly began threatening to impeach him. "I say, 'Try it, if you want!'" he said during a town hall meeting.

Yoon has not only been impeached, but Wednesday, he won an ignominious place in South Korean history when he became the first sitting president to be detained in a criminal investigation.

His detention ended a weeks-long political standoff and handwringing over what South Korea should do with a leader who declared martial law last month, a move that threatened decades of hard-won democracy in the country.

But Seoul's inability to deal with the question quickly — and the fact that it had to mobilize an army of law enforcement forces to make him surrender — exposed how deep the fractures are in its politics. This entrenched political polarization, combined with Yoon's uncompromising style and his personal animus toward his political enemies, led him down a path to the showdown with police Wednesday at the hilltop residence where he had retreated.

Since he won his election by a razor-thin margin in 2022, Yoon has constantly clashed with the majority opposition over policies, scandals involving his wife, and his hostile relationship with dissidents, including journalists he accused of spreading "fake news."

His anger exploded Dec. 3, when he declared martial law, calling his liberal enemies "anti-state forces" and the opposition-dominated National Assembly "a monster." The law placed a ban on all political activities and put news media under military control, though the National Assembly killed his martial law decree before Yoon could enforce such moves.



HISTORIC DETENTION

President Yoon became the first sitting president to be detained in a criminal investigation.

During the six hours of martial law, he ordered military commanders to break the Assembly's doors down "with axes" or "by shooting, if necessary," and "drag out" lawmakers, according to prosecutors who have indicted the military generals on charges of helping Yoon commit insurrection.

Even after the Assembly voted down his decree and then impeached him, Yoon vowed to "fight to the end." He holed up in his hilly residence in central Seoul — behind bodyguards, rolls of razor wire, and barricades of buses. Yoon repeatedly ignored summons from investigators to face questioning for insurrection charges.

When they visited his presidential compound Jan. 3 to serve a court warrant to detain him, he refused to surrender, and his 200 presidential security officials formed human barricades to repel 100 investigators and police officers. On Wednesday, the investigators mobilized 1,000 police officers, including units specializing in targeting drug and organized crime gangs, to storm the compound again in overwhelming numbers.

Some carried aluminum ladders to clamber over barricades of buses that blocked the road leading to Yoon's residence. His bodyguards put up no resistance after warnings from the investigators that if they did, they would be arrested on charges of obstructing justice. At the gate of his residence, investigators haggled for two hours with supporters of Yoon. The president's lawyers suggested that if the investigators withdrew, Yoon would visit their headquarters with his presidential security details to submit himself to questioning.

But the investigators would have none of it. At 10:33 a.m., they served the warrant.

Yoon did gain some concessions: He was not handcuffed when he was taken to the investigators' headquarters south of Seoul in a motorcade through busy morning traffic. He was escorted straight to a third-floor room where he faced a marathon interrogation. The investigators have said they had 200 pages of questions to ask, but a governing-party lawmaker who met Yoon before his detention indicated that the president would insist on his right to remain silent.

Police end mine rescue in S. Africa

At least 78 dead as 246 survive

By Mogomotsi Magome and Gerald Imray
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STILFONTEIN, South Africa — South African police ended a rescue operation at an abandoned gold mine on Wednesday and said they believe they have brought out all the survivors and retrieved all the bodies after hundreds of miners were trapped for months in one of the country's deepest mines while working illegally.

At least 78 miners were confirmed dead, police said, and 246 survivors had been rescued. The victims were suspected to have died of starvation or dehydration, civic groups said, although no cause of death has been released for any of them.

The death toll is likely higher, as a community group reported retrieving nine bodies before the police operation started. There have also been reports of an unconfirmed number of bodies and survivors being brought out sporadically during other community-led rescue efforts since last year.

The surprise announcement ending the operation came a day after the police minister said it would likely last until at least next week.

Rescuers would do a final sweep of the mine on Thursday, said Major-General Patrick Asaneng, the acting police commissioner for North West province.

The announcement brought a sudden end to a disaster that has focused criticism on the South African government's decision last year to try to force out the miners by cutting off their food and other supplies.

Civic groups say the government's refusal to stage a rescue sooner effectively left the miners to die of starvation or dehydration. It was unclear exactly how long the miners were underground for, but Asaneng said some of them had been in the mine since August. Relatives said others had been there since July.

Some of the survivors were badly emaciated and barely able to walk and had to be helped into ambulances. All of them would be arrested and charged with illegal mining and trespassing, police said.

South Africa's second-biggest political party, which is part of a government coalition, has called for an independent inquiry to find out "why the situation was allowed to get so badly out of hand."

Authorities launched the rescue effort on Monday in response to a court order last week ordering them to do so.

A specialist mining rescue company had been dropping a small cage thousands of meters down a shaft to retrieve survivors and bodies. But no personnel from the company went down because they considered it too dangerous — instead two community volunteers were in the cage to help the miners out.

Those two volunteers had searched underground Wednesday and reported there were no more bodies or survivors, Asaneng said.

However, Mzukisi Jam, a spokesperson for the South African National Civics Organisation, said that there were more bodies at another shaft and demanded to know what was going to happen with them. "What are we going to tell the relatives?" he said on TV station Newzroom Afrika.

The mine is 1.5 miles deep with multiple shafts, many levels, and a maze of tunnels. Another civic group had estimated that more than 500 miners were underground when the rescue started. Police brought out 324 bodies and survivors in total.

The closed Buffelsfontein Gold Mine was the scene of a standoff in November when police tried to force the miners out by cutting off their supplies for a period of time.



THEMBA HADEBE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forensic service workers carried body remains from an abandoned gold mine in Stilfontein, South Africa, Wednesday.

'What are we going to tell the relatives?'

MZUKISI JAM
Spokesperson for the South African National Civics Organisation, which said there are more bodies in another mine shaft

A court ruled that authorities had to allow supplies in — but civic groups argued that officials needed to do more because the miners still weren't getting enough food and water and the situation was becoming dire.

South African authorities have said that the miners were able to exit through another shaft, but some refused because they feared being arrested. Activists said that escaping for most would involve a dangerous trek underground, and many were too weak or ill after months underground with little food and water.

Police have said they were carrying out their mandate to "combat criminality" and said they seized gold, explosives, firearms, and more than $2 million in cash from the miners. They said the vast majority were foreign nationals from Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho and in South Africa illegally.

Authorities are particularly under fire for their tactics last year, when they cut off food and other supplies to the miners for a period of time.

It was an attempt to "smoke them out," a South African Cabinet minister said, adding that authorities would not help the miners because they were "criminals."

Belgium pigeon racers fearful in face of recent crime wave

Expensive fowl sought by thieves for breeding

By Raf Casert
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RANST, Belgium — Belgium's once pastoral pastime of pigeon racing has come to this: Drones swoop over lofts where valuable birds are housed to look for security weaknesses, laser sensors set off alarms at night and cameras linked live to mobile apps keep potential thieves at bay — 24/7.

That's what happens when the fast-flying fowl — which in a bygone era were, at best, the toast of local bars — have turned into valuable commodities. The most expensive bird to come out of the top pigeon-racing nation in the world fetched 1.6 million euros ($1.65 million) a few years ago.

No wonder the sport is grappling with an unprecedented wave of unsolved pigeon pilfering that has hit several of the best birds in the business.

This winter season is "extreme," Pascal Bodengien, the head of the Belgian Pigeon Racing Federation, told the Associated Press. "Not a week goes by without a theft somewhere."

In one loft, an estimated 100,000 euros ($102,900) worth of pigeons were stolen last week. Overall, no arrests have been made. Prices per bird, said Bodengien, "can vary from 1,000 to 100,000 euros ... and that is what they are after."

Exact statistics on losses are often not available because the reporting and police investigations are not centralized.

The emotional loss often weighs heaviest of all. The sport involves daily care over decades, and the rustling of feathers combined with the tranquil cooing often gives breeders a haven of peace in their otherwise bustling livesalong with a measure of pride if their birds are winners.

Frans Bungeneers is a breeder of champions. He started at age 8 and is still going strong in his 60s. His life got one of its biggest jolts in November 2016 when thieves broke into his garden shed and took away just about all of his top pigeons in a heist of some 60 overall.

"It was such an incredible blow for me. I can tell you honestly, I cried like a little boy because my life's work was completely destroyed," Bungeneers said outside his loft where he had to restart his breeding and racing almost from scratch. "I was — I was broken," he said. "If you have those successes and those birds are then taken away. You know that it takes years."

He never got his birds back, even though the thieves were caught in Romania and convicted in Belgium. He never saw the 400,000 euros ($410,000) in damages he was awarded because the criminals were ruled insolvent. It makes this winter's string of high-profile theft all the more poignant since he knows what it means to each of the owners.



VIRGINIA MAYO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pigeon breeder champion Frans Bungeneers held one of his pigeons. The birds have turned into valuable commodities.

For pigeons taken in a heist, their racing careers are over. Without proper documentation, one cannot get away with winning a big race and not be double- and triple-checked. That door is closed to thieves. The birds cannot be taken to auction, where prices for top birds regularly veer into the five figures and sometimes into six figures.

"The only option open to them is breeding. They cannot take it any place, they cannot go to China, so we suspect that they are going to the Eastern Bloc countries," as was the case with Bungeneers' birds, said Bodengien.

Still, with no clear lead out there, apart from some grainy infrared video and other sketchy information, "no one really has an overall view on it."

Bungeneers, who was a police officer until his retirement last year, decries the lack of overall, joint investigations and the fact that often the pricy pigeons are seen in the same light as runaway poultry and receive the same level of investigation. He said it was like comparing a farm pony to a champion thoroughbred.

"I remember a colleague of mine who went into the prosecutor's office and the magistrate said: 'gentlemen, what are we going to do? Start prosecuting the theft of chickens, rabbits and pigeons?'"

So now, the pigeon-racing federation is warning its members to be extra careful — to the point of not talking to strangers about their hobby.

"If you see that something is happening around the house or around the coops, or see cars that don't really belong there, immediately note down the license plate, take photos, and possibly call the police," said Bodengien. "It is really a call that we need to do something about this."

But for Bungeneers that is also a sign that a way of life is being lost. Instead of the bliss of watching their birds swoop overhead, owners have to watch warily over their shoulder to see if someone is near the loft.

"Cameras, sensors, alarms. All the time, when you go somewhere you have to look at your app to check the cameras," he said. "If there is an alarm, or sometimes the alarm detection goes off and you go check the sheds. And that gives you turmoil."

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Top court seems ready for limits on pornography access

Texas law would require verifying the age of users

By Adam Liptak
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Several members of the Supreme Court's conservative majority seemed deeply skeptical of a challenge to a Texas law that seeks to limit minors' access to pornography, peppering a lawyer for the challengers with exceptionally hostile questions.

The lawyer, Derek L. Shaffer, said the law violated the First Amendment by requiring age verification measures like the submission of government-issued IDs. He said parents could protect their children by using content-filtering software.

Justice Samuel Alito was incredulous. "Do you know a lot of parents who are more tech savvy than their 15-year-old children?" He added that "there's a huge volume of evidence that filtering doesn't work."

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who has seven children, said "kids can get online porn through gaming systems, tablets, phones, computers."

She added, "Content filtering for all those different devices, I can say from personal experience, is difficult to keep up with."

Much of the argument concerned whether the appeals court had erred in using a relaxed form of judicial scrutiny to block the law. Several justices indicated that a more demanding standard applied even as they suggested that the Texas law satisfied it.

That could set the stage for a ruling giving the challengers a short-term victory by returning the case to an appeals court for application of the stricter standard. But there was little doubt that the law would in the end be upheld.

State lawmakers said shielding children from graphic, violent, and degrading material online justified the law. Those challenging the law included a trade group, companies that produce sexual materials, and a performer; they argued that it violated the First Amendment right of adults.

The court's ruling, expected by early July, will be quite consequential, as 18 states have enacted laws in recent years similar to the one in Texas.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh said the Texas law addressed an urgent issue.

"Do you dispute the societal problems that are created both short term and long term from the rampant access to pornography for children?" he asked.

Shaffer said that was "a complicated question."

The law applies to any commercial website "more than one-third of which is sexual material harmful to minors." It requires such sites to use one of several methods to verify that users are 18 or older, and it does not allow companies to retain the information their users submit. But the challengers said adults would be wary of supplying personal information for fear of identity theft, tracking, and extortion.

Schaffer said the law was flawed in several ways. It restricts access to sites that are mostly devoted to materials that are not sexual in nature. It exempts search engines and social-media sites, even though they contain vast troves of adult material. And it ignores less restrictive ways to achieve its ends, notably the use by parents of content-filtering software to limit what their children can see.

Chief Justice John Roberts suggested that the court's precedents had been overtaken by events.

"Technological access to pornography, obviously, has exploded," he said, adding that "the nature of pornography, I think, has also changed."

Biden hardens Russia sanctions ahead of departure

POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

The Biden administration took action Wednesday to make it harder for President-elect Donald Trump to lift some sanctions on Russia, seeking to box-in the new administration days before it takes over.

The Treasury Department announced it's redesignating nearly 100 entities under an executive order that would require Trump to notify Congress if he attempts to lift the sanctions, which risks triggering a vote of disapproval in both chambers.

The move is designed to clearly communicate the danger of doing business with these companies and to require consultation with Congress, a senior administration official told reporters on the condition of anonymity.

In addition to the re-designations, the department also sanctioned a network of financial institutions and companies operating in both Russia and China that help the Kremlin evade sanctions. These co-called regional clearing platforms allow cross-border payments for sensitive goods, Treasury said in a statement.

The latest moves are part of a flurry of activity on the Russia and Ukraine portfolio that the outgoing administration has taken in recent weeks. On Friday, Biden officials sanctioned two major Russian oil companies.

The Russia-based sanctioned entities announced Wednesday include Herbarium Office Management LLC, Joint Stock Company Arctur, and Paylink Limited. The China-based entities include Xinjiang Financial Import and Export Co. Ltd., Hangzhou Xianghe Trading Co. Ltd., and Jilin Province Shunda Trading Company Ltd.

Andrei Valeryevich Prikhodko, a Russian national who is the general director of Herbarium, was also sanctioned.

BLOOMBERG

Report critical of Austin's secrecy around illness

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's failure to inform Congress or the White House as required when he was incapacitated due to treatment for prostate cancer and later complications potentially raised "unnecessary" security risks, the Pentagon's watchdog concluded in a highly critical report released Wednesday.

The inspector general's report concluded there were no "adverse consequences" resulting from the poor communications about his condition a year ago. But it faulted Austin for keeping his hospitalization secret for days, even from President Biden, and found that his strong desire for privacy likely influenced his staff in deciding not to prod further into his condition.

The report released by inspector general Robert Storch describes text messages and calls showing staff concerns about the situation and who could be notified, and it noted conflicting recollections of events. But no bombshells about the stunning lapse emerged in the findings revealed just four days before Austin leaves the job and President-elect Donald Trump takes office.

In several instances, staff said Austin told them to keep his hospitalization quiet. But Austin said he did not. In one example, he directed a staff aide that if anyone had questions, "you're more than welcome to ask (me) directly" — likely chilling further inquiry, the report said.

And one of his security staff said Austin stated, "We're not notifying anybody," so they kept the medical problems as "private as possible" and did not notify Austin's chief of staff or others.

The report concluded that "Secretary Austin's insistence on privacy regarding his medical condition was coupled with his desire to avoid publicity about his condition." And it noted that in a Jan. 8 text message to his chief of staff, Austin wrote: "I don't want my health to be a media circus."

ASSOCIATED PRESS



ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, seen with UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, was treated for cancer.

Ramaswamy may seek seat being vacated by Vance

Former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has expressed interest in the Ohio US Senate seat that was vacated by Vice President-elect JD Vance, two people with direct knowledge of the biotech entrepreneur's wishes told the Associated Press.

The 39-year-old from Cincinnati had been weighing a campaign for Ohio governor in 2026 and hoped to build his policy portfolio as partner to billionaire Elon Musk leading a nongovernmental effort to cut federal government spending, regulations and personnel.

But in recent weeks, Ramaswamy had multiple conversations with President-elect Donald Trump about filling the Senate seat, according to one of the people. That person said Trump approached Ramaswamy to consider taking the seat as someone familiar with Trump's goal of slashing the federal bureaucracy.

The people with direct knowledge of Ramaswamy's interest in the Senate seat spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose a private discussion.

Trump's transition team did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Ohio's Republican Governor Mike DeWine will appoint the successor to Vance, who was elected to the Senate in 2022 but is scheduled to be sworn in as vice president on Monday.

The person DeWine appoints will serve until December 2026. They would need to run again for the remainder of the term in November 2026.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mont. House backs limiting access for trans people

Montana's Republican-controlled House on Wednesday endorsed a ban on transgender people using bathrooms in public buildings that do not align with their sex assigned at birth — a change that would complicate daily life for two fellow lawmakers.

The endorsement comes a month after Montana lawmakers rejected a more narrow rule that would have kept transgender Representative Zooey Zephyr out of women's restrooms in the state Capitol on the heels of her return from a legislative exile.

Zephyr and nonbinary Representative SJ Howell pleaded with their GOP colleagues to reject the proposal and to stop labeling trans people as a threat to women without evidence supporting the claim.

A dozen other states already have variations of bathroom bans on the books, many directed at school facilities. Even more states, including Montana, have passed laws to ban gender-affirming health care for trans youth and keep trans girls out of girls sports.

"Trans people walk through the state of Montana afraid enough already," Zephyr said. "Leave trans people alone. Let me be the woman I'm happy to be. Let me live my life."

Representative Kerri Seekins-Crowe, a Republican sponsoring the bill, insisted that it's not meant to be exclusionary but to preserve safe spaces for women. "Women should not have to sacrifice their privacy or safety because of cultural trends," she said.

Republicans pushed through the bill in a 58-42 party-line vote over strong Democratic opposition. The measure faces a final House vote before it heads to the GOP-controlled state Senate.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another blow to red meat: study links it to a higher risk of dementia

▶PROCESSED FOOD
Continued from Page A1

the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard said they focused on processed red meat in hopes their findings would inform new dietary guidelines the federal government is developing and is expected to release later this year. In December, scientists advising federal health and agriculture agencies on the updated US Dietary Guidelines recommended they emphasize alternative sources of protein, such as beans, peas, and lentils, over red and processed meats.

For red meat lovers, the latest Harvard study had some reassuring news: it did not find a significant increased risk of dementia from consuming "unprocessed" meat, such as ground beef or sirloin. But the scientists found that eating about two servings per week of processed red meat, which includes some cold cuts, correlated with a 13 percent higher risk of dementia compared to those who ate less than roughly three servings a month.

The study also concluded that replacing a serving of processed red meat, equal to 3 ounces, with a serving of nuts or legumes per day might lower the risk of dementia by 19 percent, and by as much as 28 percent if the serving is replaced with fish.

"We want to provide all these healthier alternatives for the general public, because we don't want to just say, 'Please eat less red meat,' " said lead author Dr. Daniel Wang, an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital. "We want to give a positive message, not just limiting people's intake."

The researchers analyzed data from two long-running health studies that included more than 130,000 participants and tracked them for up to 43 years, using regular food-frequency questionnaires to assess the association between red meat and dementia.

Other researchers not involved in the study said the large number of participants and the lengthy time they were tracked is just the evidence regulators need to consider when setting food policies. But they cautioned that the study, like many other food tracking studies, relies on participants' memories about what they ate, which can be fuzzy at times.

In the second finding on dementia, which was published in Nature Medicine, researchers made the startling conclusion that roughly 40 (percent of people over age 55 will develop dementia in their lifetime. The estimate was based on data from another long-running study of more than 15,000 people across four states.

"Our brain is a complex organ," said Heather Snyder, the Alzheimer's Association's senior vice president of medical and scientific relations, who was not involved in either dementia study. "What may be contributing to a person's [dementia] risk is likely a number of things, including the food that we may eat and ensuring that we have a balanced diet."



GLOBE FILE

It might be a good idea to skip the hot dog and go for nuts, beans, peas, and lentils, scientists say.

The association is conducting its own research on the links between dementia, diet, and lifestyle in a two-year effort called the US POINTER Study, with more than 2,000 participants in five sites across the United States. Results are expected to be reported in July.

In the meantime, the association, based on a multitude of other research, advises that healthier foods — vegetables and leaner meats and proteins, along with foods that are less processed and lower in fat — can reduce risk of cognitive decline.

The public's interest in "processed" and "ultra-processed" foods has surged since President-elect Donald Trump said he would nominate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., an outspoken critic of processed foods, to be health and human services secretary. But researchers and regulators also have many questions over exactly what these terms should mean and how those foods effect health.

The panel advising the federal government on the next edition of the influential US Dietary Guidelines did not distinguish between unprocessed and processed red meat in its recommendations and concluded that more research was needed on health impacts from so-called ultra-processed food in general before further guidance in this category can be made. That is expected to delay substantial changes regarding such processed foods until the next update, in 2030.

Ultra-processed foods is an imprecise term that generally means foods with many added ingredients like sugar, oils, fats, and artificial colors or preservatives.

Many organizations reference a classification system called NOVA that breaks food into four categories based on how much they are processed. Fresh or frozen vegetables, grains, beans, and other minimally processed foods are considered the healthiest, while those in the bottom "ultra-processed" category, such as flavored yogurts, breakfast cereals, sweetened juices, ice cream, cookies, and more, the most unhealthy.

But Joanne Slavin, a professor of food science and nutrition at the University of Minnesota and a member of the 2010 advisory committee for the US Dietary Guidelines, said several seemingly healthy foods often get swept into an unhealthy category.

"Whole grain breads are ultra-processed. Anything with four ingredients or more is ultra-processed," Slavin said. "So then pretty much everything gets put into that fourth category, which, you know, wasn't intentional, but that's kind of where it ends up."

Susan Roberts, senior dean of research at the Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College, who has also long studied nutrition, said there needs to be more scrutiny of the processed food classification system to better help the public make sense of how and what they should be eating.

She said the recent advisory committee report on updating US dietary guidelines "did a good job of saying that ultra-processed foods, many of them, are likely to be bad, but the evidence for that as a category isn't there yet."

Meanwhile, Slavin said she cautions consumers about information that lumps all ultra-processed food into the bad basket.

"It's like, 'Never eat an ultra-processed food,' when we haven't even defined what an ultra-processed food really is, and that makes us look bad in the food and nutrition advice place," she said. "And I don't blame consumers for saying, 'Hey, why don't you guys get it figured out?' "

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Cease-fire deal brings hope, relief for both sides

▶CEASE-FIRE
Continued from Page A1

begin releasing some of the hostages seized during the bloody raid that set off the war. If approved by Israel's Cabinet, the cease-fire will take effect Sunday.

"An entire country is holding its breath tonight," said Yair Lapid, the centrist opposition leader of Israel, where the Cabinet was expected to vote on the agreement Thursday.

Hamas, in a statement, said, "It is a historic moment in the conflict with our enemy." It praised the "legendary resilience" of Palestinians in the face of a war that had unleashed a humanitarian crisis. One of the group's leaders also had praise for the Hamas-led attack that prompted the war, despite the bitter price paid by Palestinians.

Even amid cautions that some of the details of the agreement had yet to be worked out, celebrations broke out Wednesday in Gaza and Israel.

"Praise God, this tragedy is over," said one Gaza City resident, Mohammad Fares, 24, as celebratory whistling and gunfire were heard in the background.

But in a decimated Gaza that little resembles the enclave that existed before Israel unleashed a broad assault aimed at destroying Hamas once and for all, grief and anxiety, not joy, remained the dominant emotions among Palestinians.

"How can we ever rebuild?" said Suzanne Abu Daqqa, who lives in a suburb near Khan Younis, a city in southern Gaza. "Where will we even begin?"

In Israel, families of the hostages issued a statement declaring their "overwhelming joy and relief" over the deal, but they also expressed "deep anxiety and concerns" that some hostages might be left behind. Of the roughly 250 people seized in Israel during the raid in 2023, some 100 are still in Gaza; about a third are believed to have died in captivity.

Even as the tentative cease-fire was celebrated, some appeared at pains not to overstate what might be achieved. In announcing the deal, the prime minister of Qatar, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, spoke of "sustainable calm."

The agreement, however, was a major breakthrough after months of roller-coaster talks that often appeared to inch close to resolution, only to fall apart. President Biden's administration had been pressing for a truce as the clock ran out on his time in office.



AMIR LEVY/GETTY IMAGES

In Tel Aviv, demonstrators called for the release of the Israeli hostages, held for more than a year by Hamas.

"Too many innocent people have died; too many communities have been destroyed," an ebullient Biden told reporters at a news conference.

His successor, President-elect Donald Trump, had threatened severe consequences unless Israel and Hamas reached an agreement before his Jan. 20 inauguration, and Biden suggested that the White House had consulted with the Trump team about the talks.

"We're handing off to the next team a real opportunity for a brighter future in the Middle East," he said. "I hope they take it."

After months of deadlock, the negotiations moved into high gear in recent days in Doha, the Qatari capital, sped up by Trump's looming inauguration. US officials from the departing and incoming administrations drove the latest efforts to reach a deal, with Qatar and Egypt acting as mediators between Hamas and Israel.

The cease-fire would have several phases, the first of which would last six weeks. During that time, al-Thani said, Israeli forces in Gaza would withdraw to the east, away from populated areas, and some 33 hostages would be released. In return, Palestinian prisoners being held in Israel would be released.

The 33 hostages to be released in the first phase include women and children, men older than 50, and sick or wounded people. It was unclear how many of that group are alive, but Israeli officials have estimated that most are.

During the first phase, 600 trucks carrying desperately needed humanitarian relief would enter Gaza daily. And Palestinians forced from their homes would be able to return north, where the Israeli invasion began.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in southern Gaza have been living in tents, makeshift shelters, rented homes, and relatives' apartments for more than a year.

Many of those planning to return to the north will probably find that their homes and neighborhoods have been destroyed.

By Day 16, negotiations about the second phase of the deal — also lasting six weeks — would begin, focusing on a further exchange of hostages and Palestinian prisoners.

The cease-fire agreement must still pass the Israeli Cabinet, where some of the hard-right lawmakers that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu depends on to remain in power have openly opposed a deal.

Amid word that a cease-fire deal might be near, one far-right member of the coalition, Itamar Ben-Gvir, issued a video statement calling on others to join forces and scupper any agreement by quitting the Netanyahu government.

Another far-right Cabinet member, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, called the agreement "bad and dangerous to Israel's national security" and said he absolutely opposed it. But he did not explicitly threaten to leave the government.

Critics of Netanyahu, including many families of the hostages, have often accused him of sabotaging past efforts to reach a deal in order to preserve his coalition, the most right-wing and religiously conservative in Israel's history.

On Wednesday, Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said he believed that a majority would sign off on an agreement in a Cabinet vote. "Leadership is about deciding between a bad decision and a very bad decision," Saar said, adding of the hostages, "If we postpone the decision, we don't know how many of them will survive."

Isaac Herzog, the Israeli president, called on the government to approve the deal. "There is no greater moral, human, Jewish, or Israeli obligation than to bring our sons and daughters back to us — whether to recover at home or to be laid to rest," he said.

On Wednesday, in the absence of a cease-fire, Gaza Civil Defense reported continued Israeli airstrikes across the enclave, including one on a residential building in northern Gaza City that it said had resulted in two deaths.

Over the past year, the fighting in Gaza, along with the lawlessness that spread after the invasion, has severely hindered efforts to distribute aid. On Wednesday, as humanitarian groups geared up to flood into the stricken enclave, they made it clear that it would still not be easy — even with a cease-fire.

"This is a moment of hope and opportunity," said Tom Fletcher, the United Nations undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs. "But we should be under no illusions how tough it will still be to get support to survivors."

Biden warns of 'oligarchy' of the ultrawealthy

▶BIDEN
Continued from Page A1

government to benefit working people who have been left behind by the establishment? Or are they just billionaire disrupters out to enrich themselves?

Biden's warning of an unelected oligarchy taking shape echoed a similar one by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who spoke about the military-industrial complex in his farewell address. The Biden version referred to the "tech-industrial complex," in which he warned of the erosion of truth itself, brought forth by unchecked social media platforms — a reference to Meta doing away with fact-checkers this week — and artificial intelligence.

Biden, who has spent months promoting his record and accomplishments, did little of that Wednesday. Instead, he spent more time urging Americans to stay engaged in the democratic process and to continue to fight for progress in areas like addressing climate change.

"The powerful forces want to wield their unchecked influence to eliminate the steps we've taken to tackle the climate crisis, to serve their own interest for power and profit," he said. "We must not be bullied into sacrificing the future, the future of our children and our grandchildren. We must keep pushing forward and push faster."

The speech in many ways wrapped up not just four years in the White House but more than a half-century of public service for Biden, who came of age in an era of politics that he no longer sees around him. It also served as a plea for the country to remember its roots as he leaves the office he has coveted since he was a young man.



MANDEL NGAN/POOL VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Biden addressed the nation on Wednesday from the Oval Office. He called for major democratic reforms, including Supreme Court term limits.

"After 50 years at the center of all of this, I know that believing in the idea of America means respecting the institutions that govern a free society," he said.

"We know the idea of America, our institution, our people, our values that uphold it, are constantly being tested," he said. "Ongoing debates about power and the exercise of power. About whether we lead by the example of our power or the power of our example. Whether we show the courage to stand up to the abuse of power, or we yield to it."

Biden also called for ways to strengthen checks and balances, such as term limits and ethics reform for the Supreme Court and banning members of Congress from trading stocks.

And he issued a call for changes that would safeguard against a recent Supreme Court decision that gave presidents broad immunity, which Trump has sought to use to blunt multiple criminal charges and could protect him as he vows retribution and other autocratic acts while in office.

"We need to amend the Constitution to make clear that no president, no president is immune from crimes that he or she commits while in office," Biden said.

In his final days and weeks in office, Biden has been trying to cement a legacy as a transformative president who stabilized domestic politics while bolstering the country's leadership abroad.

Hours before Wednesday night's address, Biden boosted his foreign policy record by announcing that Israel and Hamas had accepted a deal he proposed in the spring for a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip.

Despite the tension between the current president and the next one, their representatives in the Middle East described a cooperative working relationship in the weeks since Election Day. Rarely if ever have teams of current and new presidents of different parties worked together at such a high-stakes moment, with the fate of American lives and the future of a devastating war hanging in the balance.

A reporter asked Biden, "Who gets credit for this, Mr. President, you or Trump?" Biden stopped, turned around, and smiled.

"Is that a joke?" he asked.

But Biden is deeply unpopular. Even the location of the speech, behind the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office, is a reminder that Biden is not departing as he may have wanted. His last prime-time address delivered there was his explanation in July of why he had dropped out of the presidential race under pressure from his own party as questions mounted about his age and fitness for another term.

Biden spoke for 17 minutes, keeping with a tradition of farewell speeches that goes back to George Washington.

"Now it's your turn to stand guard," he said. "May you all be the keeper of the flame. May you keep the faith. I love America. You love it, too. God bless you all. May God protect our troops. Thank you for this great honor."

Two lunar missions take off together

Landers share a rocket ride

By Kenneth Chang
NEW YORK TIMES

A space twofer took place early Wednesday morning — two lunar missions for the price of one rocket launch.

A SpaceX Falcon 9 lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 1:11 a.m., carrying the Blue Ghost lander built by Firefly Aerospace of Austin, Texas, and the Resilience lander from Ispace of Japan.

Why did two moon landers share one rocket?

That was the result of fortuitous scheduling by SpaceX and not something that was planned by Firefly or Ispace.

Firefly had purchased a Falcon 9 launch to send its Blue Ghost lander to the moon. At the same time, Ispace, to save on the costs for the mission, had asked SpaceX for a rideshare, that is, hitching a ride as a secondary payload on a rocket launch that was going roughly in the right direction to get its Resilience lander to the moon. That turned out to be Blue Ghost's trip.

"It was a no-brainer to put them together," Julianna Scheiman, the director for NASA science missions at SpaceX, said during a news conference Tuesday.

After the Falcon 9 rocket reached orbit, the second stage fired again for a minute so it could deploy Blue Ghost in an elliptical orbit around Earth about an hour after launch. The rocket stage fired once more, for just a second, to adjust the orbit for the deployment of Resilience aboutafter launch.

On Wednesday morning, Firefly and Ispace announced that their spacecraft successfully turned on, established communications with ground stations on Earth, and were operating as expected.

What are Firefly and Blue Ghost?

Firefly Aerospace is one of the new space companies that have popped up over the past few years. It has developed and launched a small rocket called Alpha several times. In 2023, Firefly demonstrated that it could prepare and launch a payload for the Space Force within days — a capability that the Department of Defense is looking to develop so that it could quickly replace satellites that come under attack.

Blue Ghost — named after a species of fireflies — is a robotic lander that Firefly has developed to take scientific instruments and other payloads to the surface of the moon.

This mission is headed to Mare Crisium, a flat plain formed from lava that filled and hardened inside a 345-mile-wide crater carved out by an ancient asteroid impact. Mare Crisium is in the northeast quadrant of the near side of the moon.

NASA will pay Firefly $101.5 million if it takes 10 payloads to the lunar surface, and a bit less if it does not fully succeed.

The lander will operate for about 14 days — the length of a lunar day — until darkness descends at the landing site.

Which mission will arrive at the moon first?

Blue Ghost should get to the moon first on March 2. For the first 25 days, it is to circle around Earth as the company turns on and checks out the spacecraft's systems, before heading on a four-day journey to the moon. Then it will orbit the moon for 16 days before trying to land, 45 days after launch.

Resilience will take a longer, winding path that consumes less energy and propellant, gradually stretching out its elliptical orbit until the farthest point of the orbit reaches beyond the moon.

The vehicle is to land on a plain named Mare Frigoris about four to five months after launch.

Opinion

BOSTONGLOBE.COM/OPINION

EDITORIAL

Needham housing vote: A setback, but not a crisis

Cities and towns in Greater Boston are required to allow a certain amount of multifamily housing — to do their fair share, in other words, to help solve the region's housing shortage. That requirement is not up for debate any more: Earlier this month, the Supreme Judicial Court upheld the 2021 zoning law that imposed the rule when it largely rejected the town of Milton's attempt to evade it.

But *how* suburbs comply is still very much up for debate — and as communities bicker over the details, we can probably expect to see more zoning controversies like the one that erupted in Needham and ended with a lopsided vote against an ambitious rezoning plan on Tuesday.

The defeated plan would have put the town in compliance with the state zoning law by allowing residential buildings up to 4 ½ stories near commuter rail stations. It would have theoretically made room for 3,296 new housing units. But critics felt like the plan went too far beyond the bare minimum (1,784) and looked more favorably on a less ambitious, yet still compliant "base compliance" alternative.

The failure of the plan is still a setback, of course. Given the threat housing prices pose to the region's economy, the more communities do to close the gap, the better.

Still, despite the superficial similarities, the Needham vote is a lot different — and less alarming — than Milton's vote last year. Voters there also rejected a zoning plan that would have complied with the law. But when Attorney General Andrea Campbell took the town to court to enforce the zoning requirement, the town's lawyers attempted to invalidate the law itself.

Had Milton succeeded, it could have upended the most aggressive state housing effort in decades — a bipartisan effort passed by a Democratic Legislature, signed by a Republican governor, and implemented by Governor Maura Healey. The legislation focused on zoning in the suburbs because that's where the problem has been: Zoning codes have grown so restrictive in many communities that it's been impossible for builders to keep pace with housing demand.

> Despite the superficial similarities, the Needham vote is a lot different — and less alarming — than Milton's vote last year.

The lack of sufficient housing drives up prices, and that harms the economy. The high cost of living in Massachusetts ranks as one of the state's most urgent problems, driving away residents and deterring people and employers from relocating here. Healey has been right to make the housing law a priority, Campbell has been right to enforce it aggressively, and both should stick to their guns.

Needham's zoning opponents are quibbling over how to comply, but they aren't (at least at this point) following Milton's path of rejecting the reality that they will have to allow more housing somewhere. The town now has to approve a compliant plan by July.

Zoning changes arouse a lot of controversy, some warranted and some not. The vote made clear that while most towns have passed zoning changes, the opposition is real. In Needham, critics worried about whether allowing more housing would put undue strain on schools and roads, and change the suburban character of the town.

As in Milton, some of the concerns stemmed from a misunderstanding of what the numbers involved mean. It is exceedingly unlikely that under the plan, there actually would have been 3,296 units built anytime soon. It's a theoretical maximum.

If Needham ultimately opts for the less ambitious zoning package, it will join many other communities subject to the law that have done little more than required. Though that's disappointing, it's legal and within a community's rights. And some, like Lexington and Watertown, are going in the other direction, doing a good deal more than required.

The Legislature could, perhaps, have spared communities the acrimonious debates like the one Needham just went through by simply mandating exact changes or one-size-fits all prescriptions. But the law purposely left communities with a lot of say in how they grow. If figuring out how to meet the law's requirements gets messy, that's OK — as long as Needham, Milton, and every other place subject to the law works out a compliant plan eventually.

JOAN VENNOCHI

For Pete Hegseth, redemption without accountability



HAIYUN JIANG/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Pete Hegseth, President-elect Donald Trump's pick to lead the Pentagon, spoke during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee at the Capitol in Washington on Tuesday.

Pete Hegseth might have a powerful story to tell, all about overcoming a dark period in his life. But while he alluded to that possibility at Tuesday's confirmation hearing, he wants redemption without accountability. Instead of taking responsibility for his alleged conduct, he attacked "a small handful of anonymous sources [who] were allowed to drive a smear campaign ... because our left-wing media in America today sadly doesn't care about the truth. All they were out to do ... was to destroy me."

It was the same strategy used by Brett Kavanaugh during his 2018 Senate confirmation, when the Supreme Court nominee angrily decried "a long series of false last-minute smears designed to scare me and drive me out of the process." What worked for Kavanaugh will likely work for Hegseth, who seems destined to become the next secretary of defense. Despite serious questions about his character and lack of experience, Senate Republicans made it clear they are on board with President-elect Donald Trump's pick for the job. Their MAGA credentials are more important than any constitutional duty of "advice and consent."

Still, let's be honest. Senate Democrats did nothing to change any minds, hearts, or votes. Too often, their questioning came across as shrill and hectoring, as they demanded "yes or no" responses from a nominee who is comfortable in front of a camera, as a former Fox News host should be. The seven-minute time limit for each senator made thoughtful probing difficult. But the loud voices and constant interrupting of Hegseth did not help the cause of exposing his deficiencies as a nominee. Instead, the inquisition seemed as bitterly partisan as the partisanship Hegseth seems certain to embrace once he gets to the Pentagon.

On character, Hegseth has a lot to answer for, including reports of fiscal mismanagement and drunkenness and an accusation of sexual assault that was investigated by police. No charges were brought, but he paid a settlement to the woman who made the allegation. During the hearing, he called it a "nuisance lawsuit" and blamed the character questions in general on anonymous sources. Yet the most damning judgment about Hegseth came in an email from his mother. In it, she called her son "an abuser of women" who "belittles, lies, cheats, sleeps around, and uses women for his own power and ego." She has since taken back those words, which were written in 2018.

On the policy front, Hegseth has also said women should not serve in combat and derided diversity initiatives. At the hearing, he did not back away from his view that so-called "woke" policies weaken the military. But he did soften his view on women in combat, saying he supports it as long as they meet the same standards as men, a condition that is already policy.

> Senate Democrats did nothing to change any minds, hearts, or votes. Too often, their questioning came across as shrill and hectoring.

In his opening statement, Hegseth said his commitment is to a "warrior ethos" that will achieve "peace through strength." And while he promised to run a defense department that "will remain patriotically apolitical and stridently constitutional," he made it clear his fealty is to Trump. When asked by Senator Elissa Slotkin of Michigan whether a president can give an illegal order, and if that happened, would he "stand in the breach" and say no, Hegseth said he rejected the premise because Trump would never do that.

In his opening statement, Hegseth also referenced "my incredible wife Jennifer, who has changed my life." He mentioned his faith, saying that "all glory — regardless of the outcome — belongs to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." During the hearing, he also acknowledged, "I'm not a perfect person, but redemption is real."

But rather than explain that redemption, he chose to dismiss the criticisms of him as smears and lies designed to derail his nomination. With that, he missed an opportunity to bridge the partisan divide.

Not that it matters to the MAGA crowd. Character is unimportant to voters who are sending Trump back to the White House, despite his felony convictions, his track record of infidelity, and a jury's verdict that he was civilly liable for sexual abuse. Neither is it important to Republican senators, who will do anything to ingratiate themselves to Trump. At the same time, the inquisition of Hegseth by Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia came across as self-righteous lecturing. "You acknowledged you cheated on your wife and that you cheated on the woman by whom you'd just fathered a child. You've admitted that," said Kaine at one point during the hearing.

"I will allow your words to speak for themselves," Hegseth replied.

Hegseth served in Afghanistan and Iraq. He has two Bronze stars. He graduated from Princeton and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has been married three times. He has seven children.

There is a human side to the story of Hegseth's rise and fall and rise again. But as long as he has the votes for confirmation, he and his supporters see no reason to tell it.

Let's just hope his story of redemption does not end with another crash. This time, it could bring down more than one man.

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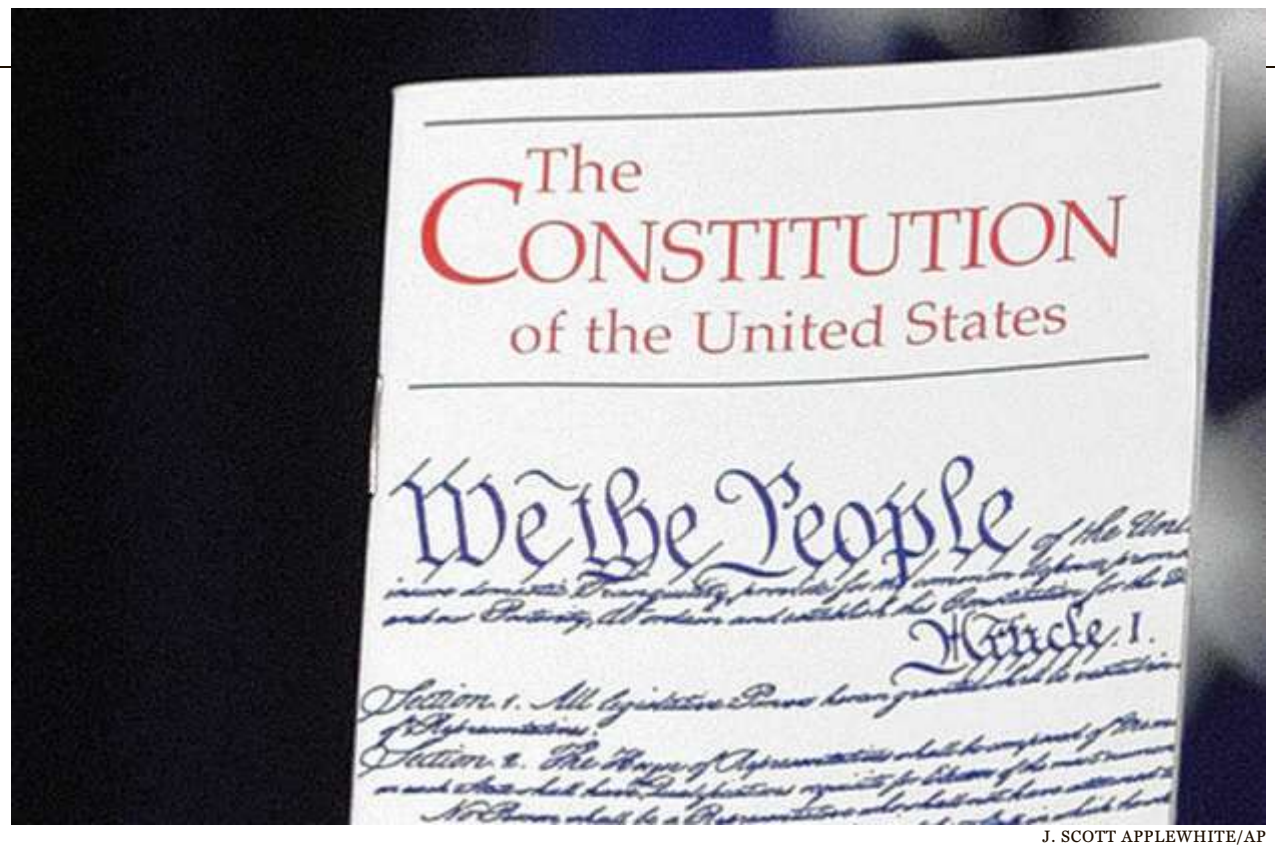

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

KIMBERLY ATKINS STOHR

Trump's dangerous bid to end birthright citizenship

Over 150 years ago, the US Constitution was amended for the 14th time with language that begins: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens."

That amendment, created to grant citizenship rights to formerly enslaved Black Americans and their descendants, confers birthright citizenship to anyone born on US soil, save the children of foreign diplomats in the country on official duty.

President-elect Donald Trump wants to change that, at least as it applies to American-born children of immigrants without legal status.

"We have to end it," Trump said on "Meet the Press" in December, pledging to use executive action to do it.

Trump is no constitutional scholar. He even falsely claimed in the interview that birthright citizenship exists only in America, when in fact it is granted by dozens of nations around the world.

> In a normal world, Trump's gambit would seem ludicrous for the way it clearly runs afoul of the Constitution's text and more than a century of Supreme Court precedent. But things haven't been normal in America for a while.

So does Trump or any president have the right to change the Constitution with a stroke of a pen from the Oval Office?

Legal experts told me that, in their view, he can't. Constitutional amendments can only be repealed or changed by the same process by which they are created. The problem is, it won't be up to them — it'll be up to the majority of the justices on the US Supreme Court. Which means anything can happen.

"There's a question of how many members of the current court, which is already dominated by Republican appointees, would be receptive to it, and I think some will be," Robert Tsai, a law professor at Boston University who focuses on the intersection of politics and the Constitution, told me.

The Supreme Court, however, has already decided the issue. Back in 1898, when the Chinese Exclusion Act denied citizenship to Chinese immigrants, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Wong Kim Ark, a San Francisco native who was denied reentry to America after visiting his family in China.

The decision blessed the doctrine of jus soli, Latin for "right of soil," which bases citizenship on one's place of birth.

In a normal world, Trump's gambit would seem ludicrous for the way it clearly runs afoul of the Constitution's text and more than a century of Supreme Court precedent. But things haven't been normal in America for a while. The 14th Amendment was passed as an effort to address the greatest racial injustice of our nation's founding: the dehumanization of Africans ripped from their homeland as well as of their descendants who were born into enslavement here. The Supreme Court affirmed that even children born in America to those excluded from the rights and privileges of citizenship because of their race are citizens.

But dehumanization and racial animus are at the heart of Trump's bid to end birthright citizenship as part of his anti-immigration agenda. He defiantly uses the offensive term "anchor baby" to describe the American-born children of noncitizens. He wants the right to include those children in his bid to expel millions of immigrants from the country starting on "day one" of his presidency.

And the Supreme Court, the same one that granted him the kind of broad immunity that has no basis in the text of the Constitution or the history of our nation, could very well let him do it.

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PATRICK CHAPPATTE



INBOX

In Meta's case, greed prevails

Meta's decision to abandon third-party fact-checkers and rely instead on Facebook and Instagram users to add notes or corrections to posts is contrary to Big Tech's roots. Scientists and engineers must design technology based on facts that are valid and verifiable, not based on information that suits individual agendas.

To do otherwise would inevitably lead to system failure. Who would, for example, trust a surgeon to operate without valid, fact-based diagnostics? Technologists must look to facts for validation in designing systems that work.

> With Meta's decision, the planet's most formidable liars are able to post whatever they wish.

The problem is that the general public so often does not know what is fact and what is fiction because of rampant misinformation and lies spread through social media.

With Meta's decision, the planet's most formidable liars are able to post whatever they wish. Some people will believe them, others will support the liars, and still others will be insufficiently informed to seriously question the lies. I understand that corporate CEOs need to look to the future of their organizations and plan accordingly, but instead of cowering and capitulating, Big Tech leaders should stand up to liars. Fear and greed always seem to prevail, and that seems to be so in Meta's case. Big Tech seems to be on a path to eroding public trust in technology — to our collective misfortune.

R.M. LATANISION
Natick



JAE C. HONG/AP

Firefighters battled the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles.

Climate change-driven disasters are about to get even worse under Trump

Re "While Trump spreads lies about fires, Mexico and Canada send help," Opinion, Jan. 15:

What a juxtaposition to see the lies and ill will of Trump in contrast to the good will of our neighbors, Mexico and Canada. Hopefully, people will come to their senses and demand unencumbered relief for ravaged California.

> What we are witnessing now are the consequences of a seriously warming planet.

Further, as columnist Renée Graham points out, Trump, Musk, and their minions refuse to acknowledge the role that climate change is playing in this disaster, preferring to point the finger at beleaguered California officials who are facing catastrophic conditions. These are not normal wildfires but conflagrations that have resulted from two years of wetter than normal conditions — allowing for excessive vegetation to flourish — followed by a severe drought that dried out this abundant growth, creating fuel for the fires.

Hurricane Helene was also exacerbated by global warming and dumped the equivalent of a third of the volume of Lake Erie in rainfall along its path.

These events are the tip of the climate change iceberg. Humans are largely responsible for loading the atmosphere with carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases — and we continue to do so. What we are witnessing now are the consequences of a seriously warming planet. We are destabilizing the climate that our civilization depends on.

MARJORIE LEE
Wayland

We need regional solutions to regional problems

The MBTA Communities Act neither treats all municipalities the same nor strips away all local control ("Misguided MBTA Communities Act is based on a myth" Opinion, Jan. 14). Rather, the law applies to 177 of Massachusetts' 351 municipalities and distinguishes among communities served by different types of transit. There are problems with the law, but the claim that it treats all municipalities the same is untrue.

Rather than stripping away local authority, it requires zoning to support alternatives to single-family housing. Capable local leadership will recognize that this means more local control, not less. A 20-story apartment building isn't the only alternative to a house. "Missing-middle" housing, which includes duplexes, triplexes, and townhouses, was more common 100 years ago.

Finally, local knowledge is not the same as having the right tools to tackle the problem. Zoning may respect municipal boundaries, but housing and job markets do not. Solving regional issues requires coordinated action across administrative boundaries.

On the long road to finding solutions to problems that are bigger than those we find in our own backyards and towns, we will need more good will and commitment to working together. The MBTA Communities Act is only a small step in that direction.

ROSALIND GREENSTEIN
Jamaica Plain

The writer is a lecturer at Tufts University in the Department of Urban Environmental Policy and Planning.

'For someone who doesn't have any help, this is bad news.'

VENIX JEAN, *a migrant from Haiti who is living at a hotel shelter in Milford*

Healey takes aim at state's shelter guarantee

▶SHELTERS
Continued from Page A1

have come in recent years.

Her latest proposals would go even further to limit eligibility than she indicated in comments last week, and, if adopted, would mark a significant pivot for Democrats who have repeatedly turned back efforts from Republican legislators to impose residency requirements. Healey herself was adamant last year that she wasn't abandoning the law when she implemented a raft of other changes to the shelter system.

In a statement, Logan Trupiano, a spokesperson for the state Republican Party, called Healey's proposals "shocking — not because they're being implemented, but because they should have been put in place at the onset of this crisis."

Among Healey's proposals is a requirement that all shelter applicants show they have "an intent to remain in Massachusetts," either through what she called "independent documentary verification," or by having a "physical presence" here over the previous three months. She did not clarify exactly how individuals would have to prove either status.

As they took in the news, advocates for immigrant communities said it was far from clear how those mandates would work in practice.

"How would they show those requirements?" wondered Dieufort Fleurissaint, known as Pastor Keke, a leader in the Haitian American community who helps resettle migrants in the region. "I do not understand how they will be able to prove their intent" to stay in the state, for example, he added.

Healey also said the state should eliminate so-called presumed eligibility. Under current law, shelter applicants don't need to provide documentation upfront that they meet the system's wide-ranging eligibility requirements. Healey instead wants to require that the state first verify identity, residency, and other information before someone is admitted to the system.

Another proposal would require applicants to prove they've been evicted from a home specifically in Massachusetts; currently, someone can be evicted in another state, such as nearby Rhode Island, and then qualify for emergency shelter here.



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF/FILE



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Governor Maura Healey inspected a temporary shelter last January. At left, activists called in October for the shelter law to be protected.

Healey also wants to require applicants to disclose criminal convictions "in Massachusetts and elsewhere." That comes less than a week after Healey said the state would perform full criminal background checks on each of the thousands of people staying in the emergency shelter system.

The governor said she had ordered such a step last spring but the checks were not conducted at the time.

A Healey spokesperson told the Globe that Healey gave a "verbal directive . . . to her team [in the] beginning of April 2024 to conduct the checks. Her office has not answered questions on exactly when she delivered the edict or to whom.

The initial directive for background checks came after a shelter resident was arrested in March for the alleged rape of a 15-year-old at a Rockland shelter.

Her proposed changes drew immediate condemnations from some who argued Healey was betraying the state's values.

Andrea Park, the director of community-driven advocacy at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, said "the right to shelter has been slowly chipped away at for a year now."

"'We need to exclude immigrants,' is what the message is, and has been from the start, but never this explicit," Park said. She said she disagrees with Healey about the original intent of the shelter program.

"We've always had immigrants in the EA system," she said. "I hope that lawmakers will remain focused on the fact that this is an emergency shelter program that exists for children and families who have no place to sleep."

Venix Jean, a migrant from Haiti who is living at a hotel shelter in Milford, said the emergency shelter program has been crucial to help his family lay down roots.

"When you have the heart of a father, a heart for your family — and you're watching your kids, your wife, have no one to take them in, almost sleeping on the street, it's ugly," Jean, 37, said in Spanish.

He hopes they will be out of the shelter system soon, but worries for the other migrant families who may not get the chance to have the housing support that Jean's family received.

"For someone who doesn't have any help, this is bad news," Jean said.

Healey's administration has faced mounting questions and criticism over public safety at the shelters after an undocumented immigrant was arrested in late December on gun and drug charges at a Revere hotel being used as a shelter. State records show that more than 1,000 serious incidents, including more than a dozen alleged sex offenses, were reported at emergency family shelters during one 20-month period.

Administration officials acknowledged the state had not been conducting full criminal background checks on those in emergency shelters, despite repeated assurances for months its vetting process was thorough.

Danielle Ferrier, chief executive of Heading Home, one of the state's shelter providers, defended Healey, saying in a statement the surge of migrant families into the state created an "impossible situation" and is forcing Healey to make hard choices.

"I fully support this effort to ensure the system's financial and operational sustainability and protect the future of the Right to Shelter law," Ferrier said.

Healey asked legislative leaders to include the proposed changes to a new $425 million spending bill she filed to replenish funding for the shelter. In statements Wednesday, neither Senate President Karen Spilka nor House Speaker Ron Mariano would commit to embracing the governor's proposals.

Republicans, meanwhile, have pushed their own slate of changes to the system, and on Tuesday asked state Auditor Diana DiZoglio to investigate the shelter program. GOP leaders later said DiZoglio told them she's already conducting an audit of the system.

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Newton's mixed-level classes not closing the achievement gap

▶NEWTON
Continued from Page A1

achievement gap between high-achieving and underperforming student groups according to metrics used to determine academic achievement, including MCAS exam scores, enrollment in advanced classes, and participation in exams for Advanced Placement courses.

Leveled classes divide students based on their academic ability, real or perceived. Examples of this are honors courses and other more rigorous coursework, or a remedial level for students believed to need more support.

Newton's mixed-level classes were intended to tackle a stubborn problem faced by many districts: Black, Latino, and high needs students were concentrated in lower level courses, and often were stuck in those levels during all four years of high school. Districts across the state and country have attempted a range of solutions in recent years, such as eliminating certain advanced classes in Brookline and Cambridge or creating new criteria to take honors classes in districts including Wayland and Peabody.

Newton's multilevel classes had worked for more than a decade in special English and history courses at enrolling more marginalized students in advanced classes. But on the return to in-person learning post-pandemic, the district created mixed-level classes in more subjects, such as math, science, and world language courses. According to faculty, training and support were nearly nonexistent.

After years of simmering concerns expressed by some parents and students, the approach has recently boiled over into a public controversy, with hundreds of teachers and residents petitioning for change at school board meetings. Last month, math teacher Ryan Normandin wrote in a Globe op-ed the practice is a failure, harming both low- and high-achieving students and burning out teachers.

The district has for years failed to track data on its outcomes. The aftershocks of the pandemic — which affected student groups differently but generally show all students have fallen behind — make it even harder to draw conclusions.

State-level data suggest multilevel instruction has had no strong effect one way or another on achievement gaps in testing or on the likelihood of students of color and high needs students to enroll in advanced courses. The state defines high needs students as low-income students, English learners, and students with disabilities.

Test scores on the grade 10 MCAS declined since 2020 across the state and in Newton, but MCAS trends do not suggest that multilevel classes have led to any narrowing of achievement gaps. In math, for example, the percentage of white students meeting expectations was 42 points higher in Newton than the percentage of Black students in 2021; it was 49 points higher in 2024.



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

State data on advanced coursework showed little change after Newton expanded its mixed-level courses.

State data on advanced coursework similarly show little change after Newton expanded its mixed-level courses. The dataset, which covers certain courses such as AP classes taken by students in grades 11 and 12, reports fairly consistent course taking by student group. The exception is Newton South High School, where advanced course completion declined from 2022 to 2024, particularly among Black students, but the school has a particularly small Black student population (about 3.5 percent of enrollment) meaning individual variation could easily explain the change.

AP test participation shows the same non-effect. All AP classes are single-level, but the test-taking trends do not suggest multilevel courses are routing more students of color to the advanced track. White and Asian student continue to take AP tests, including in math and computer science, at much higher rates than their Black and Latino peers.

In the absence of clear data, Normandin and other critics have called on the district to roll the classes back next school year, reassess, and potentially bring them back in the future with stronger training and clear goals and metrics.

"I wish they had defined the metric for success for this program," Normandin said. "Do we want to solve this problem of the overrepresentation of minorities in our [lower level] classes? Great, so let's collect data on that. Is the problem the ability to move between levels? Great, let's track how many students are doing that."

Normandin said he and other teachers needed more guidance to understand what they were trying to accomplish.

"There were no supports, there were no budgets, there was no training, there was nothing," he said.

Superintendent Nolin, who joined the district in 2023, said the issue is that the district doesn't have a clear common curriculum across schools and classrooms. It also didn't give teachers sufficient training on how to plan lessons and assessments for classes where not every student learns at the same speed — which describes every class, she said.

"I want to make sure that district offerings are reliable and predictable," Nolin said.

In the meantime, she said, the district is conducting classroom observations and listening sessions with teachers, and surveying families about their experiences.

Joe Golding, an English teacher at Newton South, has taught multilevel classes for more than a decade. He warned against writing off the classes based on just a few years of use with questionable implementation. Among other differences with the controversial math and science classes, he noted, the English department has stricter class sizes and won grants to pay for training and to carefully design the program.

The fact that the math department didn't have those things doesn't mean multilevel classes couldn't work, Golding said.

"It was executed far less effectively and I'm afraid the narrative is now, these things will never work," he said.

Newton South senior AJ Nguyen is critical of her multilevel ninth grade math class that gave honors students little instruction on concepts they would be tested on. But she said a mixed-level 10th-grade history class gave her a chance to try the more difficult honors level even though she wasn't sure she was ready for it. She advanced to AP US History the following year.

Parent Jonathan Brenner can see both sides of the dispute over multilevel classes. On one side, his older sons — a college freshman and a high school senior — are both strong students who felt their honors classes were watered down academically to accommodate lower-level students. On the other, he thinks his eighth-grade daughter could benefit from the mixed-level classes when she starts high school next year because she struggles in math and might appreciate the chance to try honors-level work while taking a standard level class.

Ultimately, Brennan sides with the teachers who are seeking to have the classes rolled back immediately, because he thinks the district did not sufficiently prepare the classes.

"The best approach moving forward would be to hit the reset button," he said. "At the end of the day, you have a teacher standing in front of 22 kids, and that teacher needs to know how to do this effectively."

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YVONNE ABRAHAM

Justice delayed



So much about Sandra Birchmore's story haunts me.

I took a break from this column to spend the last three months of 2024 immersed in the young woman's life, and the aftermath of her death, working with my remarkable colleague Laura Crimaldi, who was the first to reveal Birchmore's February 2021 death, of an apparent suicide. Crimaldi has worked tirelessly since then to tell the story of Birchmore's alleged abuse at the hands of Stoughton police Detective Matthew Farwell, and of the death federal prosecutors now say was actually murder. Arrested in August and charged in her murder, Farwell has pleaded not guilty.

We wanted to understand more clearly how this teenager had ended up in the clutches of a Stoughton police officer who was supposed to be mentoring her, exploited by him and others. And how it was that two separate sets of investigators, looking at the same evidence, could come to such wildly different conclusions about her death.

We found no clear evidence of a cover-up. What appears to have happened here is more nuanced — and even more upsetting — than that.

If what federal authorities allege is true, Birchmore's vulnerabilities were leveraged against her to tragic effect, first in life, and then again after her death.

Those prosecutors, and Birchmore's loved ones, say Farwell capitalized on the girl's misfortunes to groom and exploit her. Her mother struggled financially and with her health, and was unable to protect her. The death of her mother, and the passing of the grandmother Birchmore adored shortly thereafter, left the girl unmoored. She was a sitting duck.

And after Birchmore died — pregnant at 23, with a child she said was his — Farwell appears to have benefited further from Birchmore's struggles.

With state investigators, Farwell tried to deflect attention from his own relationship with her by pointing out that Birchmore had had many sexual partners, a situation at least partly of his making, given that he allegedly groomed and exploited her as a teenager. Abusers can break their victims' understanding of sexuality, experts say.

"If they are being reinforced for sexual behaviors, and they are seeking attention ... that might be a behavior that is repeated," said Elizabeth Jeglic, professor of psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Birchmore had a history of lying, and had struggled with mental illness. Both can also be symptoms of abuse. But those, too, worked to Farwell's advantage, making her seem less credible, and more likely to have hung herself.

"Traditional law enforcement doesn't understand abusive dynamics very well, or gender-based violence," said Kelsey McKay, head of Respond Against Violence, who trains police to look for signs that a suicide might be staged. Farwell told State Police of Birchmore's multiple sexual partners not only to argue her baby wasn't his but also "so they wouldn't care about this person," she said.

Lord knows, Birchmore's loved ones, and especially her cousin Angelique Pirozzi, tried to make them care, convinced the young woman could not have killed herself. Birchmore's aunt Darlene sued Stoughton, alleging the department did too little to prevent the abuse.

We don't know whether the state troopers who investigated Birchmore's death cared enough about her. We do know that they did not see in the evidence what was obvious to federal prosecutors.

It may or may not be relevant that the state investigation was dominated by men, and the federal investigation was conducted largely by women. But whatever the reason, those federal investigators clearly saw Birchmore more fully and spotted the abuse the state troopers appear not to have registered. In the thousands of text messages between them, Farwell asked Birchmore to play out his fantasies of exploitation, incest, and child sexual abuse. He regularly choked her during sex, and used rough sex to punish her. The married father of two, with a third child on the way, was jealous and controlling, and increasingly menacing after Birchmore told him she was pregnant with his child and wanted more from him.

It is all so obvious in the FBI affidavit. If a jury finds the life and death of Sandra Birchmore happened as these prosecutors say, there ought to be a reckoning for those who failed her, and for the system that made it possible.

In this case, as in so many, whether justice is done appears to come down to who happens to be seeking it.

And that might be the most haunting part of this whole awful story.

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Hope swells, but concern lingers

For many in region, the Hamas-Israel cease-fire deal is met with cautious relief

By Danny McDonald and Nick Stoico
GLOBE STAFF

Relief was the overriding emotion Wednesday for local residents who have a staked interest in the latest iteration of the Israel-Hamas conflict, as both sides agreed to a cease-fire deal, which will at least pause a brutal 15-month war in the Gaza Strip.

"Finally," said Anwar Mhajne, a Palestinian citizen of Israel who lectures as a political scientist at Stonehill College in Easton. "It's about time."

Those sentiments were echoed across the region as news broke of the cease-fire.

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, of the Congregation Dorshei Tzedek in Newton, said Wednesday it was "extremely sad that it's taken this long." When she first heard of the news, she thought of two groups: the Palestinians in Gaza who had survived bombings and violence from the Israeli military for more than a year, and those taken hostage by Hamas in their Oct. 7 attack and their families.

"There's been so much death and destruction," she said.

She hoped that the cease-fire is "ratified, enacted, and not violated."

"I'm feeling tentatively hopeful, I guess you could say," she said.

The deal, coming after weeks of painstaking negotiations in Doha, Qatar, promises the release of dozens of hostages held by Hamas in phases, the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israel and would allow hundreds of thousands of people displaced in Gaza to return to what remains of their homes, according to the Associated Press. It also would flood badly needed humanitarian aid into a devastated territory.

Hamas triggered the war with its Oct. 7, 2023, cross-border attack, which killed some 1,200 Israelis and took 250 others hostage. Israel responded with a fierce offensive that has killed more than 46,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and displaced an estimated 90 percent of Gaza's population, sparking a humanitarian crisis.

For Brookline resident Tamar Davis, much is left unanswered from the Oct. 7 attacks. Relatives initially believed that Davis's cousin, Israeli soldier Omer Neutra, may have been taken hostage by Hamas. But more than 400 days into the conflict, they

TRUCE REACTION, Page B3



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

A CALL FOR CLASS ACTION

Students from Dorchester's Dever Elementary School and their families protested outside the school on Wednesday. They were asking Boston Public Schools to reconsider a plan to close the school at the end of the 2025-26 school year. **B4.**

NOAA shelves speed limit proposal

Move to protect whales would affect Cape, Island ferries

By Travis Andersen and Nick Stoico
GLOBE STAFF

Federal officials said Wednesday that they're scrapping a proposed speed limit for ships around Cape Cod and the Islands that was intended to protect endangered whales and that would have eliminated fast-ferry service for key parts of the year.

In announcing the decision on the Federal Register, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the proposal was being withdrawn "in light of numerous and ongoing requests from the public for further opportunity to review and engage with the Agency on the proposal."

NOAA said the National Marine Fisheries Service "received approximately 90,000 public comments on the proposed rule."

The comments reflected views on "all sides" of the contentious issue, NOAA said.

"Despite its best efforts, NMFS does not have sufficient time to finalize this regulation in this Administration due to the scope and volume of public comments," the agency wrote.

While the proposed speed limit is being withdrawn, Marine Fisheries' "existing vessel speed regulations remain in effect," officials said.

NOAA's move was previously reported by the Nantucket Current.

The agency had sought to enact a speed limit of 10 knots (about 11.5 miles per hour) for vessels 35 feet or longer during certain times of the year in areas along the Atlantic Coast, where the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale migrates from calving areas in the south to feeding areas in the north.

The rule would have impacted all ferry ser-

WHALES, Page B4



JEFF CHIU/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia, Seattle, and San Francisco have levied taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages.

For healthier city and bottom line, councilors eye tax on sugary drinks

By Niki Griswold
GLOBE STAFF

Some Boston city councilors want to explore the possibility of imposing a local tax on sugary drinks.

Councilor Sharon Durkan, who introduced the idea, argued the tax could be an effective way to encourage residents to make healthier dietary choices while raising revenue the city could spend on public health efforts. Durkan submitted a request Wednesday for the council to hold a hearing on the issue.

"We know life expectancy varies drastically, by as much as 20 years between Roxbury and Back Bay, due to, in part, chronic illnesses like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, and conditions that disproportionately are born by communities of color," said Durkan, who represents the Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Fenway-Kenmore, Mission Hill, and West End neighborhoods, during Wednesday's council meeting. "This is not just a policy to regulate sugary drinks, it's a step towards a healthier, more equitable Boston."

Durkan argued that a tax of 1 or 2 cents per ounce on sugary drinks could prevent thousands of cases of obesity and diabetes and save residents tens of millions of dollars in health care costs over the course of ten years. She also said she estimates such

SODAS, Page B4

For O'Malley, a historic role in Cuba and possible path for his retirement

By Nick Stoico
GLOBE STAFF

In one of his first public acts since retiring as Boston's archbishop in October, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley this week hailed a historic deal between the US and Cuba while revealing that he carried messages over the years from the Vatican to the leaders of both nations as the church attempted to thaw relations between the two neighboring countries.

In a post on his blog after the deal was announced Tuesday night, O'Malley, who led the Catholic Church in Boston for more than 20 years, wrote that he welcomed the decisions of the Cuban and US leaders to "take steps that for years have seemed impossible."

President Biden on Tuesday notified Congress of his intent to lift the US designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism, the White House announced, as part of a deal facilitated by the Catholic Church to free political prisoners on the island. And O'Malley apparently played a part in that history, saying on his blog that he ferried messages from Pope Francis to Biden and Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel "over the past several years."

"Pope Francis' patient and persistent efforts to assist the Cuban people and to foster greater understanding between our

O'MALLEY, Page B3

INSIDE

Conflict concerns
Attorney General Andrea Campbell urged lawmakers to use caution when faced with possible conflicts of interest between their work and their personal lives. **B2.**

Taxpayer support
The Boston City Council unanimously voted to back a home rule petition that would expand property tax breaks for senior homeowners. **B2.**

Trooper's case
Suspended state Trooper Michael Proctor, a key investigator in the Karen Read murder prosecution, appeared at a hearing before a disciplinary panel. **B5.**

AG reflects on possible conflicts of interest

Follows report of lawmaker dating a key lobbyist

By Emma Platoff
GLOBE STAFF

Asked about a key State House chairperson who oversaw a major piece of legislation while dating a powerful lobbyist whose clients had a stake in the outcome, Attorney General Andrea Campbell said Tuesday that lawmakers in such situations should think about stepping back.

"If you lack some objectivity and you have [a] significant relationship of some sort that it would interfere with your ability to make a judgment that is objective, you should consider recusing yourself," Campbell said during an appearance this week on GBH's "Boston Public Radio."

Her comments came in response to Globe reporting last month that State Representative Jeff Roy, the House chairperson of the Legislature's joint energy committee, was engaged in a romantic relationship with Jennifer Crawford, one of Beacon Hill's most high-powered lobbyists.

Last session, Roy's committee was considering a sweeping climate bill that many lawmakers hoped would include language to ban third-party electricity suppliers from signing up new residential customers. The provision had support from Campbell and other prominent politicians, including Governor Maura Healey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

Crawford, a partner with Smith, Costello, & Crawford, the state's highest-grossing influence firm, was representing one of the biggest third-party energy suppliers — a client with a vested interest in ensuring their business in Massachusetts wouldn't be gutted by the new climate law.

Ultimately, the climate bill passed without the third-party energy supplier provision, confounding advocates and lawmakers who supported the measure and thought it had enough backing to pass.

Roy, through a spokesperson, has defended his conduct. He quietly filed a letter with the House clerk in July 2023 disclosing that he was in a relationship with a lobbyist, but it was not widely known until a Globe investigation uncovered it last month. While Roy has done nothing wrong legally, the entanglement has exposed how Beacon Hill's lax ethics rules and opaque negotiations can degrade public confidence in state officials and leave open the possibility of conflicts of interest.

In a statement, House Speaker Ronald Mariano did not address questions about recusal but said Roy "worked with House leadership to pass each of the three major climate bills that have been signed into law since 2021."

This session's committee assignments "will be released in the near future," the statement continued, and "as always, the Speaker will consider the entire Democratic Caucus for leadership and committee assignments and make decisions based on how the House of Representatives can best move the Commonwealth forward."

In the radio interview, Campbell said third-party energy suppliers prey on vulnerable consumers and made the case for Beacon Hill to pass the measure this session.

While her office can sue bad actors in the industry, "We need a legislative fix," Campbell said.

Host Jim Braude pressed Campbell on Roy's role in the matter, asking, "Are you comfortable with the key decision maker on this issue having a relationship with one of the key lobbyists for the opposition? Isn't that at least an appearance of a problem to the taxpayers of Massachusetts and to you?"

Campbell said she "didn't want to speak to Chairman Roy's relationships, or what informed what he did or didn't do."

Samantha J. Gross and Sabrina Shankman of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Emma Platoff can be reached at emma.platoff@globe.com.

BY DAWN'S EARLY LIGHTS



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

The moon was setting over Boston in the early morning Wednesday as the rays from a rising sun reflected onto the facades of buildings.

Council pushes senior tax break

Surprise move echoes Wu's plan

By Niki Griswold
GLOBE STAFF

The Boston City Council on Wednesday voted unanimously, with three members absent, to approve a home rule petition that would expand property tax breaks for senior homeowners.

Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, who chairs the council's government operations committee, brought up the legislation for a vote at the end of the council's regular Wednesday meeting. Though it came as a surprise to many councilors, as the matter was not on the meeting agenda, all 10 councilors who were present voted in favor of the measure, which now goes to Mayor Michelle Wu for her signature.

Should Wu sign off on the proposal, the legislation would then head to Beacon Hill, where state lawmakers would also need to approve it.

This most recent action by the council to provide elderly or otherwise vulnerable residential property owners with some form of tax relief comes two days after Wu opted to revive her property tax home rule petition after it had been presumed dead at the end of last year.

Her re-filed legislation includes a compromise deal she negotiated with prominent business group leaders in the fall to temporarily shift more of the city's property tax burden onto commercial real estate. Wu's goal is to soften a sharp increase in property tax bills for homeowners and landlords, who grappled with the first wave of higher taxes when third quarter property tax bills landed in mailboxes at the start of January.

Wu's revived proposal also includes some new provisions, such as the option to provide rebates to homeowners in the event lawmakers choose not to approve the tax shift. It also includes the exact same language that makes up the proposal approved by the Boston City Council Wednesday, to expand tax breaks for eligible, low-income senior homeowners.

The legislation would increase the amount of the existing property tax exemption for senior homeowners, and also expand the eligibility requirements so more seniors can qualify for the tax break.

On Wednesday, at least one councilor expressed hesitation and concern over whether approving this home rule petition would potentially undermine the mayor's property tax proposal on Beacon Hill. Councilor Brian Worrell, the original sponsor of the legislation the council ultimately approved, said he felt it necessary to get it up to the State House regardless.

"We're trying to get it up [to the State House] as soon as possible to be passed, not knowing when the mayor's proposal will pass, or what from the mayor's proposal will be attached in a home rule petition," Worrell said. "But I do believe that having a senior tax exemption by itself, it could get through both the House and the Senate."

With remote work policies keeping office buildings emptier than they were pre-pandemic, the value of commercial real estate has dropped — reducing the amount the city can collect from those buildings in taxes. At the same time, residential property values rose. Wu tried to mitigate the spike in residents' bills in her first attempt last year, but the effort ultimately died in the state Senate.

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This day in history

Today is Thursday, Jan. 16, the 16th day of 2025. There are 349 days left in the year.

Birthdays: Author William Kennedy is 97. Opera singer Marilyn Horne is 91. Hall of Fame auto racer A.J. Foyt is 90. Country musician Ronnie Milsap is 82. Filmmaker John Carpenter is 77. Actor-choreographer Debbie Allen is 75. Singer Sade is 66. Model Kate Moss is 51. Actor-producer-songwriter Lin-Manuel Miranda is 45. Baseball great Albert Pujols is 45.

►In 1865, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman decreed that 400,000 acres of land in the South would be divided into 40-acre lots and given to former slaves. (The order, revoked by President Andrew Johnson, inspired the expression, "40 acres and a mule.")

►In 1942, actor Carole Lombard, 33, her mother, Elizabeth Peters, and 20 other people were killed when their plane crashed near Las Vegas while returning to California from a war-bond promotion tour.

►In 1970, St. Louis Cardinals center fielder Curt Flood filed a $1 million antitrust lawsuit against Major League Baseball and MLB Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, arguing for the right to free agency.

►In 1980, a fire destroyed the original Legal Sea Foods fish market and restaurant in Inman Square, Cambridge. The franchise would recover to build more than two dozen locations from Massachusetts to Florida.

►In 1989, three days of rioting began in Miami when a police officer fatally shot Clement Lloyd, a Black motorcyclist, causing a crash that also killed a passenger, Allan Blanchard. (The officer, William Lozano, was convicted of manslaughter but was acquitted in a retrial.)

►In 1991, President George Bush announced the start of Operation Desert Storm, an Allied combat operation to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

►In 2001, Congolese President Laurent-Désiré Kabila was fatally shot by a bodyguard.

►In 2002, Richard Reid was indicted in Boston on federal charges alleging he'd tried to blow up a US-bound jetliner with explosives hidden in his shoes. (Reid later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.)

►In 2006, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became the first elected female head of state in Africa when she was sworn in as president of Liberia.

Carbon monoxide cited in N.H. deaths

By Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF

A faulty propane heating system likely led to the release of carbon monoxide that killed a Newton family of four at their Wakefield, N.H., lake house on Christmas Day, state fire officials said Wednesday.

New Hampshire authorities also said the cause of death for two more members of the Goldstein family, Valerie, 22, and Violet, 19, was carbon monoxide poisoning, according to a statement from state fire marshal's office.

The determination came after officials said the cause of death of their father, Matthew Goldstein, a 52-year-old Brookline teacher, was also carbon monoxide poisoning. The cause of death of the mother, Lyla Goldstein, 54, remains pending, and the investigation continues.

Officials said the propane gas heating system at the house malfunctioned and its ventilation system was damaged as a result. All four were found dead by police, who conducted a well-being check at the family's lakefront home, according to the state fire marshal's office.

The Goldsteins had been expected to arrive at a holiday gathering on Christmas, but family members contacted authorities when the four did not answer phone calls and messages, State Fire Marshal Sean Toomey previously told reporters.



NICK PERRY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A house in Wakefield, N.H., where a family of four died on Christmas Day.

No working carbon monoxide alarms have been found in the home, officials said.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that kills hundreds of people every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website.

Town records from Wakefield show that the Goldsteins purchased the five-bedroom lakeside home in 2017. The property, which was built in 1984, is located on Balch Lake.

A memorial service was held for the family at a Needham funeral home on Sunday, according to a tribute posted to the home's website.

Valerie, an alum of Newton South High School, graduated from Syracuse University in May and was working as a fifth-grade instructor in Rocky Mount, N.C., as part of Teach for America, according to her LinkedIn profile.

"Valerie was interested in making an impact in public service and like her father, Valerie was inspired by and loved her students," read the online death notice. "It was clear her experience as a new teacher was immensely rewarding and brought her boundless joy."

Nick Stoico of Globe staff contributed to this report. Danny McDonald can be reached at daniel.mcdonald@globe.com. Follow him @Danny__McDonald.

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Lottery

WEDNESDAY MIDDAY 6329
Payoffs *(based on a $1 bet)*
EXACT ORDER

All 4 digits	$5,116
First or last 3	$716
Any 2 digits	$61
Any 1 digit	$6

ANY ORDER

All 4 digits	$213
First 3	$119
Last 3	$119

WEDNESDAY NIGHT 7027
Payoffs *(based on a $1 bet)*
EXACT ORDER

All 4 digits	$5,626
First or last 3	$788
Any 2 digits	$68
Any 1 digit	$7

ANY ORDER

All 4 digits	$469
First 3	$131
Last 3	$131

LUCKY FOR LIFE
Jan. 15 **19-31-33-36-46**
Lucky Ball 7
Jackpot: $; winners

MASS CASH
Jan. 15 **4-6-19-24-27**
Jackpot: $100,000; one winner

MEGABUCKS
Jan. 15 **3-9-15-28-32-40**
Jackpot: $5,692,617; no winners

MEGA MILLIONS
Jan. 14 **4-14-35-49-62**
Megaball 6, Megaplier 3
Jackpot: $95 million; no winners

PREVIOUS DRAWINGS

	Midday	Night
Tuesday	8663	3696
Monday	0049	8796
Sunday	4496	6642
Saturday	9841	0476
Friday	8882	6670

WEDNESDAY NUMBERS AROUND NEW ENGLAND
Maine, N.H., Vermont
Day: 3-digit **708** 4-digit **8509**
Eve: 3-digit **761** 4-digit **2068**
Wed. Tri-State Megabucks
8-20-29-34-36-6
Rhode Island **3790**
Powerball **8-41-52-53-58**
PB 7



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

A WATCHING DOG — Oliver, a long-haired miniature Dachshund, sat on James Kendig's lap to get a good view for people-watching in the Public Garden this week.

Hamas-Israel truce welcomed with relief, cautious optimism

▶TRUCE REACTION
Continued from Page B1

learned the truth: He had been killed during the attacks, and Hamas had been holding his body since the rampage. His body has yet to be returned to the family. The dragging-on of the cease-fire process for Davis felt like a "part of the psychological torture of a terrorist organization," she said.

"It is torturous," she said.

Davis is hopeful that the cease-fire will be a step toward some modicum of peace for her and her family, but she was doubtful they would ever know full closure when it came to Neutra's killing, as the trauma of "living through the unknown, like that will be with us forever." Her family, she said, did not deserve to have Neutra's body "stolen from us."

"We'll need a long time for healing," said Davis.

Davis called for all living hostages to be brought home immediately.

"They are living in hell, in utter hell," she said. "Their lives are in great danger."

The cease-fire deal is expected to deliver an initial six-week halt to fighting that is to be accompanied by the opening of negotiations on ending the war altogether.

"This news is welcome, obviously," said Sammy S. Nabulsi, a Palestinian American from Dorchester who works as a lawyer. "I think it's 15 months too late, frankly, but it's movement in the right direction."

Nabulsi worked during the early part of the conflict to free a Medway family stuck in Gaza. All of Nabulsi's grandparents fled Palestine in what is known as the Nakba, Arabic for "catastrophe." It refers to the 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were driven out of what today is Israel, before and during the 1948 war launched by Arab nations determined to prevent the birth of the new Jewish state. His mother was born in Saudi Arabia, his father in Lebanon. He was born and raised in Nebraska, and moved to Boston for law school and stayed.

Nabulsi said he was acutely aware that no cease-fire would bring back thousands of Gazans who were killed by Israel in the conflict. For those Palestinians still alive in Gaza, they have had to "live in the shadow of death" for more than a year, weathering consistent shelling and bombing, sickness, and starvation, he said.

For Nabulsi, "anything short of a permanent cease-fire really is unacceptable."

"Anything that is temporary, anything that is just humanitarian pauses, what have you, that is completely unacceptable," he said.

Meanwhile, Jeremy Burton, chief executive of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, said the "anticipated release of hostages provides a glimmer of hope during an immensely painful time."

He thought the agreement was a step forward and comes "amidst profound tragedy," adding that the toll of the war on the Israeli and Palestinian people "remains staggering and heartbreaking."

"Many hostages and brave members of the IDF will never return home, leaving families and communities shattered by unbearable loss," Burton said. "We acknowledge Israel's difficult decision to accept painful prisoner release terms to achieve this, while the nation continues to endure immense suffering."

Shabbos Kestenbaum, a recent Harvard Divinity School graduate who sued the university over its handling of campus antisemitism, said he felt "bittersweet" about the agreement, which he has "a lot of reservations about."

"On the one hand, [I feel] absolutely relieved that many of the hostages will finally come home. At the same time, it still leaves some doubt who will be running Gaza, how Oct. 7 will be prevented in the future, and how many of the hostages are still alive," Kestenbaum said Wednesday.

Fatima Razzaq, a Palestinian American who grew up in Worcester and lives in Roxbury, said viewing Palestinian children on social media dancing among the rubble in Gaza celebrating the cease-fire on Wednesday "made my heart completely burst for them, especially knowing what they've been through."

The cease-fire is long overdue, she said, and she was thankful it happened. But she had concerns, saying that "Israel has a long and documented history of violating cease-fire agreements."

"It's excitement, but tempered," she said of her emotions.

Cease-fire, said Razzaq, whose parents grew up in the West Bank, should not be the end-goal for Palestinians and their allies. For her, that would be an "end to the occupation and work toward a sustainably free Palestine in perpetuity."

Mhajne, the Stonehill professor, said she was troubled by the "alt-right in Israel who are threatening to leave the government coalition," something that would crumble Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's administration and potentially throw the cease-fire process into chaos.

"I'm wondering what is happening behind the scenes, what kind of promises he is making to them," she said.

Fatema Ahmad, executive director of the Muslim Justice League who has helped organize local rallies for Gaza and protests of Israel's war there during the past year-plus, said she was emotional as the news broke Wednesday. She felt some relief, but no joy. She predicted that more horrors in Gaza would be discovered after the cease-fire takes hold.

"It's hard to know if it will hold up but I think the main feeling is a sense of relief that there could be an immediate pause and time for aid and necessary support to start for the people of Gaza," said Ahmad, a Boston resident.

For those who have been demonstrating for an end to the war in Gaza, Ahmad said, "many of us have felt like life is on hold while this is happening, nothing else really matters."

"It's hard to have joy or take a vacation or even relax when this is continuing," she said.

Material from the Associated Press was used in this report. Danny McDonald can be reached at daniel.mcdonald@globe.com. Nick Stoico can be reached at nick.stoico@globe.com.



'They are living in hell, in utter hell.'

TAMAR DAVIS
Speaking about the hostages



'It's excitement, but tempered.'

FATIMA RAZZAQ
On her emotions

Celebrating US-Cuba deal, O'Malley says he played role

▶O'MALLEY
Continued from Page B1

two peoples have been an underlying force in bringing about this historic agreement," O'Malley wrote.

One religious scholar said O'Malley's role in the deal is not all that surprising.

Thomas Groome, a professor of theology and religious education at Boston College, said O'Malley is "ideally situated and capable of mediating such conversations," pointing out that he speaks fluent Spanish and is steeped in Latin American culture. (For a stretch of his career, O'Malley worked with Hispanic immigrants in Washington, D.C.)

Throughout his career, O'Malley was known as a go-to fixer, a pragmatic and problem-solving cleric the Vatican could summon in times of crisis.

He's also a key adviser to Francis, said Groome, who expected that to continue even though O'Malley is no longer the head of the Boston archdiocese.

"I could well imagine Pope Francis calling upon him to be a go-between or a mediator or an interlocutor," he said.

Senior US administration officials, who previewed the announcement on the condition of anonymity, said "many dozens" of political prisoners and others considered by the US to be unjustly detained would be released by the end of the Biden administration at noon on Jan. 20, according to the Associated Press.

The US would also ease some economic pressure on Cuba, as well as a 2017 memorandum issued by then-President Donald Trump toughening US posture toward Cuba.

"The implementation of what has been announced today will obviously be a complex process both in the U.S. and in Cuba," wrote O'Malley in his blog. "My prayer is that what has occurred today will indeed result in the release of these prisoners and greater cooperation between our two countries and their peoples."

Although retired, O'Malley remains a key advisor to Pope Francis, particularly in the area of clergy sex abuse and reform. He was succeeded in Boston by Archbishop Richard Henning, who was installed on Oct. 31.

O'Malley noted that the deal comes during a year that is being observed in Catholicism as a Biblical Jubilee Year, one where the church community is encouraged to "foster forgiveness, reconciliation and various expressions of compassion."

Under the deal facilitated by the Catholic Church, the Cuban government said it would release 553 people who had been convicted of different crimes, while the US would lift its designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism and ease some economic pressure on the country, according to statements released by both governments.

O'Malley was out of the country and not available for comment, a spokesperson said.

The deal, which comes less than a week before President-elect Donald Trump's second inauguration and return to the White House, also includes rolling back a 2017 memorandum issued by Trump during his first term that restricted any US payments to military-linked businesses in Cuba.

In a statement Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre referred to the agreement as "an understanding with the Catholic Church."

The Cuban Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, said the decision to release prisoners was made in "in the spirit of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025 declared by His Holiness" and did not link it to the US decision to rescind its designation of Cuba as a sponsor of terrorism.

The Cuban foreign ministry said Diaz-Canel and Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, the minister of foreign of affairs, each attended meetings with Pope Francis, where discussions covered "issues of mutual concern and others related to the international agenda, some information was provided on these matters, with emphasis on the unjust nature and nefarious effect of the US Cuba policy."

"His Holiness has given unequivocal proofs of his empathy and love for the Cuban people," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Jean-Pierre said Biden's decisions on Cuba honor "the wisdom and counsel that has been provided to him by many world leaders, especially in Latin America, who have encouraged him to take these actions, on how best to advance the human rights of the Cuban people."

"We take these steps in appreciation of the Catholic Church's efforts to facilitate Cuba to take its own, constructive measures to restore liberty to its citizens and enable conditions that improve the livelihood of Cubans," she said.

Biden's actions could be short-lived, however, as they will come under the review of Congress and the incoming Trump administration.

Trump, who is set to take office Jan. 20, has long been a harsh critic of Cuba and designated the country as a terror sponsor toward the end of his term in 2021.

His pick for Secretary of State, Florida Senator Marco Rubio, has also long supported sanctions against the communist island. Rubio's family left Cuba in the 1950s, before the communist revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power.

Danny McDonald of Globe staff contributed.
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RAMON ESPINOSA/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE 2015

Cardinal Sean O'Malley (seen at rear after a meeting with a group of Cuban youth in Havana) has long served as a key adviser to Pope Francis.

'[The cardinal is] ideally situated and capable of mediating such conversations.'

THOMAS GROOME,
a professor of theology and religious education at Boston College

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February 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm via Zoom
Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159

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March 17, 2025 at 2:00 pm
Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be delivered or postmarked by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

Lottery
April 3, 2025 at 6:00 pm via Zoom
Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for Wrenly Residences on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

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Families protest plan to shut Dever School

Say move came suddenly; city says it's listening

By Christopher Huffaker
GLOBE STAFF
and Auzzy Byrdsell
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Demonstrators protested the proposed closure outside the Dever Elementary in Dorchester Wednesday.

Dozens of families at Dorchester's Dever Elementary School protested outside the school Wednesday afternoon, demanding the district reconsider its plans to close their campus at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

"Dever is my second community, my second home," a student shouted from the crowd of about 50 parents and children calling for the school's preservation.

The school, one of several slated for closure in 18 months, serves 445 students, per state data, after several years of rising enrollment. Mayor Michelle Wu and Superintendent Mary Skipper proposed the closures last week.

It was the first protest against the proposals, which would also shutter South Boston's Excel High School and Allston/Brighton's Mary Lyon Pilot High School, plus merge Dorchester's Winthrop and Clap Elementary Schools, among other changes.

District leaders said the school closure proposals were based on a broad vision developed through public engagement, geared toward a district with fewer, larger schools with more complete offerings. The district has lost thousands of students since 2014-15, before leveling off recently and then slightly increasing enrollment for the first time in a decade this school year. But parents at the Dever said they only learned the school was at risk last week, when city leaders announced the proposal.

Jean Matthews, an alum of and parent at the school, said it was the only school she wanted for her third-grade son Ryan.

"He's got the best principal, the best teacher, and the best school for him," she said, in tears. "It's been really hard."

Matthews and her older son also attended the former South Boston High School, which is now Excel High School and is also slated for closure. And she attended McCormack Middle School, since merged with a high school and renamed the Ruth Batson Academy. She worried closing multiple schools in the area would be harmful to nearby students.

Boston Public Schools spokesperson Sujata Wycoff said in a statement the proposed closures were difficult decisions that have "caused a range of emotions in our school communities, including the Dever."

"In the case of the Dever, alongside the rest of our impacted communities, we will be here to listen, support, and commit to a successful transition," Wycoff said.

The district is holding community meetings this week and next to get feedback from families and staff, she added.

Per district data, the Dever remains only three-quarters full, despite the recent growth, and lacks the right spaces to offer all services needed for students with disabilities and English learners, among other things. It also has been under state receivership for academic underperformance for more than a decade.

But Dorchester resident Edzna Vazquez, a parent of two children at the school and member of the parents' council, said in an interview ahead of the rally the school is amazing and the families were not asked for their input.

"Nobody asked us what we think about it," Vazquez said. "We think the district is not being transparent with us."

Vazquez, who volunteers at the school, said the school's state designation as underperforming is undeserved.

"The school has excelled in the past years," she said. "I would bring my kids here even if I didn't live around here."

Parent Diana Moreta agreed, saying parents believed things were going well at the Dever and the closure proposal took everyone by surprise. The shock has made things harder for many families whose lives are already unstable, she said.

"Some of the kids are homeless and some of the parents are going through things in their own personal lives," Moreta said. "So the fear we have as a community is now, 'How safe do we feel here?'"

The Dever, like BPS as a whole, serves mostly Black and Latino students from low-income families. The school is unusual for an elementary school in that only about one-third of its students live nearby; part of the district vision is to offer more students good options in their neighborhoods.

The protesters said they already have a good option: the Dever. Anthuanet Bobato, a mother of a fifth-grade student at the Dever, said the school is particularly supportive for students who need extra help. As part of its state receivership, the school shifted to a full inclusion model, where students with disabilities learn alongside their general education peers — a broader goal of the district.

"They're really good with special needs and Spanish-speaking kids that are new to the country as well," she said.

"Nobody agrees with what's happening — staff, parents, or kids," she said. "We are upset about the way it's being talked about, our school."

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Some city officials consider a soda tax

▶SODAS
Continued from Page B1

a tax could raise up to $30 million each year, which the city could spend on healthy food education or youth recreation programs.

In the past decade, several cities around the country have opted to levy taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, including Philadelphia, Seattle, Berkeley, Oakland, and San Francisco.

Durkan pointed to those cities' policies and argued that the tax improved residents' health in those communities.

A Kaiser Permanente study last year looked at four California cities that implemented sugary drink taxes. The researchers found that the average BMI percentiles — a calculation that factors in height, weight, age, and sex — for kids and teens in those cities went down after lawmakers implemented the soda tax.

Another scientific study published last year found that in cities imposing a sugary drink tax, the prices of those beverages went up about 33.1 percent, while consumption went down by about the same amount.

The American Heart Association and the American Academy of Pediatricians have both endorsed taxing sugary drinks as an effective way to reduce childhood obesity.

But opponents, including the soda industry, have lobbied fiercely against it and led some states to pass laws preventing municipalities from implementing similar taxes.

Five of Durkan's colleagues on the council also signed on as cosponsors of her hearing order to explore the possibility of implementing a soda tax in Boston. But not all councilors were enthusiastic about the idea.

"In this moment in time, a lot of people of color, and low-income people, already feel under attack," said Councilor Julia Mejia. "I just want to make sure as we continue to have these conversations that we're being mindful of not minimizing how people feel about the situation."

Councilor Ed Flynn also said he's heard from some opponents of the legislation, and he doesn't believe it's an appropriate time to levy new taxes.

"We need to support residents and not hit them with as many taxes as we have been," Flynn said.

Last year, the business-backed nonprofit Boston Municipal Research Bureau released a report with various options for new revenue streams for the city, including a soda tax.

"A sugary drink tax is similar to revenue from parking tickets in that it is intended to penalize behavior, and ultimately the goal is to reduce the behavior, not generate revenue," said Marty Walz, a former state lawmaker and current interim president of the bureau.

If city officials thoroughly evaluate the idea and ultimately impose the new tax, Walz said, they need to use the additional revenue to reduce property taxes, rather than spend the money on initiatives.

"New revenue sources should be used to reduce property taxes, not supplement revenue," she said. "New revenue without property tax reductions will simply fuel spending increases."

The matter was referred to the council's Ways and Means Committee for further discussion.

Durkan on Wednesday also filed a hearing order to explore the idea of creating a city merchandise licensing program, so the city can raise money by selling products with "symbols and logos that embody Boston's identity," said Durkan. It was also referred to committee.

Also at Wednesday's meetings, the 10 councilors who were present voted unanimously in favor of the mayor's proposal to spend $110 million of the city's rainy day fund to jumpstart housing development in the city.

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NOAA withdraws a speed limit bid

▶WHALES
Continued from Page B1

vice to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, as well as ferries from Boston to Provincetown. Regular speed ferries typically operate around 12 to 13 knots, and high-speed ferries travel at around 30 knots.

The proposal would have restricted speeds to 10 knots in Vineyard Sound and Nantucket Sound from Nov. 1 to May 30, when right whales are in the area, along with speed restrictions that would go into effect when whale sightings are reported during the rest of the year.

When the proposal was making its way through a lengthy review process over the summer, critics said it would threaten ferry businesses and upend island life for residents, visitors, and workers.

"We're grateful to NOAA for listening to our concerns about their proposed changes to the North Atlantic right whale vessel speed rule," Governor Maura Healey said in a statement. "This decision is good news for residents and businesses on Cape Cod and the Islands, and we look forward to continuing to work together to protect right whales and the local economy."

Healey, a Democrat, sent a letter last month to NOAA administrator Richard Spinrad in which she criticized the proposed speed limit.

"The inclusion of Nantucket and Vineyard sounds in this proposed action would not meaningfully increase protection for this endangered species but would have devastating impacts on residents and businesses on Cape Cod and the Islands," Healey wrote.

Nantucket Select Board chair Brooke Mohr said Wednesday that she felt "enormous relief" over the NOAA's decision.



STAN GROSSFELD/GLOBE STAFF

A North Atlantic right whale breached the waters off Provincetown on March 13.

"This would have been devastating to Nantucket," Mohr said. "I'm really glad for the outcome. … I think democracy worked."

Robert B. Davis, general manager of the Steamship Authority, which runs ferry service to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, also praised the move.

"While we wholeheartedly agree on the necessity of protecting the right whale, we are grateful that the proposed rule has been withdrawn," Davis said.

"The current right whale sighting data and decades of our own captains' experience showed that the proposed application of this rule to the waters of Vineyard Sound and Nantucket Sound was inappropriate and would have been devastating to the economies of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard."

The proposal was intended to reduce the number of collisions between ships and right whales, a leading cause of the species' decline. NOAA said fewer than 360 North Atlantic right whales remain in the world. But critics of the proposal said right whales, while seen regularly in Cape Cod Bay and the Gulf of Maine, rarely find their way to Nantucket or Vineyard sounds.

"Vessel speed restrictions, no matter how well-intentioned, severely diminish the flow of commerce through our nation's gateways while also making the already difficult jobs of harbor pilots and mariners more dangerous," Cary S. Davis, chief executive officer of the American Association of Port Authorities, said Wednesday in a statement.

"America's ports thank the Federal Government for making the right decision to withdraw the NARW Vessel Speed Restriction rule and look forward to supporting precision technology to preserve and protect marine life," Davis added.

But environmental advocates denounced the decision.

"This is a tragic day for endangered right whales, who desperately need our help," said Kristen Monsell, oceans legal director for the Center for Biological Diversity. "I'm outraged that the federal government's years of foot-dragging led to this outcome, which isn't based on science or evidence but on cowardice and politics. The agency's inaction means that more right whales will suffer and die."

Jessica Redfern, associate vice president of ocean conservation science at the New England Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life, said the proposal's withdrawal is "a serious setback to preventing the extinction of this critically endangered species."

Since the rule was proposed two years ago, there have been at least four North Atlantic right whales killed and five injured by vessel strikes in US waters, she said.

"Those deaths really highlight the urgency of taking action to curb the trajectory towards extinction for this species," she said. "It raises the question, how long can they survive this lack of action?"

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Charles River unsafe for skating, police warn

By Camilo Fonseca
GLOBE STAFF

State Police are warning people venturing onto frozen bodies of water to be cautious after an erroneous report Wednesday that someone had fallen through the ice on the Charles River near the Esplanade.

No injuries were reported, officials said.

"At this time, we're not confident that the Charles River, or any body of water in the Commonwealth, has adequately frozen to safely allow for activities like walking, skating, or fishing," said Timothy McGuirk, a spokesperson. "Before venturing out on the ice, we ask members of the public to use good judgment in the same way swimmers should approach water in the summer."

Emergency responders were dispatched to both sides of the river around 7:30 a.m. after reports that someone had fallen into the water near the Longfellow Bridge, according to Robert Goulston, a spokesperson for Cambridge police.

When they arrived, they found two people who had been skating on the frozen river, Goulston said. Neither were injured.

State Police said they made sure the skaters were safe and subsequently asked them to stay off the ice.

On Facebook, the Cambridge Fire Department wrote that several fire companies were sent to the river, warning people to "STAY OFF THE ICE!"

"Let's keep our cities safe," the department wrote. "Prevent injuries instead of causing a potential & dangerous ice/water rescue."

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Hearing held for suspended trooper

By Travis Andersen
GLOBE STAFF

State Police Trooper Michael Proctor, suspended without pay since July over his crude and misogynistic texts that emerged during the Karen Read trial, appeared at a hearing Wednesday before an agency disciplinary panel, according to authorities.

The hearing, which was not open to the public, will resume on Monday, Feb. 10, a State Police spokesperson said.

The State Police Trial Board will make disciplinary recommendations to Colonel Geoffrey D. Noble, the head of the State Police, officials have said.

It's not clear when Noble will make his decision.

According to a State Police policy document, a trooper suspected of wrongdoing "shall have the right to present evidence, to call witnesses on his/her behalf, and to cross-examine witnesses against him/her. Witnesses shall testify under oath or affirmation. The Trial Board is not bound to follow strict rules of evidence."



KAYLA BARTKOWSKI FOR BOSTON GLOBE

Trooper Michael Proctor, who was the lead investigator in the Karen Read case, has been suspended without pay.

Proctor came under intense scrutiny during the second-degree murder trial of Read, which ended in July in a hung jury. Her retrial for allegedly killing her boyfriend by running into him with her SUV is scheduled for April.

During the first trial, Proctor, the lead investigator on the Read case, was forced to read aloud a number of text messages he sent to coworkers and friends that demeaned Read and her medical condition.

Her lawyers cited the texts in arguing that investigators were biased against their client.

Proctor's text messages were initially discovered by federal authorities, who convened a separate grand jury to look into the state law enforcement handling of the Read case.

No one has been charged with any federal crimes in connection with the Read case, and the US attorney's office in Massachusetts hasn't commented publicly on the probe.

Proctor is also factoring into another high-profile murder case in Norfolk Superior Court against Brian Walshe, a Cohasset man charged with murdering and dismembering his wife on New Year's Day 2023.

In that case, prosecutors have said they won't call Proctor as a witness at trial, and in a filing last week said they are "in the process of reviewing Trooper Proctor's work phone and iCloud data for discoverable information as it pertains to this case and [have] hired an experienced attorney to perform an independent review."

Travis Andersen can be reached at travis.andersen@globe.com.

Judge gets off-the-record notes from Read interview

By Travis Andersen
GLOBE STAFF

The judge in the Karen Read case on Wednesday received notes from an off-the-record interview Read gave to Boston magazine, ahead of a hearing later this month on the publication's request to keep the material out of the reach of prosecutors, records show.

Judge Beverly J. Cannone will privately review the notes from Boston magazine contributing editor Gretchen Voss's off-the-record conversation with Read on July 7, 2023, before hearing oral arguments on Jan. 31 on the issue, according to legal filings.

Cannone last month granted prosecution motions to obtain full audio recordings from media interviews with Read and members of her family, including Voss's off-the-record notes and electronic messages she exchanged with Read.

The magazine has turned over materials from Voss's on-the-record interviews with Read, but Voss recently filed a motion for reconsideration of the off-the-record material.

In an affidavit, Voss said that providing these notes to prosecutors would "impair my ability to adequately report on news that concerns the public, because much investigative reporting relies on tips and leads from off the record sources."

Read, 44, has pleaded not guilty to charges of second-degree murder, manslaughter while operating under the influence, and leaving the scene of personal injury resulting in death.

Prosecutors allege that she drunkenly backed her SUV into her boyfriend, Boston police Officer John O'Keefe, early on Jan. 29, 2022, after dropping him off outside a Canton home following a night of bar-hopping.

Her lawyers say that she was framed and that O'Keefe entered the home, owned at the time by a fellow Boston police officer, where he was fatally beaten in the basement before his body was placed on the front lawn.

Read's first trial ended with a hung jury in July, and her retrial is scheduled to begin in April.

The state Supreme Judicial Court is also weighing a defense request to drop the murder and leaving the scene counts, on the grounds that multiple jurors indicated, either directly or through intermediaries, that the jury unanimously acquitted her of those counts and remained divided only on manslaughter.

It's not clear when the SJC will rule.

Read also faces a wrongful death lawsuit filed by O'Keefe's family in Plymouth Superior Court.

Travis Andersen can be reached at travis.andersen@globe.com.

Ticket To The Arts

MUSIC

Crossing the Deep

JAN 17 + 19
NEC'S JORDAN HALL

Anthony Trecek-King and Reginald Mobley, co-creators
H+H Orchestra and Chorus

Parallel lives, shared stories, and transatlantic musical traditions intertwine in this revelatory choral drama, exploring the resonances and juxtapositions between sacred music by Handel and Negro spirituals by enslaved Africans in America.

Tickets at handelandhaydn.org.

MUSIC

Symphony PRO MUSICA
Mark Churchill, Music Director

SPM CELEBRATES THEA MUSGRAVE

Musgraves Turbulent Landscapes, Elgar Enigma Variations, Wm. Walton Portsmouth Point. Sat Jan 25 7:30pm Hudson High School, Sun Jan 26 3:00pm St. John's Founders Hall, Shrewsbury. Tix: https://www.symphonypromusica.org

DANCE

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

BACK IN BOSTON FOR THE 1ST TIME IN 6 YEARS!

Legendary dance company Mark Morris Dance Group performs "The Look of Love"—a must-see homage to the chart-topping hits of Burt Bacharach, including "I Say a Little Prayer," "What the World Needs Now" & more. A powerful fusion of dance and music feat. a live band and vocals sung by Broadway star Marcy Harriell, "this is choreography that, in the words of the song, says 'more than just words could ever say.'"—The New York Times
Jan 23–26, Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre
For tix & info: globalartslive.org 617.876.4275

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EDUCATION

Invitation to Apply
Elementary School Principal
Falmouth Public Schools is seeking applicants for the position of Principal at East Falmouth Elementary School. For more information and to apply please visit www.falmouth.k12.ma.us

TECHNOLOGY/ ENGINEERING

Prncpl Engrs, Solar & Energy Storage Sys
Prncpl Engrs, Solar & Energy Storage Sys
@ Bureau Veritas CPS, Littleton, MA. Testing electrical compnnts for solar & energy storage systms, prdcts, cpmpnnts & equipmnt. Apply: Buffalo.HR@bureauveritas.com; Subj: Job ID# PES037.

notices & more

boston.com/classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Death: Mr. Jeremy Thompson, date of birth 12/01/1973. Last domicile 502 Chestnut Street, Room 306, Manchester, NH 03101. Mr. Thompson expired at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center on 11/9/2024. Family and friends are asked to call Timothy Williams at 617-667-3431 at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Boston Public Health Commission seeks responses from ServiceNow Platform Implementation Services vendors specializing in the Public Service Sector. The RFP outlines requirements for proposals detailing the vendor's implementation approach, associated costs, and a comprehensive timeline for the project. The full RFP will be released on Thursday, January 16th at boston.gov/bids.

notices & more

boston.com/classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Carmencita Bua to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for New Century Mortgage Corporation, its successors and/or assigns, dated November 15, 2006 and recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 40762, Page 1, subsequently assigned to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE by MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. by assignment recorded in said Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 43448, Page 26, subsequently assigned to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR RASC 2007KS2 by U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE by assignment recorded in said Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 45700, Page 129, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Residential Asset Securities Corporation, Home Equity Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-KS2 by U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR RASC 2007KS2 by assignment recorded in said Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 69230, Page 284 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on January 23, 2025 at 12 Springer Street, Unit #3, Boston, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The premises known as UNIT 3 (the "Unit") of the Twelve Springer Street Condominium, created pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 183A by Master Deed dated March 28, 2006 recorded March 29, 2006 with Suffolk Registry of Deeds in Book 39295, Page 145, together with the undivided interest in the Common Areas and Facilities of the Condominium, as defined in the Master Deed, allocated to the Unit, as set forth in the Master Deed. Attached hereto is a copy of portions of the Master Plan of said Condominium recorded with the Master Deed bearing the verified statement of a registered architect in the form provided by G.L. ch. 183A, S. 9.

The post office address of the Unit is: Unit No. 3, 12 Springer Street, Boston, MA 02127.

The Unit is conveyed subject to and with the benefit of the obligations, restrictions, rights and liabilities contained in G.L. ch. 183A, the Master Deed, as amended, the Declaration of Trust establishing the organization of Unit owners dated March 28, 2006 recorded in said registry on March 29, 2006 in Book 39295, Page 162, the By-Laws set forth in said Declaration of Trust and any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Unit 3 and each of the Units in the Condominium is intended for residential purposes and such other uses as are set forth in the Master Deed.

Said Unit is conveyed with an undivided 27.39 percent interest in the Common Areas and Facilities described in the Master Deed. Deed herewith DEED 40761/337

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS ($5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Residential Asset Securities Corporation, Home Equity Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-KS2
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
23-004655
(January 2, 2025; January 9, 2025; January 16, 2025

WANTED TO LEASE
OFFICE AND CLASSROOM SPACE IN ANDOVER, BILLERICA, CHELMSFORD, DRACUT, NORTH READING, TEWKSBURY, OR TOPSFIELD

On behalf of the State 911 Department of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance invites proposals to lease approximately 3,600 but DCAMM would consider space of 3,000 to 4,500 usable square feet of office and classroom space in the above-referenced search area for a term of 10 years.

Proposals must be submitted to:

Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance
Office of Leasing and State Office Planning
One Ashburton Place
15th Floor, Room 1500
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

or by e-mail to:
leasepropsubmittal.DCAMM@mass.gov

Proposals must be submitted by the deadline of **February 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.** Proposals will be opened at that time.

The RFP can be downloaded from www.mass.gov/service-details/leasing-property-to-the-commonwealth
Under Requests for Proposals (RFP) to Lease Space, click on "COMMBUYS" and then click on "Find It". You may also email leasing.dcamm@mass.gov or call 857-204-1355 to request a copy of the RFP, referencing Project Number 202411200. For further information, email PM, peter.woodford@mass.gov. This notice is also available at www.masspublicnotices.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Carlos M. Gutierrez to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Master, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated March 30, 2007 and recorded in Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49221, Page 581 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee for Structured Adjustable Rate Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-10 is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Mortgage Master, Inc. to Aurora Bank FSB dated January 10, 2012 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 59135, Page 54, and Assignment from Aurora Bank FSB to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated February 14, 2013 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 61271, Page 572, and Assignment from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Adjustable Rate Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-10 dated November 2, 2016 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 69064, Page 379, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 25 Lynne Road, Sudbury, MA 01776 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00 PM on January 23, 2025, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the buildings thereon, now known and numbered as 25 Lynne Road, Sudbury, Middlesex County, Massachusetts shown as Lot 19 on a plan entitled "Subdivision Plan of Land in Sudbury, Mass. Property of Landham Development Trust" by Schofield Brothers, Reg. Civil Engineers dated May 19, 1955 and recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 8495, End, as Plan Number 1149 of 1955. For a more specific description of Lot 19 reference is hereby made to said plan.

Lot 19 contains approximately 32,000 square feet of land according to said plan.

For our title see Deed recorded at said Middlesex South Registry of deeds in Book 48591, Page 125.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 48591, Page 125.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of $10,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee for Structured Adjustable Rate Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-10
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Gutierrez, Carlos M., 16-027063

(SEAL)
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number: 25 SM 000051
ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Sonal Patel

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

M & T Bank

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Boston, numbered 488 Dorchester Avenue, Unit 21, The 488 Dot Condominium, given by Sonal Patel to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for People's United Bank, National Association, dated December 30, 2016, and recorded in the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 57367, Page 40, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before February 24, 2025, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on January 10, 2025.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
27017

Experience Globe.com

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 41 Boston Road, Unit 144, Billerica, MA 01862

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael S. Hamhoomis to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for StonehamBank, and now held by **Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC**, said mortgage dated August 31, 2010 and recorded in the Middlesex County (Northern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 24226, Page 116, as affected by Scrivener's Affidavit dated October 22, 2024 and recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 38839, Page 125; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A. by assignment dated October 22, 2012 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 26560, Page 220; said mortgage was assigned from Bank of America, N.A. to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment dated September 11, 2018 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 32400, Page 260; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on February 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, **directly in front of the building in which the unit is located,** all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The condominium Unit known as Unit Number 144 herein after called the "Subject Unit", in the Condominium known as Barrett Farm Condominium, hereinafter called the "Condominium" established by Master Deed dated December 30, 2005, recorded in said Middlesex North Registry of Deeds (hereinafter "Registry") on January 27, 2006 at Book 19767, Page 116.

The post office address of the Condominium is 204 Andover Road, Billerica, Massachusetts 01821. The land is described in said Master Deed, and the Subject Unit, and the Condominium, are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A (Condominiums).

The Subject Unit is shown on the Master Plans of the Condominium recorded at Plan Book 231 Plan 57 in said Registry of Deeds and on the Unit Plans recorded herewith, and Floor Plan of the Subject Unit recorded herewith and verified statement of a registered architect in the form required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, Section 8 and 9, is affixed to said Master Plans and Unit Plan.

The Subject Unit is hereby conveyed together with:

1. an undivided 0.88% percent interest in the common areas and facilities of the Condominium described in the Master Deed appertaining to the Subject Unit; and
2. an easement for the continuance of all encroachments by the Subject Unit on the adjoining units or common areas and facilities existing as a result of construction of the Building, or which may come into existence hereafter as a result of:
(1) settling of the building, or
(2) an easement for the continuance or eminent proceedings, or
(3) alteration or repair of the common areas and facilities or any part thereof done pursuant to the provisions of the Master Deed as the same may be from time to time amended, or the provisions of the Declaration of Trust of Barrett Farm Condominium Trust as the same may be from time to time amended, or (4) repair or restoration of Unit therein after damaged by fire or other casualty; and
3. and easement to use all pipes, wires, flues, ducts, conduits, plumbing lines, and other portions of the common areas and facilities located in the other units and serving the Subject Unit.

The Subject Unit is hereby conveyed subject to:
1. Easements in favor of the adjoining units and in favor of the common areas and facilities. for the continuance of all encroachments of the adjoining units or common areas and facilities on the Subject Unit, existing as a result of construction; or which may come into existence hereafter as a result of;
(1) settling of the Unit, or
(2) condemnation or eminent domain proceedings, or
(3) alteration or repair of the common areas and facilities or any part thereof done pursuant to the provisions of the Master Deed as the same may be from time to time amended, or the provisions of the Declaration of Trust Barrett Fann Condominium Trust as the same may be from time to time amended, or
(4) repair or restoration of the unit or any part therein after damage by fire or other casualty; and
2. an easement in favor of the Owners of the other units to use all pipes, wires, flues, ducts, conduits, plumbing lines, and other portions of the common areas and facilities located in the other Subject Unit and serving the other units; and
3. the provisions of the Master Deed, Master Plans of the Condominium, and the provisions of the Declaration of Trust of Barrett Farm Condominium Trust and Rules and Regulations attached thereto, (which Declaration of Trust of Barrett Farm Condominium Trust, dated December 30, 2005, and recorded January 27, 2006 are recorded in said Registry, Book 19767, Page 149, which provisions, together with any amendments thereto, shall constitute covenants running with the land and shall bind any person having at any time interest or estate in the Subject Unit, his family, tenants, servants, visitors, and occupants, as though such provisions were recited and stipulated at length herein; and
4 easements, rights, obligations, provisions, restrictions, building line limitations, zoning regulations, public utility and telephone easements, easements in favor of the Declarant of the Master Deed, and all other matters set forth or referred to in the Master Deed; and the provisions of the Billerica Zoning By- Laws as same may be applicable; and
5. the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A (Condominiums).

For my title, see deed recorded herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated August 31, 2010 and recorded in the Middlesex County (Northern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 24226, Page 99.

Said Unit will be conveyed together with an undivided percentage interest in the Common Elements of said Condominium appurtenant to said Unit and together with all rights, easements, covenants and agreements as contained and referred to in the Declaration of Condominium, as amended.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND ($5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Shade Tree Removal Hearing

In accordance with Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws, a Public Shade Tree Removal Hearing will be held via Zoom

On: Thursday, January 23rd at 10:00AM
At: https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/81211901286

This hearing is to consider the proposed removal of (1) one tree due to sewer reconstruction work.

The species and Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)
One (1) Lacebark Elm (10"DBH)
Location: **547 Main Street**
Requested by: **Water and Sewer Department**
Reason for hearing: **Proposed removal due to sewer reconstruction work.**

Questions or concerns regarding this posting should be directed to the
Tree Warden's office at (617) 972-6420
or email: mmicieli@watertown-ma.gov

Mike Micieli,
Tree Warden
Date Posted: 1/16/2025

LEGAL NOTICES

Massachusetts Development Finance Agency ("MassDevelopment") is providing notice of an incident involving personal information for certain Massachusetts residents. MassDevelopment is also providing information about resources available to help individuals who may be affected better protect their personal information. Additional information on how to better protect against identity theft or fraud is included below and may be found on MassDevelopment's website at https://www.MassDevelopment.com. MassDevelopment takes this incident, and the security of information in its care, very seriously. In response to this event, MassDevelopment conducted an investigation and notified federal law enforcement.

Additional Steps Individuals May Take to Help Protect Personal Information

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order a free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. Individuals may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of a credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should an individual wish to place a fraud alert, they may contact any one of the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers have the right to place a "credit freeze" on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without the consumer's express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in a credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application made regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, an individual cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. To request a security freeze, individuals may need to provide the following information, depending on whether the request is made online, by phone, or by mail:

1.Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2.Social Security number;
3.Date of birth;
4.Addresses for the prior two to five years;
5.Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6.A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, etc.);
7.Social Security Card, pay stub, or W2;
8.If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

Should an individual wish to place a credit freeze, they may contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

Equifax
https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/
888-298-0045
Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069
Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788

Experian
https://www.experian.com/help/
1-888-397-3742
Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013
Experian Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013

TransUnion
https://www.transunion.com/credit-help
1 (800) 916-8800
TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016
TransUnion Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094

Under Massachusetts law, individuals have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. If an individual is the victim of identity theft, he or she also has the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it.

Individuals may further educate themselves regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps one can take to protect personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or their state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. Individuals can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. Individuals have the right to file a police report if they ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and your state Attorney General.

For More Information
If you have questions regarding this incident, please call MassDevelopment's dedicated assistance line at 877-721-8011, Monday through Friday, 9am-9pm EST, except major US holidays. You may also write to 99 High Street, 11th Floor, Boston, MA 02110.

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LivingArts



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDSAY O'DONOVAN

Lindsay and Brian O'Donovan

'We wanted something musical to carry his legacy'

Lindsay O'Donovan reflects on life with her late husband, Brian, ahead of the Boston Celtic Music Fest

By Lauren Daley
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

For years, Lindsay O'Donovan missed the finale of Passim's Boston Celtic Music Festival.

Her late husband, "Brian, emceed the finale. We used to host the fest after-party. I'd have the setlist, and two pieces from the end, I'd rush home to get a ham in the oven," O'Donovan recalls with a laugh from her Cambridge home.

Helpers tagged along: Someone lit the fireplaces, someone brought beer up from the basement at their "old house" in Newton, where the couple raised four children: Aoife (now a Grammy winner), Ciaran, Aidan, and Nuala.

Celebrating its 22nd year, BCMFest has grown by leaps and bounds. One ham could hardly feed the some 75 artists, 30 volunteers, Passim staff, and others involved.

Held at Club Passim, Somerville Theatre, Crystal Ballroom, The Burren, and The Rockwell Jan. 16-19, the fest boasts a jam-packed schedule. Relieved of hosting duties, Lindsay O'Donovan will get to enjoy the "Nightcap" finale concert with headliners Dervish — and she'll be on stage.

This year, the fest kicks off two new traditions: The Nightcap at Somerville Theater on Jan. 18, will see its first musical tribute to the late Brian O'Donovan, champion and ambassador of Boston's Celtic music scene. Also, Lindsay will announce the winners of the first ever Brian O'Donovan Legacy Fund grants: six grants of $2,500 to be awarded annually. The only winner announced so far is Boston-based duo Rakish, because they were also tapped to serve as BCMFest artists-in-residence.

Brian O'Donovan announced his brain cancer diagnosis in 2022, and died at 66 in October 2023 at home in Cambridge. The longtime host of GBH's "A Celtic Sojourn" and holiday live Celtic music extravaganzas, including "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn," O'Donovan was also instrumental in BCMFest.

"It wouldn't be right to not do a tribute to him, for all of the incredible years of support — just everything he's done to almost create what we have today in Boston," BCMFest Director Summer McCall says. A California native, McCall, 31, grew up attending fiddle camps and listening to Brian's show online. "I knew Boston was the place to be because of him."

I called O'Donovan, 72, at her Cambridge home for a wide-ranging interview about Brian's legacy, their musical courtship, and more.

BCMFEST
At Club Passim, Somerville Theatre, Crystal Ballroom, The Burren, and The Rockwell, Jan. 16-19. Ticket info at passim.org.

Q. This is the first year of the Brian O'Donovan Legacy Fund grants.
A. We established this fund right before he died. Brian was so open about dying. We knew once he passed, people would wonder where to send money. We wanted something musical to carry his legacy and to help Celtic musicians. My daughter Aoife suggested we do something under Passim's umbrella.

Q. Six winners were chosen by a committee. Rakish is the only winner announced so far.
A. I actually don't know who the other five are — It'll be a surprise for me, too. It's exciting to feel like Brian's legacy is helping other musicians. It's just what he wanted to do.

Q. You two met at a Celtic music session in Brookline.
A. At the [now shuttered] Village Coach House, at a Monday night session in September 1980. He was sitting next to me. I asked if he knew "Boys of Barr Na Sráide" — he sang it. That was it.

Q. Brian emigrated to Boston from West Cork after he graduated University College Cork in 1978.
A. When we met, he was a grad student at Emerson. I grew up in Newton and studied classical music at Boston University. I spent a lot of time in Scotland. I got immersed in Celtic music there. When I came back in the mid-'70s, there wasn't a Scottish music scene, but there was a thriving Irish music scene.

Q. What happened after that first September meeting?
A. We didn't see each other again until, actually, the night John Lennon was killed. Another Monday night [Dec. 8, 1980]. We were at the Village Coach House and everyone was talking about John Lennon, commiserating. Brian and I were inseparable after that. By January, we were engaged.

Q. What clicked?
A. Music — we connected so much on that level. It was this crazy time in Boston's Celtic music scene. People would go to parties that started at 1 a.m. One morning after Christmas in 1980 a friend said, "There's a really good music party tonight in New Jersey if anyone wants to go." We were like, "Yeah, let's go to New Jersey!"

We piled into the car, Brian and I were sitting in the back seat. I had this book, Colm O Lochlainn's "Irish Street Ballads." I was reading through, singing songs. Brian was fascinated that I could just look at this music and know what it would sound like. We were intrigued with each other.

Q. I love that.
A. So it's obviously awful to not have him, but for me, it's been incredible to be involved with Passim and BCMFest. At BCMFest, Brian always wanted to sit in the very back because he'd say, "I need to be able to talk to people." So I sit in the back, because there's always people I want to pop around and say hi to.

Another Passim story: Years ago, Passim didn't serve beer and wine. When Aoife's band Crooked Still played, Brian would run around: "OK, what do you want to drink? At setbreak, I'll have all your beers ready for you!" Then we'd all race across the street to have a quick beer between sets.

Q. That's a classic Brian story. You must hear from people about how he touched their lives.
A. I got a card at the anniversary of his death from an older listener, saying, "Saturday afternoon is a big void for me, because I don't have Brian. He kept me company."

Q. He was so candid about his diagnosis.
A. I think that was a real gift. We knew right away it was inoperable. He said, "I think I can help people by talking about this." He had this attitude: The show must go on. He worked up until a few months before he died. I learned a lot from it. It was a powerful life experience to go through that with him, to watch him still be creative right up until the end.

Interview was edited and condensed. Lauren Daley can be reached at ldaley33@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter @laurendaley1.

Nine ways to celebrate MLK Day around Boston

By Haley Clough
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT





LEFT: ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF; RIGHT: © 2019 PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM, SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS. PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB PACKERT

Clockwise from above: Amanda Shea will perform at the Gardner Museum; Alison Saar's "Weight" (detail) can be seen at the Peabody Essex Museum's MLK celebration; posters of John Wilson's "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." (detail) will be handed out at the MFA; Fannie Lou Hamer, who will be remembered at a concert in Lexington.



AP FILE PHOTO



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

SMALL ACTS, BIG IMPACTS: A DAY OF SERVICE From Saturday to Monday, give back to the community with the Discovery Museum's "Day of Service" in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day's designation as a National Day of Service. Donate or collect supplies for the Welcome Basket drive, and make a warm welcome card in support of the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center. Donations for these care packages — including cleaning and laundry supplies, hygiene products, infant care items, and winter clothing — will go to immigrant or refugee families in need of essential daily items. *Free admission. Jan. 18-20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 177 Main St., Acton. discoveryacton.org*

MLK DAY CONCERT — VOTING WITH PURPOSE AND WITHOUT FEAR On Sunday, the Association of Black Citizens of Lexington is hosting a concert in honor of MLK Jr. Day and in celebration of the lives of Martin Luther King Jr. and activist Fannie Lou Hamer. Both civil rights leaders were integral in the fight for equal voting rights and access to ballots for all voters. Enjoy songs of spirituality and freedom — performed by Brother Dennis and Friends — as an homage to the songs that motivated those at the Meredith March Against Fear in 1966 and many other civil rights activists of the 1960s. *Tickets are $25. Jan. 19, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Follen Church, 755 Mass. Ave., Lexington. eventbrite.com*

EMBRACE HONORS MLK On Sunday, Embrace Boston hosts Embrace Honors MLK 2025, a formal evening of joy, music, and community. Leaders to be honored include former Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and first lady Lauren Baker, and former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and first lady Diane Patrick. Hosts include Melisa Valdez, in-arena host for the Boston Celtics, and Latoyia Edwards, Emmy-winning anchor from NBC 10 Boston. DJ Envy, DJ Papadon, and the Berklee All Star Jazz Band are among the entertainers booked. *Tickets are $450. Jan. 19. 6:30 p.m.-midnight. Big Night Live, 110 Causeway St. embraceboston.org*

PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION The Peabody Essex Museum will honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday with a variety of art installations. View the works of Bethany Collins ("America: A Hymnal"), David Boxer ("The Black Books"), and Alison Saar's ("Weight)". Starting at 11 a.m., join fluid acrylics artist Rahim Gray to learn the way he incorporates social justice and music in his work and to make pour art of your own. *Free admission. Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 161 Essex St., Salem. pem.org*

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM — MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE Visit the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Monday to stroll its galleries, hear storytellers, and participate in activities. Featured exhibits include performance artist Dzidzor's soundscape "Riot: A Sermon of Anger, Dreams, and Love," Crystal Bi's "Dream Portal" hands-on installation, and a performance by Amanda Shea and musician Wylsner Bastien of "Why We Still Dream" at Calderwood Hall. *Free admission. Jan. 20, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 25 Evans Way. gardnermuseum.org*

CELEBRATE! WITH GEORGE RUSSELL JR. AND FRIENDS The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum hosts a Monday performance of some of Martin Luther King Jr.'s favorite songs by George Russell Jr. and Friends. The event is free to the public per the support of the Martin Richard Foundation and the Mass Cultural Council. *Jan. 20, 10:30.-11:30 a.m. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Columbia Point. eventbrite.com*

MFA BOSTON OPEN HOUSE, MLK DAY In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and the communal and artistic spirit of the holiday, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston will offer free admission Monday to any visitors with a Massachusetts ZIP code. Within the museum, view ArtSpark's "Radical Heroes" program and make your own window-hanging at the "Stained Glass: Doves" station. The museum offers several other performances and talks; see the website for the schedule. *Jan. 20. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave. mfa.org*

BOSTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS — ROAD TO FREEDOM This year's Boston Children's Chorus MLK Day program educates about Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, two civil rights leaders who are often perceived as ideologically unaligned, though the interconnectedness between the two is more complex. The "Road to Freedom" program at Symphony Hall on Monday is designed to educate the Boston community on the similarities between the two activists, and the vital role both hold in shaping social movements of the past and present. *$15-$75. Jan. 20, 4 p.m. Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave. bso.org*

ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION Join the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras and the Boston community for a celebratory program of memorable performances on Monday. The two-hour program, presented in conjunction with the Museum of African American History, will include spiritual and cultural performances, spoken word and readings, and guest speakers. *Free admission. Jan. 20. Starts at 1 p.m. Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Road. eventbrite.com*

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TV HIGHLIGHTS
PGA: American Express, 4 p.m., Golf
NBA: Cavaliers-Thunder, 7:30 p.m., TNT
NHL: Oilers-Avalanche, 9:30 p.m., ESPN
Listings, C6

Sports

THE BOSTON GLOBE THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025 | BOSTONGLOBE.COM/SPORTS

Neely sees two Bruins' paths at trade deadline

By Jim McBride
GLOBE STAFF

Cam Neely acknowledged Wednesday night the Bruins need to "prepare for two paths" when it comes to the trade deadline.

The Bruins team president spoke at the team's Black and Gold Gala to benefit the Bruins foundation at the Fairmont Copley.

The club's positioning in the playoff picture will dictate which road Neely and general manager Don Sweeney choose to go down.

Charlie Jacobs, the franchise's CEO, spoke before Neely and expressed full confidence that Neely and Sweeney will choose the right route.

The Bruins (22-19-5) sit in a playoff spot in third place in the Atlantic Division.

Neely and Jacobs acknowledged the season has been disappointing and frustrating at times, especially given that they believe the roster is better than it has performed.

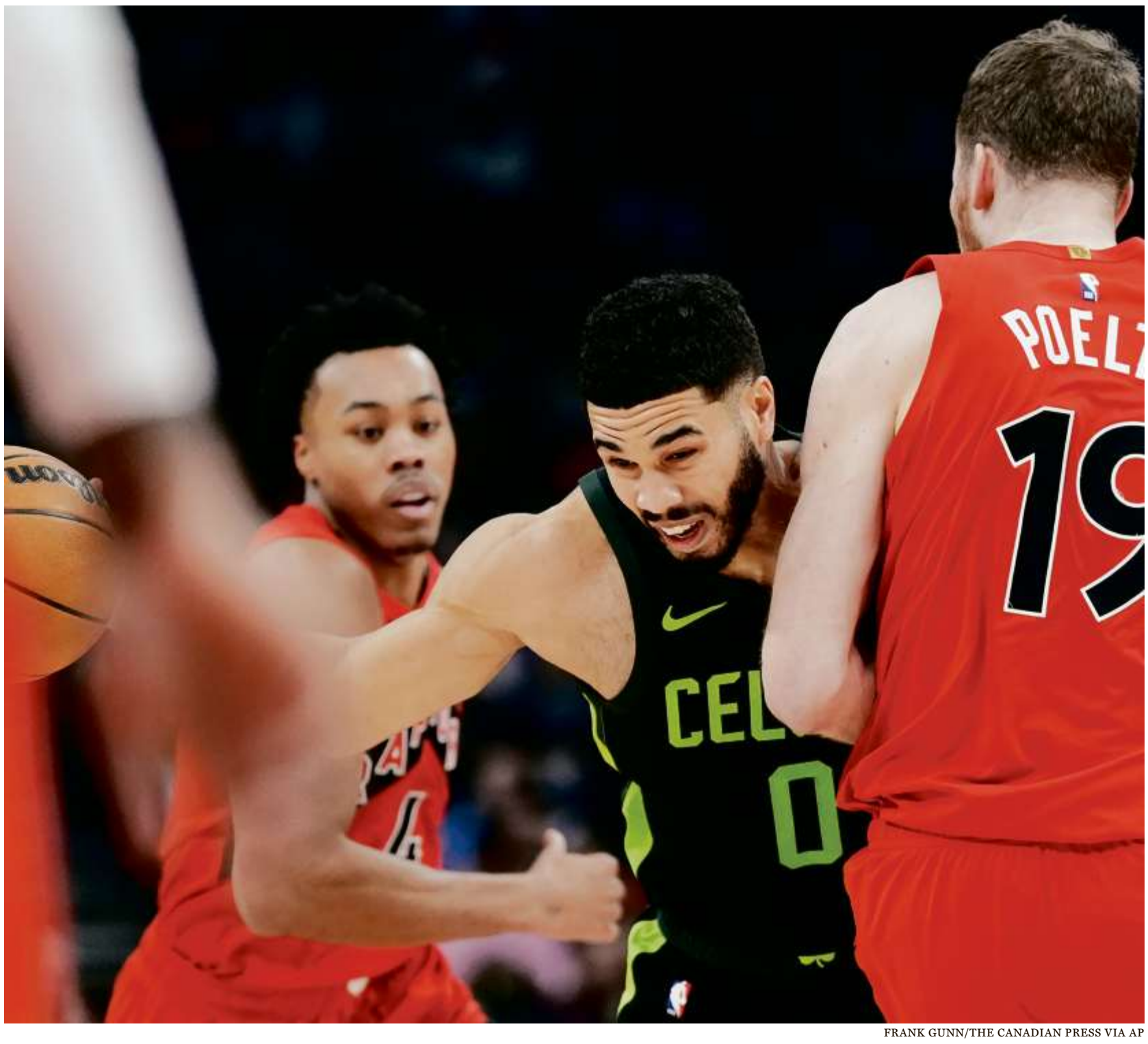
"I believe in our leadership," said Jacobs. "I know that's been called into question quite a bit recently. I hope that we can build off the last two

BRUINS, Page C2



JIM McBRIDE/GLOBE STAFF

Cam Neely said the hope is to be in a buyer's position leading up to the March 7 deadline.



FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

Jayson Tatum (16 points, 5-of-15 shooting) and the Celtics ran into a roadblock against Scottie Barnes (left) and Jakob Poeltl's Raptors.

Tyrannosaurus wreck

Celtics look like the dinosaurs in loss to woeful Raptors

By Adam Himmelsbach
GLOBE STAFF

Raptors 110
Celtics 97

TORONTO — As the Celtics navigated this uneven stretch over the past month, they mostly struck an upbeat tone. They cited their record that remained the third best in the NBA. They pointed out they have rarely been at full strength. They reminded everyone they are, in fact, the defending champions, and they are aware what it will take to regain that form.

But after Wednesday night's disheartening 110-97 loss to the 10-win Raptors, there was a new, ominous air of frustration and urgency that has rarely surfaced around this team over the past two seasons.

"I think we played with no spirit, with no personality," Kristaps Porzingis said. "It's just a weak performance from us, honestly."

Porzingis said there were times the Celtics appeared to be just going through the motions as the Raptors streaked to the basket for layups with simple off-ball cuts. He said the Celtics played "some bad basketball."

The only time Porzingis flashed a

CELTICS, Page C4

Revolution's Porter has vision of first MLS Cup

By Frank Dell'Apa
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Coach Caleb Porter's first season with the Revolution fell far short of expectations as the team finished second-to-last in the MLS standings. But Porter is not backing down from his aim of taking the Revolution to their first MLS Cup title.

"The goal is playoffs, the vision is win MLS Cup," Porter said before the Revolution began preseason training in Bradenton, Fla. "Does it happen next year? The goal is, yes. The process is, it depends on how the journey goes. It took three years in Portland, two years in Columbus. I don't know how this one's going to be. But I can guarantee you this is now my roster, my team. I've picked these players, along with Curt [Onalfo, technical director], and we're really happy with where we're at."

The revamped roster includes only three starters from last year's season opener. Porter has replaced 19 players that started at least once last season. The average age has been reduced from 30 to 24.6 years.

"For MLS, we didn't have quite enough guys that were rangy, with pace, power — penetrating players, guys that can win duels," Porter said. "In my game model we need guys that were a little bit more athletic across the board. To play the way I want to play you need guys that train hard. We wanted to get younger guys who could train every day, push and compete, and run and press, and play the way we need to play both sides of the ball. We wanted to get guys that were used to winning. A little bit more in their prime. After '21, the group kind of got mature and we felt it was important to end that cycle and reset the group a little bit and rebuild. We want to get guys with a chip

REVOLUTION, Page C5



MARK STOCKWELL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caleb Porter revamped a Revolution roster, replacing 19 players who started at least once. Now the team's average age is 24.6 years.

BEN VOLIN
ON FOOTBALL

If Vrabel has the final say, is Wolf out?

Mike Vrabel certainly "won" his press conference on Monday as he was introduced as the next Patriots coach. Speaking for 40 minutes with no notes, Vrabel exuded confidence as he spoke of galvanizing the fan base and creating a culture of accountability in Foxborough.

"We're going to earn the right to be here every single day," he said.

But Vrabel was a little less forthcoming about certain topics, the ones that are most pertinent to the 2025 Patriots: Who is going to call the offense, and who is going to be picking the players? Those decisions will unfold over the next few weeks, and Vrabel is keeping them closely guarded for now.

But we can see which way the Patriots are headed if we read between the lines:

■ **It seems that Vrabel has final say on roster decisions.** Last year, it was Eliot Wolf, the de facto general manager. Vrabel was asked about it on Monday, and he meandered a bit about a "shared organizational vision" before finally settling on, "I'm confident that those types of decisions are all going to sort themselves out."

Of course, the issue of "final say" is almost always sorted out during contract negotiations. Based on Vrabel's answer, his high demand on the coaching market, and Wolf's shaky performance this past season, it seems pretty clear that Vrabel has ultimate control over the 90-man roster. It would be the same

ON FOOTBALL, Page C5

Patriots can use influx of leadership

By Christopher Price
GLOBE STAFF

On several occasions during his introductory press conference Monday, Patriots coach Mike Vrabel talked about shaping the right environment, saying "the leaders are going to be the ones that help define the culture."

"That culture is going to be built on winning," added Vrabel. "A competitive spirit throughout our roster and throughout our players and throughout our coaches and our staff, and the ability to put the team first and care about somebody other than yourself.

"The culture will be what drives and gives you the results that we're all after."

To that point, while there will be plenty of talk about high-end free agents such as wide receiver Tee Higgins, the Patriots also need to consider culture fits, well-respected players who can impact the locker room in ways that transcend the field. The sorts of players who can help shape the culture and bring out the best in their teammates.

In the past, the Patriots have done well to identify slightly under-the-radar veteran free agents who could help boost team chemistry. Chris Long, Brian Waters, Alge Crumpler, and others were essential in helping shape a championship culture in New England.

And while the Patriots need to be mindful

PATRIOTS, Page C5

INSIDE

Bruins news
Defenseman Lindholm limited but practices. **C2**

Peek into future
A look at Red Sox international prospects. **C2**



HANNAH PETERS/GETTY IMAGES

Australian rules
Swiatek (above) makes quick work in advacing to the third round. **C6**

BRUINS NOTEBOOK

Lindholm limited but in for part of practice

By Jim McBride
GLOBE STAFF

Hampus Lindholm felt more like a hockey player Wednesday.

The Bruins defenseman has been working his way back from a lower-body injury suffered Nov. 12 in St. Louis with lots of off-ice rehab sessions and, lately, some solo on-ice workouts with skills coach **John McLean**.

Lindholm took the next step Wednesday by donning a merlot (noncontact) sweater and joining the team for part of practice at Warrior Arena. In football parlance, he'd have been classified as a limited participant.

"It's always nice to be out there with the guys, get a little laughter in, and shoot on some goalies, that's always nice for change, so it was great to be out with the guys again," Lindholm said.

Without getting too specific, Lindholm confirmed he broke a bone when he blocked a shot against the Blues.

"I'll leave it at that. It hit me in the wrong spot," he said, before adding, "Got to drink some more milk."

Lindholm (3 goals, 7 points in 17 games) was playing at a high level when he was injured. He regularly logged 20-plus minutes, was a top penalty killer, and had just been anointed as the quarterback on the top power-play unit when he was injured.



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Hampus Lindholm has been out of the Bruins' lineup since Nov. 12.

After absorbing the shot, Lindholm immediately left the ice before coming back to test the leg during a timeout and realizing it wasn't something he could quickly shake off.

"I came back to try it; it didn't really feel right. By now you know your body pretty well, so then get it checked," he said. "So, it was obviously not the best news, but it's fun to kind of feel like I'm starting to get closer to a return, hopefully."

Lindholm, who also skated with McLean before the team work, won't return for the Bruins' next game, Saturday in Ottawa, according to **Joe Sacco**.

"It was nice to see [him] get him involved with the group," said the coach. "He was out there for the first three or four drills. Again, great sign, another step in his recovery, but there's still no timeline yet on his return."

After the initial disappointment of the injury subsided, Lindholm focused his energy on returning as quickly as possible.

"I think any pro athlete can say being on the sidelines is not something you want, but it's part of the sport," he said. "So, I just try to do everything I can to maximize [the rehab], so when I do get back, I'm as strong as [I can be] and hopefully learn something and be a better version of myself when I get back there playing on the ice."

Lindholm even used his time at home to stay engaged in the game. And sometimes that didn't sit well with his fiancée. Lindholm got down on one knee and proposed during the Christmas break.

"I just had some plastic ice and started stickhandling while the game was going on. She was yelling at me to lock the door, I was making too much noise," he said. "But little things like that . . . I think getting injured is a way of reflecting on your own game and you try to find some way of getting better. Then when you come back, hopefully you've added something in, because being sidelined can have some benefits, and that's how I try to approach it."

Kastelic appreciative

Also sporting a merlot sweater was **Mark Kastelic**, who was injured a week ago when he took a cross-check to the chin from **Emil Lilleberg** in Tampa. It preceded a fight between the two. Kastelic hit his head on the ice and left wobbly.

The Bruins exacted a bit of revenge Tuesday night in the 6-2 win over the Lightning. The Bruins landed a couple of big checks on Lilleberg, and **Trent Frederic** earned a decisive win in a bout between the two.

"It was really special. I mean, that's the kind of guys we have in here and how tight we are, and I commend them a lot for stepping up and having my back out there," said Kastelic. "I feel like I try to have their backs as best I can, and when they show some fight and to stick up for me like that, it means a lot and I love those guys. I'm watching that, it just makes me happy and happy to know that I'm here for a couple more years and to be with this group, it's really special."

Kastelic, who said he's been through the concussion protocol a couple of times before, was a bit surprised by Lilleberg's actions.

"I think you're never really expecting a cross-check to the face," Kastelic said. "I know it's the end of the game, but I'm an emotional player and no matter how much time's left on the clock, I'm going to try to play right to the end, and especially in a moment like that where we're on a bit of a skid and just not happy about the way things are going. So I'm just trying to play right to the end and finish a check, and I don't think you're really expecting a cross-check like that, but he's trying to defend himself, so I get it. But just one thing led to another and just got a little reckless there and things happen."

Staying in shape

Charlie McAvoy, who was placed on injured reserve Tuesday, skated before practice . . . Leading scorers **David Pastrnak** (20 goals, 48 points) and **Brad Marchand** (16 goals, 35 points) were given maintenance days . . . **Cole Koepke**, who left Tuesday's win after absorbing a **Darren Raddysh** shoulder check to the head, did not practice . . . The team has Thursday off.

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JIM McBRIDE/GLOBE STAFF

"I believe in our leadership," said Bruins CEO Charlie Jacobs. "I know that's been called into question quite a bit recently."

Neely: Two paths for the Bruins

▶BRUINS
Continued from Page C1

games that we played. Our team, in my opinion, is yet to play its best game yet. I feel like we've got it in our system, we've got it in the room, and our hope is that we can find it."

Neely said the hope is to be in a buyer's position leading up to the March 7 deadline, but any move must make sense.

"Well, we'd certainly like to improve, but we'll see what happens with what teams decide to do heading into the 4 Nations [Face-Off] and then after 4 Nations is done, it's a race to the deadline, so we will see where we're at," said Neely. "I think right now we've got to look at two paths, one that we're buying and one that we may be just retooling a little bit. We still feel like we've got a playoff team here and we certainly don't want to jeopardize getting out of the playoffs because we've made some moves that may be good for the future, but not good for the present."

Neely made it clear he does not have an "appetite" for a retool.

The Bruins have made the playoffs eight times in the past 10 seasons and have traditionally been buyers at the deadline. Just two seasons ago during their record-setting run, the club traded for Tyler Bertuzzi, Dmitry Orlov, and Garnet Hathaway. Last season the club acquired Pat Maroon in the lead up to the postseason.

"We've gone all in a number of times over the past 10 years and rightfully so, and we got to be smart," said Neely. "If you do it again, you've got to know that you're a team that has a good chance to have a deep run. You don't want to go all in and then not really feel confident that you're going to have a deep run."

Jacobs, who called the team's inconsistency "a head-scratcher," leaves the hockey decisions to Neely and Sweeney.

"I have faith that they'll make the right decisions. I don't have the playbook for that. I have faith that they will make those decisions, though," said Jacobs. "I was thinking about it, too. So, Sweeney, he's [Team Canada's] GM for the Four Nations, so obviously he's out there watching. He's also a GM for the Olympic team in '26 for Team Canada.

"So, I feel like he's got a pretty good pulse on what's out there in the market in terms of player personnel that might be available to us. And every time I call him, and we speak quite a bit, he's always looking and always shopping. So, I have faith."

While lauding the tenure of Neely and Sweeney, Jacobs said reaching the playoffs is not how he measures success.

"Let's be very clear about that. Our goal is to win the Stanley Cup," he said. "But you can't win the Stanley Cup if you don't make it to the playoffs."

As the longest-tenured Bruin, Brad Marchand knows the deal and that the players know the position they're in.

"We're aware of the situation. We understand the roads that are in front of us and where they lead," said the captain, who is in the final year of his deal. "We understand we haven't performed the way we've needed to and there are consequences that come with that.

"There are very high expectations in this organization. We're expected to perform and do our job and compete every year for a Cup. And if we're not going to do that, then changes are going to be made so that the team does compete for a Cup. You can't look ahead. There's too much that can happen between now and [the trade deadline]. We have to take it day by day and put a good stretch together."

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A look at the Sox' class of international prospects

By Alex Speier
GLOBE STAFF

Every Jan. 15 represents a landmark day in the lives of hundreds of young players as well as 30 major league organizations. The date, which marks the opening of the international amateur free agent signing period and produces a flurry of signings, provides teams with a chance to introduce new waves of talent that can transform teams down the road.

Last year, assistant general manager Eddie Romero beamed as he looked at the Red Sox' Opening Day lineup, which featured third baseman Rafael Devers (signed in 2013), starting pitcher Brayan Bello (2017), and center fielder Ceddanne Rafaela (2017).

"We were the only club with three homegrown international players [in the Opening Day lineup]," said Romero.

Romero and the Red Sox hope that some of the players who officially began their careers Wednesday eventually might add to the organization's pipeline of talent from Latin America. This year's signing class — in what is considered a strong group of international prospects — is headlined by a handful of players.

"This [signing class] has a couple guys that have huge upside," said Romero.

Dorian Soto, who is receiving a signing bonus of $1.4 million (according to Baseball America's Ben Badler), is a massive, switch-hitting shortstop from the Dominican Republic. At 17, he's already 6 feet 2 inches, weighs 215-220 pounds, and shows top-end exit velocities, having hit balls at 102 miles per hour in games and up to 110 in the batting cage.

Soto — who was scouted by Manny Nanita — will need to make some adjustments to tighten his swing, and given his size it's fair to wonder whether he'll grow off shortstop. Still, he has impressive power potential along with evident aptitude to make adjustments.

Center fielder Harold Rivas, who is 6-1, 170 pounds and was scouted in Venezuela by Jorge Moreno, stands out for his athleticism and array of skills. He already features a well-synched swing along with plus speed (6.5 seconds in the 60) that will play well on the bases and especially in the outfield given his advanced instincts.

"This guy can play the heck out of center field. He's an above-average center fielder," said Romero. "This is the guy that coaches will ask, 'Who's that guy?' "

Héctor Ramos, whom Badler reported will receive a signing bonus of $500,000, is another switch-hitting shortstop from the Dominican Republic (also scouted by Nanita) who has the defensive feel and arm to play the middle infield spots, and some modest power.

Another shortstop, Venezuelan Eliezer Alfonzo, is a solid defender who makes enough contact to give him a chance to advance through the minors.

This year's pitching class is led by Venezuelan righthander Sabdiel Delzine, who already towers at 6-4, 215-220 pounds with a fastball that tops out at 94 m.p.h., curveball, and changeup. Like Alfonzo, Delzine was scouted by Ramon Mora.

"He definitely has a chance to be really good," said Romero. "He's got one of the most advanced changeups we've scouted. One crosschecker calls it devastating. He saw it and said, 'That can play right now.' "

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RED SOX NOTEBOOK

Catcher Sabol is acquired from Giants

By Alex Speier
GLOBE STAFF

The Red Sox on Wednesday acquired catcher **Blake Sabol** from the Giants in exchange for international bonus pool space.

Sabol, who also has played first base and the outfield, was designated for assignment by San Francisco last week to clear a roster spot for **Justin Verlander**. In 121 career big league games over the last two seasons, the 27-year-old Sabol — who bats lefthanded, making him a potential complement to the righthanded Connor Wong — has hit .243/.313/.392 with 13 home runs.

To clear a roster spot for Sabol, the Red Sox designated righthander **Chase Shugart** for assignment. Shugart, who made his big league debut in 2024, allowed four runs in 8⅔ innings while striking out eight and walking three across six relief appearances.

One on Sunday

ESPN announced their "Sunday Night Baseball" schedule through the first two months of the season. The Red Sox are slated to have one Sunday night contest, when they host the Cardinals at Fenway April 6. The contest will come in the middle of a seven-game homestand.

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NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OL	Pts.	ROW	GF	GA
Toronto	45	27	16	2	56	27	136	128
Florida	45	26	16	3	55	22	148	137
Tampa Bay	42	23	16	3	49	23	153	119
Boston	46	22	19	5	49	22	122	144
Ottawa	43	22	18	3	47	22	124	120
Montreal	43	21	18	4	46	19	131	143
Detroit	43	20	19	4	44	19	124	139
Buffalo	44	17	22	5	39	15	136	148
METROPOLITAN	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts.**	**ROW**	**GF**	**GA**
Washington	44	29	10	5	63	29	159	113
New Jersey	46	26	15	5	57	26	143	116
Carolina	45	26	16	3	55	26	149	127
Columbus	44	21	17	6	48	17	152	153
Philadelphia	45	19	20	6	44	16	138	157
Pittsburgh	46	18	20	8	44	17	137	173
NY Rangers	43	20	20	3	43	20	124	134
NY Islanders	43	17	19	7	41	15	114	131

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OL	Pts.	ROW	GF	GA
Winnipeg	45	30	12	3	63	30	162	109
Minnesota	45	27	14	4	58	25	135	127
Dallas	43	28	14	1	57	26	140	105
Colorado	45	27	17	1	55	26	150	140
St. Louis	45	21	20	4	46	20	127	134
Utah Hockey Club	43	18	18	7	43	18	120	130
Nashville	43	14	22	7	35	14	106	135
Chicago	44	14	28	2	30	13	113	152
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts.**	**ROW**	**GF**	**GA**
Vegas	44	29	12	3	61	28	151	119
Edmonton	44	28	13	3	59	28	145	120
Los Angeles	41	24	12	5	53	24	121	100
Calgary	43	21	15	7	49	18	116	127
Vancouver	43	19	14	10	48	18	125	136
Anaheim	44	18	21	5	41	16	108	138
Seattle	45	19	23	3	41	18	132	146
San Jose	46	14	26	6	34	14	120	161

ROW — Regulation plus overtime wins

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

At Buffalo 4	Carolina 2	Edmonton 5	at Minnesota 3

THURSDAY'S GAMES

New Jersey at Toronto	7	Montreal at Dallas	8
Washington at Ottawa	7	Chicago at Nashville	8
Anaheim at Tampa Bay	7	Calgary at St. Louis	8
Detroit at Florida	7	NY Rangers at Utah Hockey Club	9
San Jose at Columbus	7	Edmonton at Colorado	9:30
Philadelphia at NY Islanders	7:30	Los Angeles at Vancouver	10
Seattle at Winnipeg	8		

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

At Boston 6	Tampa Bay 2	Ottawa 2	at NY Islanders 0
At Columbus 3	Philadelphia 2 (SO)	At St. Louis 2	Calgary 1
At Washington 3	Anaheim 0	At Nashville 5	Vegas 3
Seattle 4	at Pittsburgh 2	At Winnipeg 6	Vancouver 1
San Jose 6	at Detroit 3	At Colorado 3	NY Rangers 2 (OT)
Dallas 4	at Toronto 1	Montreal 5	at Utah Hockey Club 3
Florida 2	at New Jersey 1 (SO)		

OILERS 5, WILD 3

Edmonton	2	1	2	—	5
Minnesota	2	1	0	—	3

First period — 1. Minnesota, Boldy 17 (Eriksson Ek, Zuccarello), 3:02 (pp). 2. Minnesota, Rossi 17 (Boldy, Zuccarello), 16:11 (pp). 3. Edmonton, Hyman 15 (Draisaitl, McDavid), 16:32. 4. Edmonton, McDavid 18 (Nugent-Hopkins, Bouchard), 18:28 (pp). Penalties — Nurse, EDM (hooking), 1:58. Janmark, EDM (tripping), 6:11. JBrown, EDM (roughing), 15:04. Jiricek, MIN (holding), 18:08.

Second period — 5. Minnesota, Hartman 7, 4:09. 6. Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 12 (Emberson, Kulak), 14:15. Penalties — None.

Third period — 7. Edmonton, Podkolzin 6 (Arvidsson, JBrown), 1:28. 8. Edmonton, McDavid 19, 12:49. Penalties — Hartman, MIN (hooking), 20:00.

Shots on goal — Edmonton 14-11-11 — 36. Minnesota 12-10-12 — 34.

Power plays — Edmonton 1-1; Minnesota 2-3.

Goalies — Edmonton, Pickard 11-4-0 (34 shots-31 saves). Minnesota, Gustavsson 18-9-3 (36 shots-31 saves).

Referees — Dan O'Rourke, Chris Lee. Linesmen — Bryan Pancich, Brandon Gawryletz.

A — 18,212 (18,064). T — 2:30.

SABRES 4, HURRICANES 2

Carolina	0	0	2	—	2
Buffalo	1	2	1	—	4

First period — 1. Buffalo, McLeod 8 (Clifton, Malenstyn), 0:43. Penalties — Lafferty, BUF (kneeing), 6:10. McLeod, BUF (cross check), 8:18. Walker, CAR (holding stick), 15:16.

Second period — 2. Buffalo, Cozens 10 (Tuch), 8:18. 3. Buffalo, McLeod 9 (Zucker), 19:56. Penalties — Clifton, BUF, served by Quinn (interference), 3:42.

Third period — 4. Carolina, JaSlavin 3 (Burns, Kotkaniemi), 3:45. 5. Carolina, Necas 16 (Gostisbehere, Burns), 16:50. 6. Buffalo, McLeod 10 (Thompson, Zucker), 19:36 (en). Penalties — None.

Shots on goal — Carolina 11-18-8 — 37. Buffalo 11-13-0 — 24.

Power plays — Carolina 0-3; Buffalo 0-1.

Goalies — Carolina, Tokarski 4-2-0 (24 shots-21 saves). Buffalo, Luukkonen 14-13-4 (37 shots-35 saves).

Referees — Pierre Lambert, Ghislain Hebert. Linesmen — Kyle Flemington, Scott Cherrey.

A — 13,449 (19,070). T — 2:21.

AVALANCHE 3, RANGERS 2

Tuesday night game

NY Rangers	1	1	0	0	— 2
Colorado	1	0	1	1	— 3

First period — 1. Colorado, Kelly 5 (Colton, Makar), 4:53. 2. NY, Carrick 4, 11:55. Penalties — Kreider, NYR (tripping), 11:02. Middleton, COL (delay of game), 14:50.

Second period — 3. NY, Edstrom 4 (Carrick), 9:59. Penalties — Carrick, NYR (cross check), 12:56. Colton, COL (tripping), 15:45.

Third period — 4. Colorado, Lehkonen 16 (Rantanen, MacKinnon), 18:47. Penalties — Smith, NYR (hooking), 13:03.

Overtime — 5. Colorado, Toews 6 (MacKinnon, O'Connor), 4:23. Penalties — Rantanen, COL (interference), 0:45.

Shots on goal — NY 10-12-4-3 — 29. Colorado 5-8-10-3 — 26.

Power plays — NY 0-3; Colorado 0-3.

Goalies — NY, Shesterkin 13-15-2 (26 shots-23 saves). Colorado, Blackwood 15-11-4 (29 shots-27 saves).

Referees — Graham Skilliter, Corey Syvret. Linesmen — Kiel Murchison, Travis Gawryletz.

A — 18,037 (17,809). T — 2:35.

LEADERS

Not including Wednesday's games

SCORING

	G	A	Pts.
MacKinnon, COL	15	55	70
Draisaitl, EDM	31	33	64
Kucherov, TBL	20	43	63
Rantanen, COL	25	36	61
Marner, TOR	14	46	60
Connor, WPG	26	33	59
McDavid, EDM	17	42	59
Eichel, VGK	11	43	54
Scheifele, WPG	26	26	52
Hughes, NJD	17	35	52
Reinhart, FLA	27	24	51
Bratt, NJD	15	36	51

GOALS

	GP	G
Draisaitl, EDM	43	31
Reinhart, FLA	45	27
Connor, WPG	45	26
Scheifele, WPG	45	26

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	Pct.	GB	Streak	Home	Conf.
Boston	28	12	.700	—	L 1	14-7	22-8
New York	27	15	.643	2	W 1	13-7	20-10
Philadelphia	15	24	.385	12½	L 4	6-13	12-12
*Brooklyn	14	26	.350	14	W 1	5-12	7-20
Toronto	10	31	.244	18½	W 2	9-13	6-20
CENTRAL	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**Streak**	**Home**	**Conf.**
Cleveland	34	5	.872	—	W 1	20-2	23-5
Milwaukee	22	17	.564	12	W 2	14-7	18-15
Indiana	22	19	.537	13	L 1	11-7	13-15
Detroit	21	19	.525	13½	W 2	10-9	15-14
Chicago	18	23	.439	17	L 3	8-14	15-14
SOUTHEAST	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**Streak**	**Home**	**Conf.**
Orlando	23	19	.548	—	L 1	14-7	19-12
Miami	20	18	.526	1	L 1	10-7	11-11
Atlanta	21	19	.525	1	W 2	11-7	14-7
Charlotte	8	28	.222	12	L 1	6-13	6-24
Washington	6	32	.158	15	L 7	5-17	5-19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

PACIFIC	W	L	Pct.	GB	Streak	Home	Conf.
*LA Clippers	21	17	.553	—	W 1	13-6	14-16
LA Lakers	20	17	.541	½	L 3	12-6	16-10
Sacramento	20	20	.500	2	L 1	10-12	13-14
Phoenix	19	20	.487	2½	L 1	13-8	14-10
Golden State	19	20	.487	2½	L 2	10-10	14-13
SOUTHWEST	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**Streak**	**Home**	**Conf.**
Houston	27	12	.692	—	W 5	14-6	18-8
Memphis	26	15	.634	2	W 1	15-5	13-12
Dallas	22	19	.537	6	L 3	12-8	16-16
San Antonio	19	20	.487	8	L 1	12-9	16-15
New Orleans	10	32	.238	18½	W 2	6-16	4-19
NORTHWEST	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**Streak**	**Home**	**Conf.**
Oklahoma City	33	6	.846	—	W 3	17-2	19-5
Denver	24	16	.600	9½	L 1	12-8	16-11
Minnesota	21	18	.538	12	W 1	10-8	16-11
Portland	13	26	.333	20	L 3	8-10	11-21
Utah	10	28	.263	22½	W 1	3-14	3-22

* — Not including late game

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

At Toronto 110	BOSTON 97	Charlotte 117	at Utah 112
New York 125	at Philadelphia 119 (OT)	Houston 128	at Denver 108
Memphis 129	at San Antonio 115	Golden St. 116	at Minnesota 115
At New Orleans 119	Dallas 116	At LA Lakers 117	Miami 108
At Milwaukee 122	Orlando 93	Brooklyn	at LA Clippers
Atlanta 110	at Chicago 94		

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Phoenix at Washington	7	Houston at Sacramento	10
Indiana at Detroit	7	LA Clippers at Portland	10
Cleveland at Okla. City	7:30		

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Okla. City 118	at Philadelphia 102	New Orleans 119	at Chicago 113
Cleveland 127	at Indiana 117	Denver 118	at Dallas 99
At Atlanta 122	Phoenix 117	Brooklyn 132	at Portland 114
At Milwaukee 130	Sacramento 115		



MATT SLOCUM/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jalen Brunson scored 16 of his 38 points in the fourth quarter and overtime as the Knicks defeated the 76ers, 125-119, for just their third victory in eight games.

KNICKS 125, 76ERS 119

NEW YORK

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Hart	49	4-9	2-3	5-17	12	3	10
Anunoby	44	6-16	2-2	0-4	4	1	17
J.Sims	23	3-5	2-4	6-7	0	4	8
Bridges	43	9-19	0-0	0-2	2	0	23
Brunson	45	14-22	7-9	1-5	4	1	38
Achiuwa	30	4-6	2-4	2-6	1	2	10
McBride	22	4-5	2-2	1-3	3	1	13
Payne	7	2-4	0-0	0-1	2	2	6
Totals		46-86	17-24	15-45	28	14	125

FG%: .535, FT%: .708. 3-pt. goals: 16-37, .432 (Hart 0-3, Anunoby 3-10, Bridges 5-10, Brunson 3-6, McBride 3-4, Payne 2-4). Team rebounds: 9. Team turnovers: 16 (20 pts.). Blocks: 3 (Achiuwa 3). Turnovers: 13 (Hart 3, Anunoby 2, J.Sims, Bridges, Brunson 5, Achiuwa). Steals: 10 (Hart 4, Anunoby, Brunson 2, Achiuwa, McBride, Payne).

PHILADELPHIA

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Oubre	45	7-11	1-1	1-10	1	3	16
George	43	9-20	5-5	0-3	6	2	26
Yabusele	38	4-8	0-0	4-5	6	4	9
Gordon	21	4-6	3-3	0-1	2	0	14
Maxey	46	13-32	5-5	2-6	6	3	33
Edwards	35	4-6	0-0	1-2	3	3	10
Dowtin	14	3-6	0-0	0-1	3	1	7
Council	7	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
Bona	15	1-1	0-0	3-6	0	3	2
Totals		46-92	14-14	11-35	27	19	119

FG%: .500, FT%: 1.000. 3-pt. goals: 13-35, .371 (Oubre 1-3, George 3-8, Yabusele 1-4, Gordon 3-5, Maxey 2-9, Edwards 2-4, Dowtin 1-2). Team rebounds: 4. Team turnovers: 12 (25 pts.). Blocks: 2 (Oubre, Maxey). Turnovers: 12 (Oubre 2, George 3, Yabusele 2, Maxey 4, Bona). Steals: 8 (Oubre 2, George 3, Maxey, Edwards, Dowtin).

New York	30	30	25	24	16 — 125
Philadelphia	21	26	38	24	10 — 119

A — 20,088 (20,318). T — 2:34. Officials — Pat Fraher, Ray Acosta, Matt Kallio.

BUCKS 122, MAGIC 93

ORLANDO

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
da Silva	22	0-4	0-0	3-4	1	2	0
Banchero	26	8-20	4-5	0-5	2	2	22
Carter	33	3-12	4-5	3-10	1	4	12
Pope	23	3-9	0-0	0-2	1	0	8
Anthony	27	5-13	0-0	1-4	9	6	11
Houstan	24	2-8	2-2	1-2	2	1	8
Black	30	3-8	4-7	0-0	4	4	10
Isaac	15	4-8	1-2	1-3	0	1	9
Queen	28	5-11	0-0	0-2	3	2	13
Joseph	11	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	2	0
Totals		33-95	15-21	9-32	24	24	93

FG%: .347, FT%: .714. 3-pt. goals: 12-46, .261 (da Silva 0-3, Banchero 2-7, Carter 2-4, Pope 2-7, Anthony 1-5, Houstan 2-7, Black 0-2, Isaac 0-3, Queen 3-6, Joseph 0-2). Team rebounds: 9. Team turnovers: 13 (15 pts.). Blocks: 1 (Banchero). Turnovers: 13 (Banchero 7, Pope, Anthony 2, Black 2, Queen). Steals: 13 (da Silva, Carter 2, Pope, Black 2, Isaac 2, Queen 4, Joseph).

MILWAUKEE

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Prince	20	1-2	2-2	0-1	1	2	5
Antetokounmpo	30	11-15	4-8	0-11	4	0	26
Lopez	31	5-7	3-3	0-5	2	5	13
Jackson	15	0-1	0-0	0-3	2	1	0
Lillard	30	13-19	1-1	0-5	4	1	30
Middleton	21	5-8	4-6	0-2	6	1	14
Portis	23	4-6	4-4	1-8	0	3	14
Green	17	0-3	2-3	1-5	0	2	2
Rollins	15	3-4	0-0	0-3	2	1	6
Connaughton	11	1-2	1-2	0-1	1	1	3
Wright	7	0-2	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Livingston	6	0-0	0-0	0-3	0	1	0
Robbins	6	0-0	3-4	1-1	0	2	3
Beauchamp	5	2-3	1-2	0-1	0	0	6
Umude	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		45-72	25-35	3-49	24	20	122

FG%: .625, FT%: .714. 3-pt. goals: 7-12, .583 (Prince 1-1, Lopez 0-1, Lillard 3-3, Middleton 0-1, Portis 2-3, Green 0-1, Wright 0-1, Beauchamp 1-1). Team rebounds: 15. Team turnovers: 21 (19 pts.). Blocks: 10 (Lopez 5, Portis, Rollins 2, Wright, Umude). Turnovers: 21 (Antetokounmpo 6, Lopez, Jackson 2, Lillard 3, Portis 2, Rollins 2, Connaughton, Wright, Livingston, Robbins 2). Steals: 10 (Antetokounmpo, Jackson, Lillard 4, Middleton 2, Wright, Robbins).

Orlando	16	25	27	25	— 93
Milwaukee	34	28	30	30	— 122

A — 17,341 (17,500). T — 2:13. Officials — Courtney Kirkland, Eric Dalen, Sharae Mitchell.

PELICANS 119, MAVERICKS 116

DALLAS

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Thompson	26	5-12	0-0	0-1	2	1	12
Washington	38	4-11	5-8	3-14	2	3	14
Gafford	30	12-13	3-4	3-12	2	1	27
Marshall	30	3-7	0-0	0-2	10	3	7
Dinwiddie	38	6-17	5-5	1-5	4	2	20
Williams	5	0-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Powell	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Hardy	25	7-13	3-4	0-5	2	1	21
Grimes	19	6-11	1-2	0-2	2	1	14
Prosper	10	0-3	1-2	1-4	1	2	1
Kleber	14	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	3	0
Totals		43-90	18-25	8-45	27	17	116

FG%: .478, FT%: .720. 3-pt. goals: 12-35, .343 (Thompson 2-9, Washington 1-4, Marshall 1-2, Dinwiddie 3-8, Williams 0-1, Hardy 4-6, Grimes 1-4, Prosper 0-1). Blocks: 3 (Gafford 2, Kleber). Turnovers: 15 (Thompson 3, Washington 4, Gafford, Marshall 2, Dinwiddie, Williams, Hardy 2, Kleber). Steals: 9 (Washington, Marshall 2, Dinwiddie 3, Hardy, Grimes, Kleber).

NEW ORLEANS

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Green	27	4-7	2-2	1-7	1	4	13
Murphy	38	7-18	8-8	6-10	4	2	24
Missi	29	5-7	2-4	3-6	0	3	12
McCollum	33	4-14	2-2	0-0	2	0	11
Murray	33	10-22	6-8	0-7	7	1	30
Hawkins	21	5-9	0-0	1-3	2	2	12
Theis	19	1-4	0-0	2-5	1	3	2
Earl	9	2-3	0-0	2-7	1	2	4
Alvarado	15	1-5	0-0	0-1	5	2	2
Boston	15	4-8	0-0	0-3	1	1	9
Totals		43-97	20-24	15-49	24	20	119

FG%: .443, FT%: .833. 3-pt. goals: 13-39, .333 (Green 3-5, Murphy 2-6, McCollum 1-7, Murray 4-10, Hawkins 2-5, Earl 0-1, Alvarado 0-3, Boston 1-2). Blocks: 8 (Murphy 3, Missi 2, McCollum 2, Theis). Turnovers: 10 (Green, Murphy 2, Missi, McCollum 2, Murray 2, Hawkins, Theis). Steals: 11 (Green, Murphy, Missi, McCollum, Murray 2, Hawkins 3, Theis, Alvarado).

Dallas	27	34	30	25	— 116
New Orleans	33	30	24	32	— 119

A — 16,488 (16,867). T — 2:13. Officials — Gediminas Petraitis, Rodney Mott, Danielle Scott.

HAWKS 110, BULLS 94

ATLANTA

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Roddy	24	2-11	0-0	1-6	2	0	4
Krejci	29	4-10	2-2	0-3	6	1	11
Capela	21	5-11	1-2	1-10	1	2	11
Daniels	34	7-16	3-7	5-8	3	1	18
Wallace	38	10-18	3-3	1-6	6	3	27
Bogdanovic	20	1-10	0-0	0-0	1	1	3
Okongwu	27	5-9	3-5	3-13	7	2	14
Mathews	22	0-7	3-3	0-1	2	1	3
Plowden	25	7-8	0-0	3-4	0	4	19
Totals		41-100	15-22	14-51	28	15	110

FG%: .410, FT%: .682. 3-pt. goals: 13-43, .302 (Roddy 0-5, Krejci 1-5, Daniels 1-4, Wallace 4-7, Bogdanovic 1-9, Okongwu 1-1, Mathews 0-6, Plowden 5-6). Blocks: 5 (Krejci 2, Capela, Daniels, Okongwu). Turnovers: 9 (Roddy, Krejci, Daniels 2, Wallace, Bogdanovic, Okongwu 2, Plowden). Steals: 11 (Roddy 3, Daniels 3, Wallace 4, Okongwu).

CHICAGO

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Williams	25	4-8	0-0	0-2	0	0	10
LaVine	35	7-13	0-0	0-6	7	2	15
Vucevic	34	6-14	2-2	4-16	4	2	14
Giddey	30	3-8	0-0	0-10	3	3	7
White	33	5-14	5-5	0-2	6	2	16
Phillips	14	4-5	2-2	2-4	0	0	10
Dosunmu	25	4-7	1-1	1-3	2	1	9
Terry	6	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	2	0
Smith	12	2-6	0-0	1-4	0	1	5
Carter	4	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Tucker	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Duarte	1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Buzelis	17	4-8	0-0	0-5	0	1	8
Totals		39-88	10-10	8-53	23	15	94

FG%: .443, FT%: 1.000. 3-pt. goals: 6-27, .222 (Williams 2-3, LaVine 1-2, Vucevic 0-3, Giddey 1-2, White 1-7, Phillips 0-1, Dosunmu 0-1, Smith 1-3, Carter 0-1, Tucker 0-1, Buzelis 0-3). Blocks: 5 (Giddey, White, Buzelis 3). Turnovers: 20 (LaVine 3, Vucevic 3, Giddey 3, White 3, Phillips, Dosunmu, Terry 2, Smith 2, Carter, Tucker). Steals: 5 (LaVine 2, White, Dosunmu 2).

Atlanta	27	34	25	24	— 110
Chicago	25	22	31	16	— 94

A — 17,692 (20,917). T — 2:06. Officials — John Goble, Marat Kogut, Intae Hwang.

GRIZZLIES 129, SPURS 115

MEMPHIS

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Wells	21	1-7	2-2	0-1	0	3	5
Jackson	31	8-24	1-2	2-6	2	4	19
Edey	17	3-6	0-0	2-5	0	1	6
Bane	33	8-13	3-3	2-3	2	2	21
Morant	31	9-13	2-2	0-4	12	3	21
Kennard	30	5-9	0-0	1-9	3	1	15
Clarke	11	2-4	1-2	1-5	2	0	5
Aldama	27	9-15	1-2	3-10	2	1	20
LaRavia	10	1-3	0-0	2-4	0	2	3
Pippen	19	1-3	1-4	1-4	5	1	3
Huff	11	4-6	0-0	0-1	0	1	11
Totals		51-103	11-17	14-52	28	19	129

FG%: .495, FT%: .647. 3-pt. goals: 16-38, .421 (Wells 1-5, Jackson 2-8, Bane 2-4, Morant 1-2, Kennard 5-9, Aldama 1-3, LaRavia 1-1, Pippen 0-1, Huff 3-5). Team rebounds: 9. Team turnovers: 8 (7 pts.). Blocks: 5 (Jackson 2, Bane, Clarke, Huff). Turnovers: 8 (Jackson 2, Edey 2, Morant 2, Kennard, Clarke). Steals: 7 (Edey, Bane 2, Morant 2, Clarke, Pippen). Technicals: def. 3-second, 8:22/2nd.

SAN ANTONIO

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Barnes	30	4-7	0-2	1-5	2	1	10
Castle	32	9-21	6-7	3-3	4	3	26
Wembanyama	37	5-19	0-0	0-12	2	3	13
Paul	35	3-6	1-1	0-5	5	5	8
Vassell	34	7-13	4-7	1-5	3	2	21
K.Johnson	26	6-12	4-4	0-4	1	0	17
Bassey	11	2-3	1-2	2-5	0	2	5
Jones	13	1-2	3-4	0-1	3	0	6
Champagnie	22	3-6	0-0	0-4	2	1	9
Totals		40-89	19-27	7-44	22	17	115

FG%: .449, FT%: .704. 3-pt. goals: 16-43, .372 (Barnes 2-4, Castle 2-9, Wembanyama 3-10, Paul 1-4, Vassell 3-6, K.Johnson 1-4, Jones 1-1, Champagnie 3-5). Team rebounds: 10. Team turnovers: 11 (16 pts.). Blocks: 11 (Wembanyama 8, Bassey 2, Champagnie). Turnovers: 11 (Barnes, Castle, Wembanyama, Paul 4, Vassell 2, K.Johnson, Champagnie). Steals: 5 (Wembanyama 2, Vassell 2, Bassey).

Memphis	28	23	43	35	— 129
San Antonio	30	33	25	27	— 115

A — 18,354 (18,797). T — 2:08. Officials — Ed Malloy, Kevin Cutler, Derek Richardson.

ROCKETS 128, NUGGETS 108

HOUSTON

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Brooks	26	2-5	0-0	0-1	0	1	6
Thompson	35	4-8	3-7	3-9	0	2	11
Sengun	26	9-21	2-2	3-9	8	1	20
VanVleet	35	6-13	0-0	0-1	8	3	16
Ja.Green	30	10-16	8-8	1-1	5	2	34
Tate	18	3-5	0-0	3-4	1	3	6
Adams	7	1-1	0-0	2-3	1	0	2
Whitmore	24	7-11	0-0	2-9	1	1	16
Je.Green	21	3-6	0-0	0-2	0	4	8
Holiday	8	0-1	0-0	0-0	2	1	0
Sheppard	6	0-3	0-0	0-1	1	0	0
Williams	6	4-4	0-0	0-0	1	1	9
Totals		49-94	13-17	14-40	28	19	128

FG%: .521, FT%: .765. 3-pt. goals: 17-38, .447 (Brooks 2-4, Sengun 0-1, VanVleet 4-9, Ja.Green 6-10, Tate 0-1, Whitmore 2-4, Je.Green 2-5, Holiday 0-1, Sheppard 0-2, Williams 1-1). Team rebounds: 9. Team turnovers: 11 (8 pts.). Blocks: 6 (Thompson 2, Ja.Green, Adams, Whitmore, Je.Green). Turnovers: 8 (Brooks, Thompson 2, Sengun, Ja.Green, Adams, Whitmore, Sheppard). Steals: 14 (Brooks 2, Thompson 4, Sengun 2, VanVleet 3, Whitmore, Holiday, Williams).

DENVER

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Porter	24	2-4	4-7	1-3	0	2	8
Braun	35	10-11	0-0	2-5	1	2	22
Jordan	23	0-0	0-0	1-8	0	2	0
Westbrook	25	6-14	2-2	3-4	2	3	17
Murray	30	8-14	2-2	0-3	5	2	22
Watson	23	4-8	1-2	0-3	0	0	10
Strawther	25	3-9	2-2	0-1	3	2	10
Saric	19	3-4	2-4	1-4	5	1	8
Jal.Pickett	18	1-3	0-0	0-1	5	0	2
Tyson	8	1-3	1-2	1-2	0	1	4
Nnaji	6	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
Alexander	6	1-4	0-0	0-1	1	1	3
Totals		40-75	14-21	9-36	22	16	108

FG%: .533, FT%: .667. 3-pt. goals: 14-29, .483 (Porter 0-2, Braun 2-3, Westbrook 3-5, Murray 4-5, Watson 1-3, Strawther 2-6, Jal.Pickett 0-1, Tyson 1-2, Alexander 1-2). Team rebounds: 6. Team turnovers: 20 (34 pts.). Blocks: 7 (Porter, Jordan 3, Watson 3). Turnovers: 18 (Porter 2, Braun, Jordan, Westbrook 5, Murray 5, Watson, Strawther 3). Steals: 4 (Jordan, Westbrook, Jal.Pickett, Alexander).

Houston	28	41	33	26	— 128
Denver	23	25	33	27	— 108

A — 19,837 (19,155). T — 2:07. Officials — Ben Taylor, CJ Washington, Derrick Collins.

NUGGETS 118, MAVERICKS 99

Tuesday night game

DENVER

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Braun	29	3-6	0-0	1-4	0	2	6
Porter	26	5-9	0-0	1-6	2	0	13
Jokic	29	4-7	1-2	2-14	10	3	10
Westbrook	26	3-11	2-2	2-6	3	2	9
Murray	37	18-26	4-4	0-2	6	0	45
Watson	27	2-6	4-4	0-5	1	2	9
Gordon	18	2-9	4-4	2-2	0	2	8
Strawther	18	1-3	0-0	0-3	3	4	3
Jordan	16	3-4	2-4	3-6	2	0	8
Jal.Pickett	4	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	3
Tyson	3	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	3	0
Nnaji	3	1-1	2-2	0-1	0	0	4
Alexander	3	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Totals		43-83	19-22	11-51	28	20	118

FG%: .518, FT%: .864. 3-pt. goals: 13-29, .448 (Braun 0-1, Porter 3-4, Jokic 1-2, Westbrook 1-3, Murray 5-9, Watson 1-3, Gordon 0-3, Strawther 1-3, Jal.Pickett 1-1). Team rebounds: 8. Team turnovers: 20 (25 pts.). Blocks: 7 (Braun 3, Westbrook, Watson, Gordon, Jordan). Turnovers: 18 (Porter, Jokic, Westbrook 4, Murray 5, Watson, Strawther, Jordan 2, Jal.Pickett, Nnaji 2). Steals: 9 (Porter, Jokic 2, Westbrook 2, Murray 2, Watson, Gordon).

DALLAS

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Washington	26	2-10	1-2	3-8	4	2	5
Marshall	22	5-8	1-1	0-2	4	1	11
Lively	4	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	4
Thompson	21	3-8	0-0	0-3	0	1	8
Irving	30	4-18	3-4	1-4	2	1	11
Gafford	19	5-8	3-4	1-4	1	3	13
Kleber	18	4-7	0-0	1-1	3	2	10
Dinwiddie	20	3-4	1-1	0-2	2	0	8
Grimes	27	3-8	2-2	0-0	5	1	10
Hardy	20	2-9	1-2	1-2	4	3	5
Powell	14	0-0	1-2	1-2	1	3	1
Prosper	14	4-6	1-4	0-2	1	0	10
Williams	4	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	3
Totals		38-90	14-22	8-30	27	17	99

FG%: .422, FT%: .636. 3-pt. goals: 9-32, .281 (Washington 0-2, Marshall 0-2, Thompson 2-6, Irving 0-3, Kleber 2-4, Dinwiddie 1-2, Grimes 2-6, Hardy 0-3, Prosper 1-3, Williams 1-1). Team rebounds: 14. Team turnovers: 12 (19 pts.). Blocks: 6 (Washington, Lively, Thompson, Irving, Gafford, Prosper). Turnovers: 12 (Washington, Marshall, Thompson 2, Irving, Gafford, Dinwiddie, Hardy 4, Prosper). Steals: 14 (Washington 2, Irving 4, Dinwiddie, Grimes 3, Hardy, Powell 2, Prosper).

Denver	36	35	20	27	— 118
Dallas	21	24	22	32	— 99

A — 19,798 (19,200). T — 2:17. Officials — Tyler Ford, Scott Twardoski, Brandon Adair.

NETS 132, TRAIL BLAZERS 114

Tuesday night game

BROOKLYN

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Williams	28	4-7	2-2	3-7	1	2	13
C.Johnson	27	10-18	2-2	0-1	2	0	24
Clowney	29	7-10	2-2	1-5	2	3	20
Simmons	26	2-6	1-2	2-9	11	5	5
K.Johnson	29	7-12	3-4	0-3	4	1	20
T.Martin	20	2-5	0-0	0-1	3	1	5
Wilson	22	6-8	0-0	2-4	1	3	14
Sharpe	18	4-7	0-0	1-7	1	1	8
Evbuomwan	18	4-6	1-2	1-4	1	3	10
Russell	21	3-11	4-4	0-3	9	2	13
Beekman	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Whitehead	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		49-90	15-18	10-44	36	21	132

FG%: .544, FT%: .833. 3-pt. goals: 19-41, .463 (Williams 3-4, C.Johnson 2-9, Clowney 4-7, K.Johnson 3-6, T.Martin 1-3, Wilson 2-3, Sharpe 0-1, Evbuomwan 1-2, Russell 3-6). Team rebounds: 7. Team turnovers: 13 (22 pts.). Blocks: 2 (C.Johnson, Clowney). Turnovers: 11 (Williams, C.Johnson, Clowney 2, Simmons 2, K.Johnson 2, T.Martin 2, Russell). Steals: 11 (Williams 2, Clowney 2, K.Johnson, Wilson, Sharpe, Russell 4).

PORTLAND

	Min	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb O-T	A	F	Pt
Sharpe	35	9-17	2-2	0-2	2	1	21
Camara	38	7-21	5-5	3-5	2	2	23
Ayton	24	1-4	0-0	0-8	0	1	2
Simons	32	3-12	3-3	0-1	4	1	11
Henderson	39	13-18	5-8	2-4	6	4	39
Banton	19	3-7	2-2	0-0	1	1	10
Clingan	22	1-1	2-2	5-14	2	4	4
Murray	23	2-5	0-2	3-4	3	1	4
Walker	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Minaya	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Reath	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Rupert	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0

NFL NOTEBOOK

With Patriots looming, Browns lock up Rees

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tommy Rees went from being a ball boy for the Browns to running their offense.

Cleveland coach **Kevin Stefanski** hired Rees as his offensive coordinator Wednesday, promoting him after firing **Ken Dorsey** following a season in which the Browns went 3-14 and averaged a league-low 15.2 points per game.

Rees spent last season as Cleveland's tight ends coach, working with **Mike Vrabel**, who spent a year as a consultant with the Browns before being named the Patriots' coach this week.

Vrabel had been expected to bring Rees with him to the Patriots, but Stefanski, who said Jan. 6 that he planned to interview internal candidates, beat him to the punch.

"Tommy has an incredible football mind," Stefanski said. "He is extremely bright and has been around the game his entire life. Before joining our staff, he established himself as one of the top assistant coaches in college football. Last season, he transitioned into our tight end room and with our pass game, and he didn't miss a beat."

Rees, 32, has been considered a rising star in the NFL coaching ranks. He was the first candidate to interview with Stefanski, who fired Dorsey hours after the Browns ended their dreadful season with a loss at Baltimore in the finale.

NFL playoffs

Wild-card round

Saturday, Jan. 11

At Houston 32	LA Chargers 12
At Baltimore 28	Pittsburgh 14

Sunday, Jan. 12

At Buffalo 31	Denver 7
At Philadelphia 22	Green Bay 10
Washington 23	at Tampa Bay 20

Monday, Jan. 13

At LA Rams 27	Minnesota 9

Divisional round

Saturday's games

Houston at Kansas City	4:30 (ESPN/ABC)
Washington at Detroit	8 (Fox)

Sunday's games

LA Rams at Philadelphia	3 (NBC)
Baltimore at Buffalo	6:30 (CBS)

WR Flowers's status unclear

Ravens wide receiver **Zay Flowers** was not at practice during the portion open to reporters after missing the team's first-round playoff victory over Pittsburgh with a knee injury.

Flowers was injured in the regular-season finale against Cleveland, and his status remains unclear for Sunday night's showdown at Buffalo. Coach **John Harbaugh** said Monday Flowers could play even if he doesn't practice.

Jets interview Joseph for coach

The Jets interviewed Broncos defensive coordinator **Vance Joseph** for their head coach position.

Joseph, who was the Broncos' head coach from 2016-18 in his first stint with the team, is the 10th known candidate to speak to the Jets about their opening.

New York has also interviewed **Aaron Glenn**, **Mike Locksley**, **Matt Nagy**, **Ron Rivera**, **Darren Rizzi**, **Rex Ryan**, **Steve Spagnuolo**, **Jeff Ulbrich**, and Vrabel for the job.

The Jets are also conducting an extensive search for a new general manager.

Steelers' Smith talks with Bears

The Bears interviewed Steelers offensive coordinator **Arthur Smith** for their head coaching job.

Smith was hired by the Steelers a year ago after coaching Atlanta to a 21-30 record from 2021 to 2023. The Falcons were 7-10 in each of his three seasons before firing him.

The Steelers went from tying for 27th in scoring in 2023 to finishing 16th this past season, after signing **Russell Wilson** and acquiring **Justin Fields** from Chicago to play quarterback.

The Bears are looking to replace **Matt Eberflus**, who was fired Nov. 29. Chicago finished last in the NFC North at 5-12 and lost 10 in a row before closing the season with a win at Green Bay.

The development of quarterback **Caleb Williams** will be the top priority for the next coach in the wake of the Bears' fourth straight losing season.

Wild-card ratings down

Viewer audiences for the first weekend of the NFL playoffs were down 9.3 percent from last year, a bigger decline than what the league experienced during the regular season. According to the league and Nielsen, the six wild-card round games averaged 28.3 million viewers on television and digital platforms, compared to 31.2 million last year. The two Saturday games held steady, while the Sunday and Monday matchups saw declines . . . The Colts will play in the first regular-season game in Berlin. The NFL announced the 2025 Berlin game will be played at Olympic Stadium. The Colts' opponent and date of game will be announced later.

If Vrabel has the final say, where does that leave Wolf?

▶ON FOOTBALL
Continued from Page C1

setup the Patriots had for most of Bill Belichick's 24-year tenure.

■ **The addition of Ryan Cowden to the front office is big.** Per reports, Cowden, 45, was let out of his contract by the Giants so he can join the Patriots.

Cowden isn't just a guy Vrabel worked with for five years in Tennessee. Cowden was Vrabel's preferred choice to get the Titans' general manager job two years ago after Jon Robinson was fired, and it looked like he was getting the job. But Titans owner Amy Adams Strunk hired Ran Carthon out of the blue, infuriating Vrabel, who was fired a year later.

Now Vrabel and Cowden are reunited, and the fact that it came immediately after Vrabel was hired is another sign that Vrabel has the juice in Foxborough. Cowden will probably be Vrabel's eyes and ears in the personnel room to make sure Vrabel's vision is being executed.

■ **Wolf is staying, but it doesn't look good for him.** Robert Kraft said last week that Wolf "will be staying on" after the firing of Jerod Mayo. And Vrabel said, "I'm just excited to sit down with Eliot and his staff" and spent most of Monday creating the impression that Wolf and the front office are operating under status quo.

But Kraft was dodgy about Wolf's role, and Vrabel laid it on pretty thick, to the point that it created suspicion. Vrabel mentioned Wolf by name six times in his press conference, making sure to note that he and Wolf already have developed an inside joke. Vrabel later said on WEEI that he and Wolf met for two hours to go over the roster.

It's highly doubtful that Vrabel would take the job with the understanding that he works for Wolf and Wolf has final say. More likely, Wolf now works for Vrabel, and they'll spend the next few months, if not the entire 2025 season, figuring out if the setup works moving forward.

The Patriots have several reasons for keeping Wolf despite firing Mayo. One, it would be expensive. Firing Mayo after one year was expensive, just as it was expensive last year to buy out the final year of Belichick's contract. Wolf is believed to have a four-year deal, so it's possible Kraft wants to keep him around for a second year just so he doesn't keep paying people not to work for him.

Two, firing Wolf now would require the Patriots to go through the Rooney Rule if they wanted to hire Cowden or anyone else as the new front-office boss. The Patriots would have to interview at least two minority candidates in person.

We saw how the Patriots treated the Rooney Rule as a mere nuisance during the coaching search, and it's not unreasonable to think that they don't want to go through the process with the front office. One way to possibly get around the Rooney Rule next year could be to give Cowden a "GM-in-waiting" clause in his contract, like the Patriots gave with Mayo last year.

Three, keeping Wolf provides the Patriots with a fall guy for whatever goes wrong in 2025. The free agents were a bust, or the draft picks didn't pan out? Blame Wolf, the guy in charge.

Four, Wolf does deserve credit for drafting Drake Maye. There was plenty of debate internally last offseason about trading the No. 3 pick, with offensive coordinator Alex Van Pelt, league sources say, among those who thought the Patriots had too many holes to justify taking a quarterback at that spot. Van Pelt was right about the roster, and the Patriots could have gotten multiple first-round picks from the Giants or Vikings, but Wolf was smart to stick with the pick and take Maye, who looks like the Patriots' answer at quarterback. Drafting Joe Milton in the sixth round was also a shrewd move by Wolf.

My hunch: Much like it took the Patriots a year to land their preferred coach in Vrabel, it's going to take a year for the Patriots to create their preferred front office setup, with 2025 serving as a bridge year.

■ **Fans (and Vrabel) should be concerned if Josh McDaniels is hired as offensive coordinator.** McDaniels has been gaining buzz for weeks as the next offensive coordinator, and in a vacuum he'd be a solid selection. McDaniels has seen just about everything over a quarter-century NFL career, and has had success with a variety of quarterbacks, from Tom Brady to Matt Cassel to Jimmy Garoppolo to Mac Jones (and even did OK with Cam Newton). McDaniels would be a great tutor for Maye, and as an added benefit, the Patriots wouldn't have to worry about McDaniels leaving for another head coaching job.

But if McDaniels is hired, it would be a concerning sign that the Krafts are still in charge. Vrabel knows McDaniels well from Vrabel's playing days, and they have maintained a relationship since then, but that doesn't automatically make McDaniels his No. 1 candidate.

Vrabel has coached elsewhere, and has contacts. His coordinators in Tennessee included Matt LaFleur, Arthur Smith, and Todd Downing.

Patriots fans should want the organization to go through a full search (it's unclear if previous interviews of Bryon Leftwich and Pep Hamilton for head coach will also count as Rooney Rule compliance for offensive coordinator).

And the Patriots should target offensive coordinators who don't currently call plays, such as the Vikings' Minnesota's Wes Phillips, the Giants' Mike Kafka, the Panthers' Brad Idzik, the Saints' Klint Kubiak or the Dolphins' Frank Smith. The Patriots already lost out on one potential candidate when the Browns promoted tight ends coach Tommy Rees on Tuesday.

It would be a bad sign for Vrabel and the fan base if the Patriots just go through the motions and hand the job to McDaniels.

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JOHN MCDONNELL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST (LEFT); ASHLEY LANDIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS (RIGHT)

Soon-to-be free agents Bobby Wagner (left) and J.K. Dobbins (right) may intrigue the Patriots.

Patriots need leaders to set tone

▶PATRIOTS
Continued from Page C1

of the shifting nature of the market, here are 10 potential offseason targets — all of whom are set to become unrestricted free agents — to consider. None are necessarily at the top of their class statistically, but they could play a sizable role in reshaping the locker room.

Bobby Wagner: One of the most well-respected players in the NFL, the six-time All-Pro is still playing at a high level in his first season in Washington. He played in all 17 regular-season games and had 132 tackles. The linebacker, who will be 35 in June, fits the mold as a high-character individual who can help build a culture. The 6-foot, 242-pounder is obviously not the only reason the Commanders are in the divisional round of the playoffs one year after going 4-13, but it's also not a coincidence.

Calais Campbell: Another highly regarded veteran, the defensive tackle was routinely wreaking havoc in 2024 with the Dolphins at age 38. The 6-8, 307-pounder, who played 58 percent of the defensive snaps this past season, isn't an every-down player anymore, but he remains a peerless leader. If the Patriots could find a way to land Campbell, they'd add a sturdy veteran and weaken a division rival.

Stephon Gilmore: The former Defensive Player of the Year, who turns 35 in September, is not the lockdown cornerback he was five years ago, but the 6-foot, 190-pound Gilmore would fit nicely in a return to Foxborough as a leader and mentor to a group of young corners. His steadiness and dependability could serve as a great model for Christian Gonzalez and others during a transition period for the franchise.

J.K. Dobbins: After being dogged by injuries for much of his first three years, the 26-year-old broke out this past season with the Chargers with a career-high 905 rushing yards and a 4.6 yards per carry. The 5-10, 215-pounder, who is part of the Comeback Player of the Year conversation, showed the sort of resilience that earned tremendous respect throughout the league.

Daniel Brunskill: The 30-year-old, who played for Vrabel in Tennessee in 2023, has flashed nice versatility, having lined up at center, guard, and tackle for the Titans and 49ers. A 6-5, 300-pounder, his toughness (he's never played fewer than 14 games in a season) and versatility could appeal to a team looking to overhaul the offensive line.

Amari Cooper: The receiver is another well-regarded veteran who has shown an ability to adapt to multiple roles. Cooper, 30, is a 6-1, 211-pounder who has played for four teams since entering the league in 2015, and has caught passes from more than a dozen quarterbacks. While his totals took a dip with the Bills this season, his stat line (44 catches, 547 yards, 4 touchdowns) would still put him among the team leaders in New England.

Keenan Allen: Allen, who will turn 33 this offseason, had 70 catches for 744 yards and seven touchdowns this past season for the Bears. Heralded as a smart and savvy veteran, the 6-2, 211-pounder has said he'd limit himself to the Bears, Rams, or Chargers in free agency (which means you might have to overpay to lure him to New England), but did add he'd be interested in playing for someone with prior head coaching experience.

Zack Martin: The 34-year-old Martin, a foundational part of the Cowboys' offensive line for the last decade, could opt for retirement after season-ending surgery on his right ankle. But if the right guard is interested in sticking around for another year or two, it would be worth a call to gauge his availability. A seven-time first-team All-Pro who remains one of the more well-regarded individuals in the league, the 6-4, 315-pound Martin could serve as a placeholder and mentor.

Dillon Radunz: Radunz was drafted by Vrabel and the Titans in the second round in 2021. The 6-6, 310-pounder is another versatile sort, having played guard and tackle. He turns 27 in March.

Kristian Fulton: The familiarity with Fulton could appeal to Vrabel, as he worked with the cornerback in Tennessee. The 5-11, 197-pounder, who was chosen by the Titans in the second round in 2020, had some ups and downs with the head coach (he was benched in 2023). Ultimately, while you wouldn't necessarily call Fulton a stabilizing, veteran presence, the 26-year-old would bring the benefit of having played for Vrabel, something that could give him a leg up in the acclimation process.

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Porter remains focused on first MLS Cup title for Revolution

▶REVOLUTION
Continued from Page C1

on their shoulder to some extent, who want to prove things."

Newcomers include goalkeepers Alex Bono and Donovan Parisian; center backs Tanner Beason, Brayan Ceballos (Colombia), Mamadou Fofana (Mali), and and Wyatt Omsberg (Scarborough, Maine, and Dartmouth College); midfielders Luis Diaz (Costa Rica), Allan Oyirwoth (Uganda), and Jackson Yueill; and forwards Leonardo Campana (Ecuador) and Ignatius Ganago (Cameroon). Bono and Yueill have performed for the US national team.

The refresh is not complete. Giacomo Vrioni (nine goals), last year's leading scorer, was traded to CF Montreal, opening a spot that could be filled with a high-profile Designated Player or two Under-22 DPs.

Porter, who won MLS Cups with the Portland Timbers (2015) and Columbus Crew (2020), talked title after being hired last January. But the Revolution struggled to a 9-21-4 (31 points) record, fourth-worst points per game (0.9) in their 29-year history.

"I could've come in last year and been cagey on the expectation," Porter said. "That hurt me a little bit, by saying we're going to win MLS Cup and we've got the roster. But that's fine for me. I'm OK setting the vision. I'm not going to shy away from what I want to do.

"That's just my way of doing it, because winning MLS Cup doesn't happen by accident. You have to actually have a vision to do it. Outside looking in, we had good players. They're still good players. They just weren't the right fit for my game model, but you only know that when you come in and work with them."

Porter cites the Los Angeles Galaxy, who recovered from a 26th-place overall finish (8-14-12, 36 points) in 2023 to win the MLS Cup final last year under the coaching of Greg Vanney.

"They didn't make the playoffs two out of the last three years, one of worst [teams] in the league," Porter said. "They kept the coach and kept the continuity, and what his vision and idea was. They just added the right ingredients, added more talent. [Vanney] didn't change what he did, he got a [Joseph] Paintsil and a [Gabriel] Pec and added some really valuable pieces, right back [Miki Yamane], center back [Maya Yoshida], and his vision came to life.

"And that gives me a lot of inspiration, because they went from worst to first. They didn't panic, stayed on course, and they continued to believe in Greg because he had won an MLS Cup, has a good vision. They just needed to add talent, they needed to add his guys. And we did the same thing. We had a bad year and sometimes you get fired in years like that. Definitely my worst year and I own it. I've lost some confidence with the fans, and I'm going to rebuild that confidence one win at a time."

The Revolution have reached five MLS Cup finals and came close to a sixth when they were eliminated in the Eastern Conference final by the Porter-coached Crew in 2020.

"I took the job to win the first MLS Cup, so I'm not changing my goals," Porter said. "I could have been quieter about my goals last year, yeah, maybe had people not expecting quite as much. But I just don't believe in doing it that way. I think the reason you win it is because you set it immediately. Not because you pick a year and say, 'Oh, we're going to win it this year.' No, you pick the vision and then the journey goes in the direction it goes.

"Sometimes you have forks in the road, sometimes it's one, two years. So I could be cagey and say I'm not sure and this and that. I believe the reason I did win it the two years I did is because I approached it that way, because I always had the vision to do it. And eventually you get the right pieces to do it."

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ASANKA BRENDON RATNAYAKE/ASSOCIATE PRESS

Naomi Osaka reached the third round of the Australian Open, but it was a struggle.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

No. 2 Swiatek swiftly reaches third round

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELBOURNE — Iga Swiatek rushed through the first set in 26 minutes and completed her 6-0, 6-2 second-round win over Rebecca Sramkova in an hour at the Australian Open.

The five-time Grand Slam champion makes a habit of advancing quickly through the early rounds at the majors. She's won almost 12 percent of her sets in Grand Slams by 6-0.

So when No. 49-ranked Sramkova ended a seven-game losing run by holding serve on Thursday, she raised her arm to acknowledge the applause from the Rod Laver Arena crowd. It was one of the few chances she had to celebrate.

"It was good to play in such an efficient way and just finish it quick," Swiatek said. "Also, you know, just feel the court and how it is in RLA."

Second-seeded Swiatek next faces 2021 US Open champion Emma Raducanu, who recovered from an early break in the second set to hold off Amanda Anisimova, 6-3, 7-5.

Raducanu has struggled with injuries since her breakthrough major in 2021, when she became the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam singles title.

She didn't play a warm-up tournament ahead of this year's Australian Open because of a muscle strain and needed time during her match against Anisimova to get treatment on her back from a trainer.

After advancing beyond the second round for the first time at Melbourne Park, the No. 61-ranked Raducanu was confident she'd have enough time to recover ahead of her next challenge against Swiatek.

"It'll be a very good match for me, another opportunity to test my game," she said. Swiatek has "achieved so much already. Going into it, I have nothing to lose. I'm just going to swing."

Swiatek is moving on from the doping infringement which led to her one-month ban last year. And she's not showing any signs of it being a distraction.

She's feeling slightly less pressure this year, too, after losing the No. 1 ranking to two-time defending Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka.

"Yeah, there was a lot of pressure starting the year as No. 1, but I think overall last year I didn't think about it this much anyway," she said. "Also, I realized last year that I don't have 100 percent influence on what happens with my ranking sometimes. So now I just focus on tennis."

Emma Navarro, a US Open semifinalist last year and seeded in the top eight for the first time at a major, was in trouble after two service breaks early in the third set before she reeled off four straight games to beat Wang Xiyu, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

She'll play Ons Jabeur, a three-time Grand Slam runner-up, who struggled with asthma but was still able to hold off Camila Osorio, 7-5, 6-3.

Sixth-seeded Elena Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion and runner-up in Australia two years ago, registered her 50th win in a Grand Slam main draw singles match when she beat American qualifier Iva Jovic, 6-0, 6-3.

. . .

Naomi Osaka ousted No. 20 Karolina Muchova, the runner-up at the 2023 French Open and a 2021 Australian Open semifinalist, overcoming a disappointing start to win 1-6, 6-1, 6-3 on Wednesday. Osaka, who once reigned atop women's tennis, winning four Grand Slam titles — two at the Australian Open, two at the US Open — and ascending to No. 1 in the WTA rankings, reached the third round at a major tournament for the first time since the 2022 season.

Novak Djokovic added to his record collection by playing in his 430th career Grand Slam match — one more than Roger Federer — and, though he dropped a set for the second outing in a row with new coach Andy Murray by his side, moved into the third round.

Other men advancing included No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz, who joked that he is now a "serve bot" after hitting 14 aces while dismissing Yoshihito Nishioka, 6-0, 6-1, 6-4; No. 4 Taylor Fritz, a 6-2 6-1, 6-0 winner over Cristian Garin of Chile; No. 8 Alex de Minaur of Australia who eliminated American Tristan Boyer in three sets; Gael Monfils of France who won in three sets over Germany's Daniel Altmaier; No. 16 Lorenzo Musetti of Italy, who will face American Ben Shelton, the No. 21 seed who took a four-set victory over Spain's Pablo Carreno Busto, 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-4.

SportsLog

Diggins: UMass men's record 46 points

Rahsool Diggins scored a program-record 46 points, **Daniel Rivera** hit the game-winning layup with 10 seconds remaining in triple overtime and UMass beat Fordham, 120-118, at New York. Diggins also tied for the eighth best single-game total in Atlantic 10 Conference history, and it marked the most points by a visiting player at Rose Hill Gymnasium, surpassing all-time UMass great **Julius Erving's** 37-point performance on Jan. 21, 1970. Rivera matched a career high with 29 points to go with 12 rebounds and 3 blocks for the Minutemen (7-11, 2-3). The 120 points tied for the highest total in UMass program history. **Marqui Worthy** made a 3-pointer for UMass with seven seconds left in regulation to force the first overtime at 79-79.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Teams to get paid for NCAAs

Women's basketball teams finally will be paid for playing games in the NCAA Tournament each March just like the men have for years under a plan approved at the NCAA convention at Nashville. The unanimous vote by NCAA membership was the final step toward a pay structure for women playing in March Madness.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Texas QB Ewers to NFL Draft

Texas junior quarterback **Quinn Ewers** declared for the NFL Draft Wednesday, ending a Longhorns career in which he led the program to a Big 12 championship and twice to the College Football Playoff but was not always embraced by a fan base eagerly waiting for **Arch Manning** to take over. Ewers passed for 9,128 yards and 68 touchdowns in a career that few Texas quarterbacks can match. He had hinted before the season ended that it would be his last in college. His 27 career wins rank fourth as a starting quarterback at Texas, and he led the Longhorns to their first Big 12 title in 14 years in 2023.

Meyer in 2025 Hall class

Urban Meyer will join **Nick Saban** in the 2025 College Football Hall of Fame class, and **Michael Vick** and **Michael Strahan** are among the former players who will be inducted.

BASEBALL

Japan star, 18, A's agree

Hoping to become a two-way player in Major League Baseball just like **Shohei Ohtani**, 18-year-old **Shotaro Morii** made the rare decision to bypass Japanese professional baseball entirely and agreed to a minor league contract with the Athletics that includes a signing bonus of $1,510,500. Top Japanese players traditionally have signed first with Nippon Professional Baseball clubs and established their professional credentials before moving to MLB as free agents or through the MLB-NPB posting process.

GOLF

McIlroy advises against LIV

Rory McIlroy has expressed his disappointment at the prospect of fellow Northern Irishman **Tom McKibbin** joining LIV Golf and has warned him it is not worth the sacrifice. McIlroy confirmed the 22-year-old McKibbin, his protégé, has received an offer from the Saudi-backed breakaway circuit and was mulling over whether to make the move, just weeks after earning a card on the PGA Tour for the first time.

Scoreboard

Schools

BASKETBALL

BOYS
Phillips Exeter 68, Austin Prep 40

BOSTON CITY
Fenway 58, New Mission 52
Holland (Burke) 71, English High 54

CAPE ANN
Georgetown 69, Pentucket 59
Ham.-Wenham 40, Triton 37
Ipswich 52, Essex Tech 35
Manchester 41, Lynnfield 38
N. Reading 68, Amesbury 61

CATHOLIC CENTRAL
Bp. Fenwick 50, Cathedral 36

COMMONWEALTH
Mystic Valley 92, Notre Dame (T) 58

ISL
Governor's 70, Lawrence Acad. 67

MAYFLOWER
Holbrook 86, Avon 78

MBIL
Cambridge (W) 66, Commonwealth 16

NONLEAGUE
Atlantis Charter 56, Westport 44
Brooks 64, Holderness 58
Marie Philip 70 International School 53
Roxbury Latin 78, Pingree 45
Silver Lake 59, Rockland 51

GIRLS
Austin Prep 60, Wilb. & Monson 55

BOSTON CITY
New Mission 62, Fenway 32

CAPE ANN
Essex Tech 41, Ipswich 13
Ham.-Wenham 53, Triton 28
Lynnfield 40, Manchester 32
N. Reading 55, Amesbury 38
Pentucket 50, Georgetown 35

COLONIAL
Bay Path 66, Worcester Tech 22

COMMONWEALTH
Minuteman 51, Northeast 26

ISL
Tabor 80, Milton Acad. 20

NONLEAGUE
Abp. Williams 66, Canton 46
Arlington Cath. 54, Saugus 44
Bp. Fenwick 47, Whit.-Hanson 32
Bourne 54, Barnstable 45
Keefe Tech 34, Nashoba Tech 13
Lawrence Acad. 70, Dana Hall 31
Lowell 48, Lowell Cath. 12
Natick 47, Arlington 27
Proctor 49, Pingree 35
St. Bernard's 50, Monty Tech 30

GYMNASTICS

GIRLS
MERRIMACK VALLEY
Chlmsfrd/B/T 129.200Haverhill 124.550

HOCKEY

BOYS
Austin Prep 7, Wilb. & Monson 0
N. Yarmouth (Maine) 3, Pingree 1
Phillips Andover 4, Tilton 3
Proctor 3, New Hampton 2

BAY STATE
Brookline 5, Walpole 4
Milton 6, Newton North 2
Natick 3, Braintree 2
Needham 5, Wellesley 3
Weymouth 8, Framingham 3

CAPE & ISLANDS
St. John Paul II 7, Nantucket 4

CAPE ANN
N. Reading 3, Triton 0

CATHOLIC CENTRAL
Abp. Williams 6, Bp. Feehan 2

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
BC High 7, Malden Cath. 1
St. John's (S) 4, Xaverian 2
St. John's Prep 5, Cath. Memorial 2

COUGHLIN
Gardner 6, Oakmont 1

GREATER BOSTON
Medford 7, Lynn 1

HOCKOMOCK
Canton 8, Foxboro 0
Franklin 6, Oliver Ames 1
King Philip 6, Attleboro 2
Taunton 3, North Attleboro 1

ISL
Belmont Hill 3, Thayer 3 (OT)
Nobles 6, Lawrence Acad. 3
St. Mark's 6, Roxbury Latin 3
Tabor 6, Milton Acad. 1

MAYFLOWER
Diman 6, Southeastern/B-P 3
Tri-County 7, Blue Hills 3

MERRIMACK VALLEY/DUAL COUNTY
Andover 6, Lincoln-Sudbury 5 (OT)
Billerica 7, Westford 1
Chelmsford 5, Shrewsbury 2
Concord-Carlisle 8, Newton South 0
Waltham 1, Boston Latin 0 (OT)

MIDDLESEX
Belmont 8, Woburn 4
Reading 2, Arlington 2
Stoneham 6, Watertown 1

PATRIOT
Duxbury 6, Plymouth North 2
Hanover 3, N. Quincy 1
Scituate 6, Pembroke 2

SOUTH COAST
Bourne 2, Apponequet/Old Colony 1

SOUTH SHORE
Rockland 3, Hull/Cohasset 2 (OT)
Sandwich 6, Middleboro 1

TRI-VALLEY
Dedham 6, Norton 0
Medfield 5, Westwood 1

NONLEAGUE
Algonquin 2, Wachusett 2
Barnstable 5, Silver Lake 3
Bp. Stang 3, Cambridge 2
Deerfield 5, Loomis Chaffee (Conn.) 2
Dracut/Tyngsboro 2, Northeast 1
Essex Tech 3, Danvers 1
Falmouth 8, Bridge.-Raynham 2
Gloucester 6, Hopkinton 5
Littleton/Bromfield 3, Acton-Boxboro 2
Lowell Cath. 4, Lowell 2
Lunenburg/Ayer Shirley 6, Leominster 1
Lynnfield 5, Winthrop 2
Marblehead 2, Methuen 0
Newburyport 2, Masconomet 1
Pentucket 3, St. Bernard's 2
Portsmouth Abbey 5, Middlesex 2
Quincy 9, E. Boston 0
Salisbury (Conn.) 3, Cushing 1

GIRLS
Stoughton 2, East/W. Bridgewater 2

BAY STATE
Brookline 4, Walpole 2
Milton 2, Newton North/South 1
Natick 5, Braintree 0
Needham 4, Wellesley 3
Weymouth 2, Framingham 1

CAPE & ISLANDS
Martha's Vnyd. 3, Sandwich 0

CATHOLIC CENTRAL
Arlington Cath. 4, Bp. Feehan 3

ISL
St. Mark's 1, Lawrence Acad. 0

MERRIMACK VALLEY/DUAL COUNTY
Andover 3, Lincoln-Sudbury 3
Billerica/Chelmsford 2, HPNA 1
Cntrl Cath. 4, Actn-Bxbro/Brmfield 2
Methuen/Tewksbury 3, Boston Latin 2
Shwswn/Bdfrd/Lowell 8, Cambridge 1
Waltham 2, Westford 1

MIDDLESEX
Arlington 3, Reading 0
Belmont 3, Woburn 1
Winchester 4, Lexington 0

NORTHEAST
Masconomet 3, Marblehead 1
Newburyport 8, Gloucester 3
Winthrop 9, Beverly/Danvers 1

PATRIOT
Diman 6, Southeastern/B-P 3
Tri-County 7, Blue Hills 3

MERRIMACK VALLEY/DUAL COUNTY
Andover 6, Lincoln-Sudbury 5 (OT)
Billerica 7, Westford 1
Chelmsford 5, Shrewsbury 2
Concord-Carlisle 8, Newton South 0
Waltham 1, Boston Latin 0 (OT)

MIDDLESEX
Belmont 8, Woburn 4
Reading 2, Arlington 2
Stoneham 6, Watertown 1

PATRIOT
Duxbury 6, Plymouth North 2
Hanover 3, N. Quincy 1
Scituate 6, Pembroke 2

SOUTH COAST
Bourne 2, Apponequet/Old Colony 1

SOUTH SHORE
Rockland 3, Hull/Cohasset 2 (OT)
Sandwich 6, Middleboro 1

TRI-VALLEY
Dedham 6, Norton 0
Medfield 5, Westwood 1

NONLEAGUE
Algonquin 2, Wachusett 2
Barnstable 5, Silver Lake 3
Bp. Stang 3, Cambridge 2
Deerfield 5, Loomis Chaffee (Conn.) 2
Dracut/Tyngsboro 2, Northeast 1
Essex Tech 3, Danvers 1
Falmouth 8, Bridge.-Raynham 2
Gloucester 6, Hopkinton 5
Littleton/Bromfield 3, Acton-Boxboro 2
Lowell Cath. 4, Lowell 2
Lunenburg/Ayer Shirley 6, Leominster 1
Lynnfield 5, Winthrop 2
Marblehead 2, Methuen 0
Newburyport 2, Masconomet 1
Pentucket 3, St. Bernard's 2
Portsmouth Abbey 5, Middlesex 2
Quincy 9, E. Boston 0
Salisbury (Conn.) 3, Cushing 1

GIRLS
Stoughton 2, East/W. Bridgewater 2

BAY STATE
Brookline 4, Walpole 2
Milton 2, Newton North/South 1
Natick 5, Braintree 0
Needham 4, Wellesley 3
Weymouth 2, Framingham 1

CAPE & ISLANDS
Martha's Vnyd. 3, Sandwich 0

CATHOLIC CENTRAL
Arlington Cath. 4, Bp. Feehan 3

ISL
St. Mark's 1, Lawrence Acad. 0

MERRIMACK VALLEY/DUAL COUNTY
Andover 3, Lincoln-Sudbury 3
Billerica/Chelmsford 2, HPNA 1
Cntrl Cath. 4, Actn-Bxbro/Brmfield 2
Methuen/Tewksbury 3, Boston Latin 2
Shwswn/Bdfrd/Lowell 8, Cambridge 1
Waltham 2, Westford 1

MIDDLESEX
Arlington 3, Reading 0
Belmont 3, Woburn 1
Winchester 4, Lexington 0

NORTHEAST
Masconomet 3, Marblehead 1
Newburyport 8, Gloucester 3
Winthrop 9, Beverly/Danvers 1

PATRIOT
Hingham 3, Duxbury 2
Plymouth 2, Pembroke 1 (OT)
NSA 6, Quincy/N. Quincy 0

NONLEAGUE
Abp. Williams 4, Notre Dame (H) 1
Bp. Stang 2, Auburn 1
Canton 3, Norwood 1
Hpkngtn/Dvr-Sherborn 3, Algonquin 3
Franklin 3, Dedham 1
Hanover 4, Latin Acad./Fontbonne 1
Malden Cath. 3, St. Mary's 1
Marshfield 7, Barnstable 0
Medfield 5, Mansfield/OA/Foxboro 1
Medway/Ashland 1, King Philip 0
Melrose 3, Medford 1
Whit.-Hnsn/Slvr Lake 2, Dnns-Yrmth1

INDOOR TRACK

BOYS
MAYFLOWER
Bp. Feehan 61, Diman 39

MIDDLESEX
Burlington 70, Stoneham 30
Burlington 70, Stoneham 30

GIRLS
MAYFLOWER
Bp. Feehan 67, Diman 33

WRESTLING

Mt. Grylck/McCnn Tch 54, Mnmnt26

BAY STATE
Wellesley 52, Brookline 30

BOSTON CITY
Latin Acad. 46, Quincy Upper 26

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
BC High 59, St. John's (S) 14

COMMONWEALTH
Shawsheen 47, Whittier 26

DUAL COUNTY
Concord-Carlisle 45, Westford 36

ISL
Brooks 53, Thayer 12
Roxbury Latin 67, BB&N 12
Roxbury Latin 69, Governor's 12
Roxbury Latin 75, Milton Acad. 6

MAYFLOWER
South Shore 45, Bristol Aggie/D-R 30

MERRIMACK VALLEY
Chelmsford 39, Central Cath. 31
Lowell 38, N. Andover 33
Methuen 59, Lawrence 15

MIDDLESEX
Arlington 45, Reading 29
Woburn 63, Belmont 9

PATRIOT
Duxbury 39, Hingham 28
Scituate 42, Plymouth South 31
Whit.-Hanson 39, Plymouth North 24

SOUTH SHORE
Middleboro 65, Rockland 18

SOUTHEAST
Bridge.-Raynham 76, Durfee 6

NONLEAGUE
Andover 70, Burlington 7
N. Middlesex 48, Algonquin 30
Weymouth 63, Somerset Berkley 12

■ For updated scores and highlights, go to bostonglobe.com/sports/high-schools.

	THU 1/16	FRI 1/17	SAT 1/18	SUN 1/19	MON 1/20	TUE 1/21	WED 1/22
Bruins			OTT 3:00 NESN		SJ 1:00 NESN		NJ 7:00 NESN
Celtics		ORL 7:00 NBCSB, ESPN	ATL 7:00 NBCSB		GS 5:00 TNT		LAC 10:30 NBCSB
Blazers							

Home games shaded

For updated scores: bostonglobe.com/sports

On the radio, unless noted: Bruins and Celtics, WBZ-FM 98.5

ON THE AIR

PRO BASKETBALL

7:30 p.m.	Cleveland at Oklahoma City	TNT
10 p.m.	Houston at Sacramento	TNT

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

7 p.m.	Binghamton at Vermont	NESN
7 p.m.	High Point at Longwood	ESPNU
7 p.m.	Hofstra at Towson	CBSSN
7 p.m.	Memphis at Temple	ESPN2
9 p.m.	Rutgers at Nebraska	FS1
9 p.m.	UTEP at Liberty	CBSSN
11 p.m.	Gonzaga at Oregon St.	CBSSN

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

6 p.m.	Georgia Tech at Notre Dame	ACC
7 p.m.	Mississippi St. at Tennessee	SEC
7 p.m.	Nebraska at Iowa	Big Ten
8 p.m.	California at Duke	ACC
9 p.m.	Florida at Mississippi	SEC

GOLF

4 p.m.	PGA Tour: American Express	Golf
7 p.m.	Champions: Mitsubishi Championship	Golf

PRO HOCKEY

7 p.m.	Detroit at Florida	ESPN
9:30 p.m.	Edmonton at Colorado	ESPN

MEN'S SOCCER

3 p.m.	Premier: Southampton at Man United	USA

TENNIS

10 a.m.	Australian Open	ESPN2
9 p.m.	Australian Open	ESPN2
3 a.m. (Fri.)	Australian Open	ESPN2

WOMEN'S SOCCER

2:45 p.m.	Italian Cup: Sassuolo at Inter Milan	CBSSN

(For latest updates, go to bostonglobe.com/tvlistings)

Tennis

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

At Melbourne Park
Men's singles
Second round

Jacob Fearnley, def. Arthur Cazaux, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, 6-3; Jakub Mensik, def. Casper Ruud (6), 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4; Jack Draper (15), def. Thanasi Kokkinakis, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, def. Felix Auger-Aliassime (29), 6-7 (7), 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1, 6-3; Ugo Humbert (14), def. Hady Habib, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Alexander Zverev (2), def. Pedro Martinez Portero, 6-1, 6-4, 6-1; Tommy Paul (12), def. Kei Nishikori, 6-7 (3), 6-0, 6-3, 6-1; Miomir Kecmanovic, def. Hubert Hurkacz (18), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; Francisco Cerundolo (31), def. Facundo Diaz Acosta, 6-2, 1-0; Gael Monfils, def. Daniel Altmaier, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (3); Lorenzo Musetti (16), def. Denis Shapovalov, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (6), 6-2.

Women's singles
Second round

Diana Shnaider (12), def. Ajla Tomljanovic, 6-4, 7-5; Coco Gauff (3), def. Jodie Burrage, 6-3, 7-5; Marta Kostyuk (17), def. Jule Niemeier, 6-3, 6-0; Donna Vekic (18), def. Harriet Dart, 4-6, 6-0, 6-2; Paula Badosa (11), def. Talia Gibson, 6-1, 6-0; Ons Jabeur, def. Camila Osorio, 7-5, 6-3; Emma Raducanu, def. Amanda Anisimova, 6-3, 7-5; Daria Kasatkina (9), def. Wang Yafan, 6-2, 6-0; Dayana Yastremska (32), def. Danka Kovinic, 6-0, 6-1; Emma Navarro (8), def. Wang Xiyu, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; Iga Swiatek (2), def. Rebecca Sramkova, 6-0, 6-2; Yulia Putintseva (24), def. Zhang Shuai, 6-2, 6-1; Elena Rybakina (6), def. Iva Jovic, 6-0, 6-3.

NBA G League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
College Park	5	2	.714	½
Raptors	5	2	.714	½
Indiana	7	3	.700	--
Greensboro	5	3	.625	1
Westchester	6	4	.600	1
Capital City	4	3	.571	1½
Delaware	5	4	.556	1½
Windy City	5	4	.556	1½
Maine	5	5	.500	2
Cleveland	4	5	.444	2½
Long Island	3	4	.429	2½
Grand Rapids	3	5	.375	3
Motor City	3	5	.375	3
Osceola	2	4	.333	3
Birmingham	2	5	.286	3½
Wisconsin	2	6	.250	4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Santa Cruz	6	1	.857	--
Stockton	6	2	.750	½
Mexico City	4	2	.667	1½
San Diego	5	3	.625	1½
Rip City	3	2	.600	2
Sioux Falls	4	3	.571	2
Salt Lake City	4	3	.571	2
Tempe	5	4	.556	2
Austin	4	4	.500	2½
Rio Grande Valley	3	4	.429	3
Oklahoma City	3	5	.375	3½
Texas	2	5	.286	4
Iowa	2	7	.222	5
Memphis	1	4	.200	4
South Bay	1	6	.143	5

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Tempe 137, Motor City 124
Westchester 114, Wisconsin 110
Iowa 100, Greensboro 95
Windy City 129, Birmingham 109
Rip City 132, Memphis 128, OT

THURSDAY'S GAMES
San Diego at Capital City, 1
College Park at Maine, 7
Raptors at Grand Rapids, 7
Rip City Remix at Memphis, 8
Stockton at Salt Lake City, 9

Golf

KORN FERRY: BAHAMAS

At Ocean Club, Paradise Island, Bahamas
Yardage: 7,118; par: 70
x-won title on first playoff hole

x-Hank Lebioda	67-62-67-66–262	-18
S.H Kim	66-62-71-63–262	-18
Davis Shore	65-66-66-66–263	-17
A.Smotherman	66-69-63-66–264	-16
Emilio Gonzalez	65-68-67-65–265	-15
S.Cappelen	70-66-65-65–266	-14
Barend Botha	68-66-67-66–267	-13
P.Coody	62-68-66-71–267	-13
Trace Crowe	66-65-69-68–268	-12
B.Harkins	66-67-67-68–268	-12
Russell Knox	72-63-67-66–268	-12
Rick Lamb	62-63-74-69–268	-12
Ross Steelman	68-62-69-69–268	-12
J.VanDerLaan	60-64-68-76–268	-12
Z.Bauchou	69-64-67-69–269	-11
Roberto Diaz	66-64-69-70–269	-11
Cooper Dossey	66-65-70-68–269	-11
Peter Kuest	67-65-69-68–269	-11
Adam Long	65-68-71-65–269	-11
S.Y. Noh	65-69-68-67–269	-11
Rob Oppenheim	67-64-68-70–269	-11
Sandy Scott	66-68-63-72–269	-11
Dylan Wu	67-70-66-66–269	-11
Kevin Chappell	70-66-65-69–270	-10
Billy Kennerly	68-68-68-66–270	-10
Pontus Nyholm	69-65-68-68–270	-10
Davis Chatfield	66-69-68-68–271	-9
Alvaro Ortiz	65-68-66-72–271	-9
Trent Phillips	67-66-70-68–271	-9
Rayhan Thomas	68-68-66-69–271	-9
Brandon Berry	68-69-65-70–272	-8
Will Cannon	68-66-69-69–272	-8
Austin Cook	71-64-67-70–272	-8
M.Creighton	70-66-66-70–272	-8
Austin Hitt	66-65-69-72–272	-8
Robby Shelton	63-71-69-69–272	-8
Ben Taylor	68-67-65-72–272	-8
Nick Watney	67-68-73-64–272	-8
Rhein Gibson	65-72-66-70–273	-7
John Greco	71-66-65-71–273	-7
Seung-Taek Lee	67-68-71-67–273	-7
M.Meissner	67-64-73-69–273	-7
M.NeSmith	68-67-67-71–273	-7
Trey Winstead	65-65-72-71–273	-7

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	OL	SL	Pts.
Hershey	23	11	3	0	49
Charlotte	20	10	2	2	44
WB/Scranton	20	9	4	0	44
Providence	19	13	3	1	42
Lehigh Valley	18	14	5	1	42
Springfield	16	15	2	1	35
Hartford	16	17	2	1	35
Bridgeport	8	23	2	2	20

North Division

	W	L	OL	SL	Pts.
Rochester	22	10	3	0	47
Laval	22	10	2	1	47
Cleveland	21	11	1	3	46
Toronto	18	10	2	3	41
Syracuse	16	11	5	4	41
Belleville	15	12	1	4	35
Utica	10	18	2	2	24

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	W	L	OL	SL	Pts.
Grand Rapids	21	12	3	0	45
Texas	21	12	1	0	43
Milwaukee	17	13	2	3	39
Chicago	17	14	2	0	36
Rockford	15	16	3	1	34
Iowa	12	20	2	0	26
Manitoba	11	19	1	1	24

Pacific Division

	W	L	OL	SL	Pts.
Calgary	25	12	1	0	51
Ontario	21	11	0	1	43
Colorado	20	10	1	2	43
San Jose	20	11	1	2	43
Coachella Valley	19	12	1	4	43
Tucson	19	15	1	0	39
Abbotsford	17	15	1	1	36
Bakersfield	14	13	4	1	33
San Diego	11	19	3	2	27
Henderson	9	24	2	0	20

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Charlotte 4, Milwaukee 2
Grand Rapids 5, Chicago 2
Laval 4, WB/Scranton 3
Providence 3, Syracuse 2
Springfield 4, Bridgeport 0
Utica 7, Hartford 3
Lehigh Valley 3, Belleville 2
Calgary 4, Tucson 3
Bakersfield, at Colorado
Iowa vs. San Diego at Pechanga Arena
Ontario, at Abbotsford

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Henderson at Coachella Valley, 10

ECHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
North Division

	W	L	OL	SL	Pts.
Wheeling	25	7	2	0	52
Trois-Rivieres	22	6	4	0	48
Norfolk	21	10	3	0	45
Worcester	14	17	1	4	33
Maine	14	16	3	0	31
Reading	13	19	4	0	30
Adirondack	13	18	1	1	28

South Division

	W	L	OL	SL	Pts.
Florida	24	7	3	0	51
South Carolina	20	10	2	1	43
Jacksonville	20	12	2	1	43
Orlando	19	16	5	0	43
Savannah	18	14	2	0	38
Atlanta	17	16	3	1	38
Greenville	14	15	3	1	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	W	L	OL	SL	Pts.
Toledo	24	8	4	0	52
Fort Wayne	21	12	1	0	43
Iowa	18	11	3	1	40
Bloomington	15	15	1	2	33
Indy	14	15	2	2	32
Cincinnati	12	20	4	0	28
Kalamazoo	12	20	1	0	25

Mountain Division

	W	L	OL	SL	Pts.
Tahoe	22	10	2	1	47
Wichita	21	14	2	1	45
Kansas City	20	10	3	1	44
Tulsa	20	12	4	0	44
Idaho	18	14	3	0	39
Rapid City	10	18	4	3	27
Allen	10	20	7	0	27
Utah	11	18	3	0	25

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Maine 4, Indy 3
Savannah 2, Florida 1
Cincinnati 3, Utah 1
Wichita 4, Allen 1

THURSDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

PWHL

	W-L	OW-L	Pts.
Minnesota	4-2	3-2	20
Montreal	4-2	2-1	17
New York	3-3	3-1	16
Ottawa	4-4	0-2	14
Boston	2-4	2-2	12
Toronto	3-5	0-2	11

Note: 3 points for a regulation win; 2 points for OT win; 1 point for OT loss.

All Times EST
Saturday, Jan. 11
Boston 2, Ottawa 1 (OT)
Sunday, Jan. 12
New York 1, Toronto 0 (OT)
Minnesota 4, Montreal 2
Tuesday, Jan. 14
Toronto 4, Ottawa 2
Wednesday, Jan. 15
New York 3, Minnesota 2 (SO)
Friday, Jan. 17
Minnesota at Montreal, 7

Ski conditions

MASSACHUSETTS
Blue Hills — machine groomed, - new, 20-20 base, 5-15 trails, 4-4 lifts
Catamount — machine groomed, - new, 6-36 base, 28-44 trails, 6-8 lifts
Jiminy Peak — machine groomed, - new, 18-48 base, 30-45 trails, 5-9 lifts
Nashoba Valley — machine groomed, - new, 30-40 base, 15-17 trails, 9-11 lifts
Ski Bradford — machine groomed, 0-new, 19-29 base, 11-15 trails, 6-10 lifts
Ski Butternut — machine groomed, - new, 18-28 base, 17-22 trails, 5-10 lifts
Ski Ward — machine groomed, - new, 24-60 base, 9-9 trails, 4-4 lifts
Wachusett — machine groomed, - new, 40-43 base, 26-27 trails, 7-8 lifts

Latest line

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Thursday

Favorite	Pts.	Underdog
Michigan	10	at Minnesota
Maryland	1½	at Northwestern
At Nebraska	8½	Rutgers

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Monday

Favorite	Pts.	Underdog
Ohio State	8	at Notre Dame

NBA
Thursday

Favorite	Pts.	Underdog
At Detroit	NL	Indiana
Phoenix	11½	at Washington
At Okla. City	3	Cleveland
At Sacramento	NL	Houston
At Portland	NL	LA Clippers

NHL

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Line
At Tampa Bay	-305	Anaheim	+245
At Florida	-235	Detroit	+190
New Jersey	-120	at Toronto	+100
At Columbus	-180	San Jose	+150
At Ottawa	-110	Washington	-110
At NY Isles	-135	Philadelphia	+115
At St. Louis	-140	Calgary	+120
At Nashville	-245	Chicago	+195
At Dallas	-245	Montreal	+195
At Winnipeg	-220	Seattle	+180
NY Rangers	-115	at Utah	-105
At Colorado	-125	Edmonton	+105
Los Angeles	-115	at Vancouver	-105

NFL
Saturday

Favorite	Pts.	Underdog

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Father of Mystic Valley reaches 300 milestone

By Mitch Fink
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT



JIM DAVIS FOR THE GLOBE

Coach Tony Ferullo has led Mystic Valley to four division titles since taking over the nascent program in 2003.

Hired as the boys' basketball coach at Mystic Valley Regional Charter in 2003, **Tony Ferullo** was tasked with building a new program in Malden from the ground up.

The school had no gym, so the Eagles practiced at night at various local middle schools. Ferullo stored bags of basketballs, orange cones, and weighted balls in the trunk of his car, hauling them into each new gym for practice.

The oldest player on that inaugural 2003-04 squad was a sophomore, and the starting point guard was in seventh grade. Before he applied for the job on a whim, Ferullo had never heard of the school.

Now in his 21st season as the program's first and only coach, Ferullo secured his 300th career victory Wednesday, defeating Notre Dame (Tyngsborough) 92-58. Nearly 250 of those wins have come at Mystic Valley.

"I didn't know if I'd be there 21 days," said Ferullo, who previously coached at Newman Prep and his alma mater, Revere, where he was named the Globe's Coach of the Year in 1999. "It was tough, because you were pretty much overmatched everywhere you played. You had seventh and eighth graders playing varsity teams."

A charter school with fewer than 400 high school students, Mystic Valley selects its students through a lottery and does not accept transfers. As a result, Ferullo focused on developing players at Mystic Valley's middle school.

Once Ferullo and his staff established a pipeline from the youth ranks to the varsity squad, wins began to pile up. Mystic Valley has enjoyed a winning record in 15 of its 21 seasons, including 13 straight from 2007-08 to 2019-20.

That run included Commonwealth Athletic Conference Small Division titles in 2012, 2015, and 2016, and the Commonwealth Large title in 2019, with the Eagles competing against schools four and five times their size.

"We're kind of like the little fish in a little pond," said 12th-year assistant coach **George Hurley**. "But he teaches them to be like a shark."

This year's squad (7-2, 4-0) sits atop the Commonwealth Small behind standout 5-foot-9-inch senior guard **Dalton Kinnon** (20 points per game).

"There's just never a year where you're like, 'Oh we got Mystic Valley, finally,' " said **John Fusco**, who coaches division rival Minuteman. "Nothing's ever easy against them."

Ferullo attributes the Eagles' success to his assistant coaches and players. But those around the program credit Ferullo.

At the center of the Eagles' success has been Ferullo's relationships with his players, which often extend beyond basketball.

"He sees me as more than just a basketball player," said senior captain **Carl Damas**. "He sees me more like one of his sons, and he continues to remind the entire team that he loves us and he always wants the best for us."

Ferullo likes to use basketball as a vehicle to instill life lessons, such as the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and never giving up. A common refrain is that losing a basketball game is not an instance of adversity.

A two-time survivor of kidney cancer, Ferullo has plenty of perspective.

"I think sports today is a little bit too overhyped," said Ferullo, who works in the Office of Pubic Affairs at Suffolk University, his alma mater. "I think that's why we have success, because our kids put everything in perspective. You're talking about 300 wins. My two biggest wins, personally, are beating cancer twice."

Ferullo did so after being diagnosed in 2010, and again in 2013, coaching the Eagles through all of it.

"He's just a scrappy guy," said Hurley. "He just wants kids to know, 'Life knocked me down not once but twice, with something pretty scary. You've got to fight back.' "

Ferullo's teams play with that same determination.

"As coach continues to preach to us, we don't care how big you are, how big your school is," Damas said. "We're coming for you no matter what. We respect everyone, but we're not scared of anyone."

Courtsside chatter

■ A week after holding on for a 56-52 win over Natick, Wellesley pulled out another nail-biter against a border rival with Tuesday's 52-48 double-overtime victory over Needham. Sophomore **Tristen Steele** was a hero in both wins with 20 points and six 3-pointers against Natick, and 9 of his 11 points against Needham came in the fourth quarter and overtimes, including a sealing 3-pointer in the second overtime.

Senior captain **Spencer Briggs** also came alive late against Needham, with 11 of his team-high 14 points coming after the start of the fourth quarter.

"Those two really stepped up," said Wellesley coach **Paul Seaver**. "We had pretty solid contributions from everyone. In a game that was the definition of a rock fight, and was pretty much within one or two possessions the whole way, every contribution matters. So it's a good team win."

■ There were several overtime finishes on a packed Tuesday night slate this week, including Belmont's 56-52 win at Burlington to snap an 0-8 start to the season. Sophomore sharpshooter **Will Sorblom** came off the bench cold and drained a 3-pointer at the buzzer to force the extra period . . . Waltham outlasted Bedford, 68-58, in double overtime, and Weston topped Westford, 60-58, in another Dual County League overtime thriller. Plus, Cambridge beat Lincoln-Sudbury, 54-50, in overtime on a night dedicated to standing up against gender-based violence.

■ Stoneham self-reported the use of an ineligible player to the MIAA, violating rules 57 (transfer student) and 59 (playing no more than four consecutive years) for its first seven games, resulting in the forfeiture of wins over Muniz Academy, Wilmington, Winthrop, Saugus, Wakefield, and Triton (twice). The student is no longer part of the team. The Spartans (0-8) dropped their next game, 36-33, to Watertown.

■ Somerville takes on Medford at 1:30 p.m. Sybdat in the seventh Tufts Classic at Cousens Gymnasium. The Greater Boston League matchup is free to attend and fans are asked to bring nonperishable food and household items, which are donated to Medford's Mystic Community Market and the Somerville Homeless Coalition's Project SOUP.

Globe correspondent Nate Weitzer contributed to this report.

Globe Top 20

No.		Rec.	Last
1.	Franklin	10-0	1
2.	Malden Catholic	8-0	2
3.	Newton North	9-0	3
4.	Lowell	9-0	6
5.	Attleboro	8-1	4
6.	St. Mary's	10-0	10
7.	Central Catholic	9-1	9
8.	Arlington	8-1	11
9.	Mansfield	7-2	5
10.	Bishop Feehan	8-1	14
11.	Andover	8-2	8
12.	Holland (Burke) Tech	6-2	13
13.	Brookline	8-3	16
14.	Catholic Memorial	5-3	7
15.	Winchester	8-1	18
16.	Cambridge	6-2	12
17.	Bridgewater-Raynham	7-3	15
18.	Whitman-Hanson	9-0	—
19.	Tewksbury	6-2	—
20.	Somerset Berkley	8-1	20

BOSTON VS BULLIES

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MICHALOWSKI, Wanda A. (Pieculewicz)
BROOKLINE
KIRZNER, Rubin
CAMBRIDGE
TSECHRINTZIS, Viola (Darveris)
EVERETT
BAKER, Kenneth
FALMOUTH
MICHALOWSKI, Wanda A. (Pieculewicz)
HYANNIS
KIRZNER, Rubin
MALDEN
WONG, Rose (Yee)
MEDFIELD
COLWELL, Calvin W.
MELROSE
WONG, Rose (Yee)
NEEDHAM
MacPHAIL, Agnes Catherine (MacKinnon)
QUINCY
MacPHAIL, Agnes Catherine (MacKinnon)
ROSLINDALE
MICHALOWSKI, Wanda A. (Pieculewicz)
SOMERVILLE
LARSON, Harold R.
SOUTH BOSTON
MICHALOWSKI, Wanda A. (Pieculewicz)
WAKEFIELD
WONG, Rose (Yee)
WALPOLE
BOTAISH, Joseph F. II
MacPHAIL, Agnes Catherine (MacKinnon)
WENHAM
BREDA, Richard R.
WEST ROXBURY
MICHALOWSKI, Wanda A. (Pieculewicz)
WESTWOOD
COLWELL, Calvin W.
WILMINGTON
BAKER, Kenneth
WRENTHAM
BOTAISH, Joseph F. II
YARMOUTH
BOTAISH, Joseph F. II

OUT OF STATE

BAKER, Kenneth

Of Wilmington, passed away at home, at age 75, on January 13, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Theresa; his sons, Jonathan and Steven and wife, Jaclyn, all of Wilmington; and his grandchildren, Graham and Natalie.

Ken worked at Market Forge in Everett for 15 years before he retired.

Visiting Hours: Family and friends will gather for Visiting Hours at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave. (Rte. 62), WILMINGTON, on Friday, January 17, from 4-7 p.m. His Service will be at the funeral home on Saturday, January 18, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a Burial in Wildwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

In lieu of flowers, send donations to Nevins Farm MSPCA, 400 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844.

Nichols Funeral Home
978-658-4744
www.nicholsfuneralhome.com

BOTAISH, Joseph F. II

Joseph F. Botaish, II, of Wrentham, passed peacefully, on January 4, 2025, surrounded by his loving family, at the age of 60. Beloved husband of Kathleen (Lohan) Botaish of 35 years. Devoted father of Emily Willenborg and her husband, Anthony of Yarmouth and Joseph Botaish of Wrentham. Cherished brother of Michael Botaish and his late wife, Rosa of Franklin and Robyn Moses-Harney and her husband, Troy Harney of Stratham, NH. Loving "Jido" of Thomas and Benjamin. Son of Ann (Ferris) Botaish and the late Joseph Botaish; and also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends. Visiting Hours will be held Monday evening, January 20, from 4-8 PM, at the Alexander F. Thomas and Sons Funeral Home, 45 Common Street, WALPOLE. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Tuesday morning, at 10:30 AM, at St. Mary's Church, in Wrentham. Interment at Wrentham Center Cemetery, relatives and friends invited. Please, in lieu of flowers, all donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org

Alexander F. Thomas and Sons FH
508-668-0154

Announcements

SHEET METAL WORKERS' LOCAL UNION 17

Mourns the loss of retired member Timothy Gately, who passed away on December 12, 2024.

He was a member of Local 17 for 26 years.
Sadly missed but not forgotten.

Russell Bartash
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Announcements

SHEET METAL WORKERS' LOCAL UNION 17

Mourns the loss of retired member Peter E. O'Leary, who passed away on January 9, 2025.

He was a member of Local 17 for 55 years.
Sadly missed but not forgotten.

Russell Bartash
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Announcements

BOSTON FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 718

We regret to announce the Death of Brother Frank P. Barresi, Late of Arson Unit, Retired. Funeral from Roberts and Sons Funeral Home, 30 South St., FOXBORO, Friday, January 17.Visiting Hours are 4-7PM. Funeral Mass at St. Mary's Church, 58 Carpenter St., Foxboro, Saturday, at 10Am.

Members Are Requested to Attend.

Samuel J. Dillon, President
Eric P. DesRoches, Treasurer
D&W

Honor your loved one's memory with a photo in The Boston Globe.



Ask your funeral director for details.

The Boston Globe

BREDA, Richard R.



Of Wenham, MA. It is with great sadness, yet cherished memories, that we announce the death of Richard R. Breda, on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at the Care Dimensions Kaplan Family Hospice House, in Danvers, at the age of 92, where he died peacefully surrounded by family.

A devoted family man, a humble man and true "gentle" man, Richard "Dick" was born and raised in Chelsea, where his family owned Breda Brothers Bakery and he attended Immaculate Conception High School. During high school, Richard met the love his life, his late wife of 64 years, Theresa "Tess" Gesmundo, who passed away in October of 2020. They have three daughters, Diane Silva and her husband, John of Portsmouth, NH, Joyce D'Angelo and her husband, Michael of Bradenton, FL and Beverly O'Keefe and her husband, John of Hamilton, MA.

Richard attended Bentley College and then enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was a Staff Sergeant and crewmember of a B-36, stationed in Roswell, New Mexico and Guam during the Korean War.

His work ethic was unsurpassed. In 1998, Richard retired after working 40 years as an electrician, IBEW Local 109 , for the New England Telephone Company in Boston.

Athletic always, Richard was a captain of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home football team. He loved baseball most of all - in high school, he even hit one off the Green Monster during a tryout for the Red Sox. He was also a competitive league bowler for many years. He and his brother, Geno, reminisced endlessly about their younger years growing up with some high-spirited fun, including sledding and delivering newspapers between taking care of the chickens and vegetable gardens at their home.

For his family, Richard built their last two houses on land he and Tess found in Peabody and Wenham. Both were homes to be proud of, with the latter on a beautiful lake. Taking care of his homes was his constant passion. Richard was the consummate "do it yourselfer." His homes did shine. His outstanding stone and masonry work stills stand strong today.

Richard's family was always his priority. Summers often included a family vacation to Goose Rocks Beach in Kennebunkport, Maine, where many memories were made. "Papa" was often knee-deep at low tide finding sand dollars to give his grandchildren.

Richard is survived by his sister, Claire Fitzgerald and her husband, John "Bud" of Chelsea; his grandchildren, Jacqueline Silva Garnett and her husband, Will, Brett Silva, Anthony D'Angelo, Shawn O'Keefe and his wife, Alexa, Caroline O'Keefe, Ariana O'Keefe; great-grandson, Mason Garnett; and fourteen nieces and nephews. Richard was predeceased by his parents, Remigio and Gioconda Breda; his sister, Alice Capistran and her husband, George of Chelsea; his brother, Geno Breda and his wife, Marianne of Revere; and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Anne and Paul Gesmundo of Hamilton.

His Funeral Mass will be celebrated at the Church of St. Paul, 50 Union Street, Hamilton, on Tuesday, January 21, at 10am. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Visiting Hours at the Campbell Funeral Home, 525 Cabot Street, BEVERLY, on Monday, January 20, from 4pm to 7pm. Burial will be at Wenham Cemetery. Contributions may be made in Richard's memory to Care Dimensions, 75 Sylvan Street, Suite B-102, Danvers, MA 01923 or online at CareDimensions.org/Donate Information, directions and condolences, at www.campbellfuneral.com

Campbell
FUNERAL HOME

COLWELL, Calvin W.



Of Westwood, January 14. Beloved husband of the late Carole J. (Adams); and dear father of Scott W. and his wife, Julie of Medfield and Laurie Colwell of Palm City, FL. Proud grandfather of Ryan Colwell of Franklin, Cameron Colwell and his wife, Emese of Franklin, Jennifer Benson and her husband, Garrett of Port St Lucie, FL and Stephanie Baez and her husband, Isaac of Raleigh, NC. Great-grandfather of Quinn Colwell, Luella Baez, Maeve Colwell and Calvin J. Colwell. Brother of Virginia Anthony of Meredith, NH, the late Walter Colwell and the late Marie Christenson. Uncle of Bob Page, Wayne Colwell and Bonnie Peterson. He also leaves his dedicated caregiver and cousin, Laura Mae Ellis of Halifax, NS, Canada. Visiting Hours on Friday, 5-7 pm, at the Folsom Funeral Home, 649 High St., WESTWOOD. Relatives and friends are invited to attend his Memorial Service on Saturday, at 11 am, at the funeral home. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations to the MA Lions Eye Research Fund, 43 Stewart Terrace, Belmont, MA 02478, mlerfi.com would be appreciated. For directions, obituary and guestbook, please visit funeral home website.

Folsom Funeral Home
www.folsomfuneral.com

KIRZNER, Rubin



Of Hyannis, formerly of Brookline on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at the remarkable age of 102.

Beloved and devoted husband of Bela (Swaicer) for 74 years. Devoted father of Ruth Kirzner (Andy Post), Alan Kirzner and Audrey (Michael Syatt). Loving grandfather of Alexander and Zachary. Rubin's parents and siblings were killed in the Holocaust except for his predeceased brother Jerry Slivka. Rubin is mourned and deeply missed by his nieces and nephews here and in Israel as well as many cousins and friends.

Services at Levine Chapels, 470 Harvard Street, BROOKLINE on Friday, January 17, at 12:30pm. Interment at Sharon Memorial Park, 40 Dedham Street, Sharon.

Memorial Observance at the home of Audrey & Michael Syatt, immediately following the Burial through 7pm and continuing on Saturday from 6-8pm.

Remembrances, if desired, may be made to American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants, 391 Boylston Street, Brookline, MA 02445 and to Homecare Choices, 25 Lakeview Drive, Sandwich MA 02563, contact Peter Carey at 508-313-2529.

Levine Chapels, Brookline
617-277-8300
www.levinechapel.com

Funeral Services

ST. MICHAEL
CEMETERY CREMATORY
500 Canterbury St.
Boston, MA 02131
The Respectful Way
617-524-1036
www.stmichaelcemetery.com

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583 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge
MON-FRI 9-9; SAT 9-5, SUNDAY 12-5

Share a special memory

Add a cherished memory or condolence to the online guestbook at **boston.com/obituaries.**

LARSON, Harold R.



Age 83, of Arlington, MA, died on January 2, 2025. He was born in Somerville, MA, and attended Arlington High School, 1956 - 1959, graduated from Tufts University in 1963 with a Bachelors of Science and from MIT, in 1967, with a Doctor of Science Sc.D. Harold went on to work in Metallurgy for several corporations in NJ, TX, and MA, and worked for MIT for several decades. He was married to Jane McEvoy Larson for 60 years; and has three daughters, Susan Pratt (John Alan), Ellen Collins (Kevin), Jennifer Rienstra (Albert Henry); seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His parents were Harold G. Larson and Martha A. Larson of Arlington, MA; and siblings, Kenneth Larson (Ann), Linda Larson, Barbara Donnelly (Larry), Karen Cronburg (Terry) and Janet Hooper (David). A Service will be held at All Saints Church, in Belmont, on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Harold's memory to All Saints Episcopal Church, 17 Clark Street, Belmont, MA 02478. To view an online guestbook, please visit www.brownandhickey.com

MacPHAIL, Agnes Catherine (MacKinnon)

Of East Walpole, January 13, 2025. Beloved wife of the late Leroy MacPhail. Loving mother of Joanne MacPhail-Walsh and her husband, Brian Walsh and Donna MacPhail. Also survived by her precious grandchildren, Conor and Quinn Walsh; and her granddog, Ellie. Visiting Hours in the Eaton Funeral Home, 1351 Highland Ave., NEEDHAM, on Friday, January 17, from 6-8pm. Funeral Service in the former Needham Presbyterian Church, 1458 Great Plain Ave., Needham, on Saturday, January 18, at 11am. Interment will follow at Knollwood Memorial Park, in Canton. For full obituary or to share a memory of Agnes, please visit www.eatonfuneralhomescom

Eaton Funeral Home
781-444-0201

MICHALOWSKI, Wanda A. (Pieculewicz)



Michalowski, Wanda A (Pieculewicz), of West Roxbury and Falmouth, January 14, 2025, at the age of 101. Beloved wife of Stephen Michalowski, deceased. Mother of Stephen Michaels (Susan) of Naples, FL, Claudia DiMuccio (Kenneth) of Wellesley, Christine Thompkins-Michalowski (Bob Tompkins, deceased) of Milton, Claire Duggan (Frank) of Hyde Park, Mark Michalowski (Nancy) of Chestnut Hill and Diane Michalowski Freedland (Barry) of Sharon; sister to Stanley, Charley, Zenon, Claude, Alfred and Wally, all deceased; and loving "Grammy" to 15 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Funeral from The Robert J. Lawler & Crosby Funeral Home, 1803 Centre St., WEST ROXBURY, on Monday, January 20, at 9:00 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in St. John Chrysostom Church, 4750 Washington St., West Roxbury, at 10:00 a.m. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Visiting Hours at the funeral home on Sunday, January 19, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Wanda's memory to Sophia Snow Place, 1205 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA 0213.2

www.sophiasnowplace.org/donations

For more information and a full obituary, please visit

www.lawlerfuneralhome.com

Lawler Funeral Home
617-323-5600

In Memoriam

ERIN MARIE VAN FLANDERN



7/23/1997 – 1/16/2015

A Note from Your Father

▪ Roses are red
Violets are blue
A decade since you are gone
And I so miss you

▪ It has been so long, I feel our community has largely forgotten
Then a patient of mine came today with a candle and tears
Even young, you touched so many
your loss so tragic, many still remember even at 10 years

▪ Only see bits and pieces of your friend's stories
Social media, discussion, information of that kind
Their lives launched, loves found
It sickens me to know that you had to be left behind

▪ Big sister works hard, dreams, missing you
A family, house, next steps before it gets late
She is anxious to get there, frustrated sometimes
Haunted by your loss, the voyage is rocky, the road not straight

▪ Little sister analyst, banker, loves her life
She is so loving, a dedicated friend but dating not sure what to believe
Struggling with trust since your departure
She feels any love interest eventually will leave

▪ Little brother graduated from college this year
So proud of his endurance, so engaging, impressed by his grit
When you died - his life suffered the most critical blow
Please help him find his way - pray that he won't quit

▪ Mom remains tough, working, loving her new golf
Even at 10 years, she finds it hard to believe your loss is true
Having new friends, fitness and being outdoors brings her some joy
But she is so angry and sad that she cannot share it with you

▪ New addition to the family, your sister's husband, a sibling you've never met
Pray that he stays strong, a fantastic person, smart, kind
He's a difficult act to follow, but even he struggles to find his way
I pray that your sister and brother will be able to make such a find

▪ Your siblings at 10 years still bearing scars
Your loss seems so random, unfair
In the darkness of winter it hangs like a storm cloud
I pray memories fade of that night of horror and despair

▪ When you were all young, together, blessed
We never took you for granted, a treasure each day
Your loss so sudden and overwhelming
We're faced only with memories now - sadly even those slip away

▪ Times past at this time of year I had all your siblings
Skiing, distract them, see them, lend an ear
All of them so spread and distant now
Pray that they're not alone on your night this year

▪ We are off to see the nieces this month
Weddings, babies their lives of a fairy tale verse
Your absence leaves me with a hint of bitterness and jealousy
Feelings like this for the ones I love are a horrible curse

▪ As your father at 10 years I know I will never get over that dark cold night
The fact that I was not there forever in my heart will loom
Could I have saved you? No one will never know
Maybe someday you will forgive me for leaving you in that emergency room

▪ After I think of my role as a dad
Maybe to help you be all that you would be
You left just as you began to blossom
Who would you have met? What would you do? I wish I could see

▪ I suppose I will have to let you go
Longing each day for a smile, a hug, from you, any type of touch
Each year that goes by brings me closer to you, to seeing you
Until that time always know that we "Love you so much"
XOXOXO



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Remembered

SHARE MEMORIES AT BOSTON.COM/OBITUARIES

TSECHRINTZIS, Viola (Darveris)

Age 100, of Cambridge, MA, passed away on January 12, surrounded by her loving family. Beloved wife of the late Spyros Tsechrintzis. Devoted mother of George Tsechrintzis and his wife, Kathy and Ellen Tsechrintzis. Loving grandmother of Scot and his wife, Christa, Derek and his wife, Cheryl, Amy Wilson and her husband, Michael. She also leaves her five adored great-granddaughters, Riley, Emily, Julia, Olivia Tsechrintzis and Hallie Wilson; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her siblings. Funeral Service on Friday, January 17, 2025, at 11:30AM, at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Church, 14 Magazine St., Cambridge, MA. Visitation prior to the Service from 10:30AM -11:30AM. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Burial at Mt. Auburn Cemetery. For online guestbook, please visit www.Faggas.com

Faggas Funeral Home
800-222-2586

WONG, Rose (Yee)



Longtime of Melrose, January 12, 2025, at age 99. Beloved wife of 72 years of the late Theodore "Ted" Wong. Devoted mother of Clifton Wong & his wife, Susan of Wellesley Hills, Eric "Rick" Wong & his wife, Elizabeth Grabau of Wexford, PA and Wendy Wong-Keefe & her husband, Edmund of Lynnfield. Sister of Lil "May" Lee of HI, Roy Lee of Andover, Ann Yee of Sharon, David Yee of KS and the late Jessie Toong, William Yee & Thomas Yee. Cherished grandmother of six and great-grandmother of three. Also survived by many loving nieces & nephews and cousins. Relatives and friends are invited to honor Rose during Visiting Hours at Robinson Funeral Home, 809 Main St., MELROSE, on Friday, January 17, from 4-7pm and for her Funeral Service on Saturday, January 18, at 10am. Interment in Puritan Lawn Memorial Park, Peabody. Donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105. www.stjude.org For more info, www.RobinsonFuneralHome.com

Life Celebration by Robinson Funeral Home

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To submit an obituary for editorial consideration, please send the information and a photo by e-mail to obits@globe.com, or send information by fax to 617.929.3186. If you need further assistance about a news obituary, please call 617.929.3400.

To access death notices and obituaries online, visit boston.com/obituaries.

Obituaries

Rick Kuhn, served sentence in Boston College gambling scandal; at 69

By Richard Sandomir
NEW YORK TIMES



FRANK O'BRIEN/GLOBE STAFF



UPI

In 1985, a few months short of his release from prison, Mr. Kuhn, above, retold his story of the point-shaving scheme to the President's Commission on Organized Crime. At left, Mr. Kuhn during a February 1978 Boston College basketball game.

Rick Kuhn, a Boston College basketball player who was convicted for taking part in a headline-making point-shaving scandal that was largely organized by Henry Hill, the mobster played by Ray Liotta in the 1990 movie "Goodfellas," died on Dec. 22 at his home in Ligonier, Pa. He was 69.

The cause was pancreatic cancer, said Chuck Finder, who collaborated with Mr. Kuhn on a recently completed memoir.

Mr. Kuhn was a 6-foot-5 backup forward and center for the Boston College Eagles in 1978 when he agreed to participate in a plot to help make sure his team won by fewer points than the spread — the number of points by which oddsmakers make a team a favorite or an underdog in certain games — or lost by more.

Small subterfuges, like a player deliberately committing a critical foul or appearing to try to steal a ball but letting his opponent get around him to score, could alter the margin of victory.

The scandal began when Mr. Kuhn took a teammate and close friend, Jim Sweeney, to a hotel room near Logan Airport to meet Hill; Paul Mazzei, a narcotics trafficker Hill had met in a federal prison; and Tony Perla, a small-time gambler.

"You're thinking, the initial phase, they want insider information," Mr. Kuhn wrote in a memoir. But two hours into the meeting, the subject of point shaving came up, and the players were asked how much money they would want to participate in such a scheme.

"I said, 'One hundred thousand,'" Mr. Kuhn recalled telling them, to which Hill replied, "I like this kid."

Examining Boston College's 1978-79 schedule, Hill, Mazzei, and Perla discussed "how much they were going to wager and how much we would make," Mr. Kuhn wrote. He added, "As we left, Tony gave us $1,000 for coming" — the equivalent of just under $5,000 today, and a lot of money for students.

Hill was not only the self-proclaimed "Boston College basketball fixer," as he declared in an article in Sports Illustrated in 1981 (written with Douglas S. Looney), he was also an associate of the Lucchese crime family. He soon brought in James (Jimmy the Gent) Burke — a convicted extortionist who was the suspected mastermind of the multimillion-dollar Lufthansa heist in 1978 at John F. Kennedy Airport — to make the bookmaking portion of the point-shaving scheme work. (Burke was played by Robert De Niro in "Goodfellas.")

Hill had been indicted in 1980 on narcotics charges in Nassau County, New York, and implicated in the Lufthansa robbery when he was questioned about the Lufthansa case by federal prosecutor Edward A. McDonald and an FBI agent. Surprisingly, Hill also revealed the point-shaving scheme, and his role in it, and he was given immunity in all cases.

After McDonald's office corroborated Hill's story, a federal grand jury in Brooklyn, in July 1981, indicted Mr. Kuhn, Mazzei, Burke, Tony Perla, and his brother Rocco, a high school friend of Mr. Kuhn's, on charges of racketeering, conspiracy to commit sports bribery, and interstate travel in aid of racketeering.

The indictment cited six games during the 1978-79 season as evidence of the fix.

Mr. Kuhn, who had already confessed to his role in the scheme, turned down McDonald's offer to cooperate against the other defendants.

"I knew if I didn't say anything, I was going to jail," Mr. Kuhn wrote. "If I did say something, those other guys could've given me a life sentence as in: shortening my life."

After a monthlong trial, the defendants were convicted in November on all three charges. Mr. Kuhn, Mazzei, and Tony Perla received 10-year sentences, Burke received a 20-year sentence, and Rocco Perla was sentenced to four years.

Mr. Kuhn served 28 months.

Two other players — Sweeney and Ernie Cobb, the team's star player — also took money as part of the point-shaving scheme, McDonald said. Sweeney, who was not indicted, testified that he had felt tricked by Mr. Kuhn into joining the airport hotel meeting and then too frightened of Hill to say no.

Cobb was indicted in a separate but similar federal case in 1983. He was acquitted.

Richard John Kuhn was born on July 15, 1955, in Swissvale, Pa., east of Pittsburgh. His father, Frederick, worked on railroad signals. His mother, Geraldine (McGuire) Kuhn, ran the home and, after raising her youngest son, owned a beauty salon.

Rick played basketball and baseball in high school and was drafted in 1973 by the Cincinnati Reds. His pitching career in the Reds' minor league system ended after two seasons when he tore the rotator cuff in his pitching shoulder.

He was soon hired as the assistant baseball coach at the Boyce campus of the Community College of Allegheny County in Pennsylvania. He also took some business courses and played on the school's basketball team. Boston College recruited him during the 1976 National Junior College Basketball Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

In his three years at Boston College, Mr. Kuhn averaged just 4.3 points a game. But he played enough minutes to influence the betting scheme, McDonald said.

Mr. Kuhn did not graduate. He played basketball in Argentina before his indictment and was reportedly managing a nightclub in Pittsburgh while he was on trial.

In 1985, two years into his imprisonment, he testified to the President's Commission on Organized Crime that college basketball players were most vulnerable to financial pressure from gamblers "in their junior and senior years, when it becomes reality that they're not going to have lucrative careers" as professional players.

In 1990, speaking to the ABCD Camp, a showcase of top high school basketball recruits, Mr. Kuhn said he thought his sentence had been too harsh. But he added: "I did make a mistake. I did commit a crime."

After being released from prison, he owned apartment buildings and held jobs in security and construction.

The scandal was the subject of a book, "Fixed: How Goodfellas Bought Boston College Basketball" (2000), by David Porter, for which Mr. Kuhn did not grant interviews, and an ESPN documentary, "Playing for the Mob" (2014), which Liotta narrated.

Joe Lavine, a director of the documentary, said in an interview that he spoke to Mr. Kuhn in person and on the phone. Mr. Kuhn declined to speak on camera but "would lead me in directions and let me know certain things," Lavine recalled. He added, "He had a daughter in junior high or high school who was playing sport, and he didn't want to become a story that impacted anything she was doing."

But Finder, the collaborator on Mr. Kuhn's memoir, wrote in an email that in his last months, Mr. Kuhn "wanted to tell the true story he never told before. The story he never even completely shared with his own family."

The first draft of the manuscript was finished two nights before his death.

Mr. Kuhn leaves his wife, Patti Jo (Bean) Kuhn; two daughters, Annie Kuhn and Kari Kuhn-Wagner; a son, John; two brothers, Frederick and Jerry; and three grandsons. A previous marriage ended in divorce.

Hill died in 2012, Liotta in 2022.

McDonald, the prosecutor, who played himself in "Goodfellas" and who earned a bachelor's degree from Boston College in 1968, became friendly with Mr. Kuhn after the trial.

"He made a stupid mistake as a senior in college," McDonald said in an interview. "I felt sorry for him. Most of the guys I convicted, I didn't feel bad for."

One day, he recalled, Mr. Kuhn was being interviewed by FBI agents at the federal courthouse in Brooklyn while still serving his prison sentence. McDonald told him that he and some friends were going to see Boston College play that afternoon in the Big East Conference basketball tournament at Madison Square Garden.

Jokingly, Mr. Kuhn asked, "Can I come with you?"

Peter Fenwick; studied near-death episodes

By Michael S. Rosenwald
NEW YORK TIMES



BIAL FOUNDATION VIA NEW YORK TIMES

Dr. Fenwick dismissed earlier explanations, such as a lack of oxygen flowing to the brain, for near-death experiences.

In early 1988, British neuropsychiatrist Peter Fenwick found himself drowning in letters from people who believed they had survived an encounter with death.

"I slowly floated down a tunnel, not afraid in any way but looking forward to something," one man wrote to him. "When it came I was absolutely at peace and going towards the most wonderful light. Believe me, it was great. No worries, problems or anything, just wonderful."

In another letter, a woman described walking down a country lane and coming upon golden gates.

"Inside was the most beautiful garden, no lawn, path or anything else, but flowers of every kind," she wrote. "Those that attracted me most were Madonna lilies, delphiniums and roses, but there were many, many more."

The letters were among more than 2,000 that Dr. Fenwick received shortly after he appeared in a BBC documentary, "Glimpses of Death," in which he commented on the near-death visions of people who had apparently briefly died, or nearly died, and then come back to life.

"These letters were written by people who had never, ever before told anyone about their experiences," Dr. Fenwick said in a 2012 lecture at TEDxBerlin.

But Dr. Fenwick, an expert on consciousness, was keenly interested. Possessing a more scientifically open mind than many of his peers, he had begun studying near-death experiences — a contentious subject in neuroscience — in the mid-1970s. He believed that consciousness existed beyond physical death, and he thought the letters would help strengthen his position.

Dr. Fenwick sent the letter writers a lengthy questionnaire to categorize their experiences. He presented his findings, alongside excerpts from the letters, in "The Truth in the Light: An Investigation of Over 300 Near-Death Experiences" (1995), which he wrote with his wife, Elizabeth. The book established him as a leading authority in near-death studies.

Dr. Fenwick died Nov. 22 at his home in London, his daughter Annabelle said. He was 89.

"The Truth in the Light" revealed startling similarities among the letter writers. More than 50 percent of them reported traveling in a tunnel. Seventy-two percent saw a bright light. Nearly 40 percent met someone they knew, including deceased relatives. Strikingly, 72 percent reported that they had made the decision to return.

A woman who had been in a horrific car accident recalled being "encouraged by a strong feeling to enter the light" through a tunnel.

"I was peaceful, totally content, and I understood I was born on earth and knew the answer to every mystery — I was not told, I just knew, the light held all the answers," she wrote. "Then there was sudden confusion. I had to go back to the tunnel quickly; something was wrong."

Suddenly, she continued, "I regained my body and all emotions. I panicked and felt pain, tremendous pain, all over my body. I believe I died for a short time."

For decades, neuroscientists have dismissed near-death experiences, or NDEs, as symptoms of anoxia — a lack of oxygen flowing to the brain. Dr. Fenwick rebutted that assessment in "The Truth in the Light," pointing to the instruction of pilots.

"Pilots in training regularly undergo acute anoxia in simulators to make sure they can get their oxygen masks on in time," Fenwick wrote. "Those who fail to do so do not have NDEs; they either go unconscious or become so confused that they try to land their planes on clouds."

He also dismissed another common critique of near-death experiences: that they are run-of-the-mill hallucinations, like those experienced by people with high fevers.

"But describing it as a hallucination does nothing to explain the underlying mechanism and leaves many of the same old questions unanswered," he wrote. "Why should everyone have more or less the same hallucination in the same circumstances? And why should it seem so real?"

Peter Brooke Cadogan Fenwick was born May 25, 1935, in Nairobi, Kenya, where his father, Anthony, had been sent by his family in northern England to farm coffee. His mother, Betty (Darling) Fenwick, was director of surgery at Nairobi Hospital.

After graduating from Stowe School, a prestigious boarding institution in the English countryside, he studied natural sciences at the University of Cambridge. He graduated in 1957 and then continued his studies there, receiving his medical degree in 1960.

Dr. Fenwick aspired to become a brain surgeon, but he changed his mind after observing a brain surgery.

"I suddenly realized that if you were a brain surgeon, you looked down a deep, dark hole into the brain, and I could see there was no fun in that," he told the British newspaper The Telegraph last year. "I realized I didn't want to be a neurosurgeon, I wanted to be a neuropsychiatrist so I could talk to people and not have them unconscious while I looked into that deep, dark hole."

He joined Maudsley Hospital in London, the largest psychiatric teaching hospital in Britain, where he at first specialized in epilepsy. He also studied sleepwalking, dreams, and meditation.

In 1975, American philosopher and psychiatrist Raymond A. Moody Jr. published "Life After Life," one of the first books by a physician about near-death experiences. It was an international bestseller, but Dr. Fenwick, like many readers, was skeptical about the deathbed visions recounted in the book.

The next year, a patient of his told him he had seen a bright light through a tunnel while experiencing near-fatal complications during heart surgery.

"I was able to look at him, discuss it with him and see in fact that this was no psychobabble — it was a real experience," Dr. Fenwick told The Telegraph.

TV CRITIC'S CORNER

BY LISA WEIDENFELD



NBC

Allison Tolman as Alex and David Alan Grier as Dr. Ron in "St. Denis Medical."

'St. Denis Medical' might be your new comfort watch

In an era when a surplus of streaming networks and a glut of shows can make it hard to figure out what to watch, the simple task of finding a pleasant half-hour comedy can make it feel like the traditional sitcom is a lost art form. But NBC's new "St. Denis Medical," airing Tuesdays at 8 p.m., is proving a solid contender for your new comfort watch, and thankfully the network just renewed it for a second season.

The show comes from Eric Ledgin, who worked on the since-canceled "American Auto" and "Rutherford Falls," and Justin Spitzer, who also worked on "American Auto," as well as "Superstore" and "The Office." Their combined workplace comedy experience comes in handy, since "St. Denis" is also about colleagues. Set in an underfunded hospital led by the ambitious Joyce (Wendi McLendon-Covey, of "Reno 911" and "The Goldbergs"), the show follows the staff, mockumentary-style, as they try to save lives in a chaotic work environment.

Similar to "The Office" and other workplace sitcoms, everyone's just a bit quirky. Allison Tolman's nurse Alex is essentially the series protagonist, managing a recent promotion into leadership alongside her own occasionally faulty good intentions. David Alan Grier's Dr. Ron is a wise mentor to the younger staffers, but also egotistical and prone to grudges. And new nurse Matt (Mekki Leeper, prominently seen on Prime Video's "Jury Duty") comes from an unusual religious background and is taking his first steps in a brave new world where he doesn't seem to understand mainstream culture.

The show is still finding its footing with the characters, to some extent. Not all the relationship dynamics work, and every now and then there's a low level sense of horror that these assorted goofballs are managing medical care. There's a more complicated balance between competence and buffoonery in a hospital setting than there is at a paper company, for instance.

But it's also pretty funny, and Grier nearly runs off with the whole show, crafting a fascinating portrait of a man who can save a life but will seek revenge for such petty gripes as someone parking too close to him, or a fellow doctor taking the candy bar he wanted. And while McLendon-Covey's Joyce may chase down silly trends for the hospital, she's still a competent enough leader that you don't wonder why she's in her top administrator role. A second season will give "St. Denis" time to work out the kinks, and in the meantime, you can catch up on the still-airing season 1 on Peacock.

ASKING ERIC

After negative paternity test, ex still wants to maintain contact

Q. I took a DNA test with an ex. The child is 5. My ex gave me issues about it for years but finally caved in. We remained friends. Now that it's verified that I'm not the child's father, what do I do?

The mother didn't even show up in court for the results. Do I reach out?

She has four other kids I've built a great bond with over the past six years. Even though we're no longer intimate, I offer my assistance, visit, call, etc. Do I disappear?

When I meet my next person, how do I explain this? My ex didn't want a relationship, and I love her and the kids. I want a family. They want to forget about me. I just want to do the right thing.

CONFUSED PATERNITY

A. It sounds like your ex is communicating the boundary that's most healthy for her right now and you should respect it. That doesn't mean disappearing but rather acknowledging to her that you see the distance and asking what, if any, contact she wants for you and her kids. Then follow that.

I'm sure this is painful and I'm really sorry. You've built relationships with these kids. It will be hard to grieve that, and I'd encourage you to talk about the feelings of loss with friends or loved ones you trust. Even though the child was not yours, there was likely a big part of you that felt connected as a father would be.

However, something has happened between you and your ex that indicates a lot of mixed messages, at the very least.

She gave you "issues" about the test and didn't come to the results hearing; is it possible she knew you weren't the father, and you weren't ready to accept that?

People are sometimes only in our lives for a season. It will help you, your ex, and her kids for you to process the feelings you have about the dissolution of this relationship before attempting to reconnect.

Q. I am a recovering alcoholic who has thankfully been sober for more than three years now. I have had to go through many consequences for my actions through that turbulent period of my life and am happily through them and moving forward.

I've lost a few close friends from childhood who witnessed the whole thing, and I admit that I said some pretty mean things during that time. They, understandably, decided to "ghost" me completely and ceased all communication with me a year before I finally sobered up. It hurt to lose their friendships so suddenly, but I came to understand that I was at fault and accepted their decisions.

Focusing on career instead of just partying has led me to a burgeoning success in my field and I am beginning to reap some real spoils. Spoils that I enjoy sharing with family and friends as I have always been very generous. Since word has spread that I'm in a really good place now, some of those who "ghosted" me are trying to come back into my life. I hold no anger toward them whatsoever, but I find myself doubting some of their intentions.

I don't resent any of them but accepting the consequences of losing their relationships is a big part of my recovery. Decisions were made and they should be respected and, in my case, learned from, for all to move forward in our now separate lives.

I attempted to make amends earlier in my recovery but none of them acknowledged they received my apologies. And I have no desire to keep beating myself up by repeating my apologies. Do I owe any of them an explanation for my decision to not reply to their requests to meet up to catch up?

GHOSTED

A. If welcoming these people back into your life is going to trigger you, or add to a narrative that threatens your sobriety, it's fine to stay away. You don't owe them an explanation more than "it's best for my recovery that we stay apart."

But I'm seeing some unresolved feelings in your letter, particularly about their resistance to your amends. Do you really not resent them?

Try to separate the narrative about your present professional success from the narrative about these fractured friendships. You all have unfinished business. You write that they "understandably" ghosted you but ask yourself if that's something you really do accept.

Similarly, talk to your sponsor about the incomplete amends. No one is required to accept an amends. But now that they're reestablishing contact, it will help you to be able to acknowledge what you did wrong and talk with them about how you can find resolution. Then, you can decide if you want to continue on together or go your separate ways.

R. Eric Thomas can be reached at eric@askingeric.com.

Thursday January 16, 2025

Movies Sports News Specials

		7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30	11 pm	11:30
2	WGBH PBS	Context	R. Steves	This Old House	Old House	The U.S. and the Holocaust "The Golden Door (Beginnings -- 1938)"				(:10) Amanpour and Company (N)	
4	WBZ CBS	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Hollywood Squares (N) (P)		Georgie & M.	Ghosts	Matlock "Belly of the Beast"		News (N)	(:35) Colbert
5	WCVB ABC	News (N)	Chronicle	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (N)		Murders (N)	(:40) Only Murders	(:20) Murders "Hello Darkness" (N)		NewsCenter 5 (N)	(:35) J. Kimmel
6	WLNE ABC	Hollywood	Inside Ed.	Extreme (N)		Murders	Murders	(:20) Murders (N)		ABC6Ne..	J.Kimmel
7	WHDH	Inside Ed. (N)	Extra (N)	Family Feud	Family Feud	7 News at 9PM (N)		7 News at 10PM (N)		7 News at 11PM (N)	(:35) Inside Ed.
9	WMUR ABC	Chronicle	News (N)	Extreme (N)		Murders	Murders	(:20) Murders (N)		News (N)	J.Kimmel
10	NBC Boston	Boston News (N)	Hollywood (N)	Law "Enemy of the State" (N)		Law & Order: SVU "First Light" (N)		Found "Missing While Targeted" (N)		Boston News (N)	(:35) J. Fallon (N)
10	WJAR NBC	News (N) (Live)	Extra (N)	Law "Enemy of the State" (N)		Law & Order: SVU "First Light" (N)		Found "Missing While Targeted" (N)		News (N) (Live)	(:35) J. Fallon (N)
11	WENH PBS	Weekends	Weekends	Windows	La Frontiere	White Mtn	Without Precedent: The Supreme Life of Rosalie Abella			Amanpour and Company (N)	
12	WPRI CBS	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Hollywood Squares (N) (P)		Georgie & M.	Ghosts	Matlock "Belly of the Beast"		12 News at 11 (N)	(:35) Colbert
25	WFXT FOX	ET (N)	TMZ (N)	Hell's Kitchen Druski, Jeff Dye (N)		Animal (N)	Dutch "CIA" (N)	Boston 25 News at 10PM (N)		News (N) (Live)	(:35) News (N)
27	WUNI	(6:30) Fútbol (N) (Live)				Las hijas de la señora García (N)		C.D.I. Código de investigación (N)		Noticias Univisión	SaborDe/ (:35) Noti..
36	WSBE PBS	Cook's Country	Story- Public Sq	Double Feature: Presented by RI		Unknown Destination		Hope Street		PBS News Hour	
38	WSBK	Big Bang	Big Bang	WBZ News 8p (N)		48 Hours		Suits "The Painting"		Flip Side (N)	Flip Side
44	WGBX PBS	Test Kitchen	Antiques	Hope Street		The Porter		Velvet "Blue Velvet"			PBS News (N)
50	WWJE	Murder		Caught "Anthony"		Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Obsession:	
56	WLVI CW	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Police 24/7 "Man's Best Friend"		Police "Patients and Patience"		7 News at 10PM on CW56 (N)		Modern Family	Modern Family
64	WNAC FOX	Family Feud	Family Feud	Hell's Kitchen Druski, Jeff Dye (N)		Animal (N)	Dutch "CIA" (N)	12 News on Fox Pr (N)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld
68	WBPX ION	Chicago P.D. "Fractures"		Chicago P.D. "A Way Out"		Chicago P.D. "Home Safe"		Chicago P.D. "Lies"		Chicago P.D. "To Protect"	
	PREMIUM CABLE										
Cinemax		(6:10) ★★ In Time ('11)		★★ Backtrack ('15) Sam Neill, Robin McLeavy, Adrien Brody.		★★★ 127 Hours ('10) Amber Tamblyn, James Franco.				(:05) ★★ High-Rise ('15)	
Flix		(6:10) ★★★ Tropic Thunder ('08)		★★ Boomerang ('92) Halle Berry, Robin Givens, Eddie Murphy.				★ A Thousand Words ('12) Eddie Murphy.			(:35) Hanniba...
HBO		(6:15) ★★★ The Farewell ('19)		Showing Up ('22) Hong Chau, Michelle Williams.		(:50) ★★★ Kicks ('16) Jahking Guillory.				(:20) ★★★ The Florida Project ('17)	
HBO 2		(:20) Sex and the City "The One"		(:55) Update	(:45) Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story ('24)				(:35) Bill Maher: Is		(:45) Rise of the Pl...
Paramount-Sho		(6:00) ★★★ Poltergeist ('82) (P)		★★ Final Destination Ali Larter, Devon Sawa.		(:45) ★★★ Talk to Me ('22) Alexandra Jensen, Joe Bird, Sophie Wilde.					Good Boy ('22) (P)
Showtime 2		(5:40) ★★ Defiance ('08) Daniel Craig.		★★ Bad Moms ('16) Kristen Bell, Kathryn Hahn, Mila Kunis.		(:40) ★★ The Fabulous Four ('24) Bette Midler, Megan Mullally, Susan Sarandon.					Last Voyage ...
Starz!		(:20) Advanced Chemistry ('23) Chaunte Wayans, Sarah Burns, Samba Schutte.				★★ The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes ('23) Rachel Zegler, Tom Blyth.					(:40) Big Lebowski
TMC		(6:20) Sick of Myself ('22)		★★ Tommy Boy ('95) David Spade, Chris Farley.		(:40) ★★★ The School of Rock ('03) Joan Cusack, Mike White, Jack Black.					★★ She's All That
	SPORTS										
CBSSN		College Basketball Hofstra at Towson (N) (Live)				College Basketball Texas-El Paso at Liberty (N) (Live)				Basketball Gonzaga at Oregon State (N)	
ESPN		NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at Florida Panthers From Amerant Bank Arena in Sunrise, Fla. (N) (Live)				NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Colorado Avalanche From Ball Arena in Denver. (N) (Live)					
ESPN2		College Basketball Memphis at Temple (N) (Live)				2025 Australian Open Tennis Third Round From Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. (N) (Live)					
Fox Sports 1		College Basketball Michigan at Minnesota (N) (Live)				College Basketball Rutgers at Nebraska (N) (Live)				Hoops (N) (Live)	NFL Films Presents
Golf		PGA Tour Champions Golf						Central	PGA Tour Golf		
NBA		NBAActi..	Ready		Ready		High Tops		The Ultimate Draft		
NBC Sports		NBA G League Basketball College Park Skyhawks at Maine Celtics (N) (Live)				Best of Zolak and Bertrand		Boston Sports (N) (Live)		Boston Sports	
NESN		Basketball Binghamton at Vermont (N)				Best of 2025 Fenway Fest				Liverpool Football	
	FAMILY										
Cartoon		Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	American	American	American	FamilyGuy	FamilyGuy	FamilyGuy	Rick
Disney		Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Primos	Primos	Ladybug "Illusion"	Ladybug	ZOMBIES: Re-	ZOMBIES: Re-	Jessie	Jessie
Encore Family		Movie	(:50) Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.			(:35) The Blue Elephant ('08)				(:55) Golden Shoes	
Nickelodeon		(6:00) Despicable Me	Mod Fam	Mod Fam		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
Nick Jr.		Rubble	Rubble	PAWPatr..	PAWPatr..	PAWPatr..	PAWPatr..	PAWPatr..	PAWPatr..	Rubble	Rubble

	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30	11 pm	11:30
BASIC CABLE										
A&E	The First 48 "Below the Surface"		The First 48 "Deadly Spree" (N)		Homicide "Know Thy Neighbor" (N)		Fugitive Hunters "A Life of Crime" (N)		(:05) The First 48 "Young Guns"	
AMC	(5:30) ★★ Red 2		★★ The Replacements Keanu Reeves.					(:45) ★★★ Moneyball ('11)		
Animal Planet	I Was Prey		Swamp Wars "Killer Bees Attack"		Swamp Wars		Swamp Wars "Deer-Eating Python"		Swamp Wars	
BBC America	★★★ A Few Good Men ('92) Jack Nicholson, Tom Cruise.						★★ U.S. Marshals ('98)			
BET	T. Perry's The Oval "Blow For Blow"		★★ Uncle Drew ('18) Lil Rel Howery, Nick Kroll, Kyrie Irving.					★★★ Friday ('95) Chris Tucker, Nia Long, Ice Cube.		
Bravo	Southern Charm "Beer and Loathing"		Charm "Making a Splash" (N)		Southern "Wylin at Lake Wylie" (N)		Watch What (N)	Southern Charm "Making a Splash"		Southern
CMT	Mom	Mom	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Gold Girls	Gold Girls
CNN	OutFront (N) (Live)		Cooper 360 (N)		The Source With (N)		CNN (N) (Live)		Laura (N) (Live)	
Comedy Central	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Daily Show (N)	(:35) Family G..
CSPAN	(5:00) Public Affairs Events									
CSPAN2	(2:45) US..	Public Affairs Events								
Dest. America	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea
Discovery	Naked and Afraid		Naked and Afraid "Death by Crocodile"				Naked and Afraid "Triple Threat"			
Discovery Life	Cellblock 6		Cellblock 6		Cellblock 6		Cellblock 6		Cellblock 6	
E!	Anatomy of Lies (N)		(:25) Anatomy of Lies (N)			(:40) Anatomy of Lies (N)			E! News	E! True
Encore	Movie	★★ The Shallows ('16)			★★ Beast ('22) Idris Elba.			(:35) ★★ Halloween Ends ('22)		
Food	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby
Fox News	Ingraham (N) (Live)		Jesse (N) (Live)		Hannity (N) (Live)		Gutfeld! (N)		Fox News (N) (Live)	
Freeform	(5:10) National Trea...		(:20) ★★ National Treasure: Book of Secrets ('07)						The 700 Club (N)	
FUSE	Malcolm	Malcolm	Malcolm	Malcolm	★ Shottas ('02) Wyclef Jean, Ky-Mani Marley.					My Wife
FX	Movie	★★★ John Wick: Chapter 2 ('17) Keanu Reeves.					★★★ John Wick: Chapter 3 -- Parabellum			
FXM	(4:55) Armageddon		★★ The Day After Tomorrow ('04)				(:20) ★★ The Day After Tomorrow ('04)			
Hallmark	(6:00) Royal Match...		Sweeter Than Chocolate ('23)				Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls
Hallmark Myst.	(6:00) Mysteries		Perfect Mysteries "Dead Over Diamonds"				Perfect Mysteries "Exit, Stage Death"			
HGTV	Love It or List It "Basement Blues"		Love It or List It		Flipping "Flipping for a Flip" (N)		Divided "Costly Choices" (N)		Hunters Int'l	Hunters Int'l
History	Pawn Stars		Swamp People "Chaos Before the Storm" (N)			(:35) Swamp People "Badwater" (N)		(:35) Swamp People "Chaos Before the Storm"		
HLN	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic
HSN	Lancome (N)		Lancome (N)		The List With (N)		The List With (N)		The List With (N)	
ID	Murder "Three Loud Booms"		A Body in the Basement		Body- Baseme. "Ice Cold Killers"		Body- Bas. "Missing Means Murder"		Body- Baseme. "Deadly Invitation"	
IFC	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men
Lifetime	The Rookie		The Rookie		The Rookie		(:05) The Rookie		(:05) The Rookie	
LMN	(6:00) Past Comes K...		Don't Scream, It's Me ('24)				Stalked by Her Past ('22) Meta Golding.			
MAGN	Building Outsi.		Building Outsi. (N)		Building Outsi.		Off the Grid		Off the Grid	
MSNBC	ReidOut (N) (Live)		All In (N) (Live)		Wagner (N) (Live)		Last Word (N) (Live)		11th Hour (N) (Live)	
MTV	Jersey Shore		Jersey Shore (N)		Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
National Geographic	Lost "Hidden Secrets of Pompeii"		Lost "Nero's Lost Palace"		Lost "Mystery of King Solomon" (N)		Lost "Secrets of the Colosseum"		Lost "Hidden Secrets of Pompeii"	
NatGeoWild	Life Below Zero		Life Below Zero		Life Below Zero (N)		Life Below Zero (N)		Life Below Zero (N)	
NECN	NBC 10	NBC 10	Dateline		Dateline		HUBToday	OpenHou..	1st Look	Rescue
NewsNation	On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N) (Live)		Dan Abrams (N)		Banfield (N) (Live)		Cuomo	
Ovation	Doc Martin		Doc Martin		Doc Martin		Doc Martin		Midsomer Murders	
OWN	Hoard-Buried		Hoard-Buried (N)		Hoard-Buried		Hoard-Buried		Hoard-Buried	
Oxygen	Unforgettable		Unforgettable "Window of Opportunity"				Unforgettable "Justice for Nikki"			
Paramount	Two Men	Two Men	★★ Kingsman: The Golden Circle ('17) Colin Firth.						Mission: Impossible ...	
QVC	(6:00) Graver (N)		The Outlet -- Home (N) (Live)				Susan Graver Style (N) (Live)			
Science	Mysteries of		Mysteries of		Mysteries of		Mysteries of		Mysteries of	
Sundance	Law & Order "White Lie"		Law & Order "Whiplash"		Law & Order "All My Children"		Law & Order "Brother's Keeper"		Law & Order "School Daze"	
SyFy	(4:30) Blade Runner...		(:05) ★★ Real Steel ('11) Evangeline Lilly, Hugh Jackman.						The Northman	
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Jokers	Jokes (N)	★★ Aquaman ('18)	
TCM	(6:00) Seven Brides ...		Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life Is Calling		(:45) ★★★ Ragtime ('81) James Cagney.					
TLC	Baylen Out Loud		The Way Down (N)		(:15) Way Down (N)		(:15) Way Down (N)		(:15) Last Resort	
TNT	Tip-Off	NBA Basketball					NBA Basketball			
Travel	Osbournes- Bel.		Osbournes- Bel.		Blind Frog Ran		Blind Frog Ran (N)		Is Amelia Earhart	
TruTV	Tip-Off	Basketball Phoenix Suns at Washington Wizards					NBA Basketball			
TV Land	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	(:20) Raymond		Raymond	Raymond	(:05) King	(:40) King
TV One	CosbySh..	CosbySh..	Different	Different	Different	Different	Different	Different	Different	Different
USA	(5:30) ★★ Olympus Has Fallen ('13)		★★★ Iron Man 3 ('13) Gwyneth Paltrow, Don Cheadle, Robert Downey Jr..						★★ Olympus Has Fallen ('13)	
VH-1	(6:00) The Cookout		★ The Wash ('01) Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre.				★★ Gridiron Gang ('06) Xzibit, The Rock.			
WE	S.W.A.T.		S.W.A.T. "Day Off"		S.W.A.T.		S.W.A.T. "School"		S.W.A.T.	

Content Ratings: **TV-Y** Appropriate for all children; **TV-Y7** For children age 7 and older; **TV-G** General audience; **TV-PG** Parental guidance suggested; **TV-14** May be unsuitable for children under 14; **TV-MA** Mature audience only **Additional symbols:** **D** Suggestive dialogue; **FV** Fantasy violence; **L** Strong language; **S** Sexual activity; **V** Violence; **HD** High-Definition; **(CC)** Close-Captioned

INSIDE
Comics PAGE D5
Weather PAGE D6

After Needham's 'no' vote, what comes next?

Voters rejected the town's state-mandated housing plan, but it has some time to land on a new one

By Andrew Brinker
GLOBE STAFF

After months of campaigning, a heated debate over a state-mandated plan that would have made it easier to build multifamily housing in parts of Needham came to a head Tuesday when voters soundly rejected the new zoning.

It was not particularly close. The "No" campaign, won with 58 percent of the 11,800 votes cast.

So what happens now?

The vote leaves Needham without a plan to comply with the state's MBTA Communities law, which mandates cities and towns served by the T write new zoning to ease the construction of multifamily housing. The town was supposed to pass a plan by the end of 2024. But unlike Milton, where voters similarly overturned a town-approved plan last year, drawing a swift lawsuit from Attorney General Andrea Campbell, Needham may not be in the crosshairs of the state just yet.

That's because of a decision this week by Governor Maura Healey's administration to give cities and towns that did not meet their deadline to pass zoning under the law until July to get something on the books, following a Supreme Judicial Court ruling last week ordering the state to put the law's guidelines, which shape how it is applied in each town, through a formal regulatory process.

That leaves Needham time to land on a new plan, but after a divisive referendum, reaching an agreement could prove challenging. First step: Needham's planning board must craft a new zoning plan, then send it back to Town Meeting.

Still, both sides said Wednesday they were eager to work together to draft a plan everyone can agree on.

The group that led the opposition to Needham's plan, Needham Residents for Thoughtful Zoning, said Wednesday that residents rejected it because they believed it was not good for the town. The new zoning would have allowed multifamily housing development up to 4 1/2 stories in key commercial and industrial areas near commuter rail stations and made room for 3,296 units, well over the 1,784 required by state law, though town leaders say that number is likely an overestimate.

Given another shot, Needham officials should listen to concerns that adding too much new housing too fast will strain the town's infrastructure, the "No" campaign said.

NEEDHAM VOTE, Page D4



35%
The share of health care spending hospital services accounted for last year, according to the Center for Health Information and Analysis.

200
The number of people over census at 396-bed South Shore Hospital.

'It's a broken system, and we're doing our best to fix it.'

STEVE WALSH, *president of the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association*

ILLUSTRATION BY ALLISON TALIAFERRO/GLOBE STAFF/ADOBE STOCK IMAGES

A VOICE FOR HOSPITALS

Steve Walsh has become a key player helping manage Massachusetts' health care crises

By Robert Weisman
GLOBE STAFF

SOUTH WEYMOUTH — Hospitals are under constant stress. Their emergency rooms are crowded, their nursing stations understaffed, their doctors overwhelmed by mounting workloads. Patients grumble about health costs and long waits.

Yet when Steve Walsh, the relentlessly upbeat president of the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, came to South Shore Hospital to talk to its leaders recently, he offered not only a sober reflection on the state's worsening health care squeeze but also reassurance that it's surmountable.



Steve Walsh

"It's a broken system," Walsh, 51, told hospital directors in their wood-paneled boardroom, "and we're doing our best to fix it."

A key behind-the-scenes player in the state's COVID response and the Steward hospital sales, Walsh has long been intimately involved in Massachusetts health care. It touched his family life and marked his career as a legislator even before he took over the hospital trade group, known as MHA, in 2017.

Since then, he's been engaged in almost nonstop crisis management through COVID-19, the Steward meltdown, and, most recently, an IV fluid shortage

WALSH, Page D3

Stadium project opponents pitch a scaled-down, cheaper alternative

They say their plan would cost $29m, as opposed to city's $200m version, but officials say their estimates are unrelated to real costs of building today

By Jon Chesto
GLOBE STAFF

Opponents of the Wu administration's redevelopment of White Stadium fought back on Wednesday by pitching a much less expensive alternative for the run-down Franklin Park sports facility.

The nonprofit Emerald Necklace Conservancy hired construction cost consultant Vermeulens to draw up a plan that the conservancy argues is more in keeping with the park's character. The firm pegs the cost of the alternate plan at $29 million, compared to a much more extensive project proposed by the Wu administration and Boston Unity Soccer Partners, the owners of a new pro women's soccer team. That proposal is estimated to cost upwards of $200 million, with the city expected to contribute at least $91 million.

The new proposal drew a quick rebuke from city officials, who first learned of the conservancy plan from the Globe, saying the estimates included in the new report are untethered from the true cost of building public projects in Boston today.

The plan from the conservancy, whose mission is to act as a steward for the Emerald Necklace group of parks, would level the east grandstand, already ruined by fire damage, and replace it with some bench seating built into a small hillside, while fully renovating the west grandstand; White Stadium would feature more than 5,000 seats in this scenario. The city's plan, meanwhile, would build a new east grandstand with facilities for Boston Public Schools coaches and athletes, and the National Women's Soccer League team would build a new west grandstand for its use, leaving the stadium with around 11,000 seats. Both projects would replace the stadium's running track with a new one.



CHRISTIANA BOTIC FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE/FILE 2021

White Stadium in Franklin Park has long been in need of renovations.

The conservancy and a group of like-minded advocates have been tangling with the city and the team in Suffolk Superior Court court over the stadium; they sued to block the project last February, with a potential trial set for March. These critics argue that a scaled-down proposal geared solely for student-athletes and the community is a better approach, in

WHITE STADIUM, Page D4

Inflation sped up in December, a fresh challenge for the Fed

Fastest one-month increase in overall prices since February; progress has slowed recently

By Ben Casselman
NEW YORK TIMES

Consumer prices rose more quickly in December, the latest sign that the Federal Reserve's fight against inflation may have stalled.

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.4 percent from November and was up 2.9 percent from a year earlier, the Labor Department said Wednesday. It was the fastest one-month increase in overall prices since February, driven in part by another sharp rise in the price of eggs and other groceries.

The "core" measure of inflation, which strips out volatile food and fuel prices to give a better sense of the underlying trend, was more encouraging: The index rose 3.2 percent from a year earlier after three straight months of 3.3 percent gains. Forecasters had not expected core inflation to slow.

Inflation has cooled substantially since the middle of 2022, when it hit a four-decade high of more than 9 percent. More recently, however, progress has slowed, or even stopped outright: By some measures, inflation hardly improved in 2024.

"When you step back and look at the overall state of inflation, we're not really going anywhere," said Sarah House, senior economist at Wells Fargo. "While there has been progress, the pace has been really disappointing."

Prices continued to rise in some of the categories that mat-

INFLATION, Page D4

TALKING POINTS

AVIATION

SOUTHWEST AIR FACES US LAWSUIT FOR 'CHRONIC FLIGHT DELAYS'



Southwest Airlines Co. was sued by the US Transportation Department for allegedly violating rules that require airlines to set and meet realistic flight schedules. The carrier was responsible for "unlawful chronic flight delays" that disrupted passengers' travel plans, the agency said Wednesday in a statement. The Transportation Department said it would seek "maximum civil penalties" against Southwest in the lawsuit, which was filed in federal court in Oakland, Calif. Southwest said in a separate statement that it was "disappointed that DOT chose to file a lawsuit over two flights that occurred more than two years ago." The airline said that since the agency issued a policy on chronic delays in 2009, Southwest has operated more than 20 million flights with no such violations. "Any claim that these two flights represent an unrealistic schedule is simply not credible when compared with our performance over the past 15 years," Southwest said. The company remains in touch with the government and is open to "discussions about a reasonable settlement." — BLOOMBERG NEWS

AUDITS

$1.8 BILLION ISN'T MISSING AFTER ALL IN SOUTH CAROLINA

It turns out that $1.8 billion in South Carolina state funds weren't just sitting in a bank account waiting to be spent. Instead, it was an accounting error compounded over years instead of being reconciled, an independent forensic audit determined. The announcement Wednesday dashed ideas like returning the money to taxpayers or using the windfall on roads. But it also led to more questions: why wasn't the error reported when it was first discovered back around 2018, and should the elected state treasurer, Curtis Loftis, step down or be impeached. In the private sector, if anybody had made a blunder of $1.8 billion -- whether it was an error, negligence, misfeasance, malfeasance, fraud, or a cover-up, they would lose their job," said Republican state Sen. Larry Grooms, who leads a committee investigating the accounting problems. The private audit is the most comprehensive look so far into the South Carolina Treasurer and Comptroller General's Office. Those agencies are typically led by elected officials and are in charge of making sure that government accounts stay balanced. The audit isn't the final word on the matter. Investigators, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, are trying to determine if it was just a series of mistakes or whether state employees figured out what was going on and tried to cover it up, Grooms said. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

BIDEN'S BIG SEMICONDUCTOR LAW WILL RAMP UP US CHIP PRODUCTION — BUT AT A HIGH COST, REPORT FINDS



A sweeping 2022 law, touted by President Biden as a way to revive US manufacturing of semiconductors and reduce the country's reliance on foreign-made computer chips, will "sharply increase production" of semiconductors in the United States. But it will do so at a high cost and might not deliver the best bang for the buck, concludes a report out Wednesday by an economic think tank in Washington. Researchers at the Peterson Institute for International Economics calculated that the $280 billion CHIPS and Science Act will create about 93,000 construction jobs as chip factories go up in the United States and 43,000 permanent jobs once they're in operation. But the government subsidies behind the expected chip manufacturing boom mean that each job created will cost taxpayers about $185,000 a year — twice the average annual salary of US semiconductor employees, the Peterson report found. "More production might not provide the best security for the money," wrote researchers Gary Hufbauer and Megan Hogan. The Peterson report notes that in passing the CHIPS Act Congress "did not consider alternative ways of spending billions of dollars to ensure the United States had adequate chip supplies. Other options could have included creating a chip stockpile run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or providing financial incentives for US chip users and foreign chip producers to keep bigger inventories of semiconductors in the United States. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

TIKTOK SAYS EMPLOYEES WILL HAVE JOBS EVEN IF BAN TAKES EFFECT

TikTok on Tuesday sought to assure its US employees that they will still have jobs next week even if the Supreme Court upholds a law that would see the video app banned in the United States on Sunday. The message is a shift in tone from TikTok, which has otherwise said it was confident that it would emerge victorious from its legal challenge to the law. It also shows the company is not planning to leave the United States in the near term, even if it is banned. TikTok, owned by the Chinese company ByteDance, is fighting a law from last year that would ban the app unless its US operations are sold to a non-Chinese owner. TikTok sent a message to its staff Tuesday acknowledging the uncertainty around the coming decision and assuring employees that they would continue to be paid. The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision before the law takes effect Sunday. — NEW YORK TIMES

BIOTECH

STARTUP RAISES $200 MILLION TO BRING BACK THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH



A biotechnology startup working to bring back animals from extinction has raised $200 million at a valuation of $10.2 billion, more than six times its valuation just two years ago. Colossal Biosciences Inc. is using DNA and genomics to try to resurrect the dodo, Tasmanian tiger, and the woolly mammoth. Cofounder and chief executive Ben Lamm says the company is on track to produce a woolly mammoth calf born to a surrogate elephant mother by late 2028. Dallas-based Colossal Biosciences said it raised the new funding round from one investor, TWG Global, bringing its total cash raised to $435 million. "We're not going to do anything until we get the genomes right," said Lamm in an interview, adding that the company was in the project's cell-editing phase, meaning it has identified target genes to work on. Colossal is attempting to create the calf by editing mammoth genes, obtained from ancient samples found in frozen tundra, into genes in Asian elephant cells. — BLOOMBERG NEWS

MEDIA

WASHINGTON POST EMPLOYEES PLEA FOR A SUMMIT WITH JEFF BEZOS

Hundreds of employees at The Washington Post sent a letter to Jeff Bezos on Tuesday evening, asking the Amazon founder for a meeting amid widespread concern about the future of the newspaper. The letter, which was signed by more than 400 employees, including many prominent reporters and editors, does not criticize anyone by name. But it says the signatories are broadly concerned with the leadership of the Post. "We are deeply alarmed by recent leadership decisions that have led readers to question the integrity of this institution, broken with a tradition of transparency and prompted some of our most distinguished colleagues to leave, with more departures imminent," the letter says. A spokesperson for the Post declined to comment. A spokesperson for Bezos, who owns the Post, did not respond to a request for comment. — NEW YORK TIMES

GOVERNMENT

US RECOVERS $31 MILLION IN SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS TO DEAD PEOPLE

The US government clawed back more than $31 million in Social Security payments that improperly went to dead people, a recovery that one official said Wednesday was "just the tip of the iceberg." The money was reclaimed as part of a five-month pilot program after Congress gave the Department of Treasury temporary access to the Social Security Administration's "Full Death Master File" for three years as part of the omnibus appropriations bill in 2021. The SSA maintains the most complete federal database of individuals who have died, and the file contains more than 142 million records, which go back to 1899, according to the Treasury. The Treasury projects that it will recover more than $215 million during its three-year access period, which runs from December 2023 through 2026. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's a good time to be a big bank

By Rob Copeland and Danielle Kaye
NEW YORK TIMES

Worried about the economy? You must not run a major bank.

A swath of the nation's largest lenders, including JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, and Goldman Sachs, reported quarterly and annual financial results on Wednesday that beat analysts' expectations, and largely expressed a go-go attitude about what's ahead after President-elect Donald Trump is inaugurated next week.

JPMorgan, the nation's biggest bank, said it earned $14 billion in profits in the fourth quarter, and nearly $59 billion for the full year. Wells Fargo made $5.1 billion in the fourth quarter and $20 billion for the year and said wealthy depositors were plowing more money into its higher-end savings products. Citi, which topped estimates, reported net income of $2.9 billion in the quarter and $12.7 billion for the full year.

Goldman Sachs, which saw fourth quarter profits of $4 billion and $14 billon for 2024, said it had particular success connecting risky companies looking for money to clients willing to lend it, typically a sign that credit conditions, as Wall Street puts it, remain fluid.

So good were the vibes that JPMorgan's chief financial officer, Jeremy Barnum, in a briefing with reporters, cited an 89-year-old term from economist John Maynard Keynes, remarking that there was "no question that we are in an 'animal spirits' moment right now."

To some degree, Wednesday's earnings results were not a surprise: Bank stocks rose even faster than the broader market in 2024, which ended the year up 23.3 percent, as lenders took advantage of a hot stock market and pickup in corporate financing activity to fatten profits. Shares rose further in midday trading.

Still, bankers traditionally cloak themselves as a risk-averse bunch, and given the questions about the future for interest rates, deal making and the geopolitical world, their optimism about what's ahead is noteworthy.

There's nothing an investment banker likes more than an easy, enthusiastic environment for corporate-financing activities like mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings. All the major banks that reported earnings on Wednesday said they saw boom times ahead.

Michael Santomassimo, Wells Fargo's chief financial officer, said that the bank's corporate clients largely viewed the incoming administration as business friendly and pro-growth, potentially a boon for deal-making.

"It feels like many of our clients, or many of the market participants, feel more confident in their ability to execute on M&A transactions," Santomassimo said.

Already, Goldman Sachs was able to sell off some of what it calls "historical principal investments," or assets that it is looking to unload, at a profit, the bank said.

The wildfires that have devastated Southern California will inevitably carry some toll to major lenders, which said they did not expect to lose too much money but were monitoring the crisis closely.

A Goldman Sachs spokesman said the bank was analyzing the fallout from the destruction of homes and office buildings. While mortgages tied to those properties should be insured, he noted, the insurance companies, which rely on financing from banks and others, could come under pressure.

JPMorgan sounded a similar note. "The analysis is being done building by building, mortgage by mortgage," said its chief executive, Jamie Dimon.

JPMorgan said more than 20 of the bank's employees had lost their homes.

Citi said the areas affected by the Los Angeles fires represented less than 3 percent of the bank's residential mortgage portfolio, and that its overall real estate exposure did not appear to add up to much.

Crafts retailer Joann files second bankruptcy in a year

By Jonathan Randles and Steven Church
BLOOMBERG

Crafts and fabric retailer Joann Inc. filed bankruptcy protection for the second time in less than a year in order to quickly find a buyer willing to rescue the company from liquidation.

Under a proposed deal with lenders who are owed more than $450 million, the company must hold an auction within 30 days or risk losing its access to cash being held as collateral, according to court documents filed Wednesday.

The company must first win court approval for the sale process. Joann already has an offer from liquidator Gordon Brothers Retail Partners, which would serve as the initial bid, setting a floor for how much the company is worth. Should higher offers come in by Feb. 12, the company would hold an auction, according to court papers.

Under the proposal from Gordon Brothers, if no higher bids come in to rescue the chain, Joann would sell to the liquidator, which specializes in shutting down retailers and conducting going-out-of-business sales.

Joann's stores will remain open meanwhile, the company said in a statement. Joann has 20 locations in Massachusetts, according to its website, as well 27 outposts across New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Maine, and Rhode Island.

The company had $615.7 million of funded debt obligations as well as $133 million of trade debt due and outstanding, according to Chapter 11 documents filed on Wednesday in a Delaware court.

Joann's debt position became untenable quickly after it emerged from its first bankruptcy process as "unanticipated inventory challenges" added to the pressures of a "sluggish retail economy," interim chief executive Michael Prendergast said in a court filing.

Joann's swift return to court follows a string of retail bankruptcies in recent months including fellow repeat filer Party City Holdco Inc., as well as chains Big Lots Inc. and The Container Store Group Inc. Numerous retailers have struggled the past several years due to inflation and interest rates that were for a time the highest in decades.

Hudson, Ohio-based Joann's filed for Chapter 11 protection in March 2024 to quickly execute a lender-backed debt restructuring. The firm exited Chapter 11 six weeks later with more than 800 stores and its debt nearly halved to about $555 million, according to court documents. Joann said at the time that the bankruptcy plan enabled the chain "to be in its best financial position in recent history."

But in November, Bloomberg News reported that Joann had been asking vendors for rebates and retroactive discounts amid a sales slump. A spokesperson said at the time that the retailer was seeking additional support from its vendors. Bloomberg separately reported in early January that Joann was working with advisers to help shore up its balance sheet and ease liquidity pressures.

Besides high inflation and sluggish consumer spending, Joann said unexpected challenges from vendors contributed to its return to bankruptcy.

The company sourced about 65 percent of its purchases from domestic suppliers in the last fiscal year, with the rest located in countries including Pakistan, India, and China.

Dana Gerber of the Globe staff contributed to this report.

FDA bans red dye No. 3 from foods

By Jonel Aleccia
ASSOCIATED PRESS

US regulators on Wednesday banned the dye called Red 3 from the nation's food supply, nearly 35 years after it was barred from cosmetics because of potential cancer risk.

Food and Drug Administration officials granted a 2022 petition filed by two dozen food safety and health advocates, who urged the agency to revoke authorization for the substance that gives some candies, snack cakes, and maraschino cherries a bright red hue.

The agency said it was taking the action as a "matter of law" because some studies have found that the dye caused cancer in lab rats. Officials cited a statute known as the Delaney Clause, which requires FDA to ban any additive found to cause cancer in people or animals.

The dye is known as erythrosine, FD&C Red No. 3 or Red 3. The ban removes it from the list of approved color additives in foods, dietary supplements, and oral medicines, such as cough syrups. More than three decades ago, the FDA declined to authorize use of Red 3 in cosmetics and externally applied drugs because a study showed it caused cancer when eaten by rats.

"The FDA is taking action that will remove the authorization for the use of FD&C Red No. 3 in food and ingested drugs," said Jim Jones, the FDA's deputy commissioner for human foods. "Evidence shows cancer in laboratory male rats exposed to high levels of FD&C Red No.3. Importantly, the way that FD&C Red No. 3 causes cancer in male rats does not occur in humans."



HAVEN DALEY/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

Pez candy, which contains red dye No. 3, on display at a store in Lafayette, Calif.

Food manufacturers will have until January 2027 to remove the dye from their products, while makers of ingested drugs have until January 2028 to do the same. Other countries still allow for certain uses of the dye, but imported foods must meet the new US requirement.

Consumer advocates praised the decision.

"This is a welcome, but long overdue, action from the FDA: removing the unsustainable double standard in which Red 3 was banned from lipstick but permitted in candy," said Dr. Peter Lurie, director of the group Center for Science in the Public Interest, which led the petition effort.

It's not clear whether the ban will face legal challenges from food manufacturers because evidence hasn't determined that the dye causes cancer when consumed by humans. At a hearing in December, FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf suggested that's a risk.

"When we do ban something, it will go to court," he told members of Congress on Dec. 5. "And if we don't have the scientific evidence, we will lose in court."

When the FDA declined to allow Red 3 in cosmetics and topical drugs in 1990, the color additive was already permitted in foods and ingested drugs. Because research showed then that the way the dye causes cancer in rats does not apply to humans, "the FDA did not take action to revoke the authorization of Red No. 3 in food," the agency has said on its website.

Health advocates for years have asked the FDA to reconsider that decision, including the 2022 petition led by CSPI. In November, nearly two dozen members of Congress sent a letter demanding that FDA officials ban Red 3.

Lawmakers cited the Delaney Clause and said the action was especially important to protect children, who consume more of the dye on a bodyweight basis than adults, the lawmakers said.

"The FDA should act quickly to protect the nation's youth from this harmful dye, used simply to give food and drinks a bright red color," the letter said. "No aesthetic reason could justify the use of a carcinogen in our food supply."

Red 3 is banned for food use in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand except in certain kinds of cherries. The dye will be banned in California starting in January 2027, and lawmakers in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Indiana have filed proposals to limit certain dyes, particularly from foods offered in public schools.

The International Association of Color Manufacturers defends the dye, saying that it is safe in levels typically consumed by humans. The group points to research by scientific committees operated by the United Nations and the World Health Organization, including a 2018 review that reaffirmed the safety of Red 3 in food.

Some food manufacturers have already reformulated products to remove Red 3. In its place they use beet juice; carmine, a dye made from insects; and pigments from foods such as purple sweet potato, radish, and red cabbage, according to Sensient Food Colors, a St. Louis-based supplier of food colors and flavorings.

Walsh is a voice for hospitals in the state

▶WALSH
Continued from Page D1

due to Hurricane Helene.

As the pandemic raged in 2020 and 2021, Walsh and his team called on local manufacturers to donate coveted supplies — including face masks, shields, and hand sanitizers — that hard-pressed hospitals could pick up in MHA's parking lot. Its headquarters, near the Burlington Mall, "looked less like an office and more like a Costco warehouse," Walsh recalled.

"Steve's able to navigate rocky waters," said Michael Curry, president of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, who's worked closely with Walsh and known him since law school. "When you're an association executive, sometimes your members have the same interest, sometimes they have conflicting interests. Steve knows how to bring them together."

Walsh has also been on the receiving end of complaints that hospitals are culprits in a health system many people see as increasingly costly and inaccessible. It's his task both to defend the institutions he represents and help reform the system.

In the South Shore boardroom, he was quick to note that the 396-bed community hospital is one of many in the state operating well beyond full capacity. South Shore Hospital for years has accommodated the patient overflow from nearby hospitals crippled by fire, flood, and the Steward shutdowns.

"You're doing something right," he pronounced, hands folded, sitting next to Allen Smith, the president of the hospital's parent organization, South Shore Health. "You're 200 people over census, and there's no chaos. That's remarkable."

Then, his voice rising, Walsh became more animated.

"The fragility of the health care system right now is beyond what anybody outside the walls of health care understands," he said.

"Nobody wants health care to be more expensive," Walsh told the hospital leaders. "Payers [insurers] don't want to pay more. Consumers don't want to pay more. ... It's a blame game. [Critics say] it's hospital prices that are driving up health costs. We have to push back on this ridiculousness."

Other health care sectors, notably insurers and drug makers, are also targets of ire by consumers fed up with health costs.

But last year's annual report by the Center for Health Information and Analysis, an independent state agency that collects Massachusetts health data, said hospital services accounted for the largest share of health care spending in the state — more than 35 percent. (Spending on prescription drugs was the fastest-growing segment of health care costs.)

CHIA's report noted that health spending overall has exceeded the state's health cost growth benchmark since 2017, a worrisome sign.

"Provider price, not utilization of health care services, remains the biggest cost driver," the report said.

Lora Pellegrini, president of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, said Walsh has been an effective voice for the state's hospitals. But she takes issue with the notion that hospitals are being unfairly blamed for the growing affordability crisis in health care.

"There's no blame game," Pellegrini said. "The data points to hospital spending and pharmaceutical spending as the key drivers of health care costs. And our hospitals are among the highest paid in the country."

In fact, both hospitals and insurers have been losing money. While insurers cite the rapid adoption of pricey weight-loss drugs, hospitals point to the increasing cost of labor and other expenses. Some have had to pay more to recruit nurses after many retired or took higher-paying jobs with contracting firms during the pandemic. At the same time, groups of doctors, residents, and fellows have been unionizing.

In an interview at MHA's offices, Walsh said labor costs were a major reason two-thirds of the hospitals in Massachusetts lost money in 2023. Hospitals operate on thin profit margins of 1 or 2 percent, he said, while wages have been increasing at much faster rates. That makes it hard for hospitals to remain financially sound, he said.

"Yes, hospitals are cost drivers, and there's a reason," Walsh said, pointing to highly specialized treatments they offer for many diseases. "We provide really expensive care doing things nobody else is doing. So we're all going to have to have a conversation about how we're going to manage for the future so our workers are happier delivering real good service to our patients, and we're able to survive financially."

Part of the solution could involve shifting more care to lower-cost satellite health sites and outpatient clinics in the community, Walsh said.

"It can be delivered by hospitals, but it can be at a place that's closer to home," he said. "When you're looking at care, particularly chronic care, people don't want to travel to Boston to get it. In the future, only the real serious care goes there, and the rest happens outside."

Walsh has firsthand knowledge of how hospitals operate. His now 13-year-old son was born with a congenital heart defect and other conditions. He's had 10 surgeries at Boston Children's Hospital, where Walsh has spent many nights by his side. Walsh often commuted during the day from the hospital to the State House, where he chaired the House Health Care Finance Committee.

The experience left Walsh with admiration for caregivers and some enduring lessons on the importance of personal care.

"Patients are scared," he said. "The human experience is as important to the patient and family as the medical one. I saw the system as a parent and a patient advocate. It was a very different experience than approaching it as a policy exercise. The one thing we all have in common is that, at some point, we're all patients, and then it's real personal."

When his son was first hospitalized, Walsh, then a state representative, decided to visit every hospital in Massachusetts to better understand their operations. Those visits helped prepare him for his current role at the MHA. So did his tenure in the Legislature, forging consensus among lawmakers with strong personalities. During the pandemic, he was on constant calls and Zoom meetings with hospital leaders grappling with the crisis, encouraging them to share resources and practices.

"Steve made sure everyone had what they needed during COVID," said Christine Schuster, president of Emerson Hospital in Concord. "He knows how to pull the clinical experts into a discussion, and he tries to find a point everyone can coalesce around."

That became more challenging during the Steward crisis. As the hospital system teetered on the edge of bankruptcy, Walsh worked with state officials to prepare hospitals in different regions to accommodate patients fleeing Steward hospitals.

Later, he worked to gain consensus around a federal waiver that allocated more money to systems that acquired Steward hospitals than to other hospitals. That involved early morning and late-evening pep talks to reassure uneasy hospital leaders.

"There were a lot of strong feelings among the other hospitals," Schuster said, "but Steve told us we all needed to step up and help stabilize those communities. ... When you're in the room with him, you leave your competitiveness at the door."


CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Steve Walsh, chief executive of the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, addressed the South Shore Health board during a meeting in South Weymouth on Dec. 18.

Robert Weisman can be reached at robert.weisman@globe.com.

FDA floats plan to make cigarettes nonaddictive

By Matthew Perrone
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Federal officials on Wednesday released a far-reaching proposal to make cigarettes far less addictive by capping their nicotine content, a goal long sought by antismoking advocates that is unlikely to go into effect anytime soon.

The proposed rule from the Food and Drug Administration comes in the final days of President Biden's term, greatly reducing the likelihood that it will actually be enacted. President-elect Donald Trump and his health nominees have not commented on the measure, but a similar effort led by Trump's first FDA commissioner, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, was sidelined during his first term.

Trump's health secretary nominee, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has said little about how regulating tobacco fits into his plans to overhaul the government's approach to fighting chronic disease. Even if the effort goes ahead under Trump, tobacco companies like Reynolds American and Altria are almost certain to challenge it in court, delaying implementation.

The FDA has spent years studying the issue and said Wednesday that cutting nicotine would help nearly 13 million current smokers quit cigarettes within one year. Roughly 48 million more young people would never take up the habit because cigarettes would essentially become nonaddictive, according to agency projections.

"This action, if finalized, could save many lives and dramatically reduce the burden of severe illness and disability," FDA Commissioner Robert Califf told reporters Wednesday.

Under the agency's plan, nicotine in cigarettes would be capped at levels that "could no longer create and sustain this addiction among people who smoke." Companies would have two years to reformulate their products after the publication of a final regulation. The agency said will take public comments for nine months before taking any further steps.

Antismoking advocates overwhelmingly back the idea and urged Kennedy to help implement it, if he is confirmed.

"Tobacco regulation is a huge part of reaching the goals he's outlined for reducing chronic disease and a really important part of the conversation we need to have in this country," said Chrissie Juliano of the Big Cities Health Coalition, which represents the heads of more than 30 metropolitan health departments.

Smoking causes more than 480,000 US deaths each year due to cancer, heart disease, stroke, and other smoking-related illnesses. Those conditions often take decades to develop and remain elevated today despite ongoing declines in smoking among adults and teenagers.

The idea of limiting nicotine has its roots in sweeping powers given to the FDA by Congress in 2009 to regulate the tobacco industry. But the FDA's efforts on nicotine and a host of other tobacco measures — such as adding graphic warning labels to cigarette packs — have been hampered for years by tobacco industry lawsuits.

Califf said the expectation of industry lawsuits explains the slow, deliberative pace of FDA's work on the proposal.

"The research has to be airtight to survive the challenges that we know we'll get in court," Califf said.

Under the law, the agency can regulate nicotine but cannot remove it completely. The limits on nicotine proposed Wednesday would apply to cigarettes, cigars, and pipe tobacco, but not electronic cigarettes, nicotine pouches or other lower-risk products. While many e-cigarettes have not undergone extensive testing, the FDA has endorsed several major brands, including NJOY and Vuse, as less harmful alternatives for smokers.

"We anticipate that about 50 percent of smokers will transition to these other products, whether that's e-cigarettes or other noncombustibles," FDA's tobacco director Brian King told reporters.

Altria, which sells both Marlboro cigarettes and NJOY e-cigarettes, said the FDA's nicotine proposal will lead to illegal markets.

The plan is "fundamentally flawed," company spokesman David Sutton said in an email.

Currently, there are no US limits on nicotine, which occurs naturally in tobacco plants. There are several techniques for removing it, including chemical extraction and cross-breeding plants.

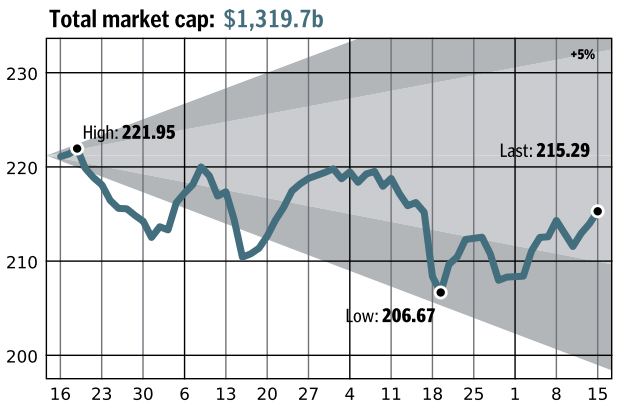
THE BOSTON GLOBE

25

Index of publicly traded companies in Massachusetts

Globe 25 index

Total market cap: $1,319.7b



Yesterday 215.29 ▲ 1.33 ▲ 0.6% ▲ YTD 3.4%

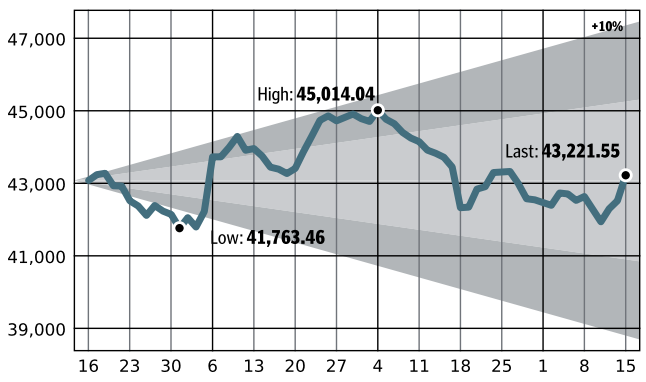
	Price	Chg	% chg	Market cap (bil.)
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc (TMO)	551.47	-5.52	-1.0	210.9
Boston Scientific Corp (BSX)	96.89	+1.24	+1.3	142.8
TJX Cos Inc/The (TJX)	119.11	-0.13	-0.1	133.9
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc (VRTX)	424.26	+12.60	+3.1	109.3
Analog Devices Inc (ADI)	218.22	+3.57	+1.7	108.3
GE Vernova Inc (GEV)	387.03	+4.77	+1.2	106.7
American Tower Corp (AMT)	180.32	+1.52	+0.9	84.3
Keurig Dr Pepper Inc (KDP)	30.97	-0.17	-0.5	42.0
HubSpot Inc (HUBS)	709.14	+5.65	+0.8	36.6
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc (ALNY)	251.01	+10.50	+4.4	32.4
Iron Mountain Inc (IRM)	106.18	+2.14	+2.1	31.2
State Street Corp (STT)	99.77	+4.33	+4.5	29.2
Veralto Corp (VLTO)	102.55	+0.18	+0.2	25.4
Waters Corp (WAT)	397.70	-7.23	-1.8	23.6
PTC Inc (PTC)	185.37	-0.13	-0.1	22.3
Teradyne Inc (TER)	134.93	+0.75	+0.6	22.0
Toast Inc (TOST US equity)	36.59	+0.35	+1.0	20.8
Eversource Energy (ES)	56.61	+0.63	+1.1	20.7
Biogen Inc (BIIB)	141.00	-2.06	-1.4	20.5
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	38.72	-1.28	-3.2	18.9
Insulet Corp (PODD)	264.38	-2.66	-1.0	18.5
Hologic Inc (HOLX)	68.75	-1.45	-2.1	15.6
Entegris Inc (ENTG)	101.93	+2.43	+2.4	15.4
Dynatrace Inc (DT)	50.52	-0.72	-1.4	15.1
Moderna Inc (MRNA)	34.77	+0.31	+0.9	13.4

Markets

Investors cheer inflation data

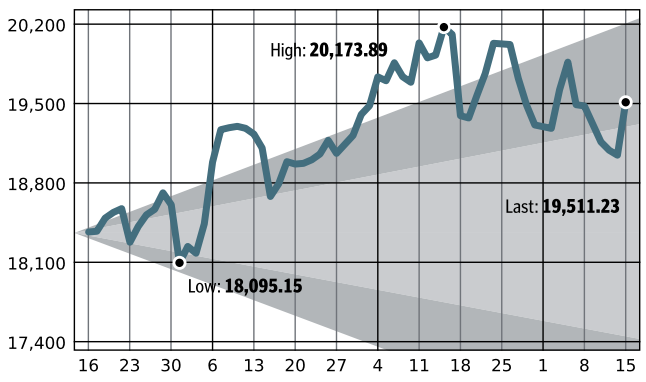
Stocks ripped higher Wednesday following a shot of adrenaline from an encouraging update on US inflation. Strong profit reports from Wells Fargo and other big US banks also helped launch indexes to their best day in two months. The report said overall inflation accelerated to 2.9 percent from 2.7 percent in November. While no one wants higher inflation, the numbers were more encouraging underneath the surface. After ignoring prices for food and energy, which can zigzag sharply from month to month, underlying inflation trends slowed to 3.2 percent in December. Economists had thought it would remain at 3.3 percent for a fourth straight month, according to FactSet. Wells Fargo jumped 6.7 percent, Citigroup rallied 6.5 percent, and Goldman Sachs gained 6 percent. Builders FirstSource, a supplier of countertops and other building materials. It and other housing-related companies would get a boost from easier mortgage rates. In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury dropped back to 4.65 percent from 4.79 percent late Tuesday, which is a considerable move. The two-year Treasury yield fell to 4.26 percent from 4.37 percent.

DOW JONES industrial average



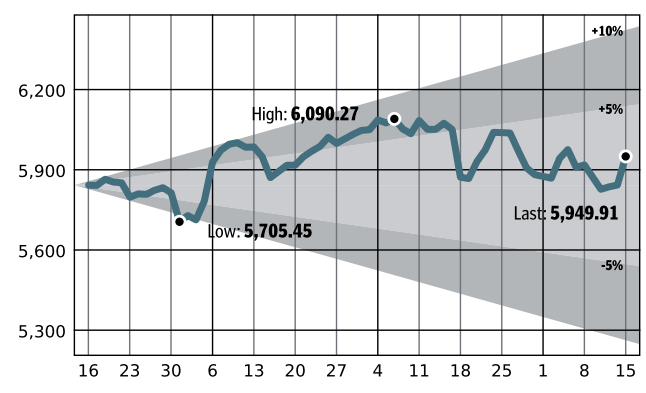
Yesterday 43,221.55 ▲ 703.27 ▲ 1.7% ▲ YTD 1.6%

NASDAQ Composite index



Yesterday 19,511.23 ▲ 466.84 ▲ 2.5% ▲ YTD 1.0%

S&P 500 index



Yesterday 5,949.91 ▲ 107.00 ▲ 1.8% ▲ YTD 1.2%

SOURCE: Bloomberg News

Stadium opponents pitch alternative

▶WHITE STADIUM
Continued from Page D1

part because it avoids the loss of many nearby trees and doesn't prevent football teams from playing there for most of the fall. They hope to use these new plans to further that argument in public discussions, with a community meeting scheduled for Feb. 6 to take feedback on their new "public park concept" for the stadium.

"We wanted to show there are other ways to do this," said Karen Mauney-Brodek, the conservancy's president. "It's important to understand the contrast and the choices we're making."

A spokesperson for the conservancy said the cost estimates were based on comparable sports projects in the Northeast region, with pricing tied to the Boston construction market for a 2026 procurement. The estimator did not work with city officials to get site-specific details and instead relied on details in a 2013 concept study for a similar White Stadium reconstruction.

Mayor Michelle Wu argues the partnership with the pro soccer team is the most viable way to renovate the dilapidated, 1940s-era stadium for city residents and students, a longtime goal that evaded her predecessors in the mayor's office. The team's ownership will pay for the majority of the project, as well as ongoing maintenance. The city's proposed renovations would provide for significantly expanded access throughout the year to students and the public, although football games there would be limited to the end of the season. And the project has won the support of the Franklin Park Coalition, a nonprofit that organizes events and advocates for the park.



BOSTON UNITY SOCCER PARTNERS, LLC

A rendering of the White Stadium renovation proposal of Boston Unity Soccer Partners, estimated to cost upwards of $200 million, with the city contributing at least $91 million.

Boston Unity Soccer Partners signed a lease for the property with the city last month, and would like to start the team, currently known as BOS Nation FC, playing there in time for the beginning of the 2026 NWSL season, an ambitious construction timeline. (Globe chief executive Linda Henry is a minority investor in the team ownership group.)

A city spokesperson repudiated the conservancy report in a brief statement, calling it a "work of fiction" and urging the conservancy to "end the lawsuit and misleading attacks on the project and instead work with us to deliver on a promise for BPS student athletes and all community members that use and love Franklin Park."

Boston Unity Soccer Partners responded to the conservancy report by emphasizing the positive elements of the team's project, calling it a "generational opportunity to invest in Franklin Park and its surrounding neighborhoods, delivering increased city revenue, establishing a Franklin Park Preservation Fund, providing a $500K annual community grant for local organizations, and ensuring proper maintenance to prevent White Stadium from falling into disrepair again."

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After Needham's 'no' vote, what comes next?

▶NEEDHAM VOTE
Continued from Page D1

"We believed that if the people understood this zoning they would see, as we did, that it was not thoughtful and could be so much better for Needham," the group said in a statement Wednesday. "Our work doesn't stop here. The fight to be heard goes on. We need a seat at the table as we create better zoning TOGETHER."

Meanwhile the Yes for Needham campaign, which supported the plan voters rejected Tuesday, said in a statement that they "look forward to seeing the vision that the Planning Board and Select Board lay out over the coming weeks and months regarding the future of multi-family housing in Needham."

Heidi Frail, a Select Board member who helped craft the zoning, said town officials would work toward a plan with broad support among residents.

"While the outcome was not what we hoped for... we look forward to working together as a town to formulate a new plan for multi-family housing that will appeal broadly to residents and address Needham's long term housing needs," Frail said in a statement. "We are grateful to the many residents who worked tirelessly toward a prosperous vision of Needham's future."

One approach could be to simply adopt the less ambitious of two proposals Needham's Town Meeting considered last year, known as the "base compliance plan," which would fulfill Needham's requirements under MBTA Communities without going much further.

Some residents who said Tuesday that they voted against the more ambitious plan said they would support the base compliance plan. An analysis of that plan last year found that it might generate about 400 new units over the next several decades.

Leaders of the "No" campaign did not answer a question from the Globe last week about whether they would support that reduced plan, but previously wrote on their website that the town could pass that plan if voters rejected Tuesday's ballot question.

At least until July, though, the town can stay in compliance while figuring out the next steps.

Tuesday's vote was the latest sign that there are pockets of fierce opposition to the law in communities that state housing officials are hoping will open their doors to more multifamily housing. While more than 100 cities and towns have passed MBTA Communities plans, roughly three dozen that were due to have zoning on the books by the end of 2024 did not.



TAYLOR COESTER FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

A Needham resident held a sign against the town's proposed housing plan on Highland Avenue on Saturday.

Those communities have an additional six months to pass a plan under the new emergency regulations filed this week, but how, exactly, to compel resistant cities and towns to pass more permissive land-use rules remains a lingering question for state housing officials.

It's also a political blow to the Healey administration, which sees MBTA Communities as a way to dig out of Massachusetts' deep housing shortage. Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll's nonprofit advocacy group that supports local housing initiatives, One Commonwealth Inc., donated $10,000 to the Yes for Needham campaign.

The Citizens' Housing and Planning Association, which has been aiding local housing advocacy groups to help speed the implementation of the law, said Wednesday that it would work with Needham to help chart a path forward.

"As disappointing as the vote in Needham is, the overwhelming trend in Massachusetts is unchanged: cities and towns are consistently giving the green light to more housing because voters know that the future of our commonwealth depends on investing in housing," Rachel Heller, the group's chief executive, said in a statement.

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Inflation sped up in Dec.; fresh challenge for Fed

▶INFLATION
Continued from Page D1

ter most to consumers. Grocery prices, which were relatively flat in late 2023 and early 2024, are rising again, led by the price of eggs, which is up by more than a third over the past year. Gas prices jumped 4.4 percent in December, although they were lower than a year ago.

And with inflation proving more stubborn than policymakers had hoped, Americans will likely need to wait longer to see lower interest rates on their mortgages, car loans, and credit card balances.

Officials at the Fed have voiced increasing concern about the slow progress on inflation, and while some of the details in Wednesday's report were encouraging, the data are unlikely to do much to ease those concerns. Stock prices rose and bond yields fell modestly in early trading Wednesday as investors breathed a sigh of relief that the inflation data were not worse.

At the same time, the continued strength of the labor market — including data released last week showing unexpectedly strong job growth in December — has made policymakers less worried that their efforts to rein in price increases were leading to layoffs or causing damage to the broader economy.



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Grocery prices are rising again, led by the price of eggs, which is up by more than a third over the past year.

As a result, investors widely expect the central bank to hold interest rates steady at its meeting this month. That would break a streak of three consecutive rate cuts, and some forecasters now say policymakers may not lower rates at all this year.

"With a labor market that's stabilizing, with inflation already above target and with risks further to the upside, I think it's difficult to make a case to keep cutting," said Aditya Bhave, an economist at Bank of America.

Most Fed officials have said they still expect inflation to cool gradually, and economists agree that there's reason to be optimistic. Inflation in housing — by far the biggest monthly expense for most families, and one of the most stubborn categories of consumer prices — has finally begun to ease: Shelter prices were up 4.6 percent in December from a year earlier, the smallest 12-month increase in nearly three years. Services prices outside housing — a measure that Fed officials have watched closely in recent years as an indication of where overall inflation is headed — also continued to cool. And data released Tuesday showed that wholesale prices rose more slowly in December.

But policymakers are facing a new source of uncertainty: President-elect Donald Trump. The incoming president has promised to impose steep tariffs on imports, restrict immigration, and cut taxes — policies that economists warn could push up prices further, although it is unclear by how much. Some Fed officials have said they are already factoring those policies into their outlook for inflation.

With price increases proving stubborn and the labor market looking strong, policymakers are unlikely to cut rates again until they get a clearer picture of what policies the new administration is adopting and how they are affecting the economy, said James Egelhof, chief economist at BNP Paribas.

"The Fed has the luxury of a little bit of time to wait for President Trump to take office and to see exactly what happens," he said.

CRABGRASS by Tauhid Bondia



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



PLUGGERS by Rick McKee



DOONESBURY by Garry Trudeau



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



RED & ROVER by Brian Basset



ARCTIC CIRCLE by Alex Hallatt



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



CURTIS by Ray Billingsley



RHYMES WITH ORANGE by Hilary Price



ARLO & JANIS by Jimmy Johnson



UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TENNIS, ANYONE? BY MICHELE GOVIER | EDITED BY TAYLOR JOHNSON

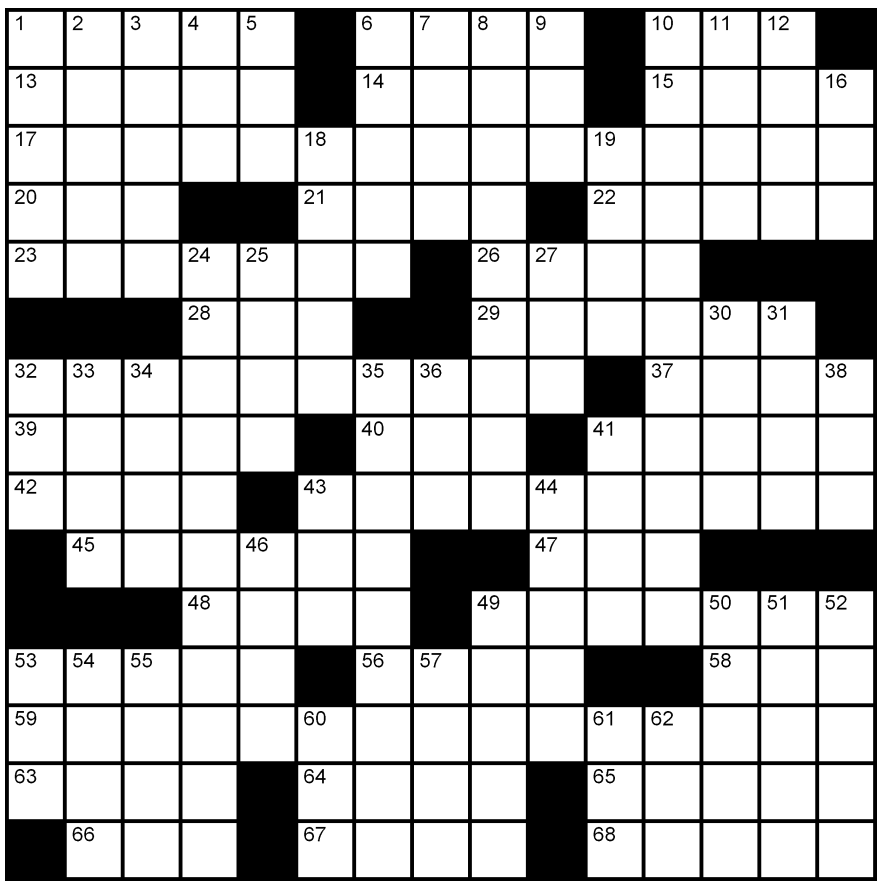
JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™ by David L. Hoyt 1-16-25

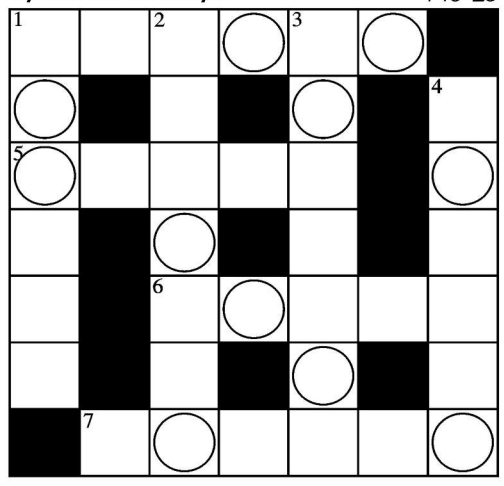
ACROSS

1 Orzo or farfalle
6 Ship's front
10 Tree secretion
13 Up and about
14 Scottish isle where Macbeth is buried
15 "Night" author Wiesel
17 *Quizlike road trip contest
20 Spray ___
21 There are two in a double play
22 Ancient Mexican
23 Strong
26 Upper hand
28 "Well, ___-di-dah!"
29 Longtime NBC Olympics host Bob
32 *Watch it!
37 Hippy dance
39 Like some wings on "Hot Ones"
40 Wok or skillet
41 Danger
42 Tartan garment
43 *Result of some swiping
45 Chicken ___ bleu
47 Narrow coastal inlet
48 Speck
49 Marching insect
53 Vote into office
56 One might be long for a roller coaster
58 Tall tale
59 Declaration heard at Wimbledon ... or a collective description of the starred clues' answers
63 "I'll pay"
64 Give five stars, say
65 No longer sleeping
66 ___ pal
67 Highest point
68 Far from verbose

DOWN

1 R&B singer LaBelle
2 City on the Nile
3 Artery insertion
4 Cookie container
5 Museum pieces
6 Arouse, as curiosity
7 Blowout victory
8 "Just hang on"
9 Used to be
10 YOLO philosophy
11 Tons
12 Most common wood used in IKEA furniture
16 Key for closing a window?
18 Mario's dinosaur pal
19 Graffiti signatures
24 Stunning sea creature
25 Classic peacoat color
27 Mafia boss
30 Vibe
31 Feature of some skirts
32 "For shame!"
33 Totally awesome
34 Stitch's pal in a Disney movie
35 Fictional band in a 1984 mockumentary
36 Actor McKellen
38 Hazy pale ___
41 Overly proper
43 Little human
44 Screwed up
46 An ellipsis has three
49 Building add-on
50 "I do" locale for some
51 Short cuts?
52 Little laugh
53 Sense of self
54 Singer k.d. ___
55 Jane Austen matchmaker
57 "Already had a bite"
60 It may be associated with a president or monarch
61 Welcome ___
62 Amazement





ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. In vogue	RTYNDE
5. Of great size	EALRG
6. Fudd or Gantry	LEMRE
7. Art workspace	SUODTI

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Candle wax	LWATLO
2. Sincere	ESRNTEA
3. Imagined	DEMEARD
4. ____ system	RTEOES

CLUE: In 1977, she became the first female country singer to receive a Hollywood star.

BONUS

How to play: Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

ANSWERS: 1A-Trendy 5A-Large 6A-Elmer 7A-Studio 1D-Tallow 2D-Earnest 3D-Dreamed 4D-Stereo B-Loretta Lynn

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Send comments to TCA - 560 W. Grand Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60654 or DLHoyt@HoytInteractiveMedia.com

Boston's forecast

AccuWeather Get notifications of nearby lightning Get the AccuWeather App

TODAY
6 A.M. NOON 6 P.M.
HIGH **29-34** LOW **21-26** | Increasing clouds. Winds SW 7-14 mph. Rather cloudy tonight. Winds WSW 6-12 mph.

FRIDAY
6 A.M. NOON 6 P.M.
HIGH **34-39** LOW **25-30** | Partly sunny skies. Winds NW 6-12 mph. Partly cloudy at night. Winds SSW 7-14 mph.

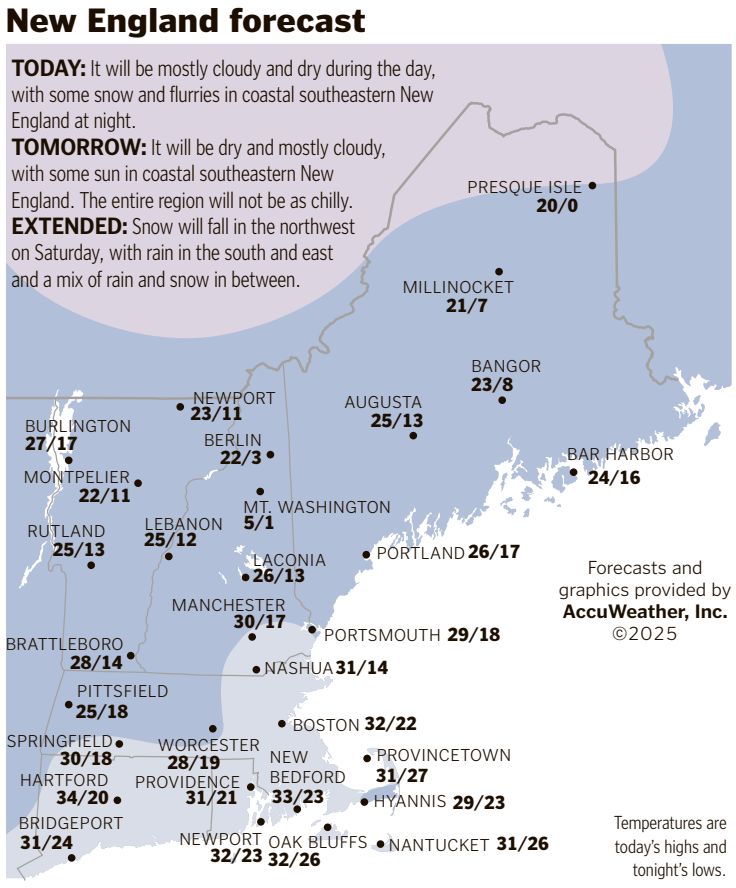
SATURDAY
6 A.M. NOON 6 P.M.
HIGH **40-45** LOW **33-38** | A little afternoon rain. Winds SSW 15-25 mph. Periods of rain Saturday evening; otherwise, cloudy. Winds SW 7-14 mph.

SUNDAY
6 A.M. NOON 6 P.M.
HIGH **41-46** LOW **18-23** | Mostly cloudy with a touch of snow and rain at times in the afternoon. Winds NW 7-14 mph. Colder with rain or snow possible in the evening followed by possible snow late.

MONDAY
6 A.M. NOON 6 P.M.
HIGH **23-28** LOW **9-14** | Brilliant sunshine and colder. Winds WNW 12-25 mph. Mainly clear and colder at night. Winds W 10-20 mph.

New England forecast

TODAY: It will be mostly cloudy and dry during the day, with some snow and flurries in coastal southeastern New England at night.
TOMORROW: It will be dry and mostly cloudy, with some sun in coastal southeastern New England. The entire region will not be as chilly.
EXTENDED: Snow will fall in the northwest on Saturday, with rain in the south and east and a mix of rain and snow in between.



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2025

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Almanac

Yesterday's high/low	31°/22°
Sunrise	7:10 a.m.
Sunset	4:38 p.m.
Moonrise	7:41 p.m.

Mount Washington (5 p.m. yesterday)

Weather	Dense fog
Visibility	0 miles
Wind	west-northwest at 38 m.p.h.
High/low temperature	-3/-8
Snow depth at 5 p.m.	7.0"

Boston snowfall (5 p.m. yesterday)

Yesterday	0.0"
Total for January	1.8"
Normal for January	14.3"
Season total	7.5"
Season normal	49.2"

Degree days Heat

Yesterday	38
Monthly total	525
Normal to date	516
Season total (normal)	2220 (2435)
Last year to date	2078

24 Hr. Precipitation (valid at 5 p.m. yesterday)

Yesterday	0.00"	Month to date	0.75"	Year to date	0.75"
Precip days in January	3	Norm. month to date	1.73"	Norm. year to date	1.73"

Climate data are compiled from National Weather Service records and are subject to change or correction.

Tides

	A.M.	P.M.
Boston high	12:38	12:45
Height	9.2	10.2
Boston low	6:30	7:05
Height	0.5	-0.3
High tides		
Old Orchard ME	12:28	12:34
Hampton Beach NH	12:42	12:48
Plum Island	12:46	12:56
Ipswich	12:33	12:38

High tides	A.M.	P.M.
Gloucester	12:39	12:47
Marblehead	12:38	12:45
Lynn	12:41	12:50
Scituate	12:41	12:49
Plymouth	12:42	12:53
Cape Cod Canal East	12:29	12:36
Cape Cod Canal West	11:37	
Falmouth	12:22	12:29

High tides	A.M.	P.M.
Hyannis Port	1:49	1:47
Chatham	1:45	1:45
Wellfleet	12:52	12:59
Provincetown	12:44	12:53
Nantucket Harbor	1:46	1:49
Oak Bluffs	12:59	1:21
New Bedford	9:33	9:55
Newport RI	9:22	9:44

New England marine forecast

Small craft advisory ● Gale warning ● Storm warning

	Wind	Seas	Temp
Boston Harbor	SW 7-14 kts.	1-2 ft.	31/23
East Cape Cod Canal	SW 7-14 kts.	1-3 ft.	32/23
Buzzards Bay	SW 6-12 kts.	1-2 ft.	32/22
Martha's Vineyard	SW 8-16 kts.	1-2 ft.	35/26
Nantucket	W 7-14 kts.	1-2 ft.	31/28
Provincetown	SW 7-14 kts.	1-3 ft.	32/27

For current Charles River Basin water quality, call (781) 788-0007 or go to http://www.charlesriver.org.

Cities

Forecast high and low temperatures and conditions

● Travel delays possible, **C** Clouds, **F** Fog, **H** Haze, **I** Ice, **Pc** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **Sh** Showers, **S** Sun, **Sn** Snow, **Fl** Flurries, **T** Thunderstorms, **W** Windy

	Today		Tomorrow	
● Atlanta	59/32	S	59/44	Pc
Atlantic City	33/24	Pc	43/27	S
● Charlotte	55/28	S	54/37	S
● Chicago	36/25	Pc	40/25	Pc
Dallas	63/43	S	62/38	C
Denver	57/32	S	45/11	Pc
● Detroit	32/23	Sn	35/31	Pc
Fort Myers	69/54	S	73/60	C

	Today		Tomorrow	
Los Angeles	67/45	S	62/45	Pc
Miami	72/61	S	74/68	C
New Orleans	60/42	Pc	64/58	Pc
New York City	32/27	Fl	41/34	S
● Philadelphia	32/26	Fl	42/29	S
Phoenix	74/45	S	65/41	S
Salt Lake City	42/27	S	44/23	C
San Francisco	62/44	S	59/43	Pc

	Today		Tomorrow	
Seattle	45/34	C	45/31	Pc
Washington	37/29	C	44/32	S
Beijing	46/16	Pc	43/16	Pc
Cancun	84/67	Pc	83/70	Pc
Mexico City	72/48	Pc	73/48	S
● Montreal	24/13	Sn	26/23	C
● Toronto	26/23	Sn	35/30	C
● Vancouver	45/31	R	44/30	S

	Today		Tomorrow	
Jerusalem	63/45	Pc	60/43	Pc
● London	49/38	C	46/34	Pc
● Moscow	36/34	Sn	39/33	C
Paris	42/28	C	37/28	Pc
Rome	55/39	Pc	58/45	Pc
● San Juan	83/75	Sh	84/75	Pc
Stockholm	39/34	Pc	43/33	Pc
Tokyo	48/39	Pc	52/37	S

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025:
You have a razor-sharp mind. You are also analytical and sensitive. You have excellent communication skills. This year you will receive recognition for your past efforts. You might attain power and leadership. Expect kudos, awards, promotions and acknowledgement. Bravo!

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*
Today you might have to put your own personal considerations second to those of someone else. You might have to do a favor or perform a service for someone. Meanwhile, you'll be happy to take care of small hygiene factors and tidy up loose ends at home and at work. Tonight: Get organized.

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*
This is a playful day! You project yourself with more energy than usual because you feel a need to be yourself and do your own thing. However, you might feel protective or nurturing to someone, especially children. (Taurus people are generally good parents.) Tonight: Socialize.

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*
It will please you to be low-key today. You might want to "hide" at home and enjoy the comfort of familiar surroundings. Use this opportunity to escape from the demands of the outside world. Nevertheless, you might be more involved with a female family member today. Tonight: Relax.

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*
Today you have a strong need to talk to someone about something. You need to find someone who is willing to really listen. (You don't want to spend time in idle chit-chat about the weather.) You have something to say, and you need to be heard. Tonight: Discussions.

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*
You might feel possessive about something you own today. This is why you might not want to lend something to someone. You also might find yourself having to defend yourself about something that is really not that important. Tonight: Check your belongings.

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*
Today the Moon is in your sign, which will make you more emotional than usual. However, the good news is that when the Moon is in your sign, which occurs for two and a half days every month, it slightly boosts your good luck! Why not ask the universe for a favor? Tonight: You win!

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*
Home and family are important to you right now, which is why today you will seek out opportunities to have privacy, peace, and quiet. You want a chance to contemplate your navel. Don't be too ambitious today. Pamper yourself and be comfortable. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*
Today your emotional contact with others will be more important to you. You feel the need to connect with a friend or group member. You also might feel more protective or supportive with a friend and ready to offer them your help if they need it. Tonight: Schmooze.

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*
Today the Moon moves to the top of your chart to stay for the next two days. This happens once every month. When this occurs, it means that you are more high-viz. People notice you more than usual. In fact, some people will know personal details about your private life. Tonight: Show respect.

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*
Today you want to do something different; you want to get away from your daily routine. You might want to go off somewhere and see new places or talk to new people. Obviously, if you can travel, this would be ideal. Studying and learning something new will also be rewarding for you. Tonight: Explore!

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*
Today your emotional experiences might be more intense than usual. This includes your encounters with others. You might find that you're caught in a situation where your values don't agree with the values of someone else. You might even have disputes about shared property. Tonight: Check your finances.

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*
Today you will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others to keep the peace. This happens once for a few days every month, and it's not a big deal. Stay positive, cooperative and willing to listen to others with courtesy. Tonight: Listen attentively.

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SUDOKU

			3				5	1
5						7	2	
	2			7		4		
				6				
4		7	9		5	6		8
				4				
		2		3			6	
	4	5						9
1	3				4			

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Puzzle difficulty levels: Easy on Monday and Tuesday, more difficult on Wednesday and Thursday, most difficult on Friday and Saturday. Tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com.

DAILY BRIDGE CLUB

BY FRANK STEWART

East dealer — Neither side vulnerable

North
♠ 10 9 6 5 2
♡ A Q 6 2
♢ K J
♣ 5 3

West
♠ J
♡ 10 7 5 3
♢ A 10 5 2
♣ J 10 9 2

East
♠ 7 4
♡ K J 9
♢ Q 9 6 4
♣ K Q 8 7

South
♠ A K Q 8 3
♡ 8 4
♢ 8 7 3
♣ A 6 4

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All Pass	

Opening lead — ♣ J

As I've gotten older, I've begun to tell myself that if I couldn't remember something, it probably wasn't important anyway. But declarers can fail if they forget the bidding (or lack thereof).

At four spades, South took the ace of clubs, drew trumps and led a diamond to dummy's ... jack. East took the queen, cashed a high club and led a diamond to West's ace. When West shifted to a heart, South lost the finesse and was down one.

Should South make his game?

East, who passed as dealer, wouldn't have 13 points or 12 good points. If he had the K-Q of clubs, he couldn't hold both the ace of diamonds and the king of hearts, so South should lead a diamond to dummy's king. If East has the ace, the heart finesse will win, and South loses only two diamonds and one club.

What if West had led the jack of clubs from K-J-10-x? Then he would be likely to have the ace of diamonds, else his opening lead might have been a diamond (or a heart or trump), not a risky club.

DAILY QUESTION You hold: ♠ 10 9 6 5 2 ♡ A Q 6 2 ♢ K J ♣ 5 3. Your partner opens one diamond, you bid one spade and he rebids two diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has minimum opening values and will usually have a six-card suit. Pass. You can't bid two hearts, which would be forcing and might induce partner to bid too much. Don't worry about missing a possible 5-3 spade fit; partner would have raised to two spades on many minimum hands with three-card support.

ZIPPY "Tunnel Vision" by Bill Griffith



ADAM@HOME by Rob Harrell



BIZARRO by Wayno & Piraro



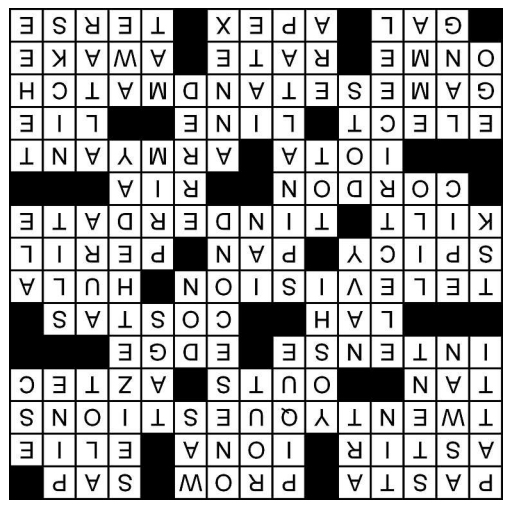
ROSE IS ROSE by Pat Brady & Don Wimmer



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM by Mike Peters



Today's Crossword Solution



Today's Sudoku Solution

7	6	4	3	9	2	8	5	1
5	9	8	4	1	6	7	2	3
3	2	1	5	7	8	4	9	6
2	8	3	9	6	1	9	4	5
4	1	7	9	2	5	6	3	8
9	5	6	8	4	3	1	7	2
8	7	2	1	3	9	5	6	4
6	4	5	2	8	7	3	1	9
1	3	9	6	5	4	2	8	7