



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Rick Karney said he felt the first effects of Alpha-gal syndrome nearly four years ago. Now when he's in wooded areas on Martha's Vineyard, where he lives, he wears treated clothing to fight ticks. And he always wears socks.

ON THE VINEYARD, A TICK TIME BOMB

Spread of Lone Stars brings a swift rise in cases of 'meat allergy'

By Izzy Bryars
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Rick Karney doesn't know exactly when he was bitten by the tick that gave him Alpha-gal syndrome, an allergy that makes someone allergic to meat products. But one night in November 2020, he was eating steak and watching TV at his Martha's Vineyard home when his stomach signaled something was off.

"I got up and walked into the kitchen, put the plate in the sink, and was going to get a glass of water," said Karney, 73. "Then the next thing I remember, I woke up on the floor."

Later, itchy rashes started down Karney's arms. Then his legs. That's

when he drove himself to the ER. The doctor told him he had passed out as a result of anaphylaxis, or a severe allergic reaction.

A biologist who moved to the island in 1976 to help start Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group, Karney was vaguely familiar with Alpha-gal and asked the doctor to test for the syndrome, which can be contracted from being bitten by a Lone Star tick. The test confirmed he was one of two people that year to test positive at Martha's Vineyard Hospital for the so-called meat allergy.

Each year since, positive tests for Alpha-gal syndrome at the hospital have shot up significantly; this year, 149 of the 386 tests through mid-July there

came back positive. While encounters with deer ticks remain the most reported in New England, Lone Star ticks are a close second, according to the University of Rhode Island's TickEncounter map.

Though similar in appearance to deer ticks, Lone Star ticks are distinguished by a striking yellow dot on the center of their backs. Island epidemiologists say the arachnids were once concentrated at edges of the Vineyard, but have quickly spread inward in the past decade, likely spurring the increase in Alpha-gal patients.

There is little reportable national or state data on Alpha-gal, discovered in

TICKS, Page B5

'I want to get back to the classroom, and I think everyone does.'

MEIYA SPARKS LIN, a third-year PhD candidate at Boston University

As classes near, standoff at BU with graduate workers goes on

By Diti Kohli
GLOBE STAFF

In two weeks, Meiya Sparks Lin should be in front of a class.

As a third-year PhD candidate in English at Boston University, Sparks Lin was assigned to lead a writing course about race and robots, deciphering how different kinds of people are threaded into science fiction. Teaching is a requirement for her degree and a necessity for the 18 undergraduate students slated to take the course this fall.

But Sparks Lin may not be there on Sept. 3, when classes begin at BU.

She is a part of the graduate workers' strike that started in March and has endured through the summer as the union that represents around 3,000 people negotiates

its first contract with BU. They have yet to secure an agreement about pay and benefits, opening up the possibility that a new academic year will start without the support of master's, professional, and PhD students — some of whom teach classes, lead discussion sections, and conduct crucial research.

If the strike — already one of the longest graduate worker actions in American history — continues, it could shape another semester for some 37,000 students and potentially hurt the reputation of the behemoth school.

The union said the strike disrupted around half of BU classes in the spring, though the college said only 560 graduate students were absent from their roles. Now

STRIKE, Page A7

History's not on their side, but reformers hopeful about slicing Boston police OT

By Dan Glaun
GLOBE STAFF

"Police Overtime Skyrocketed," a Globe headline blared in 1993. It's a "constant problem," the Boston Finance Commission declared in 2009. The Boston Police Department's system for handing out lucrative overtime details was "ineffective," "somewhat unfair," and a "drain on city resources," an audit found in 2015.

It's a perennial problem that has frustrated public officials, taxpayer advocates, and overworked officers for decades. But the story remains the same: Just last year, ever-increasing police overtime costs soared to \$88.5 million — more than 20 percent of the department's overall budget.

Mayor Michelle Wu's office recently won labor reforms in its contract negotiations with police unions. Wu's team, fiscal

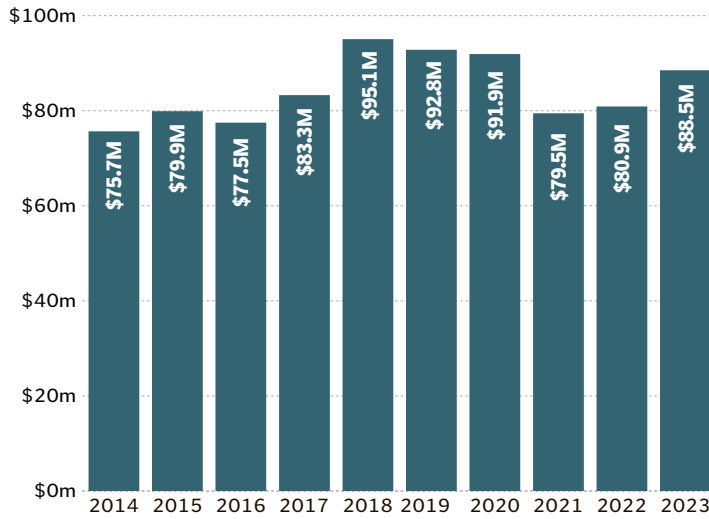
watchdog groups, and police union officials are optimistic about the changes being a first step toward reducing overtime costs.

"We hope to see a positive impact," said Elaine Beattie, senior strategic adviser for the fiscal watchdog Boston Municipal Research Bureau. "The contract really is the vehicle for change."

But police union officials and some outside experts also say the root of the problem is a staffing crisis that forces officers into mandatory overtime to fill vacant shifts.

In addition to events that require extra staffing, such as construction details, parades, and large protests, officers are often required to work extra hours to ensure that police districts meet their staffing minimums, said Chuck Wexler,

OVERTIME, Page A7



SOURCE: City budget documents and employee earnings reports • Inflation calculated using Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI calculator, with baseline of December 2023 dollars.

DAN GLAUN AND CHRISTINA PRIGNANO/GLOBE STAFF

Boston police overtime pay since 2014, adjusted for inflation

In spotlight, Walz wins fans for his humility

Embraces secondary role while connecting with key elements of party's coalition

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

CHICAGO — When Governor Tim Walz made surprise appearances at breakfasts and panels at this week's Democratic convention, he was met with rapturous welcomes from many delegates who, just days ago, had to Google who exactly Vice President Kamala Harris's new running mate was.

But after several days in Chicago, Google is no longer required for the Democratic faithful to believe that, in Walz, Harris selected an endlessly enthusiastic hype man, creating a new Democratic favorite in his own right.

And on Wednesday night, hype the crowd, he did.

In his speech, Walz ticked through Harris's resume and declared she's "always done it with energy, passion, and joy." Walz even invoked his days as a high school football coach more comfortable with "pep talks" than big speeches.

He deployed a football analogy to convey that his task — and the party's — is to clear the way for

WALZ, Page A5

ELECTION 2024

On the offense
Convention speakers have been openly contemptuous of Donald Trump this time. **A4.**

RFK's next move
Speculation is growing that he could drop out Friday and throw his support to Trump. **A4.**



MORRY GASH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Governor Tim Walz capped the third night of the convention.

Members of Congress with slaveholder ancestor often far richer than colleagues

Study connects wealth, power over generations

By Esmy Jimenez
GLOBE STAFF

The legacy of slavery and the wealth it brought to a select few continue to echo over time into present-day politics, as a new study found that about one out of every five members of Congress were descendants of slaveholders, and many are far richer than colleagues whose ancestors did not enslave people.

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and Case Western Reserve University

used genealogy data first made public by a Reuters investigation last year that looked into the slavery ties of the country's most influential political leaders, and coupled it to financial disclosure reports from members of the 117th Congress.

"Our results, over 150 years after emancipation, provide further evidence for the durability of wealth across generations," the authors write in the study, which was published in the journal PLOS ONE on Wednesday. "It is worth emphasizing that wealth from any source (whether slavery is involved or not) generally creates intergenerational benefits. Wealthy indi-

SLAVERY, Page A6



Golden glows

Thursday: Beautiful. High 72-77. Low 60-65.

Friday: More of the same. High 79-84. Low 63-68.

High tide: 1:26 a.m., 1:55 p.m.

Sunrise: 5:59 Sunset: 7:34

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