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Free community college — with a catch

Work is increasing but the pay isn't for professors and staff

By Diti Kohli
GLOBE STAFF

This fall, the students who walk into Jonathan Bennett's classroom at Middlesex Community College will not pay a dime in tuition. A state-funded program called MassEducate now covers all fees at Massachusetts' 15 community colleges, a bid to make higher education accessible and mostly free.

Instead, it's Bennett — a soft-spoken humanities professor from Rowley — who will bear the burden. Bennett, who uses they/them

pronouns, earns \$63,000 in base salary, their classroom time extending into the evenings and weekends. They see colleagues struggle, too, charging refrigerators to credit cards, accepting that they'll never own a house, or forgoing property taxes to make the electricity bill.

Such is the reality of being underpaid and undervalued, Bennett said, even as MassEducate attracts thousands of new students to community colleges for the first time in a decade.

"I don't see an end in sight where we will be out of significant debt," Bennett said. "I'm creating precarity for myself and my family by staying at a community college."

COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Page A8



JOSH REYNOLDS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Jonathan Bennett, a humanities professor at Middlesex Community College, says they would make much more at a private institution.

Father of shooting suspect arrested

Charged with second-degree murder as more parents in mass attacks held responsible

By Jeff Amy and Jeff Martin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINDER, Ga. — The father of the 14-year-old boy accused of fatally shooting four people at a Georgia high school and wounding nine others was arrested Thursday and faces charges including second-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter for letting his son possess a weapon, authorities said.

It's the latest example of prosecutors holding parents responsible for their children's actions in school shootings. In April, Michigan parents Jennifer and James Crumbley were the first convicted in a US mass school shooting. They were sentenced to at least 10 years in prison for not securing a firearm at home and acting indifferently to signs of their son's deteriorating mental health before he killed four students in 2021.

Colin Gray, 54, the father of Colt Gray, was charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter, two counts of second-degree murder, and eight counts of cruelty to children, Georgia Bureau of Investigation director Chris Hosey said at a news conference.

"His charges are directly connected with the actions of his son and allowing him to possess a weapon," Hosey said.

In Georgia, second-degree murder means that
FATHER, Page A8

BACK TO SCHOOL, EVENTUALLY



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Most of the students arrived late on the first day at the Joseph Lee K-8 in Dorchester as Boston Public Schools continued its long history of struggling to get buses running on time. Optimism that a new app and a full complement of drivers would help solve the problem Thursday fizzled in some spots, with students being picked up late or not at all. **B1.**

Wiretap law from 1968 faces a court test

Secret recordings by police bring questions about new technology

By Shelley Murphy
GLOBE STAFF

In the fall of 2019, Boston police began targeting a suspected drug dealer in East Boston, after discovering his number on the cellphone of a man who died of a fentanyl overdose. An undercover officer equipped with cutting-edge technology arranged several drug buys outside a laundromat and in a

pharmacy parking lot. He video-recorded each encounter with a cellphone app and then livestreamed it to officers conducting surveillance nearby.

The suspect, Thanh Du of East Boston, was arrested on drug trafficking charges, in what seemed to be a routine prosecution.

But now, those recordings — made with a department-issued

phone app called Callyo — are at the center of a case before the state's highest court, which must weigh the scope of Massachusetts' 1968 wiretap law in an era of rapidly emerging technology, when video recordings from police bodycams, personal cellphones, and private security devices have become commonplace.

The Supreme Judicial Court's

decision "is expected to have broad influence for criminal prosecutions across the entire Commonwealth," Bristol Assistant District Attorney Mary Lee wrote in a brief filed in the case on behalf of nine district attorneys across the state, supporting Du's prosecution in Suffolk Superior Court.

She argued that it will also impact private citizens "who video-record others in public for a variety

WIRETAP, Page A6

Primary another reminder of big edge incumbents have in Mass.

By Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

Once again, Massachusetts held a primary election where, as in many past years, the action was hard to find.

Just three candidates seeking to unseat incumbent officeholders prevailed on Tuesday: a Concord Democrat toppled a 25-year veteran of the Governor's Council, a 24-year-old activist unseated an incumbent state representative in Lowell, and a Republican ousted an 11-term incumbent by running to the right.

One high-ranking Democrat, Marjorie Decker, faces a potential recount after democratic socialist Evan MacKay fell just 41 votes short.

But those races were the exceptions that proved the rule, so to speak, in a state where cycle after cycle, most incumbents go unchallenged. Of the 200 House and Senate seats on the ballot, only 18 incumbents running for reelection faced a challenge, meaning only a small percentage of the electorate had any choice on Tuesday.

The lack of choice at the ballot box is what one political scientist described as the "most concerning" factor in Massachusetts politics.

CHALLENGERS, Page A6



Just one more

Friday: Still pleasant.
High 70-75. Low 59-64.

Saturday: Cloudy, rain late.
High 69-74. Low 58-63.

High tide: 1:50 a.m., 2:07 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:15 Sunset: 7:09

Weather and Comics, G6-7.
Obituaries, C11.

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Hunter Biden pleads guilty to tax charges

The president's son told his legal team he would not subject his family to another round of anguish and humiliation after a gut-wrenching gun trial in Delaware three months ago. **A2.**

The MBTA's new contactless fare collection system is winning converts in its first month, although many people are continuing to use their CharlieCards. **B1.**

After 36 years, Michael Keaton is back in Tim Burton's "Beetlejuice" sequel. Critic Odie Henderson's take, **G1.**



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Three Boston businesses in "The Negro Motorist Green Book" are still open today.

A guide through Jim Crow on a road to acceptance

Harvard pays \$50,000 for 1949 book aiding Black travelers shut out of white businesses

By Helena Getahun-Hawkins
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Near the mid-20th century, tucked away in the glove compartments of Black American travelers, lived a pocket-sized, green-tinged book.

"Carry your Green Book with you — You may need it," its cover warned.

Its readers gladly heeded the warning, allowing Victor Hugo Green's "The Negro Motorist Green Book" to guide them to businesses where they would be accepted regardless of their skin color.

In March, for the first time in its history, Harvard University's Houghton Library acquired a rare 1949 Green Book

for \$50,000, providing researchers, students, and visitors alike with a lens into how Black American travelers navigated a segregated landscape under Jim Crow. The travel guide, which was Green's first international edition, suggests a wide range of hair salons, pharmacies, restaurants, and other businesses across the United States, Bermuda, Mexico, and Canada. About 100 businesses were in Massachusetts, with three still open in Boston.

In 1936, Green, a postal worker, published his first version of the Green Book, somewhat solving his own struggle. **GREEN BOOK, Page A7**