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LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Patrick Fealey joined his girlfriend, Lane McDonald, for a walk on Narragansett Town Beach with his dog, Lily.

STORY OF HOMELESSNESS SPURS A NEW CONNECTION

His account of living in his car in Rhode Island brought a surprising result

By Edward Fitzpatrick
GLOBE STAFF

NARRAGANSETT, R.I. — Sitting in the 2003 Toyota Corolla where he was living, Patrick Fealey flipped over his Paul Reed Smith acoustic guitar, using it as a desk, and started writing about the daily indignities and dangers of life without a home.

He wrote about the Westerly police who rapped on his car window as he slept inside, asking, “Are you OK?” He wrote about Walmart security guards who ordered him to leave the store parking lot, suggesting he go to “the old Benny’s parking lot” instead. He wrote about a man coming up behind him in a vacant lot at 3 a.m., making him fear for his

life.

The resulting 9,000-word article, titled “The Invisible Man” and published in November in Esquire magazine, gives voice to the desperate ranks of a record 653,104 people experiencing homelessness nationwide.

The article caught the attention of Marissa Mathews, a Connecticut resident who immediately sent it to her sister Michelle and their parents, Janice and Bill Mathews, who live in Narragansett. They agreed to “find this guy and put him up for the holiday season,” Janice Mathews told the Globe.

“Here’s a guy who doesn’t rob banks, he doesn’t do anything wrong. He just needs society’s help, and no one is helping him,” said

Janice Mathews, vice president of Cranston-based The Jan Companies, which owns country clubs and restaurants, including Newport Creamery. “My kids love Rhode Island, and they said, ‘Oh, my God, Mom, this could be any of us.’”

Fealey, 56, was born in New York City and grew up in Jamestown and North Kingstown. He graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1990 with a journalism degree. He wrote about Luciano Pavarotti in the Narragansett Times and garnered praise in a letter from the opera star himself.

In 1996, he worked as a Boston Globe correspondent who wrote about Rhode Island, **WRITER, Page A10**

The nursing home industry is ramping up pressure to kill staffing mandates set by the Biden administration. A2.

A former worker at the inactive Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth has sued the company charged with decommissioning the plant, alleging he suffered radiation poisoning while working there. B1.

Shoppers headed into the Black Friday weekend unsure how wide to open their wallets, retailers say, with many feeling the squeeze of inflation. D1.

Britain’s lawmakers voted to allow assisted dying for terminally ill patients in England and Wales under strict conditions, opening the way to one of the most profound social changes in the country in decades. A4.

NEW VIEW OF NOTRE-DAME



CHRISTOPHE PETIT TESSON/POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

French President Emmanuel Macron (third from right) and his wife, Brigitte (right), joined other dignitaries at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris on Friday. The president took viewers on a live televised tour of the cathedral, five years after a devastating fire that was followed by a colossal reconstruction effort. **A4.**

New Bedford excited, wary about rail service

Many expect growth and all that can bring

By Omar Mohammed
GLOBE STAFF

NEW BEDFORD — On a recent sunny afternoon, workers in yellow vests were busy working on a new footbridge by Purchase Street. The pedestrian path soars above John F. Kennedy Boulevard, connecting people to a future stop on the South Coast rail project.

By next spring, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation

Authority expects residents of southern Massachusetts, for the first time in more than half a century, will be able to hop on a train and be whisked into Boston for work or pleasure.

The new South Coast rail, which also extends service to Fall River, could be a game changer for people such as Colleen Dawicki, 40, who for the past decade has endured a frustrating commute from New Bedford to Boston, where she works in community economic development.

She started out taking a bus the entire way. But when traffic

RAIL, Page A7

A series of choices got this family away from oil and gas in their home

By Ivy Scott
GLOBE STAFF

When Amelia Wesselink and Tim Maher purchased a 120-year-old, Colonial style house in 2017 — a bit of a fixer-upper, Maher said — they had no idea that eight years later, they’d soon outfit it with energy-saving infrastructure that would both slash greenhouse gas emissions and save money on their energy bills.

The couple’s 1,800-square-foot, three-bedroom home in Roslindale is similar to many on the block: a living room filled with toys for their two elementary-aged children; an office for Wesselink, a Boston University epidemiologist; and two cars in the driveway so she can pick the kids up from school while Ma-

her is coaching soccer practice at the Hyde Park high school where he also teaches math.

But when the oil tank started leaking last year, they saw an opportunity to make a change many Bostonians, and residents across Massachusetts, are still debating: They bought an air-source heat pump, a highly efficient system that uses outside air and refrigerant to warm or cool a home. That decision was the first of several the couple would make to pivot off oil and gas inside the home, weighing affordability and comfort at every step.

“There was something satisfying about shutting off the gas and getting rid of the oil,” Maher said. “But a lot of it’s just been a necessity: What’s broken

GREEN HOUSE, Page A7



ADOBE STOCK

Insurance change has patients scrambling

With 2 hospitals off Tufts plan, they recalculate care

By Jonathan Saltzman
GLOBE STAFF

When a North Shore woman learned last month that her health insurance would no longer cover the hospital that treats her child, it was more than an inconvenience.

It was a crisis.

Her 11-year-old child sees 10 specialists at Boston Children’s Hospital for multiple complex conditions, including autism and a form of blindness. The family’s insurer, Point32Health, wrote her and thousands of other families that starting on Jan. 1, Children’s and UMass Memorial Health in Worcester won’t be in the network of providers for their health plan, Tufts Health Direct. “You will need to select a new doctor or hospital,” Point32Health wrote.

Stephanie M., who requested that the Globe not use her full last name to protect the family’s privacy, said switching physicians is out of the question.

“Boston Children’s has been amazing,” said Stephanie, a self-employed licensed independent clinical social worker. “My child needs continuous health care. There needs to be no disruption.” She added, “I really have no choice but to change insurance plans.”

But Tufts Health Direct was one of the most affordable plans available. Stephanie pays a monthly premium of \$1,480 and has no deductible. She said she is considering switching to comparable insurance offered by Mass General Brigham Health

INSURANCE, Page A10

Speculation starts on US attorney pick

Immigration cases likely to be a focus in Mass.

By Shelley Murphy
GLOBE STAFF

Since winning a second term in early November, President-elect Donald Trump has moved quickly with appointments to key government positions, including his nominee for the US attorney in Manhattan.

So who will be his choice for top federal prosecutor in Massachusetts?

Legal observers say Trump is likely to tap a current or former federal prosecutor with deep ties to the Republican Party in Washington, D.C., as the next US attorney for Massachusetts. And, as he did during his first term, Trump will likely make his selection without following the process adopted by Presidents Biden and Barack Obama, who relied on a recommendation from the state’s two Democratic US senators following a vetting of potential candidates by a local advisory committee.

The country’s 94 US attorneys are political appointees who historically step down following a change in administration from one political party to another. That usually leaves the first assistant US attorney to lead the office until the president’s

ATTORNEY, Page A6

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Suggested retail price
\$4.00

Wrap it up

Saturday: Sunny. High: 40-45. Low: 27-32.

Sunday: Some sun. High: 38-43. Low: 25-30.

High tide: 10:16 a.m. 10:53 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:53 Sunset: 4:13

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.** Obituaries, **C9.**



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