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W E D N E S D A Y , M A Y 8 , 2 0 2 4

‘I always thought, well, she’s in witness protection, maybe she can’t call.’

SHARON HILAIRE, *Lori Jane Kearsey’s sister*



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

“I grew up knowing that something happened to her,” said Maehgan Smith of her mother, Lori Jane Kearsey, who had married into the notorious Angiulo family in 1983.

TRYING TO UNRAVEL A FAMILY MYSTERY

Four decades after Lori Kearsey disappeared, it’s now clear she was murdered. Relatives and friends wonder — did the Mafia play a part?

By Shelley Murphy and Tonya Alanez
GLOBE STAFF

Lori Jane Kearsey was madly in love. Brushing aside her family’s concerns, she married the grandson of a high-ranking Boston Mafioso in June 1983. Eight months later, she vanished, leaving behind her 5-year-old daughter from a previous relationship, never to be heard from again. Her disappearance was a mystery until last year, 40 years on, when her family learned she was murdered. The body of a woman found strangled to death and floating in a canal in Davie, Fla., in February 1984 was identified as Kearsey, of Gloucester, who was 22 when she was killed.

Now, police are trying to determine who killed her and why as they delve into Kearsey’s short, tragic life. The unresolved questions have haunted a family that has waited decades to find out what happened to her.

When Kearsey disappeared, nobody reported her missing. Her husband, James W. Angiulo Jr., told police he thought she left him; her family believed she joined the federal witness protection program; and some friends thought she moved to Florida, according to police and several people who were close to Kearsey.



A photo of Smith as a baby with her mother, who was 17 at the time.

“I grew up knowing that something happened to her,” Kearsey’s daughter, Maehgan Smith, now 45 and with two daughters of her own, said during a recent interview. “I didn’t have this false hope that someday she was going to come back and we were going to reunite.”

Smith, who was raised by her father and stepmother, said she grew up believing her mother was probably dead because relatives told her she never would have abandoned her. Still, Smith was shocked when police contacted her in February of last year, saying they believed her mother may be a “Jane Doe” found strangled to death on Feb. 18, 1984, in Davie, which is near Fort Lauderdale, and asked her to provide DNA for confirmation.

“I remember I burst into tears,” Smith said. “I just felt like my breath was taken away from me.”

Detective Eddy Velazquez of the Davie police force said Kearsey had

MURDER, Page A8

Biden attacks ‘ferocious surge of antisemitism’

Says people already forgetting Oct. 7

By Erica L. Green and Michael D. Shear
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Biden on Tuesday condemned a “ferocious surge of antisemitism” in the United States following the Oct. 7 Hamas attack against Israel and said people are already forgetting the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust.

Speaking at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Days of Remembrance, Biden tied the anti-Jewish sentiment that led to the Nazi effort to exterminate Jews directly to Oct. 7.

“This ancient hatred of Jews didn’t begin with the Holocaust,” he said. “It didn’t end with the Holocaust, either.”

For Biden, a self-described

Zionist, the speech was a clear assertion of his support for Jewish Americans as he struggles to balance his support for Israel with increasingly forceful calls for the protection of civilians in the Gaza Strip.

►Cease-fire talks resume after Israel enters Rafah. **A4.**

Biden’s address also came as protests against Israel’s war in Gaza roil college campuses, with students demanding that the Biden administration stop sending weapons to Israel. In some cases, the demonstrations have included antisemitic rhetoric and harassment targeting Jewish students.

“I understand people have

BIDEN, Page A7



KENNY HOLSTON/NEW YORK TIMES

President Biden held a picture of Holocaust victims at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Days of Remembrance.

With pressure on, Harvard and MIT weigh their options

By Hilary Burns
GLOBE STAFF

As commencement draws near, the presidents of Harvard and MIT are facing a new test of their leadership in what’s been a grueling year of near-constant tumult: peacefully resolving their standoff with protesting pro-Palestinian students.

Sally Kornbluth of MIT and interim Harvard president Alan Garber are under immense pressure from students, alumni, and faculty to find a resolution to the protests that have taken over parts of their campuses. The colleges say the encampments and

protesters are breaking rules and policies, and have disrupted educational activities and university operations, and the colleges have threatened disciplinary measures.

But so far their efforts have failed: On Monday both schools threatened to suspend protesters; the students ignored them. MIT campus police tried to keep students from reentering the fenced encampment on Kresge Lawn; demonstrators ripped down the barrier and moved back in.

The two leaders have seen

ENCAMPMENTS, Page A7

Steward faces tight schedule to sell Mass. hospitals

Tells judge that end of June deadline may be unfeasible

By Aaron Pressman and Robert Weisman
GLOBE STAFF

Bankrupt hospital chain Steward Health Care on Tuesday said it had agreed under pressure from its lenders to sell off all of its hospitals in Massachusetts and six other states by the end of June. But the company’s own lawyer warned a federal judge that deadline may be unfeasible.

Steward, which has eight hospitals in Massachusetts and a total of 31 nationwide, filed for bankruptcy Monday after falling behind on its rent and other bills. Steward Health Care chief executive Ralph de la Torre built the chain starting in Massachusetts in 2010, selling billions of dollars of the hospitals’ real estate to fuel its growth — until it hit a severe cash crunch last year.

At a virtual hearing in federal bankruptcy court Tuesday, Judge Christopher Lopez in Houston said he was focused on ensuring patient safety as the chain reckons with its crushing debts: “Real people receiving real care in real time . . . are at the forefront of my mind today.”

The hearing was the start of a months-long process to get the hospitals on a sound financial footing. The court must sort through all of Steward’s financial transactions over the past few years and determine which creditors will be paid back, all while the hospitals continue serving thousands of patients.

During the hearing, Steward also disclosed that

STEWARD, Page A5

A historical dam could be history

Ipswich split about whether to preserve status quo or let the waters flow again

By Billy Baker
GLOBE STAFF

IPSWICH — Typically, what stands out in Ipswich are the historic Colonial homes. The town proudly boasts more surviving First Period houses than anywhere else in the country.

But over the last several weeks, the dominant visual in Ipswich has been lawn signs, hundreds and hundreds of them, pitting neighbor against neighbor ahead of a controversial vote that has consumed the 13,000 residents of this Great Marsh community.

The debate, as spelled out on the lawn signs, is binary: “Save our dam” or “Free the river.”

On May 21, town voters will go to the polls to decide whether to remove the Ipswich Mills Dam that, in some form of another, has been in the center of town on the Ipswich River since 1637. The current 7-foot-high dam, built in 1880 and later modified to power a neighboring hosiery mill, has not been in hydroelectric use since the 1930s.

DAM, Page A8



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

The Ipswich Mills Dam has existed in some form for centuries.

A Russian plot to assassinate President Volodymyr Zelensky and others was foiled, according to Ukraine’s security services. **A3.**

Stormy Daniels took the stand at Donald Trump’s trial and described a sexual encounter with him that he has long denied. **A2.**

Newton decided against admitting out-of-district students to its elementary schools through the state’s choice program. **B1.**

City slickers

Wednesday: Showers, cool. High 56-61. Low 50-55.

Thursday: More of the same. High 56-61. Low 44-49.

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C17.



Where nostalgia’s always on the menu

Friendly’s has had its problems over the past few years, but it still holds its appeal for those who grew up here and those who didn’t, writes Brooke Hauser. **G1.**

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