

# The Boston Globe

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024

## Maine shooting panel sees widespread failures

In its final report, commission points to errors by police, hospitals, military

By John Hilliard  
and Sean Cotter  
GLOBE STAFF

LEWISTON, Maine — A state commission's final report on Maine's worst mass shooting detailed a damning series of failures by the Army Reserve and local law enforce-

ment that allowed a military reservist with a diagnosis of psychosis to keep a personal trove of guns even as he alarmed family, friends, and colleagues with threats of violence in the months before.

The 215-page report released Tuesday provides the most compre-

hensive accounting of the events leading to last Oct. 25, when reservist Robert R. Card II killed 18 people and wounded more than a dozen more at a bowling alley and bar in Lewiston.

As described by the commission, those failures compounded one another. Local police never confronted Card, despite warnings from his family that he was paranoid, had weapons, and threatened to commit

a shooting. A New York hospital released Card last summer, under the mistaken belief that the Army Reserve petitioned to have Card's guns seized. The military failed to share complete information about Card's aggressive actions and threats with local law enforcement, or made sure Card received mental health care.

But the commission's final report was more of a retrospective rather

MASS SHOOTING, Page A7

“The fact that it is harder is a legacy of slavery itself.

KENDRA FIELD, *an associate professor of history at Tufts University, on doing Black genealogy*



(ABOVE) KAYLA BARTKOWSKI FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE; (BELOW) COLLECTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lisa Shepperson stood at the grave of Elizabeth Freeman (below) at Stockbridge Cemetery. Shepperson is a direct descendant.

## From fractured past, a connection

Elizabeth Freeman fought her way out of slavery in Mass., but her family's story, like so many others, was lost. Now, a monumental effort has brought a descendant to light.

By Tiana Woodard  
GLOBE STAFF

LISA SHEPPERSON fluttered her eyelashes to stop her tears as she stood at the faded tombstone of Elizabeth Freeman on Monday morning. She patted the centuries-old tablet with her manicured hand, as if comforting a longtime friend.

It was the first time she saw the burial site of her ancestor at Stockbridge Cemetery. It was only three months ago that Shepperson found out she was a direct descendant of the formerly enslaved woman whose lawsuit for her freedom in 1781 helped propel Massa-



chusetts to abolish slavery in the state.

Before then, she had not heard of Freeman until that unexpected call from a genealogist. But now, standing there, Shepperson said she could not help but feel a wave of joy rush “past my feet, to my heart, to my head, and out towards God.”

Shepperson, a Virginia-based patient service representative, came to Massachusetts last week after 10 Million Names, an American Ancestors initiative that traces enslaved people's lineages, tracked her down and brought her to her ancestor's home ahead of Elizabeth Freeman Day.

Each year, communities around Massa-

SLAVERY, Page A7

**Israeli forces recovered the bodies of six hostages** from the southern Gaza Strip in an overnight operation, highlighting the plight of the scores of remaining captives. **A2.**

**Amtrak's vulnerabilities along the Northeast**

**Corridor can be traced back** to the system's age and long-outdated technology. **A2.**

**Dog owners love to take the pup along when they go out to eat, and Boston is particularly pet-friendly.** But how do the animals feel? **G1.**

## SHOOTING FOR MORE

In the first-ever WNBA game at TD Garden, the Connecticut Sun beat the Los Angeles Sparks Tuesday night, 69-61. Before the sold-out game, a fan fest was a big draw. **C1.**

## Dynamic duo

**Wednesday:** Pleasant. High 70-75. Low 56-61.

**Thursday:** Another one. High 72-77. Low 58-63.

Sunrise: 5:58 Sunset: 7:36

**Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.**

## Legal challenges complicate plan for Steward hospitals

By Robert Weisman  
GLOBE STAFF

The Healey administration's plan to steer six Steward Health Care hospitals into the hands of new owners just got more complicated.

Administration officials expect Apollo Global Partners, a private equity firm that controls the St. Elizabeth's Medical Center property in Brighton, to contest the state's move to seize the land and buildings by eminent domain, setting up a trial that could last up to two years.

In bankruptcy court filings, meanwhile, disputes between bankrupt Steward and some of its top creditors over how to divvy up proceeds from the Massachusetts hospital sales threw up new roadblocks to the transactions, which were on track to be finalized Thursday.

The developments created fresh uncertainty for a sales process that began late last year and gained urgency after Dallas-based Steward filed for bankruptcy on May 6. Governor Maura Healey on Friday said the state helped engineer preliminary deals to sell St. Elizabeth's and five other hospitals to health systems in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, promising the deals would be completed “in short order.”

HOSPITALS, Page A6

## Obamas lead the charge for Democrats

Diverse lineup on second night of convention reflects Harris's coalition

By Steve Peoples, Jonathan J. Cooper,  
and Zeke Miller  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Warning of a difficult fight ahead, former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama on Tuesday called on the nation to embrace Kamala Harris in urgent messages to the Democratic National Convention that were at times both hopeful and foreboding.

“America, hope is making a comeback,” the former first lady declared. She then tore into Republican Donald Trump, a sharp shift from the 2016 convention speech in which she told her party, “When they go low, we go high.”

“His limited and narrow view of the world made him feel threatened by the existence of two hard-working, highly educated, successful people who also happened to be Black,” Michelle Obama said of Trump.

Obama, the former president, called Trump “a 78-year-old billionaire who hasn't stopped whining about his problems since he rode down his golden escalator nine years ago.”

“It's been a constant stream of gripes and grievances that's actually gotten worse now that he's afraid of losing to Kamala,” he charged.

The fiery messages from two of the Democratic Party's biggest stars underscored the urgency of the moment as Harris works to stitch together

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BRYNN ANDERSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barack and Michelle Obama basked in the applause Tuesday night at the convention.

## ELECTION 2024

### Bittersweet for Biden

When the crowd chanted its thanks, it was also thanking him for not running again. **A4.**

### The white pantsuit

It's not just about fashion — it's a symbol of modern politics, and the changes since 2016. **A4.**

## Harris loyalists from 2020 say it's the party that's evolved

By Sam Brodey  
GLOBE STAFF

CHICAGO — At first glance, Donna Gholson looks like any one of the thousands of Democratic convention attendees decked out with all manner of Kamala Harris apparel.

But the volunteer from Illinois is a rare type of Harris fan at this convention: one who actually supported her first run for the White House.

And she has the shirt to prove it: black, with the yellow, red, and blue of Harris's 2020 run, itself a nod to Shirley Chisholm's history-making 1972 presidential bid with its “For The People” slogan.

“When Kamala came out to run, I just found a joyousness in her and a relatability that, you know, she understood what people are going through,” said Gholson, who traveled to Iowa in 2019 to knock on doors for Harris.

Launched to sky-high expectations, Harris's first White House campaign was a major disappointment. She withdrew weeks before the Iowa caucus — the first top-tier candidate to do so — after stagnating in polls and having trouble raising money. Her campaign team was riven by widely reported dysfunction.

How Harris has changed since that doomed 2020 campaign is a question that has simmered in

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VOL. 306, NO. 52

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Suggested retail price  
\$4.00



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