The Boston Blobe

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

WATERFRONT DINING



Waiter Milan Grbovic used trash bags to stay dry as he served Joe Hebert, Greg Prall, and Rick Paoni on the patio at the Chart House on Long Wharf on Friday. The patio was flooded as a "wicked high" tide pushed water at least 2 feet higher than the typical high tide. Scientists say such tides could become common with climate change. B1.

Weighing whether blotters are fit to print

Some news sites drop crime listings amid questions of fairness and privacy

> By Aidan Ryan GLOBE STAFF

The Lexington Observer's police blotter is consistently one of the news site's most popular stories every week, spotlighting what police are investigating in the safe, affluent suburb, such as burglars breaking into cars, loose dogs causing mayhem, and thieves stealing residents' identities. It's also a source of humor — the Observer headlined one April log reporting the untimely deaths of two injured raccoons:

"Not a good morning for raccoons."

But Lauren Feeney felt conflicted about continuing to publish these police reports when she took over as the three-year-old site's executive director last year.

"You're publishing an unchallenged perspective from an officer who was on the scene," Feeney said.

Ultimately, Feeney said, the fact that readers clearly cared about the feature was the deciding factor. The week, with some edits, such as not and avoid potentially contributing

publishing suspect's names, and, she said, it "continues to be popu-

As longtime newspapers in Massachusetts and across the country continue to disappear, a new crop of online news sites are looking to win over audiences and reimagine how they share police log information. Some have continued the news industry's tradition of publishing police logs to give people information about public safety, but limit what details they share. Others have decided not to post the logs in an attempt to move away from a reliance

to a misperception about crime in their communities.

Across the nation, many outlets are refreshing their crime coverage in an effort to minimize its harmful or racist effects, a trend that accelerated after the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police in 2020. Many newsrooms, for example, have made changes to avoid reporting unsubstantiated information from police, naming people accused of minor crimes, and publishing mugshots.

"The rise of the internet has de our work have much more outlet still publishes the log each on unchallenged police accounts lasting consequences than it had be-

BLOTTER, Page A10

Constellation Energy said that it plans to reopen the shuttered Three Mile Island nuclear plant, the site of the worst reactor accident in United States history. A2.

Braintree has agreed to pay \$14.9 million to settle a federal suit filed by a South Boston man who spent decades in prison for a 1980 slaying before his conviction was overturned. B1.

Cabot Corp. has landed a \$50 million federal grant that will help spark the construction of a factory just west of Detroit where the company plans to make conductive materials for

electric-vehicle batteries. D1.



You've been mist

Saturday: Showers, breezy. High: 62-67. Low: 56-61.

Sunday: Breezy, some sun. High: 61-66. Low: 53-58.

High tide: 1:58 a.m. 2:17 p.m. Sunrise: 6:31 Sunset: 6:43

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

Obituaries, C10.

VOL. 306, NO. 83

Suggested retail price \$4.00

Sturgeon suddenly making a splash on the North Shore

Boaters surprised by sightings of dinosaur-like fish

> By Billy Baker GLOBE STAFF

NEWBURYPORT — Like many people on the North Shore this summer, Kerry Camargo didn't know what she saw jumping out of the water. She was on a sunset cruise last month with some friends on the Merrimack River, and at first she thought she saw a shark.

She didn't think much after that, because whatever it was flew over the railing of the boat, hit her square in the face, caused a gash that would require a dozen stitches, and nearly knocked her out.

The culprit was a sturgeon, a massive, dinosaur-like, rare fish that has suddenly been spotted all over the North Shore this summer, in numbers no one can recall. And they announce their presence, for they regularly

jump clear out of the water (for reasons scientists can't fully explain).

"It's been a quantum difference this year," said Ted Marshall of Essex, owner of Agawam Boat Charters, who has been a captain in the area for decades. "I'm out there every day, and for the last three years, maybe once a week I'd notice a big splash out of the corner of my eye. Now every time I go out there, I'm seeing numerous sturgeon jump on a four-hour trip."

Finn Hawley, a surfcasting guide on the North Shore with a large social media following, said he had only seen one or two jumping sturgeon in his life. Then recently, he was fishing at night off Crane Beach "and I kept hearing all these crazy splashes in the water around me," Hawley said. "I went back the next day during daylight, and all of a sudden a sturgeon jumped out of the water. Then another, and another, and another.'

The fish have long been known to live in the Merri-

STURGEON, Page A7

Israeli strike kills Hezbollah top leader

Beirut apartment buildings hit as violence ratchets up

> By Liam Stack, Euan Ward, Aaron Boxerman, and Michael Levenson

TEL AVIV — Israeli fighter jets bombed an apartment building in Beirut's densely populated southern suburbs Friday in what the military called an attack on Hezbollah militants, including a senior commander who was wanted in the deadly 1983 bombings of the US Embassy and US Marine Corps barracks in Beirut.

The Israeli military's chief spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, said the senior commander, Ibrahim Akil, had been killed, along with "around" 10 others from Hezbollah's elite Radwan unit, who were meeting underneath the residential

In a statement, Hezbollah, the powerful Lebanese militia backed by Iran, confirmed that Akil had been killed.

The strike marked an escalation in Israel's bloody conflict with the militia and fueled fears among Lebanese, Israelis, and diplomats that Israel is driving closer to a full-blown war with Hezbollah, even as it continues to fight Hamas in the Gaza

The strike Friday came as Lebanon was still reeling from the attacks Tuesday and Wednesday - widely attributed to Israel - that blew up communication devices belonging to Hezbollah members, killing at least 37 people and injuring thou-

LEBANON, Page A6

'One of these days I'm going to kill him'

Son charged in deaths of three in Vermont home

By Kevin Cullen

PAWLET, Vt. — Police on Friday arrested a 23year-old man with a history of mental health issues in the shooting deaths of his father, stepmother, and stepbrother, a crime that has badly shaken this small town in western Vermont.

Brian Crossman Jr., who lives in nearby Granville, N.Y., but was staying with his father and stepmother for the weekend, was charged with aggravated murder in the killing of Brian Crossman Sr., 46; Erica Crossman, 41; and her 13-yearold son, Colin Taft, in what police described as the tragic end to a growing rift between father and son over the son's mental health struggles.

Relatives and others who knew him told police that Brian Crossman Jr. had for years shown unsettling signs of mental instability, including torturing animals, and that during an outing several years ago he had pointed a gun at his father and said, "One of these days I'm going to kill him."

Brian Crossman Jr., described by police as 6 feet 4 inches and 300 pounds, was taken into custody without incident in New York, which borders this small town of 1,400 in southwestern Ver-

VERMONT, Page A10

A different campaign, the same Harris

Mass. AG Campbell says vice president's values haven't changed since her 2020 run

By Anjali Huynh GLOBE STAFF

The first time Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell encountered Vice President Kamala Harris was when she spoke at Campbell's law school graduation.

It was 2009, and Harris was district attorney in San Francisco, the first person of color elected to the role — an accomplishment that inspired Campbell even before Harris spoke at the University of California Los Angeles cere-

A decade later, Campbell was stumping in Iowa for Harris's first presidential bid while seven months pregnant with her second child.

"I believed in her that much," Campbell recalled in a recent interview.

The years-long relationship between Camp-

bell and Harris, who Campbell described as "a dear friend, a mentor, a colleague," comes with shared history-making: Campbell in 2022 became the first Black woman elected Massachusetts' attorney general, 12 years after Harris did the same in California.

Harris's career as a prosecutor has been met with different responses during her two presidential runs, as conversations about criminal justice shifted among Democrats. During her first bid, Harris faced criticism from voters and activists over what they described as her "tough on crime" approach. Now, that background is seen as an asset, as Democrats urge her to "prosecute the case" against former president Donald Trump.

Campbell, however, argues the vice presi-**CAMPBELL, Page A7**

AG Andrea Campbell greeted Vice President Kamala Harris at the NAACP convention in Boston last year.