

# The Boston Globe

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‘It is a strong signal that the war on drugs . . . should continue to be reevaluated and should continue to be reformed.’

ED CHUNG, *Vera Institute of Justice*

## In shift, US may ease marijuana restrictions

Reclassification would have broad effects

By Eileen Sullivan, Glenn Thrush, and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department plans to recommend easing restrictions on marijuana in what could amount to a major change in federal policy, people familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

Even though the move, which kicks off a lengthy rule-making process, does not end the criminalization of the drug, it would be a significant shift in how the government views the safety and use of marijuana for medical purposes. It also reflects the Biden administration’s effort to liberalize marijuana policy in a way that puts it more in line with the public as increasingly more Americans favor legalizing the drug.

The decision comes at an opportune time for President Biden, who is trailing the presumptive Republican nominee, former presi-

MARIJUANA, Page A9

## For scientist accused of harassment, a new start here

By Mark Arsenault

GLOBE STAFF

Former MIT and Whitehead Institute star biologist David Sabatini, who lost his lofty positions after being accused of violating sexual harassment policies in 2021, is rejoining the Boston scientific community as head of a research group at a new laboratory under the umbrella of a Czech-based scientific institute.

Sabatini, who has denied harassing anyone and filed litigation over the allegations, has been working since last October in a senior research position at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, in the Czech Republic capital of Prague, investigating scientific questions in the areas of cell growth and metabolism, similar to his past research at Whitehead.

The Czech institute, known as IOCB Prague, is realizing a long-held ambition to expand into the Boston biotech hub, confirmed the institute’s director, Jan Konvalinka.

“I feel adventurous about it,” Konvalinka said in a telephone interview from Prague. “My experience is that it is very important to be present where the best brains are, and where the very best universities are. It’s important to be where the decisions are being made.”

Sabatini, who will split time between Boston and Prague, will lead a research group of up to

SCIENTIST, Page A9

## Protest standoffs come to a head

Police make arrests at Columbia; MIT, Tufts students brace

By John Hilliard and John R. Ellement

GLOBE STAFF

and Lila Hempel-Edgers

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Tensions between students protesting Israel’s war in Gaza and college administrators intensified on some campuses Tuesday, including the seizure of a school building at Columbia University, but eased on several others with

largely peaceful dispersals of encampments that demonstrators had recently set up.

In Manhattan, police Tuesday night arrested demonstrators who had barricaded themselves in a Columbia building earlier in the day and had unfurled a Palestinian flag in a window. Demonstrators took it over nearly 12 hours after a Monday afternoon deadline to leave their encampment,

or be suspended. Columbia said it would seek to expel the students who had taken over the building.

More than 1,000 protesters have been arrested on campuses in at least eight states, including at Emerson College and Northeastern University in Massachusetts, following confrontations with police in recent days.

In the Boston area, a tense standoff between demonstrators

and administrators at MIT continued, days after school president Sally Kornbluth said the protest encampment “needs to end soon.” A group of sympathetic MIT faculty warned the protesters Tuesday that they believed the school would move against them.

And Tufts University told its protesting students it would soon seek a no-trespass order. At other campuses across the country, police detained dozens of protesters in the course of breaking up en-

PROTESTS, Page A7



BING GUAN/NEW YORK TIMES

On Tuesday night, police used a window to enter Columbia University’s Hamilton Hall, which had been taken over by protesters.

## Where migrant kids play, drivers charge up

Tesla station opens in shelter parking lot

By Aaron Pressman

GLOBE STAFF

At the former Comfort Inn in Foxborough, where the state is housing migrant and homeless families, there is no playground or lawn, just a few scattered patches of grass in the parking lot in front of the three-story brick building.

So the dozens of children who are staying there play at the far end of the parking lot, away from the main entrance and a Ninety Nine restaurant, with just a couple of aging wooden picnic tables for play structures. It’s not the most desirable setup for families, but Massachusetts has seen its shelter system overwhelmed amid a flood of thousands of migrants from Haiti and other countries, and has begun us-

ing converted motel sites across the state to address the crisis.

Starting in April, however, the kids in Foxborough found something new to play with in the parking lot (and some of them did): a dozen shiny, white and red, rectangular consoles, each about the size of a refrigerator, installed by automaker Tesla as a new station for charging electric cars, which can cost anywhere from \$40,000 to more than \$100,000.

The strange scene reflects the state’s efforts to address two of its biggest challenges: finding beds for migrants who have overwhelmed the shelter system and meeting its climate goals, which requires installing enough EV charging stations to convince drivers to switch to electric cars.

More broadly, the scene underscores the difficult debate around how to support mi-

CHARGERS, Page A8



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

As the trial began, pink was the color for Karen Read’s supporters.

## Read trial hoopla over the top? You be the judge

By Beth Teitell

GLOBE STAFF

DEDHAM — Opening Day of the Karen Read trial had — finally — arrived, and down the street from the courthouse, where Read’s supporters were mustering Monday, the air was alive, the moment was *on*.

Sure, some supporters thought the vibe felt wrong. Boston police Officer John O’Keefe was dead, after all, and a woman’s future is at stake. “I don’t want

►First responders testify they found a chaotic scene two years ago. B1.

to say it’s like a carnival,” one supporter said. “But . . .”

But . . . passing truck drivers honked their horns in solidarity. Supporters posed together for pictures. “Hi Lynn!” one trialista called out to another stationed across two lanes of traffic. A “Don’t Tread on Me” flag was held aloft. A sign that looked like an enormous license plate and read “Massachusetts FRAMED Karen Read” rested against a traffic cone.

“God bless you for doing this work,” a woman called out from her car.

And everywhere you looked there was pink — the unofficial “I support Karen Read” color since the judge disal-

TRIAL, Page A8

Donald Trump was held in contempt by the judge overseeing his criminal case, and fined \$9,000 for repeatedly violating a gag order and warned he could go to jail if he continues to attack witnesses and jurors. A2.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to launch an incursion into the southern Gaza city of Rafah. A4.

An expert panel advised starting mammography screening at age 40 instead of waiting until 50, citing rising breast cancer rates in young women. A2.

Prosecutors will not seek criminal charges in connection with the discovery of four dead infants in a freezer. B1.

## Farmers find flowers pay the bills

Local demand is booming, leading some growers to change course. G1.



## Mayed in the shade

**Wednesday:** Cool, raw. High 49-54. Low 43-48.

**Thursday:** Warming up. High 61-66. Low 46-51.

High tide: 5:12 a.m., 6:02 p.m.

Sunrise: 5:39 Sunset: 7:44

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MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

## BRUINS CAN'T CLOSE IT OUT

With a chance to finish off the Toronto Maple Leafs and advance to the next round, Boston was beaten in overtime, 2-1, in a hard-fought Game 5 Tuesday night at TD Garden. Game 6 will be Thursday night in Toronto. C1.