

# Boston Sunday Globe

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## Changes aim to bolster addiction battle

US eases access to methadone, second treatment in bid to break grip of opioids

By Chris Serres  
GLOBE STAFF

Most mornings, when Christine Marshall pulled up to the crowded methadone clinic in Fitchburg where she received daily doses of the drug, she was overwhelmed with dread. The long lines, sometimes in rain or snow, a wait as long as an

hour or more, often led to a powerful urge to skip the methadone and take heroin instead. On some days, that's exactly what she did.

"Every day it was chaos. Fights broke out," she said. "There were days when I wondered if it was all worth it."

For decades, strict rules around

the dispensing of methadone and other treatments for opioid addiction have made it difficult for those being treated to hold a job or care for a family. Federal rules placed clinics mostly in urban areas, leading to long daily drives for addicts who live in rural areas. Once there, patients often had to wait in lines, attend counseling sessions, and submit to random urine drug tests.

But now, amid a relentless surge in overdose deaths, many regula-

tions are being relaxed, making life far easier for the roughly 24,000 Massachusetts residents who rely on methadone to function. The Biden administration earlier this month approved a new federal rule that allows many patients to take the medicine home with them, freeing them from having to visit a clinic each day.

Starting April 2, when the rule takes effect, people will for the first time be allowed to start on metha-

**METHADONE, Page A12**

## A more militant force for teachers

Once a dealmaker, state union more adversarial and protective of workers

By James Vaznis  
GLOBE STAFF

Over the last decade, the Massachusetts Teachers Association has turned itself into a formidable and divisive force: crushing a ballot question to expand charter schools, helping to pass a new school funding law and a so-called millionaires tax, and hijacking the state's plan to reopen classrooms in the fall of 2020, which prolonged remote learning.

The state's largest teachers union in recent years also has loomed large over nearly a dozen illegal work stoppages — including the recent Newton teachers strike — as it lobbied Beacon Hill to legalize such job actions. Now, the MTA is gearing up to kill the MCAS graduation requirement at the ballot box in November.

The flurry of activities represents an ideological shift that has reshaped a union — once known as a conciliatory behind-the-scenes dealmaker — into a more populist workers' rights movement that eagerly blocks state policies it opposes and pushes for big boosts in pay and benefits and also some new initiatives, such as better social-emotional supports for students and greater racial equity.

The more forceful approach has rejuvenated union activism among its members and attracted

**TEACHERS, Page A10**



Career criminal Joseph Barboza escaped in 1953 but he wasn't gone long. In 1988, Mother Teresa visited and made a big impression on inmates. In 1986, overcrowding forced men to bunk in a rec room.

## BEHIND THESE PRISON WALLS

Tales of rogues, lost lives from the soon-to-close Concord facility



By Mark Arsenault  
GLOBE STAFF

An extraordinary postcard arrived in November 1878, addressed to Samuel Emery Chamberlain, the warden of the new Concord state prison, which had opened earlier that year next to rail lines in the historic Massachusetts suburb, then a peaceful farm town.

It was signed William A. Judson, which was a lie, the warden knew, but also something of a joke.

Judson was an alias of a prolific bank robber named Charles Bullard, a.k.a. "Piano Charley," whose nimble fingers played music as well as they opened locks, according to contemporary news reports. Until that past September, Bullard had been serving a 20-year sentence in Concord, when he and four others escaped.

**PRISON, Page A14**



GLOBE STAFF/FILE PHOTOS

## Next critique of Harvard: classes on race

Professors decry effort by conservatives to link their courses to antisemitism

By Hilary Burns and Mike Damiano  
GLOBE STAFF

Khalil Gibran Muhammad, like many in the Harvard community, was watching the now infamous Dec. 5 congressional hearing about campus antisemitism when he heard something unexpected.

Representative Virginia Foxx, a Republican from North Carolina, called out a graduate-level course that Muhammad teaches as an example of the "ideology" that exacerbated "rabid antisemitism" on the university's campus after the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attack on Israel.

"I was pretty shocked by that," said Muhammad, a professor of history, race, and public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. His class — a requirement for public policy graduate students — explores how race and racism have shaped American public policy.

In a phrase: His teaching explores systemic racism — the notion that American institutions and public policies have long been suffused with rac-

**HARVARD, Page A12**



### Colden days

**Sunday:** Clouds and sun.  
High: 35-40. Low: 28-33.

**Monday:** Lots of sun.  
High: 36-41. Low: 22-27.  
Sunrise: 6:37 Sunset: 5:19

Complete report, **A22**.  
Deaths, **A15-20**.

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**The death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny continued to reverberate** across the world, including in Massachusetts. **A4, B2.**

**A special Your Home edition offers a look at renovations** that bring the calm and cozy. **Globe Magazine.**

**Artist Lorraine O'Grady graduated from Wellesley College nearly 70 years ago.** She returns to her alma mater with a career survey as expansive as her mind-set. **SundayArts, N1.**

**The Forbes Travel Guide ranks "outstanding" properties around the world,** and five Boston hotels made the list. **SundayTravel, N11.**

**Before you list your home for sale, there are some things you need to do** — beyond painting and repairs. **Address, H1.**

## A winter treat, melting under our feet

New England tradition of pond skating succumbing to warmer weather

By Erin Douglas  
GLOBE STAFF

FAIRLEE, Vt., — By 11 a.m. it was about 50 degrees and the thin metal blades fastened to the boots of hopeful ice skaters began to sink rather than glide. Puddles appeared.

It's February in Vermont. But it doesn't feel like it on Lake Morey.

"It's comical to have six inches [of ice] this time of year," said Mark Avery, 53, the third-generation co-owner of the Lake Morey Resort, about halfway between the Massachusetts border and Canada. There ought to be more than a foot of ice by now, he said.

Avery doubts he'll be able to bring out the Zamboni this year to smooth the skating surface; it requires around 14 inches of ice to support the weight of the machine.

"That's a thing of the past," he said.

Winters are warming twice as fast as summers in Northern states, scientists have found. Across New England, this winter is shaping up to be one of the

**ICE, Page A11**



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

As the winters get warmer and warmer, the window for pond skating in places like Vermont's Lake Morey gets smaller and smaller.