

Healey opts for outsider to take over State Police

Choice of former leader in N.J. is a first for Mass.

By Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

Governor Maura Healey has selected retired New Jersey State Police Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey D. Noble to serve as the next leader of the Massachusetts State Police, the first ever from outside the department's ranks, at a time that critics have called for reforms following multiple scandals.

The 51-year-old Noble, a Rhode Island native who worked as a summer police officer on Nantucket early in his career, according to the governor's office, will assume control of the department in October. In a statement Wednesday, Healey praised Noble for "delivering results on some of the most pressing issues facing law enforcement."

"He is a principled, respected leader who is widely praised for his integrity, compassion and ability to bring people together," Healey said.

Noble called the appointment a "true honor." "The hard-working men and women of the State Police show up every day to keep the people of Massachusetts safe, and they deserve a leader who is accessible, transparent, and committed to the highest standards of integrity and excellence," he said.

COLONEL, Page A8

De la Torre refuses to testify before Senate panel

By Dana Gerber and Robert Weisman
GLOBE STAFF

Embattled Steward Health Care chief Ralph de la Torre said Wednesday that he will not comply with a subpoena to testify at a Senate hearing next week on the collapse of his hospital system, setting up a showdown with lawmakers who are threatening to hold him in contempt.

De la Torre did not rule out appearing before Congress eventually, but said through an attorney it would be "wholly inappropriate" to testify before his company emerges from the complex bankruptcy proceedings that have followed for-profit Steward's spectacular downfall. And that process took a substantial step forward Wednesday, as a federal judge overseeing the bankruptcy case approved the sale of six Massachusetts hospitals to new operators for a total of \$343 million.

But key members on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions made clear they were not amenable to delaying the hearing scheduled for Sept. 12. Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts raised the specter of consequences

DE LA TORRE, Page A8



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

"Let's not pay too much attention to the polls," Vice President Kamala Harris said at her stop Wednesday in North Hampton, N.H.

Harris sets her sights on N.H.

Touts new tax plan as state shows signs of going her way

ELECTION 2024

By Emma Platoff
GLOBE STAFF

NORTH HAMPTON, N.H. — Vice President Kamala Harris used a campaign event at a brewery here on Wednesday to detail a new tax proposal to boost small businesses, offering a business-friendly appeal to the political center at a moment when Republican hopes of carrying New Hampshire in November have begun to dim.

"It's so good to be back in New Hampshire," Harris beamed in her first visit since she became



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2024

Donald Trump, shown in Nashua in January, has not campaigned in the state since winning the primary. Still, he said Wednesday that, "It's a very important place in terms of winning this election. . . . It could come down to New Hampshire. I'll be there."

the Democratic nominee for president. Speaking from behind glass to a spirited crowd in a sunny field, she described her new plan — one of few economic policies her campaign has announced so far — as she exhort-

ed supporters to maintain a sense of urgency in the next two months.

"New Hampshire, look, we've got 62 days to go," Harris said. "This race is gonna be tight until the very end. So please, let's not pay too much attention to the polls, because we are running as the underdog."

Those remarks aside, the most recent New Hampshire polls have looked good for Harris — a fact that has not been lost on Republicans here, and surely not on Harris's team, either. Whether the sometimes-swing-state's four electoral votes are still truly in play has become a matter of heightened dispute in recent days.

Donald Trump won his first political victory in 2016 in the

HARRIS, Page A7

'While we recognize there is more to do, we are confident in our ongoing progress.'

MAX BAKER, a BPS spokesperson

Mixed results for BPS entering last year of state plan

By James Vaznis
GLOBE STAFF

When Boston Public Schools reopens Thursday, parents will be able to track the arrival of buses with a new app, the buses are expected to be fully staffed with drivers, and more students with disabilities will be integrated into traditional classrooms — all changes performed under a state improve-

ment plan.

As BPS enters its third and final year of the plan, however, much unfinished business remains: the district still lacks a long-term facilities plan that clearly lays out projects and school consolidations; an overhaul of programs for students who cannot speak, read, or write in English remains enmeshed in controversy; and the integration of more

students with disabilities so far involves less than half of the grade levels.

Too many school buses also still arrived late as of last spring, falling short of a state punctuality goal of 95 percent or better each month. During the last school year, the highest monthly average BPS achieved was 90 percent in March. The on-time arrival rate for the first

day of classes Thursday will determine whether BPS gets closer to hitting its required benchmark, although buses historically run late on the first day.

Increasingly, many parents and advocates are expressing frustration at the pace of progress and wonder what the district will have to show for itself when the plan ex-

BPS, Page A6



That's a stretch

Thursday: Very pleasant again. High 71-76. Low 59-64.

Friday: About the same. High 70-75. Low 58-63.

High tide: 1:12 a.m., 1:32 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:14 Sunset: 7:11

Weather and Comics, D5-6. Obituaries, C11.

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The MBTA launched a new reduced fare program, making thousands of low-income adults eligible to have fares cut. **B1.**

In a time of rampant fraud, Massachusetts still lists Social Security numbers on death certificates. Is there a good reason for it? The Fine Print, **D1.**

Sandra Birchmore's estate and family questioned how state authorities investigated her death and why they didn't pursue criminal charges. **B1.**

Uber and Lyft drivers kicked off their campaign to win the right to unionize. **D1.**

The MFA returned a 2,500-year-old piece of jewelry to Turkey, the latest artifact with uncertain provenance that the museum has given up. **B6.**

Bill Belichick may not be coaching now, but his presence is everywhere in the NFL, writes Dan Shaughnessy. **C1.**

A victory declared disappears in the light of day

Seeming 40-vote lead becomes deficit for MacKay in bid to upset Decker

By Matt Stout and Spencer Buell
GLOBE STAFF

Barely an hour had passed after polls closed Tuesday night when Evan MacKay's campaign manager was, quite literally, popping the confetti, celebrating a presumed victory that MacKay would, an hour later, declare over long-time Representative Marjorie Decker in their heated Democratic primary.

In that moment, with many ballots left to count, MacKay supporters felt their candidate had pulled off the rare upset of an incumbent.

So rare, it seems, updated vote tallies suggest it didn't actually happen.

RECOUNT, Page A7

4 DEAD IN GEORGIA SCHOOL SHOOTING



CHRISTIAN MONTERROSA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

A 14-year-old boy opened fire Wednesday at Apalachee High School in Winder, authorities said, killing two fellow students and two teachers and injuring at least nine other people. The boy, who surrendered and was taken into custody, is being charged with murder, as an adult. **A2.**