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JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

As he recuperates, Ben Dyer is grateful for his girlfriend, Keela Smith. “She has sacrificed so much to be by my side,” he said.

He felt excruciating pain as the bullet tore into his right arm. Then he locked onto the face of the gunman.

‘My life is changed forever. But it’s not over. And I’m not gonna let this event ruin my life.’

BEN DYER

By Shannon Larson

GLOBE STAFF

Ben Dyer was tossing bean bags during an evening game of cornhole when a sharp popping sound burst out, cutting through the easy banter and familiar thuds of the wooden boards at Schemengees Bar & Grille. The players looked at each other in panic. *Pop. Pop. Pop.* Dyer and everyone around him dropped to the ground. They tried to stay low, out of sight. The shots didn’t stop.

Dyer watched as the wall in front of him shattered into pieces and he felt an excruciating surge of pain as a bullet tore

►Mourners celebrate life of manager of Schemengees Bar & Grille. B1.

through his right arm. The 47-year-old father of two young children knew he had been hit. He tried to apply pressure on his arm as the blood gushed out. The shooting stopped for a minute, and Dyer rolled onto his stomach. When he looked up, his eyes locked on the face of the gunman, later identified as Robert R. Card II, whose rampage through Lewiston, Maine, that late October night would leave 18 dead and at least a dozen more injured.

SHOT, Page A14

For Biden, a full court press to fill US bench

Getting judges confirmed seen as key bulwark against Trump’s campaign threats

By Jim Puzzanghera

GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — The Senate Judiciary Committee met Wednesday morning to perform the routine task of considering three nominees to be federal judges. But the short and uneventful hearing belied an undercurrent of urgency because confirming President Biden’s judicial picks could be crucially important for Democrats — and perhaps American democracy itself — if Donald Trump wins the 2024 presidential election.

Federal courts played a pivotal role in stopping, stalling, or forcing rollbacks of several of Trump’s most controversial first-term policies, including a ban on entry to the United States by people from seven predominantly Muslim nations. Federal judges — including some Trump appointees — also halted Trump’s legal efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Joe Biden.

“As much as Trump needed to be checked in the first term, everything that he’s indicated about a second term means that judicial checks will be just essential,” said Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the law school at the University of California, Berkeley.

JUDGES, Page A10

Backlash over school sports transfer ban

Athletes with disabilities say rule penalizes them for changing institutions

By Bob Hohler

GLOBE STAFF

The crackdown by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association on high schools securing waivers for students to play a fifth year of sports has left a trail of collateral damage, with hundreds of student-athletes barred from postseason tournaments.

But the families of two high school seniors say their boys have suffered a particular injustice at the hands of the MIAA.

Jack Gill, a three-sport athlete at Catholic Memorial, and Colmn Gilroy, who wants to play basketball at Archbishop Williams, have been barred from competing in any sport this year, even though

MIAA, Page C14

Breaking bread — and maybe the tensions of war

Amid Gaza strife, area restaurants offer sense of community, connection, and culture

By Devra First

GLOBE STAFF

Brookline Lunch is a Cambridge institution. The daytime, cash-only restaurant, beloved for its baklava pancakes and welcoming spirit, has been open since 1937, run since 1988 by Jamal and Manal Abu-Rubieh with their seven children, who grew up in the diner.

For the last month, alongside the usual images of za’atar egg bowls and daily specials, the restaurant’s Instagram feed has featured posts both personal and political. An olive tree, with a message celebrating the family’s Palestinian roots, pouring out its grief for Gaza. A post about threatening phone calls the Abu-Rubiehs received as a result. A fund-raiser for the Palestine

RESTAURANTS, Page A4



NATHAN KLIMA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Above, Abdulla Awad, owner of Yafa Bakery & Cafe, waited on a customer Saturday. “My house is your house,” he said of the cafe. At right, Mamaleh’s in Kendall Square offered signs for the taking.

Hostage deal close

Israel, the United States, and Hamas are close to an agreement to free dozens of women and children held hostage in Gaza, in exchange for a five-day pause in fighting. A2.



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Hip-hop was born 50 years ago in the Bronx, but Boston and its rappers established an identity and culture all their own. **N1.**

Leaf you to it

Sunday: Sun and clouds. High: 49-54. Low: 30-35.

Monday: Sunny, breezy. High: 39-44. Low: 28-33.

Complete report, **C28.** Deaths, **C20-26.**

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