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An emotional start, a flat finish

On Opening Day at Fenway, a contrast of the glory of 2004 with a team of few expectations



STAN GROSSFELD/GLOBE STAFF

CHAD FINN COMMENTARY

It's so easy to remember how they were, even as the 2004 Red Sox round third and head toward long ago.

Should the highlights and heroes from that glorious, redemptive, validating October of 20 years ago ever attempt to escape the memory bank, welcome refreshers are but a click or two away.

But we don't need them. Not yet. Maybe never.

Dave Roberts's steal and David Ortiz's back-to-back walkoffs and every detail both major and minute during the comeback from down 3-0 to the dastardly Yankees in the

► Fans glad to be back home. B1.

American League Championship Series — before the World Series coda against the Cardinals — remain permanently fresh.

It's as if the cathartic words *stabbed by Foulke and Red Sox fans have longed to hear* it were spoken

FINN, Page C5



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

Before the game, Brianna Wakefield, daughter of the late Tim and Stacy Wakefield, embraced Jason Varitek as other members of the 2004 team looked on. The game was rough for the Sox, a 7-1 loss. C1.

'We're really trying to uncouple poverty from neglect.'

MADLINE BLANCHETTE, senior supervising attorney with Community Legal Aid



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Holly White feared she was going to have her daughter, who wasn't attending school, removed from her custody.

Programs that help parents keep kids face funding woes

By Jason Laughlin
GLOBE STAFF

Thousands of Massachusetts parents face scrutiny from the state's child protection system and, with it, the all-consuming fear of losing custody of a child.

For many of these families, poverty — and not bad parenting — is at the root of neglect allegations. Those same financial circumstances prevent families from advocating for themselves or finding services that could help stabilize their lives. But for the past 2½ years, they've had some help in Massachusetts, through the efforts of lawyers and social workers who developed four small programs, the Family Preservation Project, meant to help parents with open Department of Children and Families cases keep custody of their children.

The programs, though, may need help themselves as they face a financial cliff this summer.

PROGRAMS, Page A8

In Read case, an unusual investigation

Rare for federal probe to be launched with state trial pending

By Shelley Murphy
GLOBE STAFF

A federal investigation into allegations of a police coverup involving the 2022 death of Boston police Officer John O'Keefe in Canton is highly unusual and will likely have an impact on the upcoming murder trial of

his girlfriend, Karen Read, according to several legal experts.

Read's case appears to mark the first time in recent memory the US attorney's office in Massachusetts convened a grand jury to investigate the state's handling of a murder prosecution while the trial is pending, according to several prominent criminal defense attorneys and former federal prosecutors.

"It's highly unusual, but that doesn't mean they don't have the power and right to do it if they think

there are federal crimes occurring," said Brian T. Kelly, a former federal prosecutor who served as chief of the public corruption unit at the US attorney's office in Boston.

The yearlong federal investigation into the state's prosecution of Read has not led to any federal charges.

Now, the burden is on the Norfolk district attorney's office to prove that Read, 44, of Mansfield, killed O'Keefe. Jury selection is scheduled

READ, Page A7

With summer around the corner, some good news for Cape vacationers

In shift from past years, more short-term rentals available

By Beth Treffeisen
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

For the last few years, finding a summer rental on Cape Cod has felt nearly impossible as prices soared, making it increasingly out of reach. But in a rare bit of good news on the housing front — at least for vacationers — renting at a reasonable rate might be a little more possible this year due to an uptick in availability.

The Cape has nearly 18,000 short-term rentals on the market this summer, a 12 percent increase from April last year and nearly 50 percent more than March 2021, according to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and the Cape Cod Commission.

Why? A big reason is the ripples from the wave of second-home buying that hit the Cape during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many second-home owners are now looking to recoup some of their costs as they spend less time on the Cape and return to more normal work and school routines, said Paul Niedzwiecki, executive director of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce.

That increased availability has stabilized the cost of rentals. Prices were unsustainable during 2021 and 2022, Niedzwiecki said, when people flocked to the Cape as a safe space during the pandemic, sending costs to rent a house for the week (or longer) soaring. They improved last year and will level off even more this summer.

"We had another really good year last year," said



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Emily Araujo of Del Mar Vacations cleaned a living room at a home in South Yarmouth.

Niedzwiecki. "It will be another solid year."

However, some traditional Cape lodgings, such as hotels and bed & breakfasts, are seeing demand fade, and don't command the high rates that short-term rentals do, according to an AirDNA report compiled by the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism.

For example, the report shows that in July of last

CAPE RENTALS, Page A8

Arizona restores ban on abortion

Court says law from 1864 was never repealed

By Jack Healy and Kellen Browning
NEW YORK TIMES

PHOENIX — Arizona's highest court on Tuesday upheld an 1864 law that bans nearly all abortions, a decision that could have far-reaching consequences for women's health care and election-year politics in a critical battleground state.

"Physicians are now on notice that all abortions, except those necessary to save a woman's life, are illegal," the court said in a 4-2 decision.

But the court, whose justices are all Republican appointees, also put its ruling on hold for the moment and sent the matter back to a lower court for additional arguments about the law's constitutionality. Abortion providers said they expect to continue performing abortions through May as their lawyers and Democratic lawmakers search for new legal arguments and additional tactics to delay the ruling.

The ruling immediately set off a political earthquake. Democrats condemned it as a "stain" on Arizona that would put women's lives at risk. Several Republicans, sensing political peril, also criticized the ruling and called for the Republican-controlled Legislature to repeal it.

The decision from the Arizona Supreme Court concerned a law that was on the books long before Arizona achieved statehood. It outlaws abortion from the moment of conception, except when necessary to save the life of the mother, and it makes no exceptions for rape or incest. Doctors prosecuted under the law could face fines and prison terms of two to five years.

Planned Parenthood Arizona
ABORTION, Page A6

The parents of a Michigan school shooter were sentenced to 10 years in prison for failing to take steps that could have prevented the killings. A2.

In a landmark ruling, Europe's top human rights court said Switzerland violated its citizens' rights by not doing enough to stop climate change. A3.

The family of Jeanica Julce, a Somerville woman killed in a boat crash in Boston Harbor in July 2021, filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the operator of the vessel. B1.

Baseball's in the air again, and Devra First has the rundown on new restaurants to try around Fenway Park. G1.



Going undercover

Wednesday: A few showers. High 52-57. Low 42-47.

Thursday: More of the same. High 51-56. Low 47-52.

High tide: 12:42 a.m., 1:16 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:11 Sunset: 7:21

Weather and Comics, G6-7.

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