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## Father gets 56 years to life for girl's death

Stays silent when offered a possible shorter sentence to say where Harmony's remains are

By Steven Porter  
GLOBE STAFF

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Adam Montgomery, a violent felon who beat his young daughter Harmony to death in 2019 then hid her body for months before disposing of her remains somewhere still unknown, was sentenced Thursday to at least 56 years and up to life in prison.

Judge Amy B. Messer imposed the sentence after hearing heart-wrenching victim impact state-

ments from Harmony's mother, aunt, stepmother, foster mother, and the adoptive fathers of Harmony's younger brother. Messer summarized Montgomery's history of violent crime and said the crimes in this case were egregious, so the judge's lengthy sentence aimed to protect others by keeping Montgomery behind bars.

"You robbed a 5-year-old girl, your own daughter, of the life she was to lead," Messer said.



CHARLES KRUPA/ASSOCIATED PRESS/POOL

Adam Montgomery was forced to attend his sentencing.

Montgomery, 34, is already serving decades in prison for a 2023 conviction on unrelated firearms offenses.

Prosecutors in this case asked Messer to add at least 56 years to that, citing "little hope" for his rehabilitation.

The court hearing included a dramatic moment Thursday when lead prosecutor Benjamin J. Agati extended an offer to Montgomery, saying the state would reduce its requested sentence by 10 years and suggest certain counts be served concurrently if Montgomery would tell authorities where he hid his daughter's remains.

Montgomery did not respond and instead remained sitting in silence. **MONTGOMERY, Page A7**

## Israel says it won't be deterred by US threat

Military reports it has enough bombs for invasion of Rafah

By Adam Rasgon, Julian E. Barnes, and Michael Levenson  
NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — Israeli leaders declared Thursday that they would not be deterred by President Biden's threat to withhold more arms shipments if the military launches a major assault on densely populated areas of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Defiant and at times disdainful of the Biden administration's stance, their comments made clear the widening rift between Israel and the United States over the war and the prospect of a full-scale invasion of Rafah, where about 1 million Palestinians are sheltering.

And they came as high-level negotiations aimed at reaching a cease-fire and hostage deal were derailed — at least for the moment — amid anger by some of the participants over a military incursion into Rafah by Israeli forces earlier this week.

After that incursion, Biden said the United States, Israel's closest ally, would not ship more weapons that could be fired into crowded sections of Rafah. On Thursday, an Israeli military spokesperson said his nation had enough munitions on hand to proceed with its plans.

Other Israeli leaders said the military would press ahead with its campaign to destroy Hamas, which led the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel.

"I turn to Israel's enemies, as well as to our best of friends, and say: The state of Israel cannot back down." **RAFAH, Page A4**

## Protests have Democrats wary about youth vote

By Lissandra Villa de Petrzelka  
GLOBE STAFF  
and Charlotte Ehrlich  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — Some Democrats are urging their party to redouble its efforts to reach college students, a critical voting bloc, in light of high-profile protests that have taken over campuses.

The energy, activism, and voting power of students have long been a foundation of the party. But as anger at the Biden administration's handling of the Israel-Hamas war has spilled onto campuses around the country, Democrats from campus leaders to progressive members of Congress have begun sounding the alarm.

"He needs to do so much more. . . . Without putting too fine a point on it, I fear for [President] Biden, and I fear for our democracy. The student uprising that we're seeing isn't really doing him any good." **DEMOCRATS, Page A4**



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Cecilia Riordan-Bourges (center) worked with other members of the Turing Alliance and an adviser on a presentation.

## MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Finding acceptance in a club, neurodivergent students educate peers and teachers

By Mandy McLaren  
GLOBE STAFF

As teachers streamed into Lexington High School's 300-seat auditorium one recent afternoon, 18-year-old Julia Agostino, stationed at the head of the class, tried not to let anxiety overtake her.

Gripping a stack of note cards in front of her chest — a shield of armor between her and the chattering crowd — Agostino performed an unconscious but steady march, her floral-embroidered combat boots mak-

ing a soft "tap, tap, tap" on the checkered linoleum floor.

On this day, she and her friends in the Turing Alliance, a club for students with learning differences, would be the ones providing the lesson.

It was a surreal moment for the autistic teen, who, until earlier this school year, hadn't felt comfortable in one-on-one interactions, let alone presenting before a large crowd. Discovering the Turing Alliance, a school club that launched last fall, helped

change that, she said.

The club, named after the groundbreaking computer scientist Alan Turing, who is suspected to have had autism, has become a haven for students like Agostino. It's also turned its efforts outward, educating students and staff in the school about what it means to have various learning differences, including autism, ADHD, and dyslexia. The group celebrates their neurodivergence, a wide range of cognitive traits outside the cul-

**NEURODIVERSE, Page A10**

## Free to celebrate good times, come on

### Unjustly imprisoned for decades, Jabir Pope is getting his act together

By Mark Shanahan  
GLOBE STAFF

Jabir Pope's black ball cap is pulled low over his eyes as he coos the final chorus of "Just Came Here to Chill" by the Isley Brothers: "There'll be no other VIP/The party's only you and me/I just came here to chill."

When the song's over, Pope smiles and turns to the rhythm section.

"It's gotta be a little faster, just a little," he says. "It's not a lullaby."

Pope's band, the OG's, are in a Roxbury studio running through a set of old-school R&B — the Temptations, the Whispers, Kool & the Gang — for their performance Friday at a Mother's Day celebration in Dorchester. The vibe in the room is relaxed, but it's clear the show is important to Pope.

"It's my first major gig since I've been home," says Pope, 71.

He hadn't been on the West Coast or traveling overseas. In December 2021, Pope was released from MCI-Norfolk, a federal prison in Massachusetts. **THE OG'S, Page A7**



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Jabir Pope (singing on the left) rehearsed with his band, the OG's. They'll perform their old-school R&B on Friday in Dorchester.



### D'oh — a drear

**Friday:** Overcast, cool again. High 51-56. Low 42-47.

**Saturday:** You know, the usual. High 54-59. Low 42-47.

High tide: 1:06 a.m., 1:50 p.m.  
Sunrise: 5:28 Sunset: 7:54

**Weather and Comics, G8-9. Obituaries, C10.**

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**Stormy Daniels was portrayed as an extortionist by Donald Trump's lawyers**, but their cross-examination made her sound a lot like him. **A2.**

**Wynn Resorts has put its \$400 million expansion of Encore Boston Harbor casino on hold** because of an impasse in talks with Everett's mayor. **B5.**

**Congestion pricing for drivers is still just an idea here**, but it's about to be implemented in New York City. **B1.**

**Ukrainian drones struck two oil depots and a refinery across Russia**, including one deep in Russian territory. **A3.**

**The MFA's remade Arts of Japan galleries will open to the public** on Saturday with a rededication ceremony featuring Japanese Buddhist monks. **G1.**