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Officers' bid to stop gang feud ends with chaos

Gunfire, chase, crash mark night in Springfield

By Dan Glaun
GLOBE STAFF

SPRINGFIELD — An undercover police car sprayed by bullets. A bystander grazed by gunfire. A car crash between the fleeing shooters and a pregnant driver. Two transportation workers run over on a highway. And a decorated Springfield police officer shot in the face and likely to lose an eye.

That was the aftermath of what police say was a gang-instigated spree of violence in this Western Massachusetts city Wednesday night that involved multiple gunshots in two incidents, an assault rifle and six other seized weapons, and a wild car chase. The extended crime scene was so chaotic that prosecutors said they are simply relieved no one died.

“Thank God this wasn’t worse,” Hampden Assistant District Attorney Max Bennett said in Springfield District Court Friday.

Three Springfield men — Jaime Griffin, 31, and 18-year-olds Alberto Torres and Isak Font — were held without bail Friday following a dangerousness hearing in Springfield District Court in connection with the shooting. Two other suspects, 26-year-old Dwight Clarke and 18-year-old Robert Willis III, were injured in the chase and have not yet been arraigned. Two other defendants taken into custody are juveniles whose identities were not released.

According to Bennett, the chaos stemmed from an escalating feud between two local

SPRINGFIELD, Page A10

A breakfast outing with a fatal ending

Bedford victims had arrived to help suspect

By John R. Ellement, Travis Andersen, and Nick Stoico

GLOBE STAFF

BEDFORD — When Jessica Cavallaro unexpectedly came home Thursday morning after having a panic attack at work, she told her boyfriend’s father she was going to get breakfast with her parents, who lived nearby.

David Marchesini told her that sounded like a good idea, that seeing her parents would “help her calm down,” according to a police report.

But when her parents arrived, the 24-year-old got into the backseat of their SUV and shot them both in the head, authorities said. She went back inside the home where she lived with her boyfriend and his parents, and told Marchesini she had “just shot her parents,” prompting him to call 911 shortly after 9 a.m.

When police arrived on the quiet suburban street, approaching the SUV with guns drawn, Cavallaro’s mother, Thelma J. Tatten, was dead. Her father, Mark A. Cavallaro, was gravely wounded and died a few hours later.

SLAYINGS, Page A7

‘I think our parents are like our biggest motivators because they came here so we could have a better life.’

ELEANOR NKERA



PHOTOS BY KAYLA BARTKOWSKI FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Oprah (left) and Eleanor Nkera practiced their speeches. Oprah is Medford High’s valedictorian; Eleanor is salutatorian.

Double dose of brilliance

Twins graduate as valedictorian and salutatorian, then it’s off to Harvard

By Tonya Alanez and Maeve Lawler

GLOBE STAFF AND GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

MEDFORD — Identical twin sisters Oprah and Eleanor Nkera have shared a lifetime of intertwined togetherness — in the womb, in their bedroom, and at school, where they pursued the same rigorous courses.

They now share the improbable achievement of graduating as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of Medford High School, with nearly identical grade point averages. Oprah’s was 4.46, and Eleanor’s was 4.45.

“Today, there is something unusual happening,” School Superintendent Marice Edouard-Vincent told seniors and their families gathered at Hormel Stadium for graduation on Wednesday evening. “We have a valedictorian and a salutatorian that happen to be sisters. That doesn’t happen often. ... So Oprah and Eleanor, I congratulate you on accomplishing something that doesn’t happen often in a lifetime.”

The 17-year-olds will head off together to Harvard University in the fall to pursue science degrees. And yet they are also looking forward to their own individual promising futures.

Separate dorm rooms are high on the wish list for the sisters accustomed to identifying as “we” rather than “me.”

TWINS, Page A10



The twins’ parents, Nkera Deo Rukubanuka and Marie Muderhwa, cheered as Eleanor began her speech Wednesday at Hormel Stadium.

US tightens mileage rules to battle climate change

Part of White House effort to drive auto market toward electric vehicles

By Coral Davenport

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration on Friday tightened vehicle fuel mileage standards, part of its strategy to transform the American auto market into one that is dominated by electric vehicles that do not emit the pollution that is heating the planet.

The new mileage standards announced by the Transportation Department are among several regulations the administration is using to prod carmakers to produce more EVs. In April, the Environmental Protection Agency issued strict new limits on tailpipe pollution that are designed to ensure that the majority of new passenger cars and light

trucks sold in the United States are all-electric or hybrids by 2032, up from 7.6 percent last year.

In addition to the regulations, the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, championed by Biden, provides tax credits for buyers of new and used EVs, along with incentives for charging stations and grants and loans for manufacturers.

The push for more EVs comes as the world’s leading climate experts say that retiring the internal combustion engine is critical to staving off

the most deadly effects of global warming.

But Biden’s efforts have become a meaty target for former president Donald Trump and other Republicans who frame them as the federal government taking away consumer choice. The oil and gas industry is spending millions on advertising that falsely calls Biden’s policies a ban on conventional cars.

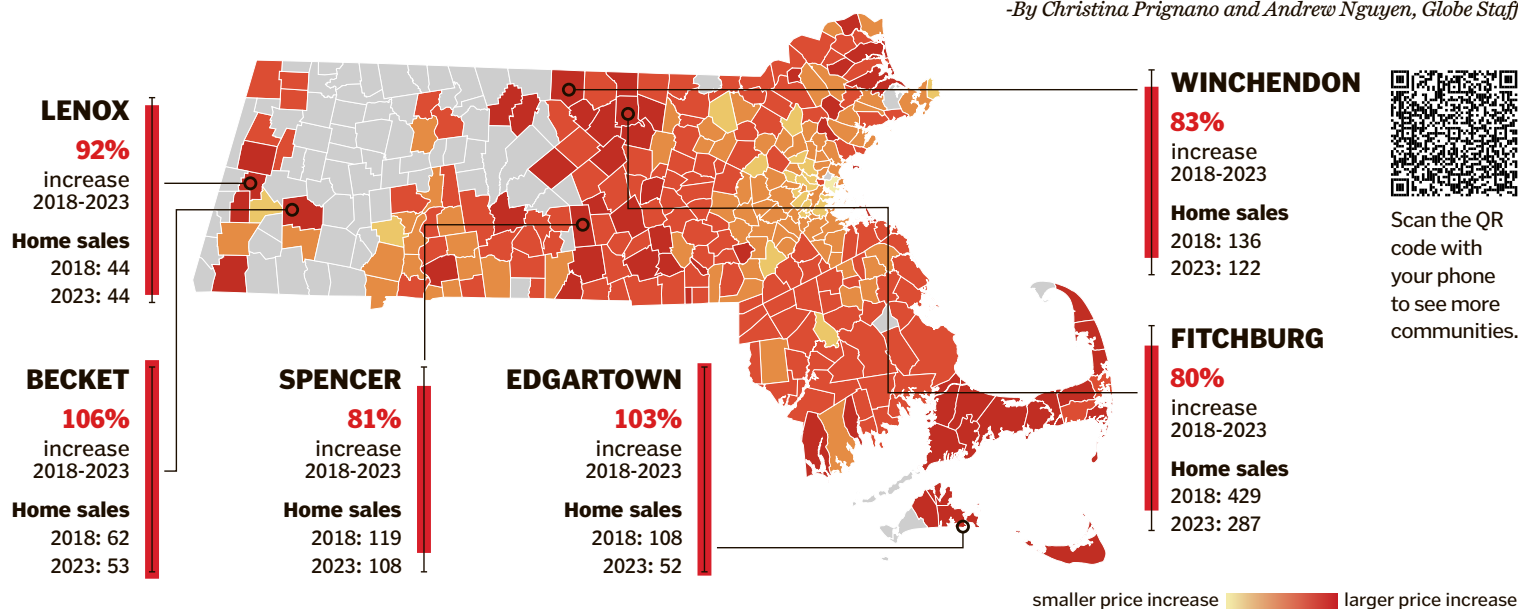
Trump has made attacks on EVs a mainstay of his campaign to retake

MILEAGE, Page A6

MEDIAN SINGLE-FAMILY HOME SALE PRICES HAVE RISEN SINCE 2018

The rippling effect of the housing crisis in Massachusetts is underscored by where some of the steepest increases in home prices were over the past five years: in the outer burbs, well beyond the population center around Greater Boston. Worcester County, from Fitchburg to Westminster and Lunenburg in the northern tier, to Spencer and Charlton in the south, had some of the largest price jumps and pretty much all of Cape Cod and the Islands reported similar stratospheric increases.

-By Christina Prignano and Andrew Nguyen, Globe Staff



The Rev. William P. Leahy, the longest-serving president in the history of Boston College, will step down in the summer of 2026. **B1.**

Employers added 272,000 jobs last month, well above what economists had expected as hiring had gradually slowed. **D1.**

When the Celtics' 29-point lead over Dallas dwindled to 8, "that's when the game started" according to Jaylen Brown, writes Chad Finn. **C1.**



Outside pitch

Saturday: Mostly sunny. High: 73-78. Low: 61-66.

Sunday: Some clouds. High: 70 -75. Low: 57-62.

Sunrise: 5:07 Sunset: 8:19 Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**

Obituaries, **C10.**

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