

# The Boston Globe

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## Claims about stadium scanners questioned

Waltham company faces criticism, suits for saying devices are better at finding weapons

By Hiawatha Bray  
GLOBE STAFF

As thousands of spectators enter Fenway Park, TD Garden, or Gillette Stadium, they're being scanned for weapons, but many of them won't even notice it.

That's because they're walking past weapon detectors made by Waltham-based Evolv Technology, which — unlike the standard metal detectors found in airports and

courthouses — let people walk right through, without emptying their pockets or even breaking stride. Evolv says its artificial intelligence technology can instantly detect guns, bombs, or large knives, but is also smart enough to ignore smaller metal objects such as keys and smartphones.

But a chorus of critics say Evolv has made false and misleading claims about the performance of its

system, while selling it at a far higher price than rival products. Now the company is facing preliminary inquiries from federal regulators, a spate of critical news stories, and lawsuits filed by shareholders and a high school student in Utica, N.Y., who was stabbed by a fellow student who allegedly smuggled a knife past the school's Evolv detector.

Founded in 2013, Evolv uses electromagnetic sensors and AI software that's been trained on the "signatures" of many kinds of weapons, such as guns and knives. Evolv says its system can tell the difference be-

tween a pistol, a smartphone, and a titanium hip replacement. The Evolv scanner sounds an alert if it detects a suspicious object, and a video display shows the location on the person's body where the object is carried.

Evolv's founder and chief innovation officer Mike Ellenbogen admits the system isn't perfect. But he insists that the technology, which is used by hundreds of schools and dozens of sports and entertainment arenas worldwide, can detect most types of deadly weapons while elimi-

SCANNERS, Page A12

## Lawmakers repeal 1864 abortion ban in Ariz.

Two Republicans break with hard-line conservatives

By Jack Healy and Elizabeth Dias  
NEW YORK TIMES

PHOENIX — Arizona lawmakers voted Wednesday to repeal an abortion ban that first became law when Abraham Lincoln was president and a half-century before women won the right to vote.

A bill to repeal the law passed 16-14 in the Republican-controlled state Senate with the support of every Democratic senator and two Republicans who broke with antiabortion conservatives in their own party. It now goes to Governor Katie Hobbs, a Democrat, who is expected to sign it.

The vote was the culmination of a fevered effort to repeal the law that has made abortion a central focus of Arizona's politics.

The issue has galvanized Democratic voters and energized a campaign to put an abortion-rights ballot measure before Arizona voters in November. On the right, it created a rift between antiabortion activists who want to keep the law in place and Republican politicians who worry about the political backlash that could be prompted by support of a near-total abortion ban with no exceptions for rape or incest.

The 1864 law had gathered dust on the books for decades. But it exploded into an election-year flashpoint three weeks ago when a 4-2 decision by the state Supreme Court, whose justices are all Re-

ABORTION, Page A8

## As protests go on, students wonder about graduations

By Daniel Kool and Maliya Ellis  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

Marilyn Meyers invited family and friends to come to Cambridge to celebrate a major milestone: graduating from MIT on May 31.

Now, more than a week after student protesters set up a tent encampment on the university's Kresge Lawn, Meyers has made sure her folks booked refundable hotel rooms. With tensions rising at MIT and other New England colleges, Meyers, who is Jewish and supports Israel, said she worries her graduation may be canceled or, at the very least, marred by hostilities on campus.

That would be a major loss, Meyers said, especially for students in her class, many of whose high school graduations four years ago were canceled or modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and whose early college years were disrupted by social distancing rules.

"We came in on Zoom, we lost freshman year, and it kind of feels like we're losing senior year also," Meyers said. "Everyone talks about college as like the good years, and . . . I maybe got one year of that untainted."

GRADUATIONS, Page A9



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

With Derrick White leading the way again, the Celtics made sure the outcome was never in doubt Wednesday night as they destroyed Miami in Game 5, 118-84, to wrap up their first round series, 4-1. Next up — Cleveland or Orlando. **C1.**

## Taking aim at the shield a name change can provide

After learning about indicted ex-counselor, accuser urges N.H. to tighten rules

By Steven Porter  
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD, N.H. — Bonnie Sitomer knows what happens when the legal system makes it easy for someone to hide their past.

The counselor she had trusted for three years to help with her struggle with depression and alcohol abuse had manipulated her into a sexual relationship, she said. She could feel her mental health crumbling, leaving her in an even more precarious state of mind.

"I was just filled with shame and guilt and fear and depression," Sitomer said, "so I knew I had to move in another direction."

Sitomer told authorities in 2017 that her substance abuse counselor, Peter D. Stone, prompted her to perform sex acts on him, and she did so on five occasions in his North Conway office in 2016, according to court records.



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

"It was him. I couldn't even believe it," Bonnie Sitomer said of searching online for Peter Stone and finding Peter Dushame.

A few years later, curious to know what had become of him, she typed Stone's name into a people-finder website and was surprised to see another name, Peter S. Dushame, listed. As she reviewed records readily available online, her suspicions grew. Then she found an old photo of Dushame.

"It was him," she said. "I couldn't even believe it."

The counselor she carefully selected as her confidant in 2013 had legally changed his name years before they met, while serving time after five drunk driving convictions and three fatal crashes, including one that landed him in prison for more than a decade. He had been dubbed by the Globe as "the most notorious drunk driver in New England history."

Such a dangerous person should not be al-

IDENTITIES, Page A6

## Newton considers opening schools to out-of-towners

With enrollment down, seats empty in lower grades

By James Vaznis  
GLOBE STAFF

In an effort to address declining enrollment and raise additional revenue, the Newton School Committee is debating whether to open the city's schools to students from Boston and other districts through the state's school choice program.

The first year of the program could bring in up to 70 students and roughly \$276,000 or more in additional per-student state aid, filling empty seats in existing classrooms,

according to a Newton Public Schools analysis.

The program would operate separately from Metco, the voluntary racial integration program that allows Boston students to attend Newton and other suburban districts, potentially providing unsuccessful applicants for that program another way into Newton.

But the move could make financial conditions in districts losing students worse because the state aid would come from their coffers. Newton expects most students would come from Boston, Watertown, and Waltham because of their proximity.

Newton has long opted out

NEWTON, Page A12



MATIAS BASUALDO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**A DAY TO BE HEARD** — May Day, also known as International Workers' Day, was marked around the world by activists calling for more rights and airing their economic grievances. In Chile, protesters held flares as they marched in Santiago. **Local observances, D1.**



### Fretty mercury

**Thursday:** Warmer, anyway. High 61-66. Low 45-50.

**Friday:** Cooling down. High 54-59. Low 46-51.

High tide: 6:15 a.m., 7:01 p.m. Sunrise: 5:37 Sunset: 7:45

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

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**Secretary of State Antony Blinken pressed Hamas to accept a cease-fire proposal** while he urged Israel to put off a ground invasion. **A4.**

**The MBTA unveiled an improved Blue Line**, free of slow zones. **B1.**

**Boomerangs, a local chain of thrift stores, will close its doors** in June, citing financial hardship. **D1.**

**The United Methodist Church removed its ban** on gay clergy. **A2.**

