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‘It screams red flag.’

DJUNA PERKINS,
a former state prosecutor

Focus on samples in death of woman

Doctor sees no sign of tests in Stoughton case

By Laura Crimaldi
GLOBE STAFF

After Sandra Birchmore, the woman who was allegedly groomed as a teenager by three former Stoughton police officers, was found dead in her Canton apartment in 2021, investigators took her clothing and biological material from her body for a sexual assault kit, and preserved fetal tissue because she was pregnant.

But more than three years later, a forensic pathologist hired by her family questioned whether the samples were ever tested, telling a lawyer for her family on June 18 that it appears they haven’t been examined.

The claims by Dr. Michael Baden add to the controversies surrounding the death of Birchmore, 23, a former participant in a Stoughton police youth program who idolized law enforcement and told friends before she died that she was expecting a baby by a married detective on the force. The FBI and the attorney general’s office have launched their own investigations into Birchmore’s case.

The Norfolk District Attorney’s office, Massachusetts State Police, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner were the first investigators assigned to the case and so far all declined to say whether the samples singled out by Baden have been tested.

Given the connections between Birchmore and the three former Stoughton po-

TESTING, Page A7

Identity theft has overwhelmed the IRS, resulting in a backlog of 500,000 unresolved cases. **A2.**

Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich went on trial in Russia over alleged espionage and could face 20 years in prison. **A4.**

Zemcar, a Cambridge start-up, is suing Uber, alleging the ride-sharing giant stole its driver- and rider-monitoring technology. **D1.**

Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy is preparing to close after nearly 125 years, citing financial problems. **B1.**



Storming off

Thursday: Clearing.
High 81-86. Low 59-64.

Friday: Sunny and dry.
High 73-78. Low 58-63.

Sunrise: 5:09 Sunset: 8:25

Weather and Comics, D5-6.
Obituaries, C9.

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Court seems set to ease Idaho abortion ban

Posting indicates exception would be allowed when woman is in danger

By Abbie VanSickle
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court seems poised to temporarily allow emergency abortions in Idaho when a woman’s health is at risk, according to a copy of what appeared to be

the opinion that showed up briefly on the court’s website Wednesday.

The unsigned opinion dismissed the case on procedural grounds, stating that the court, for now, would not address the merits of the dispute, according

to the 22-page document, which was published by Bloomberg News. Such a decision would reinstate a ruling by a lower federal court that had paused Idaho’s near-total ban on abortion and said hospitals in the state could perform emergency abortions if necessary to protect the health of the mother.

The case centers on whether a federal law requiring emer-

►Court gives Biden administration a win on social media. **A2.**

gency care for any patient overrides Idaho’s strict abortion ban, which outlaws the procedure with few exceptions unless the pregnant person’s life is in danger.

It was unclear whether the document was final, and a

spokesperson for the court said only that a decision in the joined cases, *Moyle v. United States* and *Idaho v. United States*, would eventually be released.

“The court’s publications unit inadvertently and briefly uploaded a document to the court’s website,” said the spokesperson, Patricia McCabe. “The court’s opinion in *Moyle v. United States* is final.”

ABORTION, Page A6

UNDER THE RADAR, A PATH TO PROSPERITY

A federal program that few know about gives low-income a boost



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Jenny Marcelin, shown dancing with her daughter Laila Buissereth outside their house in Hyde Park, was able to save about \$8,600 toward the down payment, thanks to the Family Self Sufficiency program.

By Esmy Jimenez
GLOBE STAFF

Homeownership is a dream for many Americans, and Jenny Marcelin was no exception. Marcelin wanted a place to call her own. A home where her 11- and 14-year-old could have friends over or make noise and not worry about the neighbors. Still the cold reality would plague her: “Where am I gonna get that much money?”

Marcelin lived in affordable housing in Boston. She worked a full-time job and saved. But as she tells it, “The down deposit was always an issue. . . . I would think, ‘I’ll never make it.’”

In the fall of 2020, she got a flier in the mail advertising something she thought was too good to be true — an obscure federal program that would allow her to

leverage her rent to save toward a nest egg.

The 34-year-old program, called the Family Self Sufficiency program or FSS, allows participants who live in public housing to save some of the money they would typically pay toward rent to reach certain financial goals, such as buying a new car, paying off college debt, or starting a business. For Marcelin, that meant saving around \$8,600 that helped with a down payment on her first home, in Hyde Park.

In the affordable housing world, some experts ironically refer to FSS as one of the best-kept secrets: It’s a resource that could help more people buy a home or pay off debt, and yet so few people know it exists. Indeed, Massachusetts housing authorities served about 4,500 FSS participants last year, but 87,000 more people could benefit from the program.

HOMEOWNERS, Page A7

FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Families are able to save what they would have paid as their rent increased in a separate escrow account.

Participants typically stay in the program for five years and can save between **\$6,000-\$8,000.**

Massachusetts housing authorities served about **4,500 FSS participants** last year, but **87,000 more people** could benefit from the program.

Teacher fired for helping student access abortion sues N.H. officials

Says ‘misleading narrative’ implied adult was a minor

By Steven Porter
GLOBE STAFF

A teacher who was fired by a private school in New Hampshire for secretly helping a pregnant student access abortion services has sued the Department of Education and the state’s top education officials, alleging they spun a “misleading narrative” implying the student was a minor even though they knew she was at least 18 at the time.

In a lawsuit filed Monday in Merrimack County Superior Court, the teacher accused Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut of creating a false perception of her conduct, and she accused the Department of Education of exceeding its authority and violating her due

process rights by revoking her teaching credential without a fair and impartial process.

The teacher did not respond to interview requests. The Globe is not naming her at this time to protect the student’s privacy.

The lawsuit refers to commentary published on the New Hampshire Department of Education’s website in April, in which Edelblut publicized an allegation that an unspecified educator had lied in order to miss a day of work and escort a student to undergo an abortion “without parental knowledge.”

New Hampshire has a parental notification law that requires written notice at least 48 hours before an abortion can be performed on an unemancipated minor younger than 18.

The lawsuit said that Edelblut’s commentary seemed to suggest the teacher had helped the student circumvent the

TEACHER, Page A10

STILL WAITING



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Karen Read left the Dedham courthouse on Wednesday after jurors were dismissed following the first full day of deliberations. They will resume on Thursday. **More on the case, B1.**

A blow to move to expand Hanscom

State rejects environmental impact review

By Sabrina Shankman
GLOBE STAFF

After months of uproar and thousands of public comments voicing concern over the climate impacts of a proposed expansion of Hanscom Airport, state environmental officials rejected, for now, the push by the Massachusetts Port Authority and its developers to move forward on the project.

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper last week rejected the draft environmental impact report for the expansion, one of the most critical reviews the state uses to approve or reject large development projects. She has asked the developers to address several issues, including contradictory information about the climate impacts of the proposed expansion.

The proposal to add 17 new hangars and renovate another has drawn ire because critics say it would allow for a vast expansion of private jet flights in the state — among the most polluting forms of transportation — at a time when Massachusetts is trying to slash carbon emissions.

The trade-off, they say, appears to be greater convenience for the billionaires who benefit from the easy access to private jets in exchange for the health of the planet. Massport, meanwhile, has argued that the expansion is needed to meet increased demand for hangar space and to comply with federal requirements to provide transportation services to the public.

Neil Rasmussen, president of the Concord-based historic and environmental group Save Our Heritage, said the expansion would

AIRPORT, Page A10