

The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

Brandeis athletes want coach to resign

Women's basketball players tell school they'll leave team if she stays

By Michael Silverman
GLOBE STAFF

The Brandeis University women's basketball team is in a state of open revolt.

All 11 remaining players sent a letter to head coach Carol Simon this week to inform her they will leave the team if she does not resign.

The threat of a mass walkout marks the culmination of a saga several years in the making. It's a tale that includes student allegations of racist and toxic behavior from Simon combined with an erosion of students' trust in the Brandeis administration to right the program in a transparent and timely manner.

"The team is in shambles," said junior Lulu Ohm. "People are stressed out of their minds because there's a pressure on us to make things right because, unfortunately, the university has not really been hearing us until we started showing them how much we need to be heard."

Simon did not return phone calls and emails requesting comment.

In response to a lengthy set of questions from the Globe concerning Simon's employment status and numerous student complaints about Simon and the school's handling of the complaints, the university issued a statement that did not mention Simon by

BRANDEIS, Page A10

A word from the present you for the future them



New service offers 'after-life messaging'; but what to say?

By Beth Teitell
GLOBE STAFF

Not that I'm looking forward to being dead, but maybe a deceased status would at least allow me to put an end to my lifelong anxiety — about doing, saying, wearing the right thing.

But OMG. Maybe not? For real, there's a new service — an "after-life messaging platform" — that lets you prerecord messages, videos, or audio that are sent out to loved ones after you've "passed." (The Cambridge-based "Eternal Applications" runs the platform, but more on this in a moment.)

In other words, dead though you may be, your obligations are not over.

The messages can be timed to go out for special occasions or dates for the next 50 years! As if it's not hard enough saying the right thing when you KNOW what's happening with the recipient of your well wishes, imagine trying to do it 10 years — or half a century — in advance.

Congratulations on the occasion of your wedding. Or maybe it's your divorce! Or you've decided to stay single — good or you! Or perhaps you're dead, too, in which case my estate deserves a partial refund. I'll call customer service now and start fighting.

But do people even want to hear from me once I'm no longer around to shame them into responding? I can't say

AFTERLIFE, Page A10

\$932m spent sheltering families

Under pressure to act, Mass. signed pricey deals without competitive bids

By Stephanie Ebbert
and Deirdre Fernandes
GLOBE STAFF

In the scramble to accommodate thousands of migrant families, the Healey administration has approved scores of hastily arranged contracts with little transparency, sometimes handing out multimillion-dollar deals without competitive bids, a

Globe review of contracts found.

The documents, provided in response to Globe public records requests, offer a window into the breathtaking scope of the state's rapid and often piecemeal approach to accommodating thousands of homeless families — about half of them migrants who made their way to Massachusetts from the southern US

border.

The state is now housing, feeding, and caring for 7,499 families — around 23,000 people.

Massachusetts will spend about \$932 million — three times what was budgeted — on emergency shelters for homeless families this fiscal year. Lawmakers negotiating next year's budget — when the cost is again expected to surpass \$900 million — are still trying to find the money to pay off this year's tab.

The Globe reviewed nearly 80

state contracts, as well as recent invoices from individual hotels and providers. State agencies have not yet provided the Globe some contracts whose costs are reflected in those totals. Still missing are agreements with the National Guard, which provides staffing in 21 of the 75 hotels being used as shelters, and for the large overflow shelters in places like the Melnea A. Cass Recreational Complex in Roxbury and a former Cambridge courthouse,

SHELTERS, Page A6

SPACE FOR CELEBRATION



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

SPACE, the Somali Parents Advocacy Center for Education, was formed by Asha Abdullahi to help Somali parents of children with disabilities obtain the education, health resources, and mental health support they might otherwise lack because of language barriers and other issues. Above, Fatumo Aden with her 10-month-old daughter, Amina, and a friend, Fatuma Osmanatt, (right) attended an Eid celebration put on by the group. **B1.**

Playoff hopes blossom at TD Garden — particularly for Celtics

CHAD FINN
COMMENTARY

Every April, the calendar delivers a smorgasbord of much-anticipated sporting events for Boston fans. This year is no different. The suspense comes in finding out just how fulfilling it all will be.

A brief rundown of our sports feast:

The Bruins, an enigmatic second seed in the Atlantic Division, will commence their Stanley Cup playoff journey Saturday with Game 1 against the always talented, perennially underachieving Maple Leafs.

The following afternoon, the top-seeded Celtics begin their quest for the elusive 18th cham-

pionship against an opponent that will not be determined until the NBA play-in round is completed Friday night.

The Boston Marathon finish line is just behind us. The NFL Draft, with the Patriots possessing the No. 3 pick and a chance to select a potential franchise quarterback, is less than a week away. And the Red Sox, a few weeks beyond Opening Day, have . . . uh, not been mathematically eliminated just yet, so there's that.

It seems fitting to borrow a phrase from retiring Bruins play-by-play voice Jack Edwards: "Who's got it better than us?"

Of course, the fun and anticipation that the NBA and NHL playoffs bring is always accompanied by tension, particularly

FINN, Page C6



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF; GETTY IMAGES; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Tenants turn to the power of unions

R.I. groups push for bargaining with landlords

By Alexa Gagosz
GLOBE STAFF

CRANSTON, R.I. — When Audrey Gordon found the two-bedroom apartment at 1890 Broad St., she thought it was in a safe neighborhood, and the \$1,250 per month rent was one she could afford as a licensed practical nurse. The landlord, Jeffrey T. Butler, told her the building was under renovation after being condemned by the city under the former owners. She didn't mind, she told the Globe. After living with her children at the temporary homeless shelter in Pawtucket, the apartment offered a fresh start.

Two years later, 1890 Broad St. is still in disrepair. Gordon, 34, said she has had to deal with a rodent infestation and significant flooding from the condemned apartment above her first-floor unit.

"It literally looked like it was raining in here," she recalled. Maintenance workers painted over the damaged walls and ceilings instead of venting the apartment and fixing the problem, she said.

"I just want to feel safe in our home," said Gordon. "What do you have to do for that?"

In early April, Gordon and

TENANTS, Page A6

A group of parents is taking the fight over admission to Boston's exam schools to the US Supreme Court, arguing that efforts to diversify enrollment are resulting in discrimination against Asian American and white applicants. **B1.**

The final jurors for Donald Trump's criminal trial were selected, with lawyers preparing to offer opening statements Monday. **A2.**

The House took a critical step toward approving a long-stalled package of aid to Ukraine, Israel, and other US allies, as Democrats supplied the crucial votes to push the legislation past Republican opposition so that it could be considered. **A4.**



Puddle through

Saturday: Rainy morning. High: 56-61. Low: 39-44.

Sunday: Sunny, breezy. High: 56-61. Low: 40-45.

Sunrise: 5:55 Sunset: 7:32

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

VOL. 305, NO. 111

*
Suggested retail price
\$3.50

