

The Boston Globe

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SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024

Reports detail grim misconduct allegations

State seeks to sanction ex-Stoughton officers

By Laura Crimaldi
GLOBE STAFF

The report from the 2022 Stoughton police internal investigation was heavily redacted, but its conclusion was clear: Three officers with ties to a former participant in a Stoughton police youth program who killed herself had inappropriate relationships with her.

Now, more than three years after Sandra Birchmore, 23, was found dead in her apartment, graphic details of the officers' reported sexual misconduct have become public amid developments in a wrongful death lawsuit and proceedings by the state's law enforcement oversight agency.

Among the new allegations recently disclosed and detailed for the first time are text messages showing one officer initiated sexual contact with Birchmore when she was 15 and he was 27; that two other officers had sex with her in patrol cars when she was an adult; and that the department once used its authority to seek a psychiatric evaluation for her.

At a hearing last November, a lawyer for Birchmore's estate said the three former Stoughton officers "passed her around like she was a toy," according to a tape of the proceedings obtained by the Globe.

"This is a young woman who never had a chance," said the lawyer, Steven J. Marullo. He declined to comment for this story.

The Peace Officers and Standards and Training Commission, or POST, is **STOUGHTON, Page A10**



ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAVALNY BURIED — The coffin of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was carried out of the Church of the Icon of the Mother of God Soothe My Sorrows, in Moscow on Friday. **A4.**

Americans with COVID or other respiratory infections need not isolate for five days before returning to work or school, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said, a striking sign of changing attitudes toward the coronavirus. **A2.**

CVS and Walgreens will begin dispensing the abortion pill mifepristone this month, starting in a handful of states and gradually expanding to all other states where abortion is legal. **D1.**



Blah, blah, blah

Saturday: Cloudy with drizzle.
High: 44-49. Low: 42-47.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy.
High: 48-53. Low: 42-47.

High tide: 3:17 a.m. 3:51 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:17 Sunset: 5:36

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

Obituaries, **C10.**

VOL. 305, NO. 62

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Suggested retail price
\$3.50



PHOTOS BY JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

At the Bay State Model Railroad Museum, the commuter rail is on time, the track work gets done, and a feeling of history permeates the scene.

Pursuing perfection on a smaller scale

Railroad museum 'a bigger thing' than the models

By Lindsay Crudele
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

It's a perfect evening in Roslindale Village. Street lamps glitter along the walk to several cozy restaurants. The commuter rail coasts into the station, right on time. In the shadow of a row of Dorchester triple-deckers, next to the movie theater, motorboats skim the surface of nearby Lake Winnepesaukee. A dog nearly the size of a man approaches the diner, where hamburgers are on special for 45 cents.

Perfect, yes. Geographically accurate? Not even close. But that's because imagination,

not accuracy, is what rules at the Bay State Model Railroad Museum in Roslindale, which will open for a rare public viewing this weekend.

In this miniature "Roslindale Village" — the jewel of the handcrafted landscape hidden upstairs in the model train club's South Street headquarters — little versions of trains, tracks, and the trappings of life make up the sprawling, immersive model, at 1/48th, 1/160th, and 1/187th the scale of real train tracks.

The trains are digitally controlled. When a

TRAINS, Page A10

Legal aid sought for tenants facing eviction

Citing inequity, state and city officials continue push for help in housing court

By Niki Griswold
GLOBE STAFF

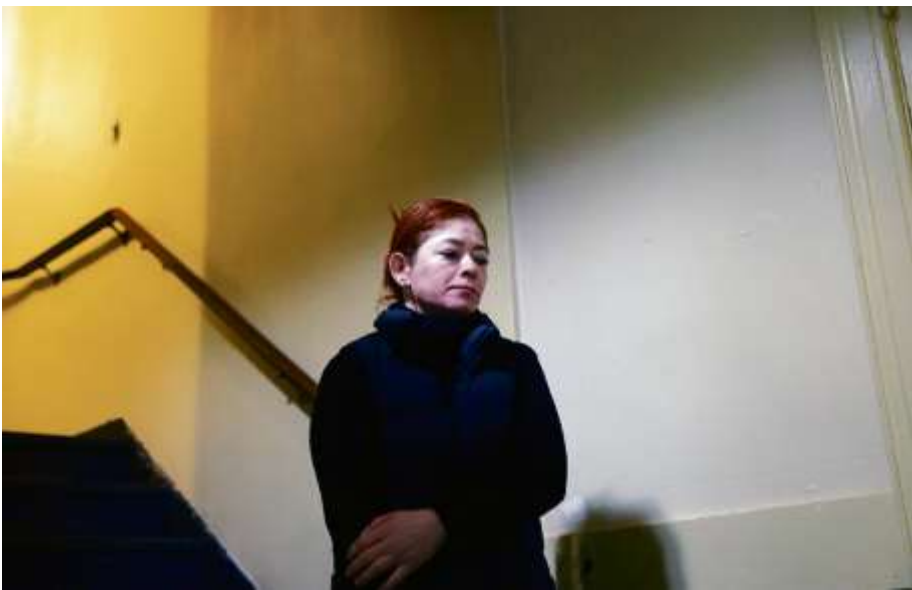
When 45-year-old Mary Barrera stood before a judge in the Eastern Division of the Massachusetts Housing Court last year, she was terrified. And she was alone.

Originally from Colombia and living in the United States without legal status, Barrera was facing eviction from her three-bedroom apartment in East Boston, where

she and two of her adult children have lived for nearly eight years. They normally split the \$2,500 monthly rent, but after briefly losing their jobs during the pandemic, fell behind for one month.

Barrera said they were able to resume paying the following month, but when they couldn't pay what they owed in full, their landlord moved to evict them.

EVICCTIONS, Page A7



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

When Mary Barrera faced eviction last year, she had no lawyer in court with her. She has since connected with City Life Vida Urbana.

US to airdrop supplies to Gaza

'We need to do more,' Biden declares after dozens die in chaos near aid convoy

By Julian E. Barnes
and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Biden said Friday that the United States would begin airdropping humanitarian relief supplies into the Gaza Strip, a decision prompted by the dozens of Palestinians who were killed as Israeli forces opened fire near an aid convoy in Gaza City a day earlier.

"Innocent people got caught in a terrible war, unable to feed their families, and you saw the response when they tried to get aid in," Biden said before meeting with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni of Italy. "And we need to do more, and the United States will do more."

Biden said that the United States would work with Jordan, which has been at the forefront of aidrop efforts to Gaza, as well as other allies to deliver aid by air and that supplies could, eventually, also be delivered by sea.

"Aid flowing to Gaza is nowhere nearly enough now," Biden said. "Innocent lives are on the line, and children's lives are on the line."

Biden and Meloni discussed efforts to prevent the war in Gaza from becoming a larger conflict, as well as support for Ukraine and steps to address human trafficking and global migration.

AIRDROP, Page A5

Cities, states send migrants on their way

They say covering travel helps people bypass shelter system

By Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — As a number of cities and states nationwide struggle to shoulder the cost of tens of thousands of migrants, a few are trying a different approach: paying for the migrants to continue traveling somewhere else.

The governments deploying such services say their approach stands in stark contrast with the busing campaign by Republican border state governors that has delivered many of the migrants to the doorsteps of Democratic-controlled cities. Instead, officials describe efforts that are organized and tailored to the plans of the individuals traveling.

Over the past several months, Illinois, New York, and Denver have all used government funds to pay for some migrants that arrive there to continue traveling if they have another destination in mind. The idea is to help people reach family members or friends who can take them in and bypass already-strained shelter systems to help them find footing in the United States as they pursue any legal right they may have to stay.

Governor Maura Healey's office said Massachusetts has, on a case-by-case basis, assisted and paid for some migrants to get to family or friends else-

MIGRANTS, Page A7