

# Boston Sunday Globe

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For six decades, James Taylor's music has allowed audiences to comfort and connect

## Song of himself



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

James Taylor (above at his home in the Berkshires) this week will mark the 50th anniversary of his first Tanglewood appearance.

BY MARK SHANAHAN | GLOBE STAFF

LENOX — James Taylor's songs make his audience feel better. He knows that.

"I'm sort of a palliative presence," he said.

But it's not intentional. Taylor didn't write "Fire and Rain" to calm or console anyone. He was a 21-year-old heroin addict detoxing at the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge. Writing about a friend's suicide — "Just yesterday mornin', they let me know you were gone" — was a form of therapy.

"What I'm doing for myself, I make available to other people," said Taylor, silhouetted by a large window overlooking the October Mountain State Forest.

It's an approach that has worked remarkably well for

Taylor. In the six decades since he started doing open mics on Martha's Vineyard, he's sold 100 million albums, building an enduring fan base whose emotional attachment to his music remains intense. Taylor and his band will be at Tanglewood July 3 and 4 to mark the 50th anniversary of the singer's first performance in the Koussevitzky Music Shed.

This uncommon ability to comfort and connect has always been something of a superpower for Taylor. It's the reason he's so often summoned now in moments of celebration and sadness. Last fall, in the days after 18 people were killed in a mass shooting in Maine, Taylor, who sang "America the

TAYLOR, Page A15

### HIGH & DRY

## Restaurants and landlords learn how to win liquor license game

*Fourth in a series of stories about Boston's broken liquor license system.*

By Shirley Leung  
GLOBE COLUMNIST

At the Speedway in Brighton — an old horse stable turned nightlife hot spot — there's something for everyone.

Like Koji Club, a 16-seat sake bar that Esquire has called one of the best places in America to grab a drink, or Super Bien, a grocery bar — imagine a hip bodega that serves empanadas and South American wines. There's also Birds of Paradise from James Beard-nominated bar owner Ran Duan. Speedway comes to life in the evenings and the weekends, especially when the weather is warm and its outdoor courtyard swells with young people.

And for that, you can thank the Massachusetts Legislature.

Four years ago, when the Speedway was



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

Elaine Phomsouvandara (left) and Nina Tran worked the bar at Shojo, which shares a liquor license in Chinatown.

under construction, lawmakers created a special liquor license just for this project. It enabled the developer to get around the strict cap on how many establishments can serve booze in Boston by allowing the Speedway to

LIQUOR LICENSES, Page A14

## Biden donors chilled by debate

Big spenders hesitate at key fund-raising moment

By Theodore Schleifer,  
Kenneth P. Vogel, and  
Shane Goldmacher  
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Democratic Party's perennially nervous donor class descended into deep unease Friday as some of the wealthiest people in America commiserated over President Biden's weak debate performance and puzzled over what, if anything, they could do to change the course of the race.

There were discussions with political advisers about arcane rules under which Biden might be removed from the ticket against his will and replaced at or before the Democratic National Convention, according to a person familiar with the effort.

In Silicon Valley, some megadonors, including Ron Conway and Laurene Powell Jobs, were calling, texting, and emailing one another about a situation they described as a possible

DONORS, Page A11

## Recognition for the forgotten

Troubled teens find stories of the dead



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

A numbered grave was seen just outside the fence of the Training School Thomas C. Slater Youth Development Center.

By Amanda Milkovits  
GLOBE STAFF

CRANSTON, R.I. — Sometimes, as they played basketball outside at the Rhode Island Training School, the teens would glance through the security fence to the woods and brush that shrouded rows of small stones.

"What are they?" A 16-year-old boy incarcerated at the Training School remembered asking one of the staff members.

Graves, he was told. The plain, numbered concrete headstones marked the burial sites of 1,049 people who died a century ago.

Some had been residents of the state asylum. Some were teenagers who lived at the former Sockanosset Boys Training School. Some had spent their last years in the state poorhouse. Some were still-born infants who were never given names, factory workers who fell on hard

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### Ready to rumble

**Sunday:** Storms likely.  
High: 86-91. Low: 64-69.

**Monday:** Cloudy, showers.  
High: 72-77. Low: 62-67.

High tide: 6:43 a.m. 7:11 p.m.

Sunrise: 5:11 Sunset: 8:25

Complete report, **A22.**

Obituaries, **A21.**

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**Dengue fever has been diagnosed more than 50 times in Massachusetts this year,** on pace to break local records. **B1.**

**TV has been good this year,** writes critic Matthew Gilbert, as he offers his top picks so far. **SundayArts, N1.**

**Sometimes it rains on Cape Cod, even when you are on vacation.** We have some ideas for what to do when that happens. **SundayTravel, N9.**

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