

The Boston Globe

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

IN THE SHADOW OF GRIEF

For her labor of love and life, a hellish end, or a beginning



Kathy Lebel, owner of Schemengees Bar & Grille in Lewiston, Maine, longs to go back to before the night when a gunman changed everything.

STORY BY IVY SCOTT | PHOTOS BY ERIN CLARK | GLOBE STAFF

LEWISTON, Maine — There is no blood left on the floor of Schemengees Bar & Grille, but traces of death still linger.

On cloudless mornings, the sun reaches through a bullet hole in the back wall to cast a puddle of light on the ground, no bigger than a pool ball. In the dining room, there is a chip in the wood where a bullet grazed the countertop before flying toward the table where owner Kathy Lebel and her husband, Dave, always ate dinner. But

“

How do you go from a broken heart, something you love, your passion that was destroyed — how do you bring that back?”

KATHY LEBEL

what stops Kathy in her tracks is the light fixture hanging just above pool table number six, blasted by gunshots fired at eye level.

Faces. He was aiming for people’s faces, she says to herself each time, and tries to imagine the crosshairs of a rifle pointed directly into her eyes. She tries to conjure a level of fear that is unimaginable, lets it rise in her chest until just before the point of panic, and then snaps out of it.

SCHEMENGEES, Page A8

Decades after Stuart case, an apology

Wu says city was ‘unfair, racist, wrong’ for targeting Black men



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Joseph Bennett, a nephew of Willie Bennett, was comforted by his cousin Stacey Bennett during the public apology on Wednesday. Willie Bennett was identified as a suspect in 1989.

By Sean Cotter and Travis Andersen
GLOBE STAFF

More than 34 years after Charles Stuart’s murderous hoax blaming the shooting death of his pregnant wife on a Black man triggered a massive manhunt in Boston’s Black community, Mayor Michelle Wu on Wednesday issued a formal apology from the city to two men wrongly linked to the slaying.

In an unusual gesture of contrition, Wu apologized to Alan Swanson, Willie Bennett, their families, and “Boston’s entire Black community” at City Hall.

“I am so sorry for what you endured,” said Wu as she stood at a podium alongside Swanson, members of the Bennett family, and Police Commissioner Michael Cox. “I am so sorry for the pain that you have carried for so many years. What was done to you was unjust, unfair, racist, and wrong, and this apology is long overdue.”

Neither Swanson nor Bennett was formally

APOLOGY, Page A7

Harvard says Gay will make more corrections

By Mike Damiano and Hilary Burns
GLOBE STAFF

Harvard University said Wednesday night that a newly disclosed review found additional instances of inadequate citation in president Claudine Gay’s writings, hours after a congressional committee announced an inquiry into how Harvard handled allegations of plagiarism against Gay.

In a three-page summary released to the Globe, Harvard said that a recent review discovered additional “examples of duplicative language without appropriate attribution” in Gay’s 1997 PhD dissertation, which she completed in Harvard’s government department.

The summary said, “President Gay will update her dissertation correcting these instances of inadequate citation.”

Those instances add to other cases of “inadequate citation” in two of Gay’s academic arti-

HARVARD, Page A6

Despite the Colorado ruling, Donald Trump’s name will appear on the Massachusetts primary ballot because state law allows ineligible candidates. **B1.**

BPS legally admitted students to the city’s three exam schools two years ago under a temporary admissions policy, an appeals court ruled. **B1.**

Solstice mates

Thursday: Sunny but windy. High 35-40. Low 21-26.

Friday: More of the same. High 33-38. Low 24-29.

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

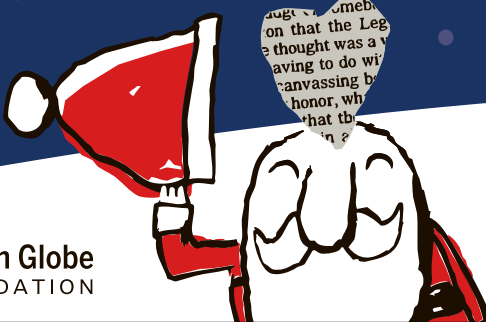
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