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State tracked pregnant woman, suit alleges

Vt. mother says child welfare agents took her baby moments after birth

By Kevin Cullen
GLOBE STAFF

MONTPELIER, Vt. — Four years ago, a 32-year-old woman from central Vermont became pregnant with her first child.

She had a long, hard labor at

Copley Hospital, in Morrisville, before delivering a baby girl on Feb. 12, 2022. But as soon as the baby was born, the state's Department of Children and Families took custody of the child.

The woman said she wasn't al-

lowed to even hold her new baby before the infant was whisked away.

What the woman didn't know at the time, a new lawsuit claims, is that she had been secretly identified by DCF as a potentially unfit parent and put under surveillance, with a caseworker gathering information over the course of her pregnancy — some of it illegally, the suit charges — that was used to build a case for

taking her baby.

The woman eventually was able to regain custody, but only after a seven-month battle in which she convinced a judge she is fit.

The lawsuit, filed Jan. 15 by the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont on behalf of the woman, alleges that DCF not only tracked that woman but also keeps a registry of

LAWSUIT, Page A10

Tariffs risk disruption to global economy

Trump hints at 'some pain;' businesses criticize move

By Alan Rappeport
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Trump's move over the weekend to slap sweeping tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China is threatening to fracture the global trading system and a world economic order that once revolved around a US economy that prized open investment and free markets.

The speed and scope of the import duties that Trump unveiled in executive orders Saturday prompted widespread criticism from many lawmakers, economists, and business groups, who assailed the actions as economic malpractice. They warned that the tariffs, which were levied in response to Trump's concerns about fentanyl smuggling and illegal immigration, could inflame inflation, cripple American industries, and make China an even more powerful global trade hub.

Trump on Sunday defended the tariffs while acknowledging that there could be some negative consequences.

TARIFFS, Page A6

► The impact on energy costs could be widespread in New England. A6.
► Local shoppers brace for spikes in the prices of some groceries. B1.

Some towns still cash in on cannabis fees

State dropped requirement but stores still face demands

By Diti Kohli
GLOBE STAFF

Almost three years ago, state lawmakers decided to end "community impact fees" on cannabis businesses. The charge of up to 3 percent of sales collected by cities and towns was intended to address the side effects some feared would follow new dispensaries and grow facilities, such as traffic congestion, crime, and rampant substance abuse.

When those impacts did not arise, policy makers ruled that the fees were unnecessary and instead required towns to provide a breakdown of how the money would be spent before businesses have to pay up.

But the reforms have changed little: Dozens of communities across Massachusetts are still demanding impact fees from marijuana companies amounting to thousands of dollars each year, while some decline to return the funds they've already collected — at least \$50 million in all since 2018. Officials have spent the money on new police cruisers, six-figure nonprofit donations, or simply, to grow their general budget.

Now a flurry of litigation is underway, as canna-

CANNABIS, Page A10



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Preparing for church, Anthony James, 61, pulled on shoes his late mother saved for him when he was struggling with addiction.

Older Black men caught at deadly intersection

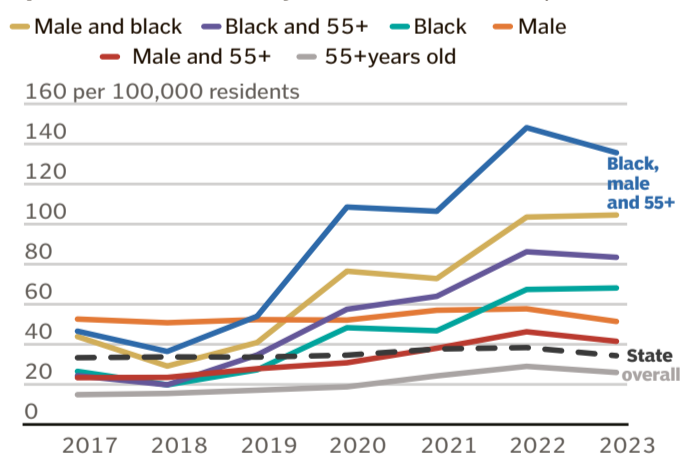
A shift in factors has them bearing brunt of opioid epidemic, analysis shows

By Chris Serres
and Yoohyun Jung
GLOBE STAFF

Anthony James is the first to admit that for most of his adult life, he lived under the illusion that he was invincible.

He was just 14 and attending South Boston High School when he was attacked by a mob of white students during the city's busing crisis. A few years later, he took his first euphoric hit of cocaine, which sent him down a decades-long spiral of addiction that frequently put him in harm's way. Seared into his memory is the metallic *click-click* of a drug dealer's gun pointed at his head.

Opioid overdose mortality rate in Massachusetts, 2017-2023



People aged 12 and younger were excluded from the analysis.

SOURCE: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

YOOHYUN JUNG/GLOBE STAFF

Yet his faith in his own resilience was shattered just before Christmas, when he smoked a vial of cocaine that, unbeknownst to him, was laced with amphetamines and fentanyl — a powerful synthetic opioid that is deadly even in tiny amounts. Immediately, he began to hear hallucinatory voices and felt an anxiety so severe that he felt like killing himself.

"It felt like I was already dead," James, 61, said.

James is among the fortunate ones.

The deadly opioid scourge that has long been perceived as an epidemic that started large-

OPIOIDS, Page A7



Wayward sun

Monday: Breezy, cloudy, High 40-45, low 35-40.

Tuesday: More sun. High 41-46, low 16-21.

Sunrise: 6:55. Sunset: 5:01.

Weather, **D4-5**.
Obituaries, **C9**.

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Beyoncé won her first album of the year Grammy Award, for her album "Cowboy Carter." **B6.**

Remains of 55 of 67 victims have been recovered from the crash site of last week's air disaster over Washington, D.C. **A2.**

President Trump has ended temporary protected status for more than 300,000 Venezuelans, leaving them vulnerable to deportation. **A5.**

Making a basket — and history

For Lesley player with one arm, love of the game, not the accolades, counts most

By Spencer Buell
GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — Baileigh Sinaman-Daniel never set out to be a trailblazer.

She just wanted to play.

Born with one arm, the Virginia native said she was drawn to basketball as a kid, but for most of her childhood couldn't envision a place for herself in the sport.

"I never really saw anybody on TV playing games that looked like me," she said. "I didn't know if a coach or a team would really take me seriously."

Now, after years of hard work landed her a spot on the roster at Cambridge's Lesley University, she appears to have made NCAA history. In December, she became what her Division 3 teammates believe is the first one-armed player to score in a women's college basketball game. Then, she did it again.

The journey for Sinaman-Daniel began with a setback. In high school, she had worked her way from the junior varsity to varsity team but was cut from the team her senior year. She was devastated but motivated to show her coach she had more potential than he

SINAMAN-DANIEL, Page B5



BRETT PHELPS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Lesley University guards, from left, Madalynn Biagi, Baileigh Sinaman-Daniel, and Mariana Richwine held hands during the playing Tuesday of the national anthem.