

The Boston Globe

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

‘We just got into the pews and he shot through the stained glass windows.’

WESTON HALSNE, a fifth-grade student at the Annunciation School

Children terrorized at church



RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI/STAR TRIBUNE VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

A parent hugged her son at the Annunciation Catholic Church. Its school was celebrating its first Mass of the new school year.

Two killed, many others wounded by shooter at Mass in Minneapolis

By Jeff Ernst, Michael Levenson, and Thomas Fuller
NEW YORK TIMES

MINNEAPOLIS — Two Catholic school students, 8 and 10 years old, were killed in the pews of a Minneapolis church Wednesday by a heavily armed assailant who fired through the windows.

Seventeen others — 14 of them children — were injured in the shooting, which came as the school at the Annunciation Catholic Church celebrated its first Mass of the new school year.

The attacker died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, the Minneapolis police chief, Brian O'Hara, said at a news conference, adding that

authorities were still searching for a motive.

O'Hara identified the attacker as Robin Westman, 23, who was believed to be a former student at the school, according to a law enforcement official with knowledge of the investigation. The suspect's mother is a retired employee of the school, the official said.

O'Hara said investigators were reviewing a notebook that the shooter appeared to have posted on YouTube. That content was taken down at the request of law enforcement officials, the chief said. The suspect's social media accounts contain videos of diary entries that describe the killing of children and a drawing of the Annunciation Church's sanctuary. The videos also show weapons, bullets, and what

appear to be explosive devices scrawled with violent language.

FBI Director Kash Patel said on social media that the shooting was being investigated as an act of domestic terrorism and a hate crime targeting Catholics.

It was the second year in a row that the return-to-school period was marred by the scourge of deadly shootings. Last September, two students and two teachers were killed in Winder, Ga., when a 14-year-old freshman opened fire with an AR-15 during second period.

Wednesday's shooting in Minneapolis took place at about 8:30 a.m. central time during

SHOOTING, Page A10

COVID boosters OK'd with new curbs

Children under 5, adults under 65 will face limits

By Matthew Herper and Lizzy Lawrence
STAT

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved updated COVID boosters, but removed emergency use authorizations for the vaccines, in a set of moves that could make the shots more difficult to obtain for children under 5, in particular.

The moves were announced by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the secretary of Health and Human Services, in a post on the social media site X, while the FDA did not put out a statement. Kennedy portrayed the actions as fulfilling a campaign promise to reverse COVID-era policies while still allowing people to access vaccines.

“I promised 4 things,” Kennedy wrote. “1. to end covid vaccine mandates; 2. to keep vaccines available to people who want them, especially the vulnerable; 3. to demand placebo-controlled trials from companies; 4. to end the emergency.

“In a series of FDA actions today we accomplished all four goals,” he continued.

COVID vaccine authorizations for all three available vaccines, Kennedy said, would now

COVID SHOTS, Page A10

CDC DIRECTOR RESISTS RFK JR.'S ATTEMPT TO OUST HER. A6.

These days, GOP's dinner plans always include Trump

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — For decades, Republican activists around the country could count on observing the same party tradition every year: rubber chicken breasts and a cash bar at an annual fund-raising dinner named in honor of Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, or both.

But like so many customs in today's GOP, the erstwhile annual county party dinner is undergoing a MAGA makeover.

In many parts of the country, what were once Lincoln, Reagan, or Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinners are starting to become Trump Day Dinners.

Dozens of county Republican Party organizations in a variety of states, from Wyoming to Florida, have renamed their big annual dinners in honor of the 45th and 47th president. Some began doing so in 2020 and 2021, but the trend has particularly taken off in the last year amid Trump's comeback.

In Desha County, Ark., local Republicans had their inaugural Trump Dinner this year. Jamie Sims, chairperson of the Desha County GOP, said they were inspired in part by Donald Trump being the first Republican presidential candidate to carry the county since Richard Nixon in 1972.

TRUMP, Page A6

Tompkins going out on leave but no sign he'll quit

Indicted sheriff has serious medical issue, his lawyer says; will seek to retain his pay



Steven W. Tompkins is paid \$191,000 a year.

By Sean Cotter and Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

Weeks after he was indicted on federal extortion charges, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins will go on leave from his position as his criminal case moves ahead, but he gave no indication he intends to resign.

Tompkins has agreed to “step

away” at the request of Governor Maura Healey and Attorney General Andrea Campbell, according to their offices. But the Hyde Park Democrat has told them he intends to seek paid medical leave from his \$191,000-a-year role, citing an existing condition. If that leave resolves before his case does, he would then be unpaid.

The announcement Wednesday came nearly three weeks after federal authorities unsealed an indictment charging Tompkins with two counts of extortion under color of official right. The US attorney's office alleges he used his position as sheriff to extort a cannabis company twice — once for early access to purchase \$50,000 in the company's stock, and later to get his money back after the stock value tanked.

Tompkins, 68, has main-

tained his innocence and said through a lawyer he intends to fight the case to trial.

His lawyer Martin G. Weinberg said Tompkins took medical leave for a “serious,” but unspecified, issue beginning the previous day at the recommendation of his doctor.

“Sheriff Tompkins will use this time to meet the challenge resulting from a serious medical issue while he and I work to safeguard his freedom by pre-

TOMPKINS, Page A7

Galvin confident Boston election will pass test

Changes made after city's failures last November

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

Months after putting Boston's election department into receivership, Secretary of State William F. Galvin said his staff has sought to “insulate” the agency from Mayor Michelle Wu's office amid her reelection run — one in a slew of changes officials say they've pursued in a bid to restructure how the city runs its vote.

City and state officials alike said Boston voters should feel confident in the department's ability to handle the Sept. 9 preliminary election, which offers

the first test of Election Day administration since a spate of high-profile failures last fall prompted Galvin to intervene.

“It's been a much more intensive exercise than I envisioned,” Galvin said of his office's involvement. “There are internal things that suggest there could be bigger problems.”

Perhaps the most noticeable shift for voters will be the city's move to distribute tablets, known as “poll pads,” to each precinct, giving poll workers the real-time ability to look up a person's voter registration information and connect directly with the city's election department. The tablets have been used since 2016 for early voting; the expansion across the city for Election Day cost \$725,000, city officials

ELECTION, Page A7



DAVID L. RYAN/ GLOBE STAFF

Boston's election department has been working to make sure the preliminary vote on Sept. 9 goes smoothly.



Best in row

Thursday: Beautiful.
High 75-80. Low 61-66.

Friday: Showers late.
High 69-74. Low 56-61.

High tide: 3:11 a.m., 3:27 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:05 Sunset: 7:25

Weather and Comics, D5-6.
Obituaries, C9.

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\$4.00



Israeli and US officials met to discuss post-war Gaza, even as Israel's military called the evacuation of Gaza City “inevitable” ahead of a new offensive. **A4.**

Federal prosecutors were unable to persuade a grand jury to approve a felony indictment against a man who threw a sandwich at a federal agent on the streets of Washington. **A2.**

The State Police recruit whose death in a boxing training exercise led to multiple investigations died accidentally of blunt-force injuries to the head, according to new findings. **B1.**

Tenants will see two major changes in Massachusetts law that could save them thousands of dollars. **D1.**