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## Rethinking what makes a state trooper

The police force has long used a paramilitary structure for its training. A year after another death, it is considering change.

By Sean Cotter  
GLOBE STAFF

The recruit needed time to rest, doctor's orders. But just two days removed from a visit to the emergency room, they were back at the State Police training academy, pushing through strenuous exercises. Before long, the injury flared back up, sending the recruit back to the hospital.

"I am unable to currently perform any physical activity

because of the damage dealt to my body with the lack of rest time," the recruit, who was not identified in documents, said later, explaining why they would not be returning to that academy session in 2023.

For some, it was the excessive training. Others cited inconsistent, rushed, and sparse meals. Several noted the pain from miles and miles of running. But in memos ex-

clusively obtained by the Globe detailing why they chose to depart the Massachusetts State Police Academy in New Braintree, hundreds of recruits over the last five years seemed to agree on a common factor: a grueling regimen that taxed them in ways they never expected.

"The first few days were more mentally challenging than I could have ever thought or prepare for," one

recruit said.

A Globe investigation found that Massachusetts State Police employ a military-style boot camp system that often pushes recruits physically and emotionally to their limits, resulting in at least 100 recruits being injured in just the four most recent recruiting classes, including at least two dozen who ended up in the hospital or urgent care.

Parts of the curriculum, made public in response to a records request and subsequent lawsuit by the Globe, **POLICE ACADEMY, Page A6**

**30%**

of all recruits at the Massachusetts State Police Academy dropped out in the most recent training classes, according to a Globe analysis of police data.



## O' HOLY-MOLY NIGHT!

The line can start a mile back, as folks take in this slightly 'insane,' wholly wonderful tradition of an Ipswich family



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Children leaned out of the windows of a car last week to get a better look at the home of Ipswich resident Rich Galicki, whose holiday light display spans his sprawling farm.

By Billy Baker  
GLOBE STAFF

IPSWICH — It started small. That's what they all say, when asked how it got beyond big.

Rich Galicki used to decorate his family home with his mother, and a few times they even won a silver bowl that used to be given out for the best holiday display in Ipswich.

But in 1990, when Galicki built a house next door on his family's sprawling farm on Linebrook Road, things got "a little insane," as his daughter, Vanessa Cormier, says.

On a recent day at 4 p.m., Galicki was running around outside his home plugging in dozens of cables, flipping switches, lighting 8-foot-tall propane candles, and dashing through the snow to start the nightly show that has become an iconic December tradition for this pocket of the North Shore.

It's not quite accurate to call what's happening at the Galicki house a holiday display. It's more of a Disney-level immersive experience, five acres of Santas and snowmen and animatronic figures and lights, lights, and more lights.

And it is all experienced on the Galickis' long **DISPLAY, Page A10**

By Yogev Toby  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement used an automatic license plate recognition system to locate the suspected Brown University shooter's rental car Thursday and tie him to the killing of an MIT professor in Brookline.

►Dizzying events confound local Portuguese residents. **B1.**

But in recent months, Flock Safety, its vendor, has been mired in controversy related to privacy concerns and federal agencies' access to the system.

Some municipalities in Massachusetts have been re-examining their relationship with Flock, amending or outright terminating their contracts over complaints that its data have been used by immigration authorities to round up people for deportation. In Providence, however, the company showed off its core selling point — the ability to identify and track vehicles tied to criminal activity across states.

Flock took on a major role in the investigation after authorities last week received a tip that linked the shooter to a rented Nissan Sentra with a Florida plate. They then entered the vehicle's information, including its make, color, and license plate **LICENSE PLATES, Page B2**

## Bus insurer refused to renew BPS policy

City had been on notice to boost driver safety before fatal crash

By John Hilliard  
GLOBE STAFF

After years of warning Boston Public Schools to improve bus driver training and safety measures, commercial transportation insurer National Interstate this year refused to renew the district's coverage because of a rising number of crashes.

Less than two months later, a BPS school bus struck and killed a Hyde Park kindergart-

ner.

The death of 5-year-old Lens Joseph on April 28, hit by a driver who had been in several previous crashes and lacked proper state credentials, followed the insurer's March 4 notice citing an "increased frequency of liability losses."

Those losses totaled more than \$3.5 million for 770 claims from June 2023 to Jan- **INSURANCE, Page A10**

## PATS PLAYOFF BOUND



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF


Kyle Williams hauled in a fourth-quarter touchdown pass as the Patriots, with a late comeback and a key forced fumble, beat the Baltimore Ravens. 28-24. **C1.**

Despite having a mom as a mayor who has fashioned a series of pro-family policies from City Hall, Boston continues to experience a decline in children. **D1.**

Israel's Cabinet approved 19 more Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, further threatening the possibility of a Palestinian state. **A3.**

A top Justice Department official defended its partial release of files related to sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, adding that any mentions of President Trump would not be excised. **A2.**

The Red Sox obtained first baseman Willson Contreras from the Cardinals. **C1.**



Pearly; white


**Monday:** Lots of sun, cool. High 31-36, low 27-32.

**Tuesday:** Snowy, 1-3 inches. Weather and comics, **D4-5.**

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