



TODAY IN **g** LIVING

PITTSFIELD-BORN ASTRONAUT RETRACES HER PATH TO THE STARS

VOLUME 278
NUMBER 6

Suggested retail price
\$1.00
\$1.50 outside of
Metro Boston



SPORTS

Sox bow to Rays, fall to 3d as staff falters

The Boston Globe

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2010

HOT DIGGITY SLOG

TODAY: Mostly sunny, more humid.
High 90-95. Low 72-77.
TOMORROW: Some sun, hot,
but not as humid.
High 81-86. Low 65-70.
HIGH TIDE: 7 a.m. 7:20 p.m.
SUNRISE: 5:14 a.m. SUNSET: 8:24 p.m.
FULL REPORT: PAGE B11

In the news

Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray was hospitalized for observation after feeling unwell from marching in five parades in sweltering heat during the holiday weekend. **B1.**

Israel eased its blockade of Gaza to allow most consumer goods, a move welcomed by the White House but criticized as insufficient by Gazan business leaders and activists. **A3.**



A burst of holiday violence has unnerved even longtime residents of Hendry Street in Dorchester, which had undergone a revival following years of blight and crime. **B1.**

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called on Russian troops to vacate two territories in neighboring Georgia and live up to the 2008 truce agreement. **A4.**

The Archdiocese of Boston has launched a test of what is intended to be a fairer system for parishes to contribute income to central ministries. **B1.**

Scientists differ on the damage to ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico despite intensive research in the months since the oil leak began. **A2.**

Republican candidates are running strong in New Hampshire, where Governor John H. Lynch appears to be the only Democrat with a good chance to win in November. **B1.**

The Service Employees International Union plans an organizing drive at Boston's academic medical centers after achieving success at some smaller hospitals. **B6.**

Cardiac problems forced a halt to a federally funded study on the effects of testosterone gel on frail elderly men. **A7.**

Have a news tip? E-mail newstip@globe.com or call 617-929-TIPS (8477). Other contact information, **B3.**

POINT OF VIEW: KEVIN CULLEN

"He didn't say what he was really thinking, which was: It's all well and good that so many people turned out to honor Boston's first African-American patrolman and sergeant, but it's a bit ironic, given the paltry numbers of minorities in supervisory positions." **Metro, B1.**

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R.I. troopers embrace firm immigration role



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Trooper Al Ruggiero used his laptop to check on a vehicle he pulled over near Providence.

In contrast to Mass., they report all who are present illegally

By Maria Sacchetti
GLOBE STAFF

SCITUATE, R.I. — Rhode Island State Trooper Nuno Vasconcelos was patrolling Interstate 95 a few months ago when he came upon a two-car accident in heavy traffic. The trooper pulled up, stepped out of his cruiser, and asked one of the drivers for his license.

The man said he did not have a license, and under questioning, confessed that he was here illegally from

Guatemala.

If the accident had happened 15 miles north in Massachusetts, the man would probably have been arrested for driving without a license, which carries a fine of up to \$1,000 and 10 days in jail, then released pending an appearance in district court.

But in Rhode Island, illegal immigrants face a far greater penalty: deportation.

From Woonsocket to Westerly, the troopers patrolling the nation's small-

est state are reporting all illegal immigrants they encounter, even on routine stops such as speeding, to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as ICE.

"There are police chiefs throughout New England who hide from the issue . . . and I'm not hiding from it," said Colonel Brendan P. Doherty, the towering commander of the Rhode Island State Police. "I would feel that I'm derelict in my duties to look the other way."

TROOPERS, Page A9

95° July 4 high | 89° Yesterday | 94° Today* | 85° Tomorrow* | 85° Thursday*

* Expected high temperatures in Boston. Source: National Weather Service.



DINA RUDICK/GLOBE STAFF

Two-year-old Austin splashed his parents, Diana and Joe Chabot of Waltham, at Lexington's Old Reservoir.

New England tries to play it cool

Many flock to beaches, malls; cautions issued with forecast of more heat

By Peter Schworm and David Filipov
GLOBE STAFF

Nantasket Beach in Hull, where the water is cold even by New England standards, was as busy as anyone could remember. Movie theaters, in their air-conditioned glory, were sweet oases, no matter what was playing. With the sun beating down yesterday, even a trip to the climate-controlled mall seemed like a decent idea. The lawn wasn't about to get mowed anyway.

More heat is on the way.

Today's forecast calls for dangerous

heat and humidity throughout much of the state, with the mercury expected to climb well into the mid-90s in Boston and near 100 in the suburbs. The heat index — a measure of how hot the air feels when factoring in relative humidity — could reach well beyond actual temperatures.

"It's going to be rough," said Eleanor Vallier-Talbot of the National Weather Service in Taunton. "People need to take it easy, and it will be best to be in an air-conditioned building."

The National Weather Service was ex-

pected to issue a heat advisory, urging people to limit their time in the heat and stay hydrated, while state environmental officials issued an air quality alert for elevated ozone levels in communities south of Boston.

Boston officials planned to open cooling centers across the city if the heat worsens, and have notified senior citizens that the temperatures could reach dangerous levels. Those who need assistance were urged to call the city's hotline: 617-635-4500.

HEAT, Page A12

"The crab is eating the marsh — essentially clear-cutting the vegetation."

ANDREW ALTIERI, researcher at Brown University

Crabs may be killing Cape Cod's marshes

Researchers see link to humans

By Carolyn Y. Johnson
GLOBE STAFF

HARWICH — For the past seven years, scientists have been alarmed by the mysterious death of marsh grasses on Cape Cod, which is transforming expanses of lush green wetlands into lumpy mudflats with the appearance of Swiss cheese.

Work over the past few years has provided strong evidence that the marshes are being eaten away by a particular crab, called

Sesarma reticulatum, whose appetite for cordgrass is leaving marshes vulnerable to erosion. The work is also revealing the possibility that human disturbances may have set off the chain of events that caused the crabs' hungry assault, in turn endangering some of the world's most important ecosystems.

"One of the pretty scary things is the leading edge of these marshes is the front-line defense for sea-level rise," said Mark Bertness, a biology professor at Brown University who has been working intensively to under-

MARSH CRAB, Page A8



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

The purple marsh crab, or *Sesarma reticulatum*, is thought to be a key cause of marsh grass destruction.

Strong start for UMass Law

Lower costs help to double size of first-year class

By Tracy Jan
GLOBE STAFF

NORTH DARTMOUTH — Applications and enrollment at the state's first public law school have surged since the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth acquired the struggling Southern New England School of Law, an early sign that the controversial merger is off to an auspicious start.

Following years of pitched political battles to block its formation, the new University of Massachusetts School of Law received 462 applicants for this fall's incoming class. That is more than twice the number who applied last year, when the school was a little-known private institution.

The size of the first-year class is also doubling to 155. And students' credentials, as measured by undergraduate grade point averages and LSAT scores, have risen, a feat for a school that has yet to be accredited by the American Bar Association, say university administrators. More than half of those accepted have decided to enroll.

"Students are voting their confidence in the fact that we can probably

LAW SCHOOL, Page A8

GE's promise of jobs drives engine debate

Economic issues shape defense plan

By Matt Viser
GLOBE STAFF

In Lynn, about 400 General Electric workers would assemble jet fighter engines. Throughout New Hampshire, 161 employees would manufacture spool, sectors, and tubing. And in Rutland, Vt., 10 workers would make engine vanes.

Those are among the 4,000 jobs that GE is promising to pepper around the country as part of its campaign to persuade Congress to spend \$485 million this year developing a backup jet engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Never mind that President Obama and the Pentagon have said one engine program for the future jet is enough, and that awarding a second engine program to GE would be a waste of taxpayer money.

Massachusetts would gain the second-highest number of jobs under **GENERAL ELECTRIC, Page A6**

On trial together, Blagojevich brothers seem worlds apart

Relationship between them appears strained

By Michael Tarm
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Rod Blagojevich's friends scattered as investigators looking into his doomed Illinois governorship closed in. Some associates had already been indicted; others stopped returning calls.

So when the Democrat needed a campaign fund manager, he turned to someone who had stood with him on the sometimes mean Chicago streets where they grew up: his big brother Robert.

Now, Robert Blagojevich sits with his lone sibling in a court, a codefendant expected to take the stand and try to convince jurors he had nothing to do with alleged schemes to parlay his brother's powers as governor into personal gain.

The two are rarely seen speaking and they eat at separate cafeteria tables during trial lunch breaks.

"Their relationship — it's strained," Robert's attorney, Michael Ettinger, said last week. "But he still loves his brother."

Robert Blagojevich was a Republican, a successful banker and retired Army officer living comfortably in Nashville with his wife of 32 years. But he agreed to start working for Rod in August of 2008, his attorney says, because his mother, Millie, had beseeched her boys to stick together.

"When your parents are gone, all you'll have is each other," the retired subway ticket agent told them before she died in 1999, Ettinger explained.

That brotherly bond threatened to break just four months after Robert accepted the managerial job: Rod Blagojevich was arrested at home and led away in handcuffs; Robert was also soon charged.

The most serious allegation is that the former governor, with his brother's help, schemed to trade the US Senate seat vacated by Barack Obama for a Cabinet post or other top job. Rod Blagojevich faces 24 counts related to



STRAINS ON A BROTHERLY BOND

Robert Blagojevich (right) was a successful banker and retired Army officer living comfortably in Nashville when he agreed to work for his brother in August of 2008.



that and other alleged corruption. Robert faces five, all related to the Senate seat. Both pleaded not guilty.

When he begins Robert's defense, Ettinger said, he'll call just two witnesses: Robert and his wife, Julie. Rod's attorneys, working independently from Robert's, said the impeached governor and his wife also will testify.

In some ways, Robert cuts a more sympathetic figure than his brother.

The 53-year-old Rod, a seemingly perpetual campaigner and recent reality TV star, seems oddly cheerful at trial. He glides through Chicago's federal courthouse smiling irrepressibly, chatting, and glad-handing passers-by.

Robert, a year older, is subdued, often walking to court

alone. Strain is etched on his face.

By all accounts, the brothers were close growing up in a blue-collar neighborhood with Serbian-American parents. Rod writes fondly of Robert in his 2009 book, "The Governor."

But Ettinger said they drifted apart.

Rod went on to study law and harnessed his natural skills at working a room. He was elected to Congress in 1996 with the help of his politically powerful father-in-law, Chicago Alderman Dick Mell. He was elected governor twice.

The bookish Robert studied history in college, then joined the Army for five years of active service, overseeing nuclear missiles in Germany. He continued to serve as a civilian in the Re-

serves, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Ettinger said Robert Blagojevich isn't granting interviews, but last year he told the Chicago Sun-Times how he felt at hearing news of his brother's arrest on Dec. 9, 2008.

"We sat there in horror, numb and horrified at what had happened," he said.

He was charged soon after, accused of playing a role only at the tail end of an alleged seven-year corruption spree.

Ettinger argued unsuccessfully to have Robert tried separately, saying jurors would be unable to fairly assess his guilt or innocence when the overwhelming majority of evidence applied to Rod.

Robert Blagojevich's attorneys have cross-examined only a few

witnesses at the trial that's heading into its second month. They've tried to stress his relative unimportance working for Rod.

The most sensational evidence — secretly recorded FBI wiretaps — features Rod, rarely Robert.

In Robert's few appearances, he's usually mild-mannered. But one conversation recorded before Rod's arrest displayed tension between the brothers, as Rod tossed out ideas about the Senate appointment. Robert sounds incredulous when Rod says he could appoint an ally, then later ask that person to resign and let him take the seat.

"Oh, Jesus, that's ugly!" Robert responds.

"What are you, nuts?" Rod shoots back. "What's uglier? That or being impeached?"

Another recording did catch a fleeting moment of levity. As they speak about contributions, Robert pauses to tell Rod that a potential contributor's wife "loves our hair."

"Loves your hair and loves my hair — because it's all real," he says, and they both laugh.

Crabs linked to marsh die-off

► MARSH CRAB
Continued from Page A1

stand so-called die-off on the Cape for three years. "They are hurricane buffers and nursery grounds to all kinds of shellfish and finfish, and buffers from runoff — an important filtering system."

MORE ONLINE

To see a video of researchers investigating the marsh die-off, go to www.boston.com/globe.

This summer, Bertness and colleagues are monitoring 14 marsh sites — some dead or dying — to unravel the complicated chain of events that is unfolding.

Early findings suggest that predators of the Sesarma — blue crabs, striped bass, or fish called tautog — are less prevalent in marshes disturbed by human activity, including fishing. To Bertness, that suggests recreational fishing has reached a "tipping point," altering nature's balance by depleting the crab's enemies and thus allowing them to thrive in greater number.

"This lumpy area — it would have been all grass a few years ago," said Andrew Altieri, a postdoctoral researcher at Brown University, as he stood on the edge of Saquatucket Harbor one recent morning. He held up one



Researcher Andrew Altieri and professor Mark Bertness, both of Brown University, checked on traps in Saquatucket Harbor.

of the purple-tinged, 2-inch-long nocturnal Sesarma crabs between his fingers.

"It's obvious now, the crab is eating the marsh — essentially clear-cutting the vegetation," Altieri said. "There are some marshes that are just wasted."

While many scientists agree the crabs are playing an important role in the die-off in the marsh, it is still an open question why the crab chowdown has suddenly become a problem, and how to combat it. Marsh health is complicated, affected by rainfall and run-off, the plant and animal life within it, and other factors that make simple explanations

elusive.

Stephen Smith, a plant ecologist at the Cape Cod National Seashore, spent last summer engaged in the Sisyphean task of attempting to rid an area of the crabs. Now, he is experimenting with biodegradable netting that might be able to control erosion and keep the crabs out of an area to allow marsh to recover.

"It's looking like a classic story of humans altering one link in a food chain and everything going nutty, having cascade effects," Smith said.

Bob Prescott, director of Massachusetts Audubon Society's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary,

said that yellow-crowned night herons used to show up relatively rarely. But last year, about eight of the birds took up residence in the sanctuary, and in their roosting areas, scientists found remains of the Sesarma crabs. It's difficult to know yet whether the herons will appear more regularly to feed on crabs, but the unusual number last year suggests one possible outcome of an exploding crab population: As the crabs become more bountiful, predators may find ways to take advantage.

To get a clearer picture of what is happening in die-off marshes, Bertness, Altieri, and

colleagues are out in the field this summer, breaking down every step in the food chain. They are counting crabs, measuring the predator population, and quantifying the level of die-off.

They capture crabs by sticking empty tennis ball cans deep into mucky marshes. When the Sesarma crabs emerge at night, they fall into the cans and are taken by researchers in the morning.

In past experiments, researchers tethered those crabs to stakes and found that predators ate them at a faster rate in the healthy marshes than in the ailing marshes.

Now, researchers are growing

'It's looking like a classic story of humans altering one link in a food chain and everything going nutty.'

STEPHEN SMITH
Plant ecologist

stalks of cordgrass in protective nets to see if preventing the crabs from feasting on them saves the grass, which would provide evidence that the die-off isn't caused by some other factor, like marsh conditions. They are also setting traps and dropping nets in tidal creeks to count the size and abundance of the blue crabs and fish that are normally predators of the Sesarma crabs.

On a recent afternoon, scientists took samples of cordgrass from healthy marshes and those experiencing die-off, to test whether one kind had more palatable grass.

Efforts to understand the cause will be important as scientists try to decide what can or should be done to help the marshes.

It's not clear yet "whether this is an unmitigated disaster or whether it's just an interesting phenomenon," said Robert Buchsbaum, conservation scientist for Mass. Audubon. "There's a concern about the viability of marshes anyway, with sea level rise, and now you've got this crab."

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State's new law school sees surge in applications, enrollments

► LAW SCHOOL
Continued from Page A1

get the accreditation," Jean MacCormack, chancellor of UMass Dartmouth, who plans to seek the designation in 2012.

Among the entering class: an MIT alumnus and son of Italian immigrants who is leaving the high-tech industry to pursue a law career to protect the rights of new immigrants; a victim-witness advocate in the Bristol district attorney's office; and an occupational safety professional who wants to ensure that workplace health and safety standards are enforced.

The new students are a non-traditional group, ranging from 21 to 59 years old. More than a fifth will pursue law degrees part time while continuing to work. Half are Massachusetts residents. Nearly a third are black, Latino, Asian, or Native American, the highest minority enrollment among Mass. law schools.

And 39 percent will receive financial aid, including 25 students awarded a fellowship that covers half of the \$23,565 tuition for committing to four years of practicing public service law upon graduation.

"The fellowship is a huge relief for someone in my position," said Brandon Ferris, the 25-year-old victim-witness advocate. "As

soon as this school became UMass, there was no question where I was going to go."

The public law school, whose tuition is about 40 percent less than what private law schools charge, formally assumed its new identity July 1. The school was decades in the making. Attempts to create it repeatedly faltered amid challenges from private law schools that said the state had enough law schools, questioned its financial feasibility, and were threatened by the more affordable competition.

Its existence, though, has not appeared to affect UMass Law's primary rivals, including Suffolk, New England, and Western New England law schools. Suffolk saw a 2.5 percent increase in its applications for next year, with first-year enrollment holding steady at 530 students.

Some legislators also opposed the move. Fearing it would end up costing the state more money, they wrangled over statutory language to make it difficult for the public law school to operate even after the state's Board of Higher Education approved Southern New England School of Law's donation of its campus and assets to the state in February.

Now, signs of change are beginning to spring up all over campus, tucked in the state's

southeast corner. A temporary plastic sign touting the school's new name greets passing cars at the entrance. Framed newspaper clippings about the historic transition grace a lobby wall. Students who have arrived early sport navy-and-gold sweatshirts emblazoned with UMass Law.

"Everything is underway now to make it visibly UMass," MacCormack said.

Twenty first-year students are already on campus, getting a jump on law school with a criminal justice course taught by law school dean Robert Ward. In nine weeks over the summer, they will cover a range of topics from Fourth Amendment searches and seizures, to conspiracy and inchoate crimes.

Three weeks ago, Ward said, he worried whether some of his students belonged in law school. But he said he has found that the students have fewer academic challenges and possess better writing and analytic skills than students in previous years' classes.

"It's important to get them when they start law school, rather than later on when they have difficulties," Ward said.

On a recent evening, Ward began class with some exciting news: The law school is establishing a relationship with the Mash-



First-year students at UMass School of Law attended dean Robert Ward's "Transition to Law" class last month.

pee Wampanoag tribal court. A tribal council leader who had graduated from UMass Dartmouth read about the new law school in an alumni magazine and thought Ward's students could help pursue civil actions in tribal court.

Other supporters have stepped up as well to help build the law school's future, which MacCormack has vowed would not cost taxpayers a cent. Charles Hoff, a venture capitalist, former UMass trustee, and UMass Lowell graduate, has pledged \$210,000 in scholarships for needy graduates of any UMass campus to attend the law school.

The new students said having a state law school makes a legal education more accessible. With the lower tuition, and fellowships for public service and high LSAT scores, some students believe they will graduate with little to no debt.

Danielle Allard, a 21-year-old from Williamstown who hopes to practice immigration or environmental law, said she considered applying to the law school only after it became public and picked it because it was the most affordable.

Several first-year students interviewed said they had been waitlisted or rejected from Suf-

folk and New England law schools in Boston, but they nevertheless prefer UMass because its location allows them to continue working full time.

Second- and third-year law students were invited to transfer into the new public school if they were in good academic standing. A handful were not eligible, MacCormack said. Nearly all of the 168 students eligible to remain opted to stay; three transferred elsewhere.

Faculty, too, had to reapply for their jobs and were reviewed by a panel that included law professors from Boston College and the University of Connecticut. All 13 were allowed to stay, but one did not receive tenure, MacCormack said.

The school plans to expand its faculty, and hopes to hire three more professors by fall 2011.

MacCormack believes that the school's focus on public-service law will fill an important need for the state.

"These students are going to go out there, I hope, imbued with the spirit that they have an opportunity to improve justice because they got an education with an emphasis on the public purpose of law," she said.

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