

# The Boston Globe

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## Homicides spike in Springfield

An outlier among big cities, it faces rising gun violence

By Dan Glaun

GLOBE STAFF

SPRINGFIELD — Ten years ago, Juanita Batchelor lost her son to gun violence. Her niece in 2020. Her son-in-law, the year after that. She's held rallies, launched a nonprofit, and opened a community center for kids whose mothers, terrified of stray bullets, won't let them play outside.

So as homicides in Springfield have spiked to record highs

in recent years, it feels personal to her.

"Watching it over and over again, it's traumatizing," said Batchelor, who runs the Darrell Lee Jenkins Jr. Resource Center, named after her slain son. "It's like a little piece of you being ate up every single time."

Gun violence is a persistent problem in Springfield, a post-industrial city of 150,000 that has worked for decades to recover from the evaporation of its manufacturing economy in the late 20th century.

There were 31 homicides in Springfield last year — double 2022's total and the highest in

SPRINGFIELD, Page A10

'If any of these guys don't think I should run, run against me. Go ahead, announce for president. Challenge me at the convention.'

PRESIDENT BIDEN, repeating his refusal to back down on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program

## Defiant Biden takes fight to Democrats

President says he's 'frustrated by the elites' but offensive exposes fissures

By Michael D. Shear

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Biden on Monday dared his critics to "challenge me at the convention" if they want him out of the presidential race, refusing to step aside in a defiant letter to Democratic members of Congress and in fiery remarks on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program.

Declaring himself "frustrated by the elites" who have called for his exit from the race, Biden en-

gaged in an offensive blitz aimed at saving his candidacy. But it also did little to mollify restless Democratic lawmakers and laid bare the fractures in his party over whether his position as the Democratic standard-bearer will help or hurt its fortunes this fall.

In effect, Biden decided to engage in a no-holds-barred fight with his allies for the world to see. He was at turns defiant, furious, indignant, exasperated, and dismissive. He insisted he would

not withdraw from the race but accused those who have suggested he step aside of being routinely wrong about politics.

The president used the friendly venue of the morning news show — hosted by Joe Scarborough, a longtime supporter who recently has been critical — to respond to demands that he demonstrate the kind of vigor that was missing from his listless and at times incoherent debate performance June 27.

Biden raised his voice repeatedly during the brief phone interview, including after Mika

BIDEN, Page A6

## MISSILE STRIKES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN UKRAINE



EVGENIY MALOLETKA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The nation's largest children's hospital was destroyed by a Russian missile attack Monday in the capital city of Kyiv. Hundreds raced to the scene to help clear twisted metal and smashed concrete in a desperate search for survivors. Images of bloodied and injured children shook the country, as a series of missile strikes killed dozens across the region. **A3.**

## For RFK Jr. fans, a division on Kennedy family's legacy

Some say he embodies ideals of dynasty; others relish relatives' rejection

By Emma Platoff

GLOBE STAFF

The most prominent members of the Kennedy political dynasty have made their feelings known about the relative running for president. They have written op-eds, given television interviews, headlined campaign events for President Biden, and, in the case of one of the younger cousins, even taken to Instagram and TikTok to

make clear they do not support Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

But for fans of Kennedy — the conspiratorial third-party candidate who is accumulating enough support to worry both Republicans and Democrats — the family legacy is more complicated, and the powerful political surname cuts both ways. As Kennedy battles for ballot access in all 50 states, Globe interviews with his supporters in Massachusetts and across the country show that his supporters split roughly into two camps, and think of his family in opposite ways. For some, Kennedy's draw is his rejection of and by the establishment — with his relatives very

KENNEDY, Page A6

Supporters of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. protested outside Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, Calif., on June 21 after CNN said he failed to qualify for the June 27 presidential debate.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Boston police official demoted after keeping state accountability post

Membership on panel created under criminal reform law called a conflict

By Meghan E. Irons

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

A high-ranking member of the Boston Police Department said he was demoted and removed from the command staff last weekend after he refused to resign from a state commission charged with improving standards and accountability in law enforcement.

Eddy Chrispin, who had been serving as deputy superintendent,

said that Commissioner Michael Cox gave him an ultimatum: give up his seat on the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, or lose his position on Cox's hand-picked command staff. The panel was established in 2020 under criminal reform legislation the state passed following the Minnesota police killing of George Floyd.

Chrispin, who was a key play-

er on the Boston Police Reform Task Force that same year, said he was told his May appointment to the commission posed a conflict of interest.

A Boston Police Department spokeswoman said Chrispin's characterization of what transpired is "not accurate," though she said the department does not comment on reasons for changes to the command staff.

His demotion, spelled out in a July 3 notice obtained by the Globe, stunned leaders of the National Association of Black

CHRISPIN, Page A7



### Steam bath

Tuesday: Partly sunny, humid. High 89-94, low 73-78.

Wednesday: T-storms, humid. High 83-88, low 72-77.

Sunrise: 5:16. Sunset: 8:22.

Obituaries, **C9.**

Comics and Weather, **D5-6.**

Lawyers for Karen Read are asking a judge to dismiss murder charges against her in the death of Boston police Officer John O'Keefe, stating that jurors determined she was not guilty of the offense. **B1.**

The state Senate is poised to pass a \$2.8 billion package that would allow the Kraft Group to build a new soccer stadium for the New England Revolution in Everett. **D1.**

A state audit report has found fault in the MBTA's oversight of a company providing workers'

training. It also criticized safety inspections at stations. **B1.**

Tropical Storm Beryl slammed into Texas on Monday, killing at least four people and knocking out power to nearly 3 million homes and businesses. **A2.**

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