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'This guy is a national story, and that's not what an incumbent DA wants.'

LOU DINATALE, *longtime Massachusetts pollster*

## High-profile cases could leave Morrissey vulnerable

By Sean Cotter  
GLOBE STAFF

In 1976, Michael Morrissey was a recent college graduate and political newcomer when he won his first election to public office, a state representative seat, against an entrenched Quincy politico whose campaign slogan was "Nine Good Terms Deserve Another."

Nearly half a century later, it is Morrissey who has become the entrenched political institution: he has held elective office since winning that election in 1976, the last 14 years as district attorney of Norfolk County.

But for the first time in his career,

the top prosecutor is on rocky political ground, largely due to his office's handling of the Karen Read and Sandra Birchmore cases, both of which feature

►Prosecutors in Read case want to retest her SUV data. **B1.**

accusations of a police coverup and questions over prosecutorial decisions.

The fallout from those cases and questions about their integrity are causing complications in other major prosecutions on the South Shore. And, for the first time in a generation, serious politi-

**MORRISSEY, Page A10**

## Warren and Deaton take their shots in first debate

Battle over immigration, abortion, Trump

By Emma Platoff and Matt Stout  
GLOBE STAFF

Senator Elizabeth Warren and Republican challenger John Deaton tangled in their first televised debate Tuesday, as Deaton sought to distance himself from a national GOP that is deeply unpopular in Massachusetts while Warren worked hard to tie him to Donald Trump's agenda.

The debate, cosponsored by WBZ-TV and the Globe, offered Deaton, a newcomer to Massachusetts and GOP politics, his most high-profile chance to introduce himself to voters and try to claw away at Warren's support

among the state's largely center-left electorate. In the first of two debates this week, the two landed sharp blows on immigration, abortion rights, and cryptocurrency.

Deaton, a Marine Corps veteran, personal injury attorney, and advocate for the cryptocurrency industry, repeatedly cast Warren as a partisan "extremist" loyal to a dysfunctional Washington power structure, while framing himself as a moderate who would bring a common-sense approach to the Senate.

"I got news for you, Senator Warren: All of you suck in Congress. All of you," Deaton said. "It's a broken

system. I'm disrupting that system."

Warren defended her record, saying she has gotten meaningful legislation passed despite Deaton's claim that she has little to show after 12 years on Capitol Hill. And she argued that her opponent is merely putting a veneer on hard-line Republican priorities.

"Don't trust John Deaton," she said.

That was a message she hit over and over Tuesday night, most sharply on the issues of immigration and abortion, which have animated the race. Massachusetts is thousands of miles from the southern border, but Deaton has worked to make the race

**DEBATE, Page A7**

## Magic for some, misery for others

Psychedelics have provided breakthroughs, and triggered mental issues. Should they be legal? Mass. voters will decide.



JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES/FILE

Psilocybin mushrooms were ready for harvest at a private home in Connecticut. They can dramatically affect a person's perceptions.

By Kay Lazar  
GLOBE STAFF

It was as if Judi Fitts was underneath the forest floor, staring up at a kaleidoscope of brightly colored tree roots. Her late grandfather was there, staring at her with despair. She had adored him as a child, only to find out after his death he had abused her mother.

Behind her grandfather, she saw what seemed to be many of his ancestors who also stared mournfully, as if the legacy of abuse that drove her mother to suicide when Fitts was just 16 went back generations.

Through that hallucination, which unfolded during a recent seven-hour session involving psychedelic mushrooms, Fitts said she finally understood what drove her grandfather's actions, and her trauma eased.

"That seven hours was like 15 years in therapy," said Fitts, a 63-year-old retired elementary school teacher from Greater Boston.

The mushrooms contained a naturally occurring compound, psilocybin, that can dramatically affect a person's perceptions and thinking. The mood-bending chemical is one of five such psychedelics — two found in mushrooms (psilocybin and psilocyn) and three in plants (dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and ibogaine) — that Massachusetts voters may choose to decriminalize on Nov. 5 by voting yes on Question 4.

A Suffolk University/Boston Globe poll released Tuesday showed residents are divided on the ballot question, which would legalize the use of such psychedelics by anyone over 21 while under licensed supervision. The substances already have been decriminalized in eight Massachusetts com-

**PSYCHEDELICS, Page A5**

## Hasbro may have Boston sites in mind

Believed to be focusing on downtown and Dorchester spot for possible HQ

By Shirley Leung  
GLOBE COLUMNIST

Hasbro Inc. appears to have narrowed its headquarters search to roughly a half-dozen locations in Boston as it considers relocating from Pawtucket, R.I., according to multiple people briefed on the matter.

While no decisions have been made, the maker of Monopoly,

My Little Pony, and Nerf is focusing its search on office buildings near South Station and the Southline complex on Morrissey Boulevard in Dorchester, according to sources in the real estate industry.

Officials with the Healey and Wu administrations have been working for months on persuading Hasbro to uproot from

Rhode Island, where the toy-and-game maker has been for a century.

A team of Hasbro executives toured sites over the summer looking for about 250,000 square feet, which makes it the largest tenant currently seeking space in Boston's office market. That amount of office space could typically house 800 to 1,000 employees, according to real estate experts.

Hasbro is looking for a prop-

**HASBRO, Page A10**

## For the hardcore, going to extremes is worth any risk

Tufts incident fuels concerns about pushing too hard

By Billy Baker and Adam Piore  
GLOBE STAFF

One night in 2022, Joe DeMarco went to the small gym in the back of his chiropractic office in Manchester-by-the-Sea, closed the door, turned out the lights, and spent the next seven hours alone, without music, doing 15,000 push-ups.

Why did he do that? "So that when I was done, I could look back at all the times I wanted to quit and say, 'See, I proved that I didn't have to,'" said DeMarco, 60.

It's a story that has become more common in recent years, where an increasingly comfortable world has inspired many people to go in the opposite direction: to push themselves through extreme physical challenges, deep into the "pain cave," to test their mental and physical limits.

A recent incident where nine members of the Tufts University men's lacrosse team had to be hospitalized following a voluntary workout, led by an alumnus who completed Navy SEAL training, has moved the dangers of extreme exercise into the news. The players contracted rhabdomyolysis, or rhabdo, a potentially serious condition associated with intense workouts where muscle tissue breaks down and releases chemicals into the blood that can damage the heart and kidneys.

The rare condition entered the mainstream in the 2010s, the decade when things



STAN GROSSFELD/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Events such as Spartan races can bring questions about rhabdomyolysis. But many athletes believe it's primarily a result of being unprepared.

like Spartan races and ultramarathons and CrossFit exploded in popularity, with millions of Average Joes attempting to tap into their inner SEAL by signing up for brutal gym workouts and 50-mile mountain runs, and slogging through mud and barbed wire on sinister obstacle courses. During that decade, hospitals reported a tenfold increase in rhabdo visits compared to the previous decade, according to a 2021 study.

Joe De Sena, the founder of Spartan, a Boston-based company that puts on grueling obstacle course races around the world, said it's annoying every time a rhabdo story pops

**EXTREME WORKOUTS, Page A10**

## Under the hoodie

Wednesday: Some sun, breezy. High 55-60. Low 39-44.

Thursday: More of the same. High 54-59. Low 40-45.

Sunrise: 6:59 Sunset: 6:00

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.

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Did You Eat Yet?, a Haitian restaurant-inside-a-convenience-store in the South End, showcases the food of Mirbentz Jean Francois, who got a boost from social media. **G1.**

Survivors and families of victims of the Lewiston, Maine, mass shooting signaled their intent to pursue claims against the Army, the Defense Department, and a New York military hospital. **B1.**

The United States warned Israel to increase humanitarian aid or risk losing military support. **A3.**

A new pair of pandas arrived for the National Zoo, after a nearly yearlong drought. **A2.**

