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Michelin excellence, with an Asian twist

Amid Lunar New Year, recognition is a nod to Boston’s creativity — and to opportunity

By Devra First
GLOBE STAFF

When the restaurants in the first Boston-area Michelin Guide were revealed in November, the thinking and process behind the results were a mystery wrapped in an enigma and topped with a dollop of caviar. What makes one restaurant

“recommended” and another a Bib Gourmand? Were some restaurants omitted because they were too new, or were they deemed unworthy? And *where* was O Ya?

But one thing was crystal clear: In the Boston dining landscape, Asian restaurants shine. At Lunar New Year, that’s something to celebrate.

Of course, anyone who eats in

these parts doesn’t need an international dining guide to tell them so. It’s been this way, and it’s only getting better. But Michelin’s choices highlight the fact, showcasing the excellence of Asian restaurants across a spectrum of cultures and concepts, from family-run establishments serving affordable fare to omakase restaurants questing after perfection.

Of the 26 local restaurants included in the guide, 10 serve Asian-inspired food and/or are Asian-

DINING, Page A7

Michelin’s choices can help revise . . . how people see this city, rewriting stale narratives about what Boston is today.

Gunfire erupts at R.I. rink; 3 dead

Police call attack ‘targeted family dispute’; schools were celebrating Senior Night

This story was reported by Alexa Gagosz, Steph Machado, Amanda Milkovits, Christopher Gavin, Lea Skene, Sean Cotter, and Nick Stoico, all of the Globe staff. It was written by Gagosz and Stoico.

PAWTUCKET — Gunfire erupted during a high school hockey game Monday, sending spectators and players screaming and fleeing for the exits at the Dennis M. Lynch Arena. Three people, including the suspected shooter, were killed, and three others were critically injured, officials said.

Pawtucket Mayor Don Grebien’s office confirmed that the shooter was among the dead. Tina Goncalves, the city’s police chief, said the suspect — identified as 56-year-old Robert Dorgan, who also went by Roberta Esposito — died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

“The police were not involved” in the suspect’s death, said Goncalves, and there was no imminent threat to public safety.

Chris Hunter, a spokesperson for the city of Pawtucket, described the shooting as a “targeted family dispute.” Goncalves confirmed that a friend of the family was among those injured.

Grebien said the city is mourning after a “terrible tragedy” during what was meant to be a celebratory Senior Night hockey game.

“Our prayers go out to the victims, their families, and everyone impacted by this devastating incident,” Grebien said in a statement, noting the in-

SHOOTING, Page A7



PHOTOS BY ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Shea Cairney, a fourth-grader, worked during class at a Pioneer Valley Regional School District school in Bernardston.

FOR RURAL DISTRICTS, A HARSH MATH LESSON

As costs escalate and enrollment tumbles, some hurtling toward economic wall



A student gave a skateboard a spin during club time at Pioneer Valley Regional High School in Northfield,

By James Vaznis
GLOBE STAFF

A dramatic decline in enrollment in Massachusetts rural school districts over the last quarter century has created a vicious cycle of budget cuts and diminished academic opportunities for tens of thousands of students.

From the Berkshires to Martha’s Vineyard, rural enrollment has plunged by nearly 30 percent over the last 25 years — far steeper than the 7 percent decline for all other districts statewide. About 38,000 students attend 65 state-designated “rural” districts, which carry the distinction of having no more than 35 students per square mile and low per capita income levels.

The growing hardships are raising questions among many local officials about the long-term survival of the districts and whether some of them need to merge, as they also push for more state aid.

“We call it the death spiral,” said Martha Thurber, chair of the Mohawk Trail Regional School Committee, whose district encompasses eight towns in Franklin County, but only serves 760 students, half the number it did 25 years ago. “You start cutting teachers and programs, and then

RURAL SCHOOLS, Page A10

Trump wields strong arm against media

As creator, critic, plaintiff, and regulator, he can shape, overwhelm market

By Aidan Ryan
GLOBE STAFF

When President Trump sat for an interview with CBS News last month, the White House issued a direct threat: It would sue the network if the conversation didn’t air in its entirety.

CBS had already settled a lawsuit with Trump over the editing of a “60 Minutes” interview with Kamala Harris — a case many legal experts thought it could win — at the same time that CBS owner Paramount was trying to win regulatory approval for a merger. This time, CBS aired the interview with Trump in full.

“In Trump 2.0 ... he knows all the levers that he has in power, and so he’s pulling them a lot more,” said Austin Cantrell, who served as a White House assistant press secretary during Trump’s first term and now works at the Chattanooga, Tenn.-based lobbying firm Bridge Public Affairs.

MEDIA, Page A6



Going slideways

Tuesday: Snow early, cloudy. High 38-43, low 32-37.

Wednesday: Wintry mix late. High 38-43, low 28-33

Sunrise: 6:38. Sunset: 5:19.

Weather and comics, **D4-5**.

Obituaries, **C9-10**.

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Iran held military exercises in the globally strategic Strait of Hormuz on the eve of talks with the United States as tensions mount. **A3.**

The MBTA is assessing three consortiums as it prepares to declare which one will operate one of its key components: the commuter rail. **B1.**

For those seeking to save a few bucks on utilities, here’s a tip from The Fine Print: unplug devices and appliances. **D1.**

Outfielder Roman Anthony, on his way to the World Baseball Classic, has become the face of the Red Sox, Peter Abraham writes. **C1.**

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Their explorations revealed depth of films

ROBERT DUVAL 1931-2026

A prolific chameleon of characters

By Clyde Haberman
NEW YORK TIMES

Robert Duvall, who drew from a seemingly bottomless reservoir of acting craftsmanship to transform himself into a business-focused Mafia lawyer, a faded country singer, a cynical police detective, a bullying Marine pilot, a surfing-obsessed Vietnam commander, a mysterious Southern recluse, and scores of other film, stage and television characters, died on Sunday. He was 95.

His death was announced in a statement by his wife, Luciana Duvall, who said he had died at home. She gave no other details. He had long lived on a sprawling horse farm in

DUVALL, Page C10



Mr. Duvall



Mr. Wiseman

FREDERICK WISEMAN 1930-2026

A master filmmaker of documentaries

By Mark Feeney
GLOBE STAFF

Frederick Wiseman, an Academy Award-winning filmmaker whose more than 40 feature-length documentaries earned him an acclaimed place in film history, and whose first one, “Titicut Follies” (1967), about Bridgewater State Hospital, earned him a contentious place in Massachusetts legal history, died Monday at his home in Cambridge. A Boston native, he was 96.

His death was announced by his family and his film company, Zipporah Films, which did not provide a specific cause.

“There were all these movies about fantasy worlds,” Mr. Wiseman, a lawyer by training,

WISEMAN, Page C9