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The Boston Globe

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2009

BLOW HOT AND COOL

Tonight: Sun and clouds, breezy. High 87-90. Low 63-66.
 Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, cooler. High 77-78. Low 54-59.
 High Tide: 4:18 a.m. 4:56 p.m.
 Sunrise: 5:03 a.m. Sunset: 7:39 p.m.
 P.M. REPORT: PAGE B13

In the news

The federal deficit was projected to reach nearly \$1.6 trillion this year, the worst cap since the end of World War II, but slightly better than officials had feared earlier in 2009. **A2.**



The challenges of a precarious economic recovery await Ben S. Bernanke, whom President Obama backed yesterday for a second term as Federal Reserve chairman. **B5.**

Stakes will be high for three mayoral challengers and for Mayor Thomas M. Menino himself when they face off in a televised debate tonight. **B1.**

The Massachusetts government overstepped the law in seeking sales taxes from a New Hampshire store that sold tires to Bay Staters, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled. **B5.**

North Korea agreed to discussions with South Korea on reunions of long-separated families, another sign that Pyongyang is backing away from recent provocations. **A3.**

Volunteers flock to a Baltimore medical center to test a swine flu vaccine, with civility rather than cash the apparent motivator. **A8.**

The Palestinian Authority outlined a plan to achieve statehood within two years, regardless of the course of peace talks with Israel. **A9.**

A new educational era begins in New Hampshire as all school districts prepare to provide public kindergarten. **B1.**

The 12 defendants in a fatal beating outside a Boston club were members of a violent street gang, officials said. **B2.**

Have a news tip? E-mail newstip@globe.com or call 617-929-TIPS (8477). Other contact information. **B2.**

POINT OF VIEW

TYONNE ABRAHAM

"It's an inspired way to think about animating the city, especially in a recession: Get a bunch of smart locals together, come up with a cool, short-term way to use vacant space, find a willing property owner, get the word out, and watch the magic happen. There's not been enough of it!"
Metro, B1.

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SAVING A FELLOW SURVIVOR

Minn. woman to donate kidney today after Roslindale man reached out for help from other victims of clergy abuse



Doctors at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center will transplant a kidney from Susan Pavlak (left) to Phil Saviano.

By Michael Panloun

GLOBE STAFF

First, he asked his brothers. Then he turned to extended family. It was only after it became clear that no one he knew qualified to donate a kidney that Phil Saviano realized he might die.

And then he turned to the one larger community that he has embraced for nearly two decades: survivors of clergy sexual abuse.

Across the country, thousands of men and women who years ago were molested by priests opened their indexes to find an e-mailed plea to help a fellow survivor.

Seven of them offered up a kidney to keep Saviano alive.

And today, at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, physicians will transplant a kidney from Susan Pavlak, a 55-year-old

Minnesota woman who says that years ago she was molested by a former nun at a Catholic high school; to Saviano, a 57-year-old Roslindale man who says that as a boy in Central Massachusetts he was repeatedly abused by a priest who turned out to be a serial pedophile.

"He is another member of the family of the harmed," Pavlak said yesterday, explaining why she would give a kidney to man she had never met or even heard of. "One way I can respond is to give what I have to give."

Saviano, who established and for about a decade led the New England chapter of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), said he is still trying to make sense of all the intersecting elements of his life that have brought him to this moment.

"The challenge for me is to be able to express sufficient grat-

SATISFIED, Page A8

US inspects gaps in Hub language instruction

Schools neglected English learners

By James Yaznis

GLOBE STAFF

The U.S. Department of Justice has launched an inquiry into Boston's failure to provide necessary language instruction to thousands of students who

speak limited English, a violation of federal law that has the district scrambling to hire teachers and expand programs for this fall.

The federal scrutiny began after Boston schools revealed earlier this year during a routine state review that 42 percent of its nearly 11,000 English language learners were not receiving

the help they are legally entitled to, according to documents provided to the Globe under a public records request.

The same review found that school officials, by their own admission, were encouraging parents to decline the services, because their programs were full, or were not adequately explaining the options to par-

ents, many of whom do not speak English.

Boston is the latest Massachusetts district regulated by federal regulators for denying equal education opportunities to English language learners, one of the state's fastest-growing student groups and a population that has generally posted some

ENGLISH, Page A8

Top officer offers a dire assessment on Afghanistan

By Bryan Bender

GLOBE STAFF

The nation's top military officer, in a deeply pessimistic assessment of the war in Afghanistan, said yesterday that due to years of neglect the United States is basically "starting over" in its battle against the radical Taliban movement and its Al Qaeda allies.

Acknowledging that public support for the war is waning, Navy Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that the US operation needs "12 to 18 months to turn this thing around."

"It is doable, but it is going to take some time," he said, urging Americans to be patient.

With the intense focus until recently on fighting the war in Iraq — where the United States plans to keep nearly twice as many troops as in Afghanistan until at least early next year — he said that the Tal-

MULLEN, Page A10

In protesting the president, civility rules

By Matt Viser

GLOBE STAFF



BILLY GREENE/GLOBE STAFF

Commercial fisherman Tony Cavallo of New Bedford made the trip to Martha's Vineyard to protest federal fishing regulations.

VINEYARD HAVEN — This is not Crawford, Texas.

When George W. Bush was in the White House, protesters flooded the barren fields near his ranch, holding signs in 100-degree weather, sleeping in tents, and shooting at his motorcade.

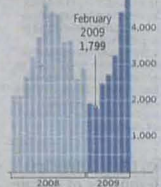
On Martha's Vineyard, where President Obama is in the midst of a low-key weeklong vacation, the protesters are calibrated at a much lower volume.

It's not a bad gig, if you can get it.

High-profile protester Cindy Sheehan arrived last night and was whisked to a 34-foot wooden shack on Lake Tahquamenon, kicking off a four-day visit that will include a series of peace activities.

VINEYARD, Page A6

Monthly sales of single-family homes in Massachusetts:



SOURCE: Warren Group
Source: Warren Group

Around beyond abuse: Survivor gives kidney

By SAVIANO
Continued from Page A1

ltdate for what's being given to me," he said. "This organization is saving my life."

Saviano already holds a prominent place in the history of the sexual abuse crisis in Massachusetts. In 1992, in an interview with the Globe, he told the public the secret he had kept hidden, even from his family, since he was a boyhood in East Douglas: For a year and a half, starting when he was 11 years old, he was repeatedly forced to masturbate and perform oral sex on the Rev. David A. Holley, young priest who was later accused of molesting dozens of other boys in multiple states before finally being sentenced in 1975 years in a New Mexico state prison.

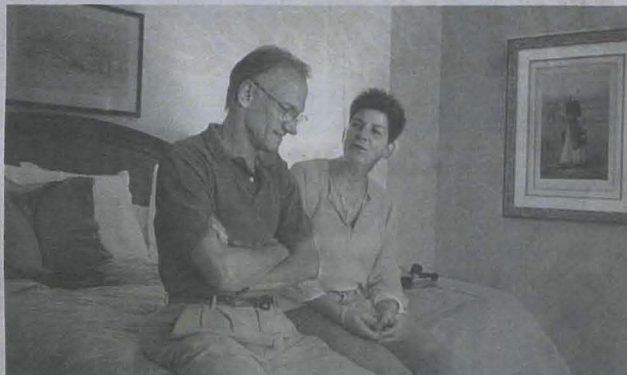
Saviano was emboldened to go public by a complication: He thought he was dying. He had been living with AIDS for nearly a decade, and his body had begun to fail.

"If I had not been dying of AIDS, I would not have had the courage to come forward, but at 31, I had no one to turn to," Saviano says. "I was on my way out physically, my reputation was shot in the eyes of many people, and I didn't have a job to lose," he said. "This was a financial opportunity to effect some change and address this thing that happened to me when I was a kid."

But Saviano didn't die. His body healed, and he has since managed to find new medications that enable people with AIDS to survive, and to be healthy.

He filed suit and won a \$100,000 settlement from the Worcester Diocese — he says it "would have been slightly larger but he refused to sign a confidentiality agreement — and in 1997, at the Neologian Public Library, hosted the first meeting of what became the New England chapter of SNAP.

By the time the abuse crisis finally was open, in 2001, he had a series of stories in the Globe, which he says he wants to turn over



Susan Pavlak says several factors contributed to her desire to help, including her sense of kinship with other abuse survivors.

reins to others, and in recent years he has left the limelight to newer leaders.

But when his kidneys began to fail a year ago, and he realized he might not live long enough to survive the three-to-five-year wait for a kidney from a deceased person — he turned to SNAP for a live donor. The first e-mail in August, went to more than 5,000 members, and prompted three volunteers, all of whom were disqualified by various medical tests; the second e-mail, in February, went to more than 5,000 survivors nationwide and generated four more kidney offers, one of them from Pavlak.

Pavlak, who lives in St. Paul, says he had been sexually abused for about four years, starting when he was 16, by a teacher at her Catholic high school who had just been released from her vows as a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Un-

like Saviano, who now calls himself agnostic, she is still a church-going Catholic, who maintains a cordial relationship with church officials, serves on the board that reviews abuse allegations for a monastery in Minnesota, and had tried to form an organization pushing a "non-adversarial" response to the abuse issue.

"The practice of my faith is important to me," she says. "The stupidities of it, and the imperialism of it, and the patriarchy is a problem, and it needs to change. But change can not come only from the outside — it has to come from within."

Pavlak is not a SNAP member, but she is friendly with the SNAP leadership in Minnesota, and so the e-mail (subject line: "Help for a survivor") found its way to her.

Saviano says several factors contributed to her desire to help her sense of kinship with other abuse survivors, the fact that she

had lost several friends to AIDS in the 1980s, hearing stories told by her sister, who directs the transplant program at a University of Minnesota hospital, and her Catholic faith.

"A lot of time, healing comes from the places where we've been hurt," she said. "Many Catholic people, including myself, have been badly hurt by folks who are in the institution, and I think some healing is owed from within the body of Christ."

Organ donations from strangers are unusual, but becoming less so — about one in five living transplants involves an unrelated donor, according to Dr. Martha Pavlak, the medical director of kidney and pancreatic transplantation at Beth Israel Deaconess, who said, "Obviously they [Saviano and Pavlak] are linked through their group, but it's not a matter of great heroism to reach out and help somebody that you

don't know."

Pavlak said transplants for HIV positive people are also becoming less unusual — for years, the procedure was not done, because of concerns about whether the patients could tolerate the combination of medications for the disease and the transplantation, but Beth Israel Deaconess has been at the forefront of successfully testing transplants for people with AIDS. "His prognosis is quite good," Pavlak said.

The donation, not surprising, is the talk of the survivor of the community.

"What keeps me going every single day is seeing how extraordinarily... compassionate people who have every right to be consumed with bitterness are to one another," said David Cleburne, the national director of SNAP.

Michael Paulson can be reached at mpaulson@globe.com.

Hormone therapy riskier in sicker men

Heart patients with prostate cancer may not benefit

By Carla K. Johnson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — A new study links hormone therapy for prostate cancer with a higher risk of death in older men.

Hormone therapy suppresses the amount of testosterone produced, in turn causing prostate tumors to shrink or grow more slowly. The treatment, involving injections in a doctor's office, can help men with more advanced disease when used with surgery or radiation.

But the side effects are troubling: impotence, bone loss, hot flashes, memory problems, fatigue, and an increased risk for diabetes in older men.

For the new study, appearing in today's *Journal of the American Medical Association*, researchers followed more than 5,000 men with prostate cancer that had not spread. The men, most in their 60s and 70s, were followed in an average of five years.

All the patients had brachytherapy, a type of radiation treatment that had not spread. The men, most in their 60s and 70s, were followed in an average of five years.

All the patients had brachytherapy, a type of radiation treatment that had not spread. The men, most in their 60s and 70s, were followed in an average of five years.

Five percent of the men in the study had a history of heart failure or heart attack, and 43 of those men died. Among those with heart problems, the hormone treatment was linked with a 96 percent higher risk of death after adjusting for other risk factors.

In raw numbers, of the 95 men on hormone therapy who also had a history of heart problems, 25 died; and of the 161 men not on hormone therapy who also had a history of heart problems, 18 died.

"Our results should heighten awareness about the potential for harm with hormonal therapy for men with preexisting heart disease," said lead author Dr. Akash Nanda of the Harvard Radiation Oncology Program.

The study was observational, meaning the men chose their treatment with their doctors, rather than being randomly assigned to get one treatment or another. That is a less rigorous approach and means the deaths could have been caused by factors other than the hormone therapy.

But the findings line up with prior studies that have found that sicker men don't benefit from hormone therapy, and that radiation therapy used alone in older men has been linked to a slightly heightened risk of death.

The study was funded by Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

For trial of swine flu vaccine, there's no shortage of volunteers

By Rachel Saslow
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Arthur Ferguson, a 61-year-old Baltimore lawyer, has been volunteering to test a vaccine since 1994. That when, as a second-grader, he stood in line in his school gymnasium to receive a vaccine to prevent polio. He remembers that he never didn't stick the needle in his arm, the liquid squirted out of the syringe and he had to get the shot twice.

Two weeks ago, Ferguson followed his sleeve again, this time at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, one of eight sites for a clinical trial of the H1N1, or swine flu vaccine. He received the first dose of the new vaccine, four television cameras filmed

him.

Usually the University of Maryland School of Medicine publicizes its clinical trials and enrolls qualified participants who respond. With H1N1, hundreds of volunteers started calling immediately after the school announced that it would be a site for the trial. Lead investigator Karen Koloff then had to "draw names from a hat" for the 160 slots. Participants didn't find out about the \$600 stipend they would earn until they attended orientation sessions.

"People really felt they could make a contribution to a public effort, and it was a win-win because they had the possibility of being protected from H1N1 at the same time," Koloff said.

In an orientation session for

volunteers, Koloff brought up Guillain-Barre syndrome as a very rare complication of the shot; she gave odds of 1 in 100,000. The neurological disorder killed 12 and paralyzed 400 who were vaccinated during the 1976 US swine flu outbreak.

Koloff emphasized the more likely risks of participating in the trial: a stiff arm and redness and swelling at the injection site, just as with any other shot. She also cleared up "a misconception in the community."

"There is no living virus in this vaccine, and it cannot give you the flu," she said.

Koloff sent the participants home with rulers to measure any welts or bruising at the injection site, thermometers and diaries to record any symptoms.



The University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore is one of eight centers testing an experimental vaccine for swine flu.

According to the researchers, the primary goal of the trial is to determine how strong a dose will be required for different age groups. All participants receive two doses of vaccine three weeks apart, some at the typical seasonal flu dosage level and some at double that strength. The re-

searchers will test for antibodies in the volunteers' blood to see when they're immune to H1N1. Including follow-up phone calls, the study takes seven months to complete, but scientists expect to know by mid- to late September how many doses of the vaccine are needed to be effective.

US scrutinizing gaps in Boston schools' services for English learners

By ENGLISH
Continued from Page A1

of the lowest MCAS scores and high dropout rates.

Since last fall, Somerville and Worcester have entered into settlements regarding the use of Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice to bolster their programs and improve the way they identify students for services. The districts did not admit any wrongdoing, but would be brought to court by the Justice Department if they breach the contract.

It was not clear yesterday whether the Justice Department is pursuing a settlement agreement with Boston or has launched a formal investigation. Alexander Ostrya, a Justice Department spokesman, and Mitchell Chester, commissioner of the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, declined to comment on the Boston case.

"This is a significant issue, one that we are taking very seriously, and we are confident that we can resolve it very seriously," Ostrya said. "We are confident that we can resolve it very seriously," Ostrya said.

statement about the underserved students. "We are confident that this issue has the attention of leadership in Boston, and we see a commitment now to place this high on the district's agenda," School Superintendent Gary H. Johnson of Boston said in an interview this week that she has had no direct contact with the Justice Department, saying all federal correspondence has been sent directly to the state Education Department.

The state required the Globe to file a public records request last week to obtain hundreds of pages of documents, including the federal letters, which arrived this week.

"The schools want to make sure these students are well served," Johnson said. "I think the most important thing is that students get services they need and deserve."

The first phase of a three-year plan is being implemented this fall, but the Justice Department has questioned whether the timeline is too long.

The growth in the number of English language learners this decade has challenged districts

statewide, including Boston, where the group accounts for almost a fifth of the city's 56,000 students. Many programs were thrown into disarray, advocates say, after voters in 2002 abolished the mandatory use of bilingual education, which allows students to learn subjects in their native tongue until they master English.

The new law stresses teaching all subjects in English for non-native speakers, using a student's native language only sparingly. But in making the switch, many districts have failed to provide appropriate staffing, training, and programs, either because of funding shortages or misunderstanding of the legal requirements, advocates said.

Boston schools have argued that the 4,500 English language learners not receiving services had forms signed by parents declining a specialized program, instead placing their children in classrooms with teachers who were often not trained to teach students with language barriers.

Yet even if parents opt out of specialized programs for their children — which some parents do, believing their children will pick up English more quickly around native speakers — federal law still requires districts to provide special help, especially if school officials pose a language barrier to causing poor grades.

In a Justice Department letter sent to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in May, an agency attorney raised concerns about the underserved students after reading a recent Globe story about the issue, based on a report by the Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

"If the article's representation is indeed what the state has found, this finding implicates (the Boston public schools) and the state of Massachusetts' obligations to take appropriate action with respect to [English language learners] under the Equal Educational Opportunities Act," Emily H. McCarthy wrote in the letter, which the Globe obtained from the state.

She subsequently sent a second letter asking the state a series of questions about the programs, which the state answered this month.

The problem of underserved children could run even deeper in Boston than current statistics reflect, according to the state review. There may actually be

School officials had encouraged parents to decline services, a review found.

more English language learners than the district has identified because many elementary schools improperly evaluate students, conducting tests only in speaking and listening. State rules require testing of reading and writing, too, which all elementary schools will conduct this fall.

Johnson stressed that the problem with English language instruction is not widespread, saying that about 60 percent of

the affected English language learners are enrolled in 26 of the district's approximately 140 schools.

The district's remedy includes hiring 26 new teachers for these schools, says a spokesman. It is also existing staff with the appropriate certification, and training more classroom teachers to tailor instruction to students with language barriers. The district is using roughly \$1 million in federal stimulus money to implement the plan.

Earlier this year, the district opened a new summer academy for recently settled immigrant students who did not attend schools in their home countries for several years.

"Some a year later said the investment was long overdue."

"These kids today are in classrooms where they don't understand what's going on," said Ursula Oriarte, coauthor of the Gaston report that prompted federal scrutiny. "I think at this point the most useful thing is to think forward about what can Boston schools do to prevent this from happening in the future."