



FEDERAL BUYOUT PLAN BLOCKED

A federal judge on Thursday temporarily blocked President Donald Trump's plan to push out federal workers by offering them financial incentives, Page A7

TODAY'S MUST-READS

SOUTH DEERFIELD Man accused of spitting in face of FBI agent

A South Deerfield resident is accused of spitting in the eye and face of an FBI agent Tuesday as agents searched a South Main Street apartment in connection with a weapons investigation at the U.S. Capitol.

James Gerard Pepe III is charged with one count of assaulting a federal officer, according to court documents. Full story, Page A7

SPRINGFIELD

Defense lawyer attacks feds

Alleges stonewalling requests for evidence on government informant

By **STEPHANIE BARRY**
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What would typically be a low-profile criminal prosecution has turned into a tangle, as lawyers in state and federal court wrangle over evidence and the status of a government informant.

Jose Rivera, of Hampshire County, was indicted in 2017 in connection with an alleged shooting in

Chicopee in July of that year with no injuries, and has languished in a Hampshire County jail awaiting trial ever since.

He faces charges including armed assault with intent to murder and assault with a dangerous weapon, among others.

Defense lawyer Dana Goldblatt recently filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court seeking to compel

information from the local U.S. Attorney's office on the status of man named Efrain Morales — whom a former Hampden assistant district attorney told Goldblatt was under federal investigation but had yet to be indicted.

Named as defendants are the U.S. Department of Justice and former Acting Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Joshua Levy.

Leading up to trial, prosecutors are obligated under the law to turn over any information to defense attorneys that would allow them to attack a witness's credibility on cross-examination.

Goldblatt contends this hasn't happened and has attempted to get the case against Morales dismissed.

The defense lawyer argues the

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STATE Feds probe MIAA over trans athletes

Massachusetts high school athletics policies are under investigation for "Title IX violations" by the U.S. Department of Education, the agency announced Thursday, a day after President Donald Trump issued an order aimed at transgender athletes.

DOE said it was launching "directed investigations" of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), San Jose State University, and the University of Pennsylvania. Full story, Page A3



"If they do have anything of substance, if they can print the names of the abusers that have been shielded by the church ... that would be a tremendous benefit to somebody suffering in silence."

DAVID O'REGA, WHO LED SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THOSE ABUSED BY PRIESTS IN WORCESTER AND THE BOSTON AREA



Jim Saviano sits near a photograph of his late brother, Phil Saviano, who was an outspoken critic of those who covered up the abuse of children by Catholic clergy. Investigators from the Massachusetts attorney general's office interviewed Phil Saviano in this room, where he was in hospice, on Nov. 4, 2021. He was a survivor of abuse in the Diocese of Worcester. (NANCY EVE COHEN / NEW ENGLAND PUBLIC MEDIA)

STATE

Inside the clergy sex abuse probe

What survivors, advocates know about Mass. AG's unreleased inquiry into Catholic dioceses

By **NANCY EVE COHEN**
New England Public Media

It's been about five years since the Massachusetts attorney general's office launched an investigation into child sexual abuse by priests at three Catholic dioceses in the state.

Back then, Gov. Maura T. Healey was the attorney general. The state's current top prosecutor, Andrea Campbell, said her office is still seeking court approval to release the results of the investigation.

"I inherited a report that was completed, sitting there. And now I'm doing what I can to see what we can do in terms of releasing it," Campbell said on GBH Radio.

But survivors and advocates aren't waiting. They're revealing what they know about the attorney general's inquiry.

The investigation started as early as 2019 and continued at least until November 2021. Early that month, Assistant Attorney General Helle Sachse interviewed Phil Saviano. Matthew Stone, a state trooper, was also at the meeting.

Saviano was a survivor of child sexual abuse at the Worcester Diocese and an outspoken advocate for



The grave of Phil Saviano in Douglas. Saviano was an outspoken survivor of clergy sexual abuse who started the New England chapter of SNAP, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. Právda vítězí means "truth prevails" in Czech. (NANCY EVE COHEN / NEW ENGLAND PUBLIC MEDIA)

justice for those who were abused by priests. At the time of the meeting, he was in hospice at his brother's house, dying of cancer.

Brooks Egerton was also there. A former investigative reporter at The Dallas Morning News, Egerton is writing a biography of Phil Saviano. On Saviano's request, he sat in on the meeting.

Although Saviano's voice was weak, he answered the assistant attorney general's questions and asked some of his own, Egerton recalled.

"Phil asked [Sachse] if the dioceses knew about this investigation," Egerton said. "She said that they did — that they had received grand jury subpoenas and that

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STATE

Housing crisis sparks exodus

State releases report, citing 200,000 people leaving Massachusetts

By **NAMU SAMPATH**
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Everyone but college-age students are leaving Massachusetts, according to a comprehensive report from the state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities published Thursday.

In 2022, roughly 200,000 individuals moved out of the commonwealth. Due to a plethora of universities and colleges in the state, 18- to 24-year-olds are attracted to Massachusetts.

But "at every other age group Massachusetts is losing more residents than it attracts," the report says, and working adults between ages 24 and 44 are the age group "with the highest rate of outmigration."

It's a factor of the housing crisis in Massachusetts. Officials said people are being priced out of housing units statewide. Even those living comfortably will be impacted at some point.

The report was put together by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Donahue Institute, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and Dain Research, a public policy research group in eastern Massachusetts. Officials say the report is a first-of-its-kind encompassing review of the state of housing in the commonwealth.

The report explores the challenges of having a limited housing stock and what it would take to create housing that is affordable, accessible and available to a diversifying and growing population.

Developers seeking to build housing are reporting issues with obtaining special permits, conflicting state and local regulations and codes, and concerns about financial feasibility.

"This slows housing production at a time when Massachusetts needs it most and creates an environment where only the most experienced and often larger firms are able to participate in

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WEATHER

Partly sunny and windy, then clouds increasing.
High: 35°; Low: 17°

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