



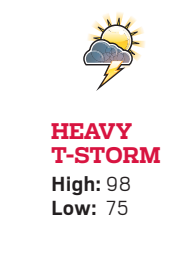
LAW ENFORCEMENT
Townsend PD officially swears in first K9 officer
Local news » A3



NBA DRAFT
What will Celtics do with Nos. 28, 32 picks?
Sports » B1



CHICAGO
Comedy and crime fighting join forces
Lifestyles » B4



HEAVY T-STORM
High: 98
Low: 75

THE SUN

HEAT WAVE

100-plus heat a health risk to homeless, seniors

City, advocates roll out services, support

By Melanie Gilbert
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LOWELL » Due to what the city called an “unhealthy heat forecast” through Wednesday, with temperatures expected to reach a record-setting 100 degrees and higher, local providers and agencies were keeping an eye on vulnerable populations like Lowell’s seniors and homeless people. “Extreme heat can be dan-

gerous and even life-threatening if precautions are not taken,” the city’s website said. “During prolonged periods of very hot weather, which may include high humidity, the body must work harder to stay cool, increasing the risk of heat-related illness.” In Massachusetts, a “heat wave” is usually defined as a period of three or more consecutive days above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Reports from the U.S. En-

vironmental Protection Agency note that extreme heat kills more people than all other climate- and weather-related issues combined, including floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. That extreme heat can be dangerous for older residents, very young children and babies, and vulnerable populations like unhoused people. Past efforts by the city to pro-



To beat the heat, Orrin White, of Lowell, drapes a towel soaked with cold water around his head and neck. He bicycled downtown to turn in his housing recertification papers. Residents of the Lowell Transitional Living Center on Middlesex Street sit in the shade behind him.

MELANIE GILBERT — LOWELL SUN

HEAT » PAGE 8

JUNETEENTH BLOCK PARTY

‘THIS DAY IS EVERYTHING FOR US’

7th annual gathering celebrates freedom and community



AARON CURTIS — LOWELL SUN

Members of the Afro-American Community Collaborative and UTEC gather during the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party on June 21, 2025 in Lowell. AACC organized the event, hosted by UTEC, which offered free food and music while celebrating Black freedom, resilience and cultural heritage.

By Aaron Curtis
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LOWELL » The sizzle of barbecue, the rhythm of music, and the laughter of children filled Warren Street on Saturday as community members gathered at UTEC for the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party — a celebration of freedom, family, and Black heritage in the heart of Lowell. Juneteenth, observed annually on June 19, commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, learned they were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Over time, it has become a national symbol of Black liberation and resilience, officially recognized as a federal holiday in 2021. “We do this every year in honor of Juneteenth and the history behind it, and celebrate what it means to us and our community,” Rob Mitchell, president of the Afro-American Community Collaborative, said about the annual block party. “This day is everything for us.” The AACC, a Lowell-based non-profit “committed to uplifting the Black community and advocating for justice and equality for all individuals,” according to their website, has led the block party since its start seven years ago. Mitchell recalled how the event

began as a modest cookout at the Bethel AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church on Grand Street, drawing maybe 20 to 25 people. “We just brought a grill, invited some people over and celebrated that way,” he said. “It’s evolved organically into this, what you see now.” This year’s celebration, hosted by UTEC, featured a DJ, performances by local artists, and free food provided by UTEC’s Breaking Barriers Kitchen and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell’s Club Love on Wheels. It also brought in local vendors like Derrick Jemal Hardin — known as Benny — who closed his Appleton Street restaurant, Benny’s Backyard BBQ, for the day to help serve food at the event. “Over there, it’s business,” Hardin said. “Here’s more important to me. That’s what this is about: Juneteenth.” The event was as much about reflection as it was about celebration. “Part of this is because the city of Lowell has so much diversity and culture and at some points the cultures were not being celebrated,” said Mona Tyree, a founding member of the AACC. “I think by us coming together collectively, because the city has

PARTY » PAGE 2



AARON CURTIS — LOWELL SUN

Lowell resident Zahara Rosario splashes water on her son, Zaire Humber, to cool off during the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party, held June 21, 2025, at UTEC. The celebration was organized by the Afro-American Community Collaborative.

NATIONAL SEASHORE

Feds go cash-free on the Cape

Researchers urge beachgoers to be ‘Shark Smart’

By Rick Sobey
rick.sobey@bostonherald.com

It’s not only local sports and entertainment venues that are saying goodbye to cash. This summer on the Cape, make sure you have your credit and debit cards at the ready. Cape Cod National Seashore has announced that it will transition to a fully cashless system at its fee entrance stations on July 1. Only credit cards, debit cards, or mobile payments will be accepted at beach entrance booths. Meanwhile as summer kicks off, shark researchers are urging Cape beachgoers to be “Shark Smart” as white sharks hunt for seals close to shore. The National Seashore said the transition to electronic payment is safer and reduces transaction times. The decision aligns with a recent executive order and U.S. Treasury policies to reduce the amount of cash and checks handled across the federal government. “Cash sales represent 10% of in-person sales in the park,” Park Superintendent Jennifer Flynn said in a statement. “During the busy summer season, park rangers spend up to eight and a half hours per day documenting, re-

CAPE » PAGE 4

DEPT. OF REVENUE

State adding to cable costs with tax on some boxes

By Colin A. Young
State House News Service

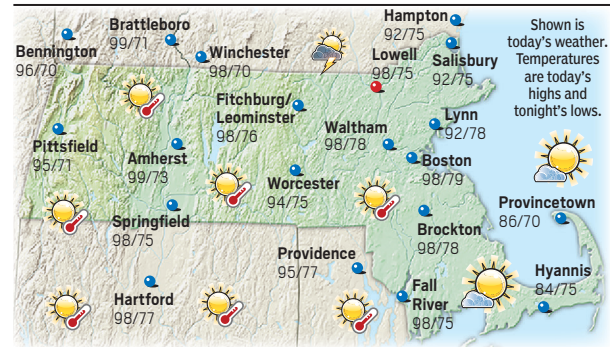
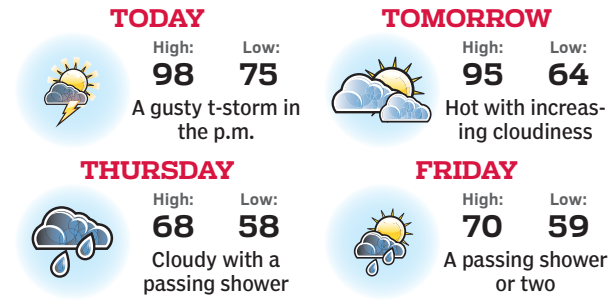
Bay State channel-surfers who buy, rent or lease a cable box from their television provider could soon see a change on their bills: state tax collectors confirmed recently that those transactions are now subjected to the state sales tax. Revenue Commissioner Geoffrey Snyder signed a directive June 13 declaring that the sale or rental of any cable box device that “can do more than connect a cable system to a TV broadcast receiver, and allow for parental controls” is no longer exempt from the state’s 6.25% sales tax. That means cable boxes that have DVR abilities or other common features like the

CABLE » PAGE 4



Weather

Lowell Forecast ☀️ AccuWeather. Get the AccuWeather app



Almanac
Statistics through 4 p.m. Monday

Temperature
High/low 93/68
Normal high/low 80/62

Precipitation
24 hour total Trace
Month to date 0.98"
Year to date 17.73"
Normal year to date ... 23.84"

Sun & Moon
Sunrise today 5:08 a.m.
Sunset tonight 8:27 p.m.
Moonrise today 3:43 a.m.
Moonset today 8:20 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Jun 25	Jul 2	Jul 10	Jul 17

Lotto WINNING NUMBERS DRAWN MONDAY:

MASSACHUSETTS

Mid-Day: 9-0-0-2

Payoffs (on \$1 bet):

Exact Order:
All four, \$5,373
First, last three, \$752
Any two, \$64
Any one, \$6

Any Order:
All four, \$448
First three, \$251
Last three, \$251

Evening: 8-8-5-4

Payoffs (on \$1 bet):

Exact Order:
All four, \$5,615
First, last three, \$786
Any two, \$67
Any one, \$7

Any Order:
All four, \$468
First three, \$262
Last three, \$131

Mass Cash (Sun.):
4-10-17-21-35

Lucky for Life (Sun.):
12-19-21-23-38-6

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Tri-State Daily:
Afternoon

Pick 3: 7-6-4

Pick 4: 9-5-0-2

Evening

Pick 3: 7-6-4

Pick 4: 8-4-4-9

Gimme 5:
16-22-24-28-34

Due to our earlier deadlines, some numbers are reported a day later as noted. For more immediate results, visit www.masslottery.com and www.nhlottery.com.

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Party

FROM PAGE 1

been involved, it's really a big thing for us.”

Tyree added that the spirit of inclusion remains central to the block party.

“We want to embrace everybody, because at one point, we weren't embraced,” she said. “It's a good vibe, and I'm glad we continue to do it and hopefully every year it gets bigger and bigger.”

Leslie Rivera, senior director at UTEC, said the organization's partnership with AACC over the years is rooted in a shared goal of community building.

“The goal is to dismantle barriers,” Rivera said. “The best way to do that is by bringing unity within the community and sharing resources.”

“As long as people feel like they're part of the community,” she added, “they will want better for themselves and the community.”



Glenny Javier holds 9-month-old K'iani Santana during the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party at UTEC in Lowell on June 21, 2025. The event was organized by the Afro-American Community Collaborative.

Follow Aaron Curtis on X @aselahcurtis, or on Bluesky @aaronscurtis.bsky.social.



Singer and rapper Rayel, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, performs during the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party at UTEC in Lowell on June 21, 2025.



Attendees play a round of cards during the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party at UTEC in Lowell on June 21, 2025. The event was organized by the Afro-American Community Collaborative.



Lawrence resident Sebastian Navedo, known by his stage name Big Man, performs during the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party at UTEC in Lowell on June 21, 2025.



Michael Shaw and his daughter, Samika, enjoy the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party at UTEC in Lowell on June 21, 2025. The family-friendly event was organized by the Afro-American Community Collaborative.



Su'Remah Understanding, at left, shares her handmade products from Su'Remah's Earthly Creations during the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party at UTEC in Lowell on June 21, 2025.



From right, Dasneem Mohid, owner of Jeweled Petals, stands with her children, Ashraf and Yousuf Mohid, at their booth during the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party at UTEC in Lowell on June 21, 2025.



Anthony Clayton, of the Afro-American Community Collaborative, grills hamburgers and hot dogs during the seventh annual Juneteenth Block Party hosted by UTEC in Lowell on June 21, 2025. AACC organized the event, which offered free food and music while celebrating Black freedom, resilience and cultural heritage.