



INFLATION TAKES A BITE
IT TAKES A BIGGER BUDGET TO BE TODAY'S TOOTH FAIRY

TODAY IN **G** LIVING

SPORTS

BRANKARI MAALIVAHTI GARDIEN GOALIE



THE MANY LANGUAGES IN BRUINS' LINEUP

PLUS: LATE-INNING HEROICS BY ROSS LIFT SOX

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The Boston Globe

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012

GOING GRAY

TODAY: Cloudy, windy, a shower later.
High 57-62. Low 41-46.
TOMORROW: Cloudy, a shower.
High 57-62. Low 42-47.
HIGH TIDE: 1:40 a.m. 2:14 p.m.
SUNRISE: 5:49 a.m. SUNSET: 7:36 p.m.
FULL REPORT: PAGE B15

In the news

Nearly half of Massachusetts' residents have had their personal information lost or stolen in the past four years because of data breaches, according to a state report. **B7.**

The Massachusetts House killed a Republican measure to lower the state sales tax to 5 percent, instead voting to send the proposal to a study commission. **B1.**

A Hull police officer filed a whistleblower complaint accusing police officials of misusing a federal grant and docking her pay after she didn't take part in a coverup. **B1.**

The financial health of the Social Security system worsened in the past year, but the outlook for Medicare stabilized somewhat, the government announced. **A2.**



Relatives and friends of a 67-year-old South Boston grandmother who was fatally stabbed were overcome with grief as prosecutors disclosed that the suspect in the case was trying to steal high-end fishing equipment. **B1.**

President Obama announced new sanctions against those who provide Syria and Iran with cutting-edge technology to track down dissidents for abuse, torture, or death. **A3.**

Syrian government forces are attacking cities after UN observers leave but they adopt a low profile when the monitors visit Damascus suburbs, according to activists. **A4.**

John Edwards's federal corruption trial opened with the judge disclosing that a key prosecution witness contacted other witnesses to ask about their planned testimony. **A6.**

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

POINT OF VIEW:
PAUL MCMORROW

"Housing prices will skyrocket in Massachusetts, for homes and apartments alike, because many cities and towns have locked themselves into slow- or no-growth stances. Massachusetts has been out of the home-building business for more than two decades. Three recessions have come and gone since the state's last real building boom." **A11.**

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More Hub charter schools sought

Backers want state to lift cap on new facilities

By James Vaznis
GLOBE STAFF

MALDEN — Boston charter school operators and advocates are urging state education officials to lift a moratorium on new charter schools in the city, two years after the enactment of a state law called for a sweeping expansion of these schools.

Advocates say allowing the establishment of more schools would address pent-up demand among students and parents in Boston. Collectively, the approximately 20 independently run charter schools in the city have 20,000 students on waiting lists, and some have seen their waiting lists double or triple in size in the past two years.

Supporters will make their plea Tuesday morning at a meeting of the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as a new round of charter school approvals is about to begin.

"The need is so tremendous at every grade," said Marc Kenen, executive director of the Massachusetts Charter Public School **CHARTER SCHOOLS, Page A12**

Scientist's death halts unique research

UMass Amherst suffers double loss

By Mary Carmichael
GLOBE STAFF

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is shutting down a prominent laboratory after the death of the high-profile scientist who oversaw the research.

In most fields, that would be the end of the story: An employee passes away, she is replaced, and, professionally speaking, everyone moves on.

But in academia, things are rarely so simple. And Lynn Margulis's death last year at 73, from a stroke, has presented UMass with a dilemma: What to do with the colleagues and equipment, not to mention unfinished work, she left behind?

The death of a working scientist is something every research university can eventually face. But there is no standard protocol for how to cope with it, and the circumstances of Margulis's career and death provide a window on just how difficult that task **UMASS AMHERST, Page A9**

Medford housing chief faces scrutiny over hirings

Denies charges leveled during federal, state inquiries

By Sean P. Murphy and Andrea Estes
GLOBE STAFF



Robert Covelle has been accused of favoritism in hiring.

MEDFORD — Medford Housing Authority chief Robert Covelle hired his close friend and bocce teammate to a \$53,000-a-year job, demoting a staff member to create the opening, his employees say. He hired his son's girlfriend in a no-bid contract to do more than \$4,000 worth of seasonal decorations in the office, according to federal in-

vestigators. He created a new \$85,000-a-year job that went to a family friend of Mayor Michael J. McGlynn of Medford.

And when two employees complained separately in writing to the Medford Housing Authority board about Covelle's alleged attempts to get jobs and subsidized housing for insiders, each was suspended from work, for allegedly being rude or for showing anger, according to records and interviews.

The housing authority in this blue-collar city of 55,000 has been under siege since last June when state officials first visited the Riverside Avenue headquarters to investigate allegations of widespread favoritism in hiring and contracting under Covelle, the brother-in-law of the late Middlesex County sheriff, James DiPaola.

It is illegal for public officials to use their official position to help **MEDFORD, Page A8**

SIGHTS SET ON THE GRANITE STATE



DENNIS BRACK/GETTY IMAGES

President Obama spoke at the Holocaust Museum in Washington on Monday, but the president has visited New Hampshire twice in the last five months. Winning New Hampshire would give Obama some wiggle room to lose other key states.



JAE C. HONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mitt Romney campaigned in Pennsylvania on Monday, but the former Massachusetts governor will be in New Hampshire on Tuesday for a speech and victory party that his campaign views as his official pivot to the general election.

N.H. could be decisive battleground

By Matt Viser
GLOBE STAFF

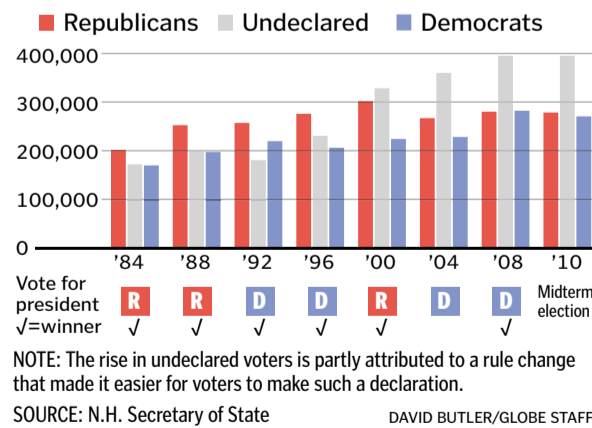
WASHINGTON — New Hampshire offers a mere four electoral votes. But President Obama and Mitt Romney are fiercely pursuing the hearts and minds of the Granite State's notoriously finicky electorate in a race that could come down to the wire in November.

New Hampshire is seen as one of about 14 swing states in this election, and the only one in New England. Obama visited the state twice in the last five months; Michelle Obama was in Concord last month, and Vice Presi-

dent Joe Biden has been to the state three times this year.

For Romney, the significance of New Hampshire is personal as well as political. The state is home to his summer residence and was the launch pad of his candidacy last summer. He was a regular visitor before the hotly contested primary in January. And Tuesday night, instead of celebrating in one of the five states holding a primary that day, Romney is returning to the Granite State for a speech and a victory party that his campaign considers his official pivot to the general **NEW HAMPSHIRE, Page A7**

N.H. REGISTERED VOTERS



ATMs for the blind faulted on audio quality

Survey finds problems at banks, T stations

By Todd Wallack
GLOBE STAFF



ARAM BOGHOSIAN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

This ATM in Boston delivers audio prompts via a headphone jack and works properly.

Many ATMs and MBTA fare machines in the Boston area cannot be used by people who are blind, despite federal rules that went into effect last month requiring that more of the machines be accessible to the visually im-

paired, according to a new survey to be released Tuesday.

Consumer World, a Boston consumer website, found that 1 in 4 ATMs it tested in the region could not provide spoken instructions to users via a jack for headphones. And headphone audio was also unusable at nearly 60 percent of MBTA fare machines tested. Those machines produced no sound, or blared the customer's information, such as a CharlieCard balance, over

loudspeakers, infringing on user privacy.

Advocates for the blind said it is paramount for banks, transit operators, and other organizations to provide a working audio option.

"It is not an acceptable solution or accommodation for a blind person to have to try to find and rely on a friend, stranger, or colleague to read information from kiosks or ATM screens," said **ADAPTED ATMS, Page A12**