



TROUBLE BRUIN  
Un-bear-  
lievable visitor  
in Chelmsford  
Local news » A3



HIGH SCHOOL FIELD  
HOCKEY  
Hard-working  
Morgan earns  
Vermont offer  
Sports » B1



ENTERTAINMENT  
Chuck E.  
Cheese picks  
Texas to test  
new concept  
Business » B6

STRAY  
T-STORM  
High: 93  
Low: 62

# THE SUN

Sunday, August 17, 2025

\$3.00

FACEBOOK.COM/LOWELLSUN X.COM/LOWELLSUN

lowellsun.com

EMPLOYEES TAKE SIDES

## A Market Basket divided

Dueling narratives show divisions within the company's offices

By Peter Currier  
pcurrier@lowellsun.com

TEWKSBURY » As the corporate shakeup within Market Basket continues to unfold, some divisions are visible within the company's corporate offices as some

employees report tension in the Tewksbury headquarters, and others report an improved company culture.

After May 28, when Market Basket CEO Arthur T. Demoulas

MARKET » PAGE 12



Market Basket Store Operations Supervisor Valerie Polito speaks at a press conference at the grocery chain's Reading location Aug. 8, a day after her letter to the Market Basket board became public, detailing a devolving company culture in the wake of the suspension of CEO Arthur T. Demoulas. Other employees have since come forward to say the culture has improved, showing divisions among staff.

JIM DAVIS — BOSTON HERALD

'A LACK OF DUE DILIGENCE'

## MONKS REMOVE TREES IN FLOOD PLAIN WITHOUT PERMIT

Conservation Commission ratifies enforcement order against Vatt Khmer temple



A section of trees cut down without permitted approval at 48 Townsend Ave. at the Vatt Khmer Lowell and Khmer American Cultural Center in Pawtucketville.

By Melanie Gilbert  
mgilbert@lowellsun.com

LOWELL » A resident on Shirley Avenue remembers kayaking around her Pawtucketville neighborhood after the Mother's Day flood of 2006. The area, designated a flood plain, is home to the Claypit Brook and the Merrimack River.

It is also home to the Vatt Khmer Lowell and Khmer

American Cultural Center on Townsend Avenue, which was slapped with an enforcement order by the Conservation Commission for cutting down dozens of trees within a flood plain without a permit.

"This to me screams of a lack of due diligence," said Brad Buitenhuis said during the Wednesday night meeting at City Hall. "You have a set of documents that say flood zone.

I know it's your property but it's our jurisdiction. You've removed a significant amount of trees in the flood plain, which help to soak up and disperse flood waters."

Drone footage from Aug. 3, sent to The Sun by Centralville resident William Palermo, shows the extent of the tree-cutting operation. The tree destruction comes at a time of increasing concerns about the city's

urban canopy, heat islands and flooding risks to residents and infrastructure due to climate-related changes.

Samkhann Khoem, president of the board of directors for Vatt Khmer, told the commission that the tree-cutting was an "oversight," based on a permit approved in 2019.

But Conservation Commis-

TREES » PAGE 5

ANTI-POVERTY FUNDS

## Community services grants on chopping block in D.C.

Program defenders up against Trump claims that grants fund 'woke programs'

By Chris Lisinski  
State House News Service

LAWRENCE » Anti-poverty advocates and a Democratic congresswoman on Thursday accused the Trump administration of "doubling down" on spending cuts that could harm the state's lowest-income residents.

As President Donald Trump targets the Community Services Block Grant program he alleges has been "hijacked" for other purposes, Bay Staters argued that the funding provides critical support for housing assistance, child care, heating aid and more.

Leaders from several community action agencies laid out a call to action, urging their supporters and constituents to contact members of Congress and express opposition to the cuts Trump has eyed.

"It's not only a part of our identity, but it's also an amazing investment in our communities," Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Executive Director and CEO Vilma Dominguez-Martinez said about the block grant program. "Through community action, the entire community prospers each time a family avoids eviction with our support. We alleviate the strain on our hospitals and shelter system."

Trump in May outlined a discretionary budget request for federal fiscal year 2026, which begins Oct. 1. His plan would cut money from what the administration described as several "woke programs," including elimination of

GRANTS » PAGE 2

INDEX

Lottery ..... A2 | Local ..... A3 | Obituaries ..... A6 | Focus ..... A8 | Opinion ..... A9 | Sports ..... B1 | Puzzles ..... B6 | 

Barcode: 8 40092 00260 5



**QUINN'S**  
CONSTRUCTION  
Professional Building Services

Superior Exterior Transformations that adds a stunning look.

Quinn's Construction has completed hundreds of James Hardie siding installations across New England. Our James Hardie siding offers superior protection and requires minimal maintenance, guaranteed to last with a 15-year non-prorated color guarantee and a 30-year non-prorated materials warranty.

Superior protection that's guaranteed to last with the best siding from James Hardie.

1049 Lakeview Ave #1, Dracut, MA 01826

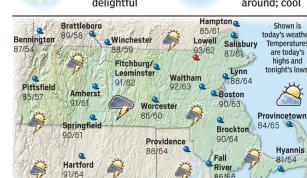
Call: 978-957-1200 or Text: 978-886-2869 • Email: Tom@quinnscconstruction.com

Check out  
picture of  
the week



**Weather****Lowell Forecast** • AccuWeather. Visit [AccuWeather.com](http://AccuWeather.com)

TODAY		TOMORROW	
High: 93	Low: 62	High: 78	Low: 54
A t-storm late this afternoon	Sunny and less humid		
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
High: 74 Low: 58 Sunshine and delightful	High: 68 Low: 57 Cloudy, showers around; cool	High: 70 Low: 55 Rainy, cool	High: 70 Low: 55 Rainy, cool

**Almanac**

Starting through 4 p.m. Saturday

Temperature: 84°/66°

Normal high/low: 82/64

Precipitation: 24 hour total: .00" Trace

Month to date: 1.96"

Year to date: 22.68"

Normal year to date: 30.38"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2025

**Lotto** WINNING NUMBERS DRAWN SATURDAY**MASSACHUSETTS****Mid-Day: 3-4-1-3****Payoffs (on \$1bet):****Exact Order:****All four, \$5,189****First, last three, \$726****Any two, \$62****Any one, \$6****Any Order:****All four, \$4,323****First three, \$121****Last three, \$121****Evening: 0-3-0-9****Payoffs (on \$1bet):****Exact Order:****All four, \$4,888****First, last three, \$684****Any two, \$59****Any one, \$6**Due to our earlier deadlines, some numbers are reported a day later as noted. For more immediate results, visit [www.masslottery.com](http://www.masslottery.com) and [www.nhlottery.com](http://www.nhlottery.com).