

Tensions flare

Israel and Iran trade missile fire, sparking fears of escalation **A12**

Record crowd

Organizers say 60,000 attended amid heavy police presence **A3**



PROUDLY CANADIAN OWNED SINCE 1892

TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH 22 C | SUNNY | MAP A20

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026

Building their own prom

After school cancelled year-end bash, Brooklin students bridged the gap



JANET HURLEY
SENIOR WRITER

It was early October and Amelia Gatti, eager to make the most of her final year of high school, wanted to join the prom committee.

Talk to the teacher who runs it, guidance told her. But the day got away; Gatti figured she would reach out Monday.

Then late Friday afternoon, she and her Grade 12 classmates at Brooklin High School in north Whitby received an email that upended all plans: The prom was be-

ing cancelled due to “growing expectations, liabilities and risks.”

The letter, signed by Brooklin principal Julie MacKenzie along with the principals of Brock and Uxbridge secondary schools, blindsided the Durham region teens.

Group-chat rooms lit up in panic with incredulous students sharing screenshots of the principals’ message, asking what to make of its promise of alternative year-end activities to mark this milestone.

In the days that followed, Brooklin students organized a walkout and a petition. Even Ontario’s edu-

cation minister urged the schools to reconsider, warning he was prepared to step in if necessary. But the principals held firm.

“I knew right then there I wanted to do something,” says Gatti.

Denied a rite of passage she had long imagined, the 17-year-old didn’t just decide to resuscitate the prom committee, she emerged as a driving force.

And what began with a protest against cancellation became something larger: a lesson in resilience and the power of community.

SEE PROM, A4

Kaillen Taylor, left, Veronica Henshall, top right, Amelia Gatti, centre, and Madelyn Williams work on creating a New York skyline for their Brooklin High School prom.

NICK LACHANCE/
TORONTO STAR

STAR EXCLUSIVE

Feds test use of AI to create prisoner profiles

Potential for errors, legal concerns if trial leads to widespread adoption, critics say

MARK RAMZY
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA The Canadian government is considering the use of artificial intelligence to save time creating influential assessment profile reports of offenders as they go to federal prisons, and is running a small-scale trial to test it, the Star has learned.

Mentioned in lengthy documents tabled in Parliament last month and confirmed by Correctional Service Canada (CSC), the test run comes as the Carney government tries to ramp up AI adoption, including with billions in a national strategy released this week.

But the prison trial, which CSC says has not yet been used in real cases, is raising concerns from AI experts, criminal defence lawyers and the federal NDP’s public safety critic, who argue a widespread adoption could lead to crucial errors, exacerbate racial biases and put offenders and victims at risk.

Criminal profile reports, as they are called, are detailed “foundational documents” prepared by CSC staff during a prisoner’s intake process that identify risks and play a role in major decisions like access to programs and likelihood of parole.

SEE PRISONS, A6

Health-care cuts come with real cost for mom, daughter seeking asylum



ALTHIA RAJ
OPINION

A non-verbal 11-year-old girl who has cerebral palsy, epilepsy and severe scoliosis that is repositioning her organs could be the face of the Carney government’s recent cuts to refugee and asylum-seekers’ care.

The girl and her mother — who will be identified here as “Emma”

and “Olivia,” because Olivia fears using their real names will put them in danger — fled to Canada more than three and a half years ago from Uganda, after Olivia says family members tried to perform witchcraft on Emma to cure her “spiritual” illness, and ostracized them because they believed Emma’s condition was contagious.

The two have been living in Toronto since Olivia arrived with a severely malnourished Emma in 2023. They are still waiting for their asylum claim to be heard.

Up until last month, Emma’s

medical needs had been fully covered under the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP), which provides temporary health-care coverage to refugees for a year and to asylum-seekers while they wait to be approved or deported.

But now Olivia, who lives on social assistance because her daughter requires 24-hour-a-day care, must come up with more than \$500 a month for new co-pay charges. Their medical costs would be fully covered if they were residents.

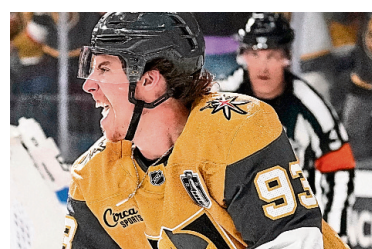
SEE RAJ, A8

FULL INDEX
A2
ON0



SPORTS

Marner shining with Knights



Former Leaf delivers game for the ages as Vegas moves closer to title **Feschuk A14**



We're here to talk about that one thing nobody wants to talk about.

REST EASY.

Connect with a pre-planning advisor today.



Mount Pleasant Group
Cemeteries, Cremation and Funeral Centres