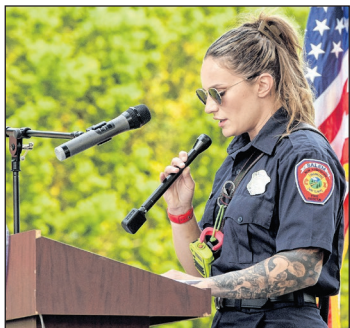


LOCAL
**Fallen firefighters
memorial services
in Mass., NH**
Page 8



SPORTS
**Pinkerton's
Caruso devours
Spaulding; Windham
girls fall to BG**
Page 9



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GRADUATION DAY Methuen seniors bid farewell

By **Teddy Tauscher**
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METHUEN — More than 500 Methuen High School students in caps and gowns took to Nicholson Stadium, 49 Pleasant View St., on Sunday.

The graduation began at 11 a.m. Diplomas were handed out by Superintendent Brandi Kwong and interim high school Principal Anthony Curet. The ceremony was scheduled for Friday night but was delayed until the weekend.

Kwong and Mayor D.J. Beauregard spoke during the ceremony.

Closing remarks were made by Class President Desmond Thomas Csizmadia, who also gave a valedictory address titled: “Dream in the Moment.”

Other class officers include Vice President Benjamin Lee Catarius, Secretary Devin Alexander Rosario and Treasurer Christian David Belanger.

The salutatory address was given by Crystal Allison Castro and titled: “Wait Until the Sun Shines Through.”

The honorary address was given by Milo Ellington Isaacs and titled: “Reinvent Yourself.”

The master of ceremonies was Claire Nzisa Makena.

» **More graduation
photos from Haverhill
and Methuen. Page 3.**



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Methuen High School graduates Jacqueline Ploude and Asher Polanco celebrate after receiving their diplomas Sunday at Nicholson Stadium.

Interim solicitor chosen as premier candidate

By **Teddy Tauscher**
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METHUEN — The city is looking at appointing former assistant and current Interim City Solicitor Paul O'Neill to the role on a permanent basis, as well as allowing the solicitor to potentially take on more duties in the school district.

O'Neill was identified as the best candidate through a search process, though the City Council has yet to approve his appointment. The council is also debating an ordinance that among other things could expand the solicitor's responsibilities in school matters, like contract negotiations.

School Committee Vice Chair Laurie Keegan said she was skeptical that a city solicitor would have the expertise necessary for education law matters.

Search committee member and City Councilor Nicholas DiZoglio said at a meeting Monday while the committee had begun the process with 12 applicants only two made it to the interview portion, with other candidates



Paul O'Neill

SEE SOLICITOR, PAGE 2

Caps off to Hillies grads

By **Jonah Frangiosa**
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HAVERHILL — A rain delay was no match for the class of more than 500 scholars eager to cross the stage and snatch their diplomas.

It was their final walk as Hillies and their loved ones packed Trinity Stadium to witness each footstep.

Weather delays pushed

back the graduation ceremony for Haverhill High School's Class of 2025, but the stage was still set for Sunday afternoon, with a well-attended event.

It was a full house at the stadium, and it wasn't for a football game. Hundreds of friends and family members celebrated in the stands,

SEE HAVERHILL, PAGE 3



Haverhill High School valedictorian Tyler Joslin, right, shakes hands with Principal Michael Downs after receiving his diploma.



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Amir Jex waves to his family in the stands as he walks into Trinity stadium during the Haverhill High School graduation ceremony Sunday afternoon.

HAVERHILL

First Pride Parade takes to the streets

By **Jonah Frangiosa**
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HAVERHILL — Mother Nature may have tried to rain on their parade, but Haverhill was louder, brighter and prouder than ever Saturday as thousands flooded downtown for a history-making celebration.

It was a sea of rainbow flags, cheers echoed between storefronts, and the sidewalks were lined with supporters.

This past weekend held the first-ever Haverhill Pride Parade – a long-anticipated display of love, inclusion and LGBTQ visibility for Queen Slipper City.

The parade kicked off about 1 p.m. from Bailey Boulevard beside G.A.R. Park, winding down Emerson Street, circling Washington Square, and coming to a stop on Wingate Street. Marchers and spectators sported rainbow flags, clothing items, and even umbrellas for the rainy weather.

All together, the parade formed a vibrant procession to the city's busiest districts to create a welcoming space for people of all identities.

Before the march began, the city held its

SEE PRIDE, PAGE 2

Inside Today

Comics	13
Dear Abby.....	14
Horoscope	14
Massachusetts.....	4
New Hampshire.....	4
Obituaries.....	4
Opinion	7
Sports	9-11
Weather	14

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