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Saturday–Sunday, August 22–23, 2026

Jail time looms for ex Methuen police chief

By Jill Harmacinski
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SALEM, Mass. — Former Methuen Police Chief Joseph Solomon faces more charges from the state’s Ethics Commission regardless of whether he goes to trial next month. Solomon’s defense attorney Andrew Gambaccini noted this during a recent hearing in Salem Superior Court where resolutions to Solomon’s criminal perjury and corruption case were discussed before a judge. Solomon still had litigation before him on

the ethics charges, Gambaccini said. Prosecutors want Solomon to be sentenced to 4 to 5 years in state prison in his criminal case. Gambaccini wants the charges continued without a finding. And a judge has said the case warranted a county jail sentence, potentially 2 1/2 years. Solomon, 65, has not yet taken any action to avoid trial, which is scheduled for Sept. 8. In the criminal case, authorities have said from 2015 to 2020, when Solomon was police chief, he repeatedly

used his position to undermine the law for his own benefit, including hiring six part-time intermittent officers and then appointing them to full-time department roles. Solomon is charged with perjury by written affidavit (two counts), obtaining unwarranted privileges in violation of the civil service laws (seven counts), Civil Service Law violations (six counts), uttering a forged document, and procurement fraud. The perjury charge carries the highest potential penalty



Joseph Solomon

of 20 years in state prison. Solomon was indicted by a state-wide grand jury more than two years ago. The trial is expected to last five to seven days, according to court records. Officer Sean Fountain was one of Solomon’s hires, and he made false statements about his qualifications to be

a police officer, officials said. In December, Fountain pleaded guilty to fraud, perjury and related charges after he was indicted alongside Solomon. Fountain was sentenced to three years probation and he cannot carry a firearm or work in a law enforcement capacity again. Fountain made more than 40 arrests, conducted searches, initiated prosecutions and received roughly \$427,000 with additional benefits, all while lacking any lawful authority, officials said. Fountain was a Methuen

city councilor from 2012 through 2017, and later a Methuen police officer from 2017 to 2020. Solomon is accused of violating the state’s conflict of interest law by including changes in a revised draft collective bargaining agreement that would have increased his salary without notifying the mayor or any other city officials of the changes or their financial impacts. Ethics authorities also said Solomon provided

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Richard Padova of the Lawrence Heritage State Park shows a life-size display of a female mill weaver working the loom. CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Immigrant City’s story still rings true
Lawrence Heritage Park celebrates 40th anniversary

By Terry Date
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LAWRENCE — Sept. 1 will mark exactly 40 years since then-Gov. Michael Dukakis cut a red ribbon and dedicated the new Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors’ Center. Colorful balloons lifted skyward and 4,000 people toured the center that sunny and pleasant Labor Day in 1986. Countless visitors have since learned — through museum exhibits, hands-on exploration, walking tours and programs — about the massive mills, Great Stone Dam, canal infrastructure, and factory and home life in the planned industrial city of



The dedication ceremony of the Lawrence Heritage State Park in 1986. COURTESY PHOTO

Lawrence. The heritage visitors’ center and park system present the city’s industrial, labor and

immigrant history in the very places where it unfolded.

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“It makes them feel good that they’ve made the connection, you know, that, ‘Wow, I’m here in this facility that tells the story of where my grandfather toiled all those years, gave his blood, sweat and tears.’”
– Organizer Rich Padova

Markey, Moulton face off in U.S. Senate race

By Christian M. Wade
» Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Democratic heavyweights Ed Markey and Seth Moulton will face off in the Sept. 1 primary, capping off a contentious, nationally watched U.S. Senate race that has been framed around generational change in Washington, D.C. politics. Moulton, 47, shook the state’s political establishment more than a decade ago when he ousted nine-term Congressman John Tierney in an upset victory. Now the ex-Marine and five-term U.S. representative has set his sights on taking down Markey. Moulton argues that the Senate needs new leaders to push back against Republican

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WHO MAKES YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO BUY SEAFOOD AT THE BEACH?

Brown’s Lobster Pound wins best seafood crown by 2.6%

By Jonah Frangiosa
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SEABROOK, N.H. — There’s no shortage of seafood along the Seabrook coast. But when it came time for readers to pick a winner, one restaurant was crowned king of the crabs. In a razor-thin victory, Brown’s Lobster Pound won the vote for best seafood, narrowly edging out Markey’s Lobster Pool in a contest between the two long-running summertime establishments across Route

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