



AI pricing suit raises antitrust questions

INSIDE, 5A

SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST SINCE 1872

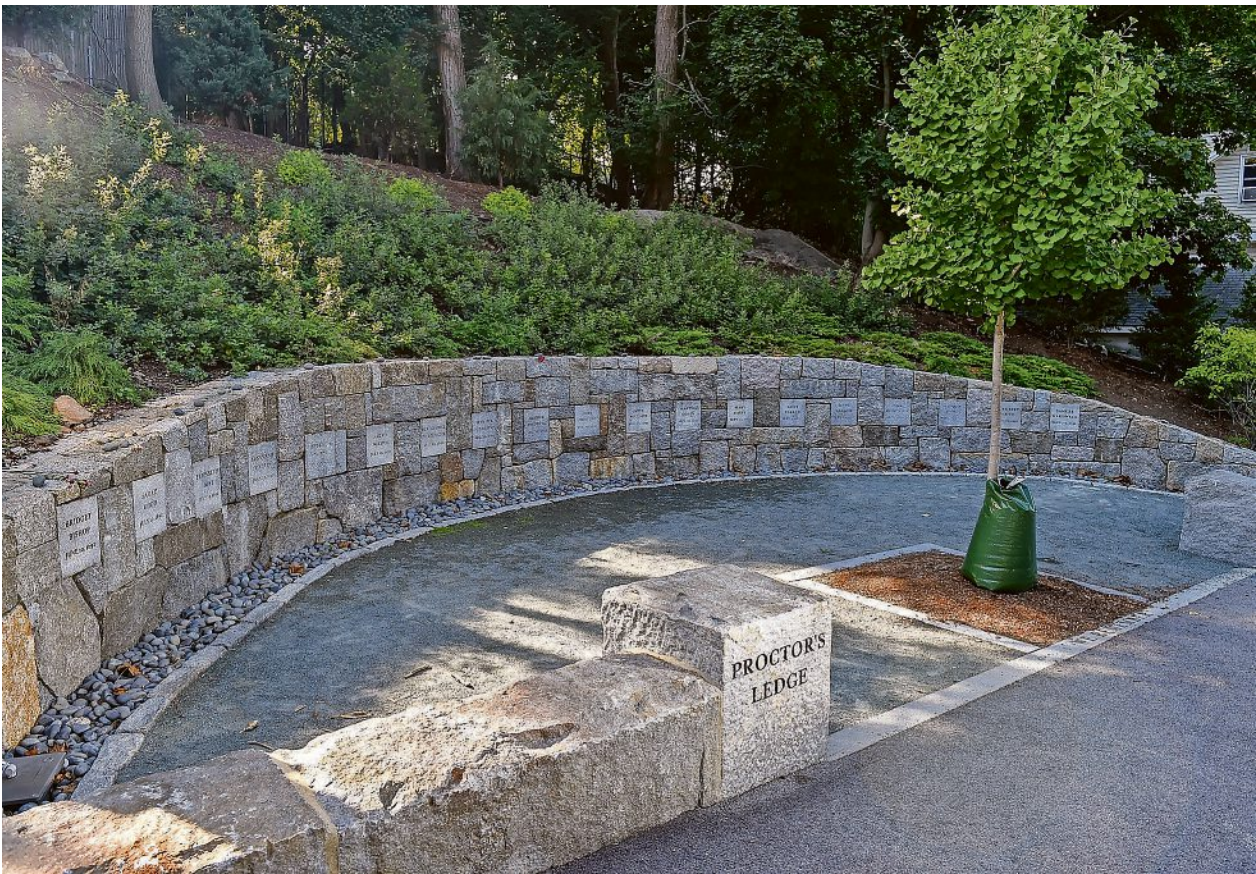
The Herald News

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026 | HERALDNEWS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

There is no print edition of the paper today, but you can find today’s puzzles, comics, national news and sports here in the eNewspaper.

Historically haunted



Proctor's Ledge located near 7 Pope St, Salem, on Sept. 8, 2020. DAVID SOKOL/WICKED LOCAL FILE

Spooky spots to check out in Salem, Massachusetts

Catherine Messier
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

Halloween is just around the corner, and as one of the oldest states, Massachusetts not only offers plenty of Halloween-themed attractions, but also numerous historic towns haunted by the ghosts of their past. Of course, one of these towns is Salem, the site of the 1692 Salem Witch Trials. Steeped in haunted history that comes to life each Halloween, the North Shore town has a ghost around every corner, with restaurants, hotels and historic sites haunted by ghosts from the time of the Witch Trials and beyond. Here are five places with active ghosts to visit in Salem this spooky season.

Proctor's Ledge

The spirits of those murdered for accused witchcraft can be found at Proctor's Ledge, the official execution site of the Witch Trials. Out of 200 townspeople accused of witchcraft, 19 were killed as witches at this very site, including Sarah Good, Elizabeth Howe, Susannah Martin, Rebecca Nurse, Sarah Wildes and John Proctor, for whom the site is named, after it was purchased by one of his descendants. According to Smithsonian Magazine, the witches were hanged and then dumped into a low spot beneath the ledge known as "the crevice," where their bodies would be retrieved by family members after dark. It is believed that the spirits of the 19 victims continue to haunt the place they died, with visitors reporting cold spots and orbs, says Ghost City Tours. Local legend reports that a "Lady in White" can be seen and heard hanging around Proctor's Ledge. For over 300 years, it was believed that the accused were hanged at the summit of Gallows Hill, explains the Salem Witch Museum. Local historian Sidney Per-



Serious surface compaction at Old Burial Point prior to the Charter Street cemetery's comprehensive restoration. WILLIAM J. DOWD/WICKED LOCAL

ley was the first to suggest Proctor's Ledge as the actual execution spot in 1921. It was not until 2016 that Proctor's Ledge was confirmed as the mass execution site, largely due to 1692 eyewitness accounts from neighbors who witnessed the killings. A memorial was built at the historic site in 2017, with the names of all 19 victims engraved in a stone wall. Proctor's Ledge is located at 7 Pope St., about one mile from downtown Salem. The memorial is located in a residential area with no parking, so the Salem Witch Museum recommends parking at Gallows Hill Park and walking down the hill to find the historic site.

See SALEM, Page 3A

How to stop the spread of spotted lanternflies

Catherine Messier
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

Sick of the spotted lanternflies taking over Massachusetts? Unfortunately, they might be here to stay. While many of New England's summer insects hide before the winter, the spotted lanternfly's eggs survive the cold, with egg laying happening this fall right under our noses. Without human intervention, the next generation of spotted lanternflies will hatch next spring, filling yet another Massachusetts summer with the invasive species. Wondering what you can do to get rid of the lanternflies? Here's what to know about the pest as Massachusetts prepares for winter, according to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

See LANTERNFLIES, Page 3A

Poll: Most blame Trump for high prices

Majority says costs rising faster than paychecks

Howard Schneider, Ann Saphir and Jason Lange
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Some 78% of Americans blame President Donald Trump's policies for rising prices that are outpacing their earnings, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll that found majorities of Republicans and Democrats citing the cost of living as their top concern ahead of next month's midterm elections. Fifty-seven percent of Trump's Republicans said that costs have been growing faster than their paychecks, a stark example of how his pursuit of import tariffs, war with Iran and other policies have clashed with a central 2024 campaign promise to kill inflation and lower prices "on day one."

Inflation instead has increased, to the point where the Federal Reserve has pivoted to rate hikes to quell price increases policymakers have attributed to a variety of factors, including rising global energy costs following the start of the Iran war, and the administration's imposition of aggressive import duties. Concerns about the economy and the war have

See COSTS, Page 2A

America's Most Trusted Gutter Protection!

a Great Day Improvements brand

Clog-free, maintenance free gutters!

SCAN ME FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Fall Savings: Exclusive Deals on Leafguard Gutters

20% OFF

A COMPLETE LEAFGUARD SYSTEM* DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF MATERIALS. EXPIRES 10/31/26

No Payments or Interest Until 2028**

500,000+ Satisfied Customers!

Call now for your FREE estimate

508.812.0122

* This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Leafguard or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Previous/future purchases are not eligible for a discount or sale price adjustment. Sales tax does not qualify for discount. This offer cannot be combined with and other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon or offer. This promotion has no cash value. Leafguard reserves the right to end any promotion at any time without notice. Expires 10/31/26.

** Plan 2531. Subject to credit approval. Interest rates range from 17.99% - 29.99%. Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. 18-month promotional period ("Promo Period") during which interest is billed but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before Promo Period expires. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Any unpaid balance and the amounts owed after Promo Period will be paid over 84 monthly payments. Appointment must be scheduled by 10/31/26, to take advantage of offer.

Leafguard is a Great Day Improvements brand

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to heraldnews.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!

Volume 154 | No. 240
Subscribe 888-424-8742
©2026 \$2.00