



## MetroWest players to watch this spring

SPORTS, 1B

# The METROWEST DAILY NEWS

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### SUDBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE RACE



Jonathan Sullivan, shown greeting voters outside Sudbury's only polling station at the Fairbank Community Center, came up just short in his write-in campaign for one of two open seats on the School Committee on March 30.

ART ILLMAN/DAILY NEWS AND WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO

## How Doctors' Day became a rallying point for health care reform in MA

Isabella Oland

Boston University Statehouse Program

While Doctors' Day has traditionally celebrated physicians' contributions — specifically the date of the first use of general anesthesia in surgery by Dr. Crawford W. Long on March 30, 1842 — this year Massachusetts physicians are redefining it as a platform for advocacy.

Facing federal funding cuts and growing primary care shortages, Massachusetts physicians met with legislators on March 25 at the State House to call for urgent policy action.

Physicians from the Massachusetts Medical Society gathered for their first in-person Doctors' Day since before the COVID-19 pandemic to advocate for bills to increase primary care access, improve childhood immunization rates, and bolster protections for immigrant health care access.

The renewed urgency comes as the "Big Beautiful Bill," passed by Congress last July, is expected to cut \$3.5

See DOCTORS' DAY, Page 4A



Chief Medical Officer Dr. Huan Ngo and Chief Nursing Officer Chenesse Nicholas in the emergency department at Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital on Jan. 15.

MARC VASCONCELLOS/THE ENTERPRISE

# Write-in campaign comes up just short

Dan O'Brien

The MetroWest Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

SUDBURY — The first local election this spring in MetroWest was... an interesting one.

Voters visiting the town's only polling station at the Fairbank Community Center on Monday, March 30, considered eight races; none was contested, at

least not officially — Jonathan Sullivan made a write-in campaign for a School Committee seat.

And what a campaign it was. Sullivan, who ran on the premise that the School Committee "must stay focused on its core responsibilities," came up just a hair short of claiming one of two open seats: He earned 1,437 votes, trailing Julie Durgin-Sicree (1,566), who was technically an incumbent after be-

ing appointed to the board in December after Mandy Sim resigned; and newcomer Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco (1,452).

Curiously, more than half of the 3,045 ballots cast — 1,601 — left the School Committee race blank.

Sullivan's run came as a petition began circulating in town calling for a vote

See ELECTION, Page 2A

## Stephen Paul Gale sent to prison for 1989 Framingham rapes

Norman Miller

The MetroWest Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The man who was found guilty of raping two women in a Framingham retail store more than 36 years ago will likely spend the rest of his life in prison.

Stephen Paul Gale, 73, was sentenced by Middlesex Superior Court Judge Patrick Haggan to consecutive 25- to 30-year prison terms for two aggravated rape counts. Haggan also sentenced Gale to 25- to 30-year prison terms for two additional aggravated rape convictions, to run concurrently

with the first two.

Haggan also sentenced Gale to 10 years of probation and to have no contact, direct or indirect, with either of the two victims.

Gale will receive credit for the 418 days he has already served in custody.

Gale was convicted last week by a

Middlesex Superior Court jury of four counts of aggravated rape; two counts of kidnapping; and one count of armed robbery. He was sentenced based on 1989 sentencing guidelines. Current sentencing guidelines for aggravated

See SENTENCED, Page 2A

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