



Lend a Hand

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WEEKEND

The Patriot Ledger

A NEW ENGLAND DISTINGUISHED NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

DECEMBER 13 - 14, 2025 | PATRIOTLEDGER.COM THE SOUTH SHORE'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1837 | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

'Every day is a gift and a blessing'



Chris Kowalski, 37, holds his newborn son, Camden, on the right, and his two-year-old daughter Blake, on the left, at their Hanover home in September 2025. Camden was born on Sept. 8.
PROVIDED BY THE KOWALSKI FAMILY

New wave of early onset colon cancer confronts Hanover dad

Sue Scheible

The Patriot Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

HANOVER – It was a stunning blow for a healthy, active couple in their mid-30s.

April 2025 had begun as one of the high points in the life together

that Erin and Chris Kowalski have built for themselves since getting married in 2018.

Seven years into their marriage, Erin was six months pregnant with their second child, a boy, Camden. Their daughter Blake, was a healthy, rambunctious 2-year-old, high energy with a big smile, just

like her parents.

Both had jobs they found meaningful. Chris is a sales manager in joint replacement and robotics for Stryker Corp. Erin is a mental health therapist specializing in eating disorders at Within Health,

See KOWALSKI, Page 3A

Quincy gets ready to set tax rate

Residents talk affordability

Peter Blandino

The Patriot Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

QUINCY – Asked to approve a split tax classification by Mayor Thomas Koch, Quincy City Council deferred the decision for another week at the urging of one of the councilors, who said the administration should disclose the actual tax rate and its effect on taxpayers before the council votes.

Meanwhile, residents and incoming councilor-elects raised concerns over affordability and a \$16 million unfunded pension payment.

At the Monday, Dec. 8 meeting, at-large city councilor Noel DiBona said the administration has traditionally presented the overall tax levy in the same meeting as the tax classification vote. This year, proceedings were divided into two meetings.

See TAX RATE, Page 5A

LEND A HAND CAMPAIGN

Boyfriend dies. Car repairs. Heating bills. Can you help?

The Patriot Ledger

Editor's note: The following is a profile submitted by South Shore Community Action Council for The Patriot Ledger's Lend a Hand campaign. The person's name has been changed to protect her privacy.

For five years, Ashley and her boyfriend, Thomas, created a loving home for their young daughter and Ashley's two children.

But in June, tragedy struck.

Thomas suffered a stroke. A vein ruptured in his brain and he died.

Ashley and her children were

See DONATIONS, Page 5A

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Volume 188 | No. 246
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