ICE is secretly tracking protesters

NEWS, 5A

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

The Standard-Times

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026 | SOUTHCOASTTODAY.COM SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY | 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 Perley was the first to suggest Proctor's Ledge as the actual execution spot in 1921.

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

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.

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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).

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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.

Trump

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

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Volume 185 | No. 147
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