



NFL's top 25 QBs of the 21st century

SPORTS, 1B

The Enterprise

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Judge Michael Vitale (2nd from left, back row) stands behind all the Brockton middle school students who took part in the mock trial event at Brockton District Court on Dec. 17. PHOTOS BY MARK JARRET CHAVOUS/THE ENTERPRISE

Brockton students ‘shine’ in mock trial

Now one wants to be a lawyer

Janson McNair The Enterprise | USA TODAY NETWORK

BROCKTON — Legal teams in the case of Christine Johnson v. Cedarwood School District argued before a Brockton jury, which reached a verdict.

Here’s the catch: The plaintiff, defense and witnesses were all middle school students.

Students from East Middle School, North Middle School, South Middle School, West Middle School, Ashfield School, and Plouffe Middle School in Brockton conducted hour-long mock trials at Brockton District Court on Wednesday, Dec. 17 as part of the Discovering Justice Mock Trial Program. The trial was the result of weeks of preparation involving students partnering with legal mentors to prepare their arguments.

“I thought they did an amazing job,” said Erin Hegarty, staff attorney at South Coastal Counties Legal Services and one of the mentors of the program. “I think we are in such a privileged position to see them at the very beginning of the program where we’re just introducing concepts of what the law and being in court looks like and then to come tonight and just see them all shine is just an amazing opportunity.”

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Sanjaiya Domond addresses the audience gathered at Brockton District Court on Dec. 17.

BEST FRIES IN BROCKTON

This west-side staple is the cream of the crop

Sam Pausman

The Enterprise

USA TODAY NETWORK

Aaron Reckard isn’t short of French fry opinions. He’s got strong feelings about what makes a good fry, about what’s an acceptable dipping condiment, about where other fry-makers go wrong.

Reckard is the head chef of Brack’s, the west-side restaurant recently voted

the winner of the “best fries in Brockton” title. Brack’s won the poll with 35.29% of the vote. Raynham’s Barrels & Boards finished second with 26.47% and Little Sami’s came third with 11.76%. This is Brack’s second win in recent months. Back in September, the sports bar was voted by Enterprise readers to serve the city’s best chicken wings.

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Head chef Aaron Reckard of Brack’s of Brockton presents a tray of freshly made french fries with special seasonings on Dec. 17.

MARK JARRET CHAVOUS/THE ENTERPRISE

Prosecutors: DC pipe bomb suspect disliked GOP, Democrats

Thao Nguyen

USA TODAY

The man suspected of planting pipe bombs in Washington, DC, in 2021 confessed after his arrest that “something just snapped” and he wanted to target the Democratic and Republican parties because “they were in charge,” federal prosecutors said in court documents released Dec. 28.

Brian Cole Jr., 30, was arrested Dec. 4 at his home in Woodbridge, Virginia, about 25 miles from Washington, DC, and charged with transporting and planting two pipe bombs. Prosecutors accused Cole of placing the pipe bombs near the offices of the Democratic and Republican national committees on the night before the Jan. 6, 2021, riots at the U.S. Capitol.

The devices, which were discovered on the day of the attack, did not detonate, and no one was hurt, federal authorities previously said. Following a nearly five-year investigation, Attorney General Pam Bondi announced Dec. 4 that Cole had been taken into custody.

He made his first court appearance in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Dec. 5 and was ordered to remain jailed without bond.

The memo also provided a detailed account of statements, including a confession, that Cole allegedly made after his arrest. Prosecutors argued that Cole poses an “intolerable risk of danger” to the community and must remain detained pending trial.

“The defendant’s choice of targets risked the lives not only of innocent pedestrians and office workers but also of law enforcement, first responders, and national political leaders who were inside of the respective party headquarters or drove by them on January 6, 2021, including the Vice President-elect and Speaker of the House,” prosecutors wrote.

The memo states that following his arrest, Cole initially denied manufacturing, transporting and planting the pipe bombs.

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Court documents released Dec. 28

Note to readers

We will not be printing a paper on Thursday, Jan. 1, but will be providing it to you via the eNewspaper. You can always find the latest news on our website, mobile app, newsletters and social media. Subscribers can access the eNewspaper by going to our website and clicking on eNewspaper in the black navigation bar.

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