

[BACK TO SCHOOL]

THE KIDS ARE
NOT ALL RIGHT



Students gather in a circle as teacher Richard Gorham, center, asks them “what does inclusion mean in schools?”

TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Pandemic disruption to school causing stress,
anxiety, behavioral issues for students

BY MADELINE HUGHES
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A Lawrence teacher was assaulted when trying to break up a fight at the high school.

A Hunking School student in Haverhill waved a hot dog around his groin sticking it in the face of a girl and saying, “I know you want to suck it,” while being cheered on by other students.

Since students returned to classrooms after more than a year of disruption and trauma caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, schools have faced growing behavioral issues ranging from disengagement in activities to physical and sexual violence.

See **STUDENTS**, Page A2



Several police vehicles sit parked outside of Lawrence High School on Friday. Police officers have had more of a presence in schools recently because fighting.

‘There’s no playbook for what we are dealing with’
State to tackle youth mental health crisis

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — The state’s political leaders are weighing how to expand services for youth as medical experts warn of a ‘tsunami’ of mental health issues in the wake of the pandemic.

While children were spared the worst health effects of the COVID-19 outbreak over the past year, their mental health was a much different story.

Lockdowns, school closings and restrictions on social gatherings to prevent the spread

of the virus, coupled with a lack of access to in-person services, exacerbated a mental health treatment gap for children, medical experts say. Low-income and minority children were disproportionately affected.

Schools have found themselves on the frontlines of the problem, which has been manifested in a rise of violence. In Lawrence, the high school has reported several fights among students in the past week, which some officials have linked to anxiety and tension among

students returning to in-person classes.

“There’s no question that we’re facing a youth mental health crisis,” said Dr. Michael Yogman, a pediatrician at Cambridge Hospital and assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. “The situation in Lawrence is not isolated — it’s happening all across the country.”

Yogman, who chairs a youth mental health task force at the Massachusetts chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said many people

underestimated the emotional impact of the transition back from remote to in-class learning.

“They’ve lost their social skills because they’ve been locked down and isolated for the past year and a half,” he said.

Earlier this week, a coalition of health groups including the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry issued a dire warning that the youth mental health

See **CRISIS**, Page A2

MAYORAL
FACEOFF IN
LAWRENCE
ON TUESDAY

Vasquez and DePena spend Halloween weekend in last-minute campaigning

BY JILL HARMACINSKI
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LAWRENCE — Interim Mayor Kendrys Vasquez and his challenger Brian DePena planned to spend Halloween weekend — the final days before the city’s Nov. 2 general election — making themselves visible and available to voters.

“My campaign team, volunteers and I will continue to recruit voters through door-knocking, calls and organizing contact meetings with undecided voters until election day,” said DePena. “So far we are gaining ground where we were weakest during the primaries. Likewise, we are training our volunteers to identify any trickery or voter fraud in anticipation of Tuesday’s election.”

Vasquez picked up a major endorsement last week from Elizabeth Warren, the former Democratic Presidential candidate and senior U.S. Senator for Massachusetts.

See **MAYORAL**, Page A6

Haverhill city
elections
include two
questions

BY MIKE LABELLA
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HAVERHILL — Voters on Tuesday, Nov. 2, will be casting ballots for mayor, city council, and school committee and will decide on two ballot questions about changing the city’s charter to allow for at-large and ward city councilors and school committee members.

Two longtime councilors, Mary Ellen Daly-O’Brien and William Macek opted not to seek reelection, while Councilor Colin LePage decided to run for mayor.

“This guarantees there will be three newcomers, versus the last election, in which

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METHUEN
Residents to vote
on candidates,
legalizing pot

BY ALLISON CORNEAU
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METHUEN — Election Day on Tuesday has voters casting ballots for mayor, councilor-at-large, east, west and central district councilors, among other offices, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mayor Neil Perry is running unopposed for his second, two-year term. Incumbent councilors Steve Saba, Eunice Zeigler, Joel Faretra and James McCarty face no opposition in their East and Central district races.

In the councilor-at-large race, voters will

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COVID-19 CASE COUNT	WORLDWIDE	UNITED STATES	MASSACHUSETTS	NEW HAMPSHIRE
	Cases confirmed.....246,358,613 Deaths.....4,994,458	Cases confirmed.....45,949,951 Deaths.....745,678	Cases confirmed.....794,382 Deaths.....18,601	Cases confirmed.....132,441 Deaths.....1,565

Statistics sources: Johns Hopkins University Tracking COVID 19 Dashboard (Saturday, Oct. 30, 7:22 p.m.); Mass. Department of Public Health; N.H. Department of Health and Human Services (Friday, Oct. 29).

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REDUCED



Open House 12-2
2 Harmony Way Plaistow NH
Dir: Main to Pollard to Harriman to Harmony
10 room 2.5 bath, colonial, large open
kitchen, and living room. Finished attic and
in-law potential in lower level plus 4 garages

REDUCED



Haverhill: 2 family home: 4 rooms,
2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom & 5 rooms,
3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, great owner
occupied or investment with loads of parking.



Methuen: Lot for sale in,
close to major highways
and shopping.

kw

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