

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Judge questions terms of deal

Settlement in sexual misconduct suit may snag on precedent

By **TIM CAMERATO**
Valley News Staff Writer

CONCORD — A federal judge on Thursday raised technical questions about a proposed settlement in a class-action lawsuit stemming from the alleged sexual misconduct of three former Dartmouth College professors.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Landya McCafferty said the \$14 million settlement included “numerous positives,” including anonymity and “closure” for the alleged victims without subjecting them to a trial.

“There is, as you can imagine, momentum, positive momentum, behind this,” McCafferty said during a settlement conference in Concord on Thursday morning.

However, McCafferty also worried that legal precedent could prevent her from approving the class, or those eligible for damages, presented in the settlement and wondered whether the group was too broad.

“That really is, in my mind, the main hurdle,” she said.

In November, nine female science students and researchers in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences sued Dartmouth, saying they and dozens of others were sexually harassed by Todd Heatherton, Bill Kelley and Paul Whalen, three tenured professors who have since left Dartmouth. At least two of the women said they had been sexually assaulted.

A settlement was first announced in August and would provide each of the nine plaintiffs with at least \$75,000.

SEE DARTMOUTH A4

RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING



VALLEY NEWS — JENNIFER HAUCK
Vermont Law School students Andie Parnell, left, and Marina Miller say goodbye as Parnell reaches her apartment door in South Royalton. Storms caused power outages and other problems in New England on Thursday. See story, Page A2.

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

Official admits aid delay link

Mulvaney says Trump tied \$400M to Ukraine probe

By **MOLLY O'TOOLE, JENNIFER HABERKORN**
and **SARAH D. WIRE**
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump withheld roughly \$400 million in aid to Ukraine earlier this year in part to push its new government to investigate Democrats, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said Thursday, a stunning confirmation that hits directly at the center of House Democrats' impeachment inquiry.

It marked the first time a senior White House official has directly linked the decision to delay the aid to Trump's demand for Ukraine to investigate what, if any, role the country played in the 2016 U.S. investigation.

There has been no evidence that Ukraine interfered in the election, but Trump and his supporters suspect Ukraine is somehow linked to a Democratic National Committee server and the emails stolen by Russia that proved embarrassing to Hillary Clinton.

“Did he also mention to me in the past the corruption related to the DNC server?” Mulvaney said. “Absolutely. No question about that. But that’s it, and that’s why we held up the money ... The look back to what was happening in 2016 was part of that thing.”

But Mulvaney insisted in a defiant briefing that there was nothing wrong with Trump's actions, saying politics is always part of foreign policy. “I have news for everybody: Get over it. There’s going to be political influence in foreign policy. That is going to happen. Elections have consequences.”

In a July 25 phone call, Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for a “favor”: to help investigate the Democrats' 2016 server as well as the business activities of his potential 2020 rival, former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter. There is no evidence of any wrongdoing by the Bidens.

Trump had previously acknowledged making the request on the phone call. But he had always insisted that the delay in the aid was a separate issue, triggered by his desire to push Ukraine to fight domestic corruption and because he wanted European nations to contribute more aid to Ukraine.

Mulvaney said those were also factors in

SEE UKRAINE A10

Turkey agrees to 5-day cease-fire in Syria

By **KAREEM FAHIM**
and **COLBY ITKOWITZ**
The Washington Post

ISTANBUL — Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday that Turkey had agreed to a cease-fire in Syria, more than a week after the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched an offensive against Syrian Kurdish fighters who had previously allied

with the United States.

Pence, speaking after hours of meetings at the presidential palace with Erdogan and other Turkish officials, said that Turkey had agreed to pause its offensive for five days while the United States helped facilitate the withdrawal of Kurdish fighters from a large swath of territory that stretched from Turkey's border nearly 20 miles into Syria.

Following the completion of the withdrawal, Turkey's military operation would be “halted entirely,” Pence said. The United States had already been in contact with the Syrian Kurdish militias, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), and “we have already begun to facilitate their safe withdrawal,” Pence added.

The Trump administration

had also agreed not to impose any new economic sanctions on Turkey, and to withdraw sanctions that were imposed earlier this week once “a permanent cease-fire was in effect,” Pence said.

The agreement, aimed at separating hardened foes, in a volatile area of Syria, in the midst

SEE SYRIA A10

Monitoring of kids creates concerns

Vt. schools trying to prevent violence, but some say it violates privacy

By **LOLA DUFFORT**
VtDigger

With educators on heightened alert to prevent the next school shooting and under increasing pressure to address cyberbullying, self-harm and teen suicide, schools are turning to a new tool for help: artificial intelligence.

Students spend much of their lives online. Now, carefully calibrated algorithms

can patrol the hallways of the internet to alert school officials when they might need to intervene. At least that's the pitch from a burgeoning industry.

“It takes a village (and their bots),” reads one company's tagline.

But privacy advocates say these technologies risk getting students in trouble for benign activity. And some experts wonder whether AI will help or hamper efforts to intervene when necessary.

“Surveillance almost always begets more surveillance. It's never enough, right?” said

SEE MONITORING A5



OBITUARIES, A4

CONGRESSMAN CUMMINGS DIES

Congressman Elijah Cummings speaks at the grand opening of the McCullough Street Nature Play Space in West Baltimore on Aug. 3. Cummings died early Thursday of complications from long-standing health issues, his office said. He was 68.

THE BALTIMORE SUN VIA AP — KIM HAIRSTON

INSIDE



CLOSE-UP

HOMETOWN HERO

As a bestselling author, Jodi Picoult is used to being swarmed by fans. But the crowd who surrounded her as she accepted the Sarah Josepha Hale Award in Newport meant a little more. **Page A8**

RELIGION

INSIDE JOB

An acclaimed professor at the University of Oxford is accused of taking at least 11 ancient Bible fragments and selling them to the Green family, the Hobby Lobby owners who operate a Bible museum and charitable organization in Washington. **Page B10**



WEATHER

CLOUDY AND BREEZY

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