

PARTY'S ON!

DOWNTOWN TAKES CENTER STAGE ON LOWELL 'FIRST THURSDAYS' **whatdoUwannado?**



HERNANDEZ ARRAIGNED
DA: HE KILLED TWO OVER SPILLED DRINK
STATE — PAGE 2



LHS HAS ONE MORE SHOT
RAIDERS FALL IN TOURNAMENT OPENER
SPORTS — PAGE 13

THE SUN

THURSDAY

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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS: Greater Lowell Tech students, from left, Samantha Som, Julian Carrucini, David Poitras and Tyler Riley work last Thursday on the roof of the cabin they and other students are building at Camp Massapoag in Dunstable. **See a video at lowellsun.com.**

These hammers build futures

GL Tech students put their skills to work at Dunstable camp

By Samantha Allen
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DUNSTABLE — In a quiet, secluded campground on Massapoag Pond, the students have worked for weeks to replace an outdated cabin on site. At Camp Massapoag, carpentry instructor John Maslowski has led 14 seniors from Greater Lowell Technical High School through the cabin-building process. He said, though, that he hardly had to show the teens what to do. "I can show them a couple of techniques and stuff like that, but it's 100 percent



Greater Lowell Tech safety manager Ron Arseneault, second from right, and carpentry instructor John Maslowski watch as students put down roof shingles. done by the kids," he said. "That's what makes it awesome." Greater Lowell Tech students worked to help the Greater Lowell YMCA re-

talize their newly purchased camp, which hosts about 800 children through day-camp programs each summer. Maslowski worked with seniors to replace an existing cabin with this new 16-foot by 18-foot structure, on which construction should wrap up soon. Maslowski said with Construction Technology Chairman Daniel Hamel, the School Department will return to Camp Massapoag every year to replace about one to two cabins for the YMCA from now on. Greater Lowell YMCA CEO Ray Adams said the school's volunteerism has

Study: No proof DCF to blame in boy's death

Group points to 'grossly out-of-date' policies at embattled child agency

By Matt Murphy
State House News Service

BOSTON — An independent expert group charged with probing the Department of Children and Families said Wednesday that it lacked the evidence to know for sure whether the death of 5-year-old Jeremiah Oliver could have been prevented.



Jeremiah Oliver ... body found last month

While the long-awaited report from the Child Welfare League of America found no evidence to suggest the failures of DCF social workers and supervisors to properly oversee the

Oliver family led to the death of Jeremiah, CWLA Vice President Linda Spears said DCF should have known sooner that the Fitchburg boy was missing. "The truth of the matter is we don't have enough information to answer the question," Spears said during a press conference. "We don't know what happened at the day of his death, we don't know what happened at the time of his death. We don't know who was around. So given those

Please see **DCF/10**

IG: Ariz. VA hospital left 1,700 vets without care

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About 1,700 veterans in need of care were "at risk of being lost or forgotten" after being kept off the official waiting list at the troubled Phoenix veterans hospital, the Veterans Affairs watchdog said Wednesday in a scathing report that increases pressure on Secretary Eric Shinseki to resign. The investigation, initially

focused on the Phoenix hospital, found systemic problems in the VA's sprawling nationwide system, which provides medical care to about 6.5 million veterans each year. The interim report confirmed allegations of excessive waiting time for care in Phoenix, with an average 115-day wait for a first appointment for those on the waiting list.

Please see **VETERANS/9**

At the head of her class, fashionably

From Pelham to NYC, retail dreams

By John Collins
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The moment Shannon Oriole walked in the door of LIM College, as a 17-year-old Pelham High School senior making her first visit to New York in the fall of 2010, she knew she'd found her new home. She'd longed to be a part of it, long before she arrived, she said. "It was actually my first-ever time being in New York City, and I just loved it. I knew it was the place I needed to be," Oriole said of that 2010 visit. "The minute I walked into the school, I turned around and said to my mom, 'This is the school for



Pelham's Shannon Oriole, second from left, LIM College's undergraduate valedictorian, joins, from left, Daniella Vitale, chief operating officer with Barneys New York, Limessa Elizabeth Marcuse, and Neva Hall, executive vice president of specialty retail with Neiman Marcus Stores, at commencement at Lincoln Center last Thursday.

COURTESY PHOTO / PATRICK OEHLER

New LHA deal cuts votes necessary to fire director

By Lyle Moran
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LOWELL — Responding to the state's refusal to approve Lowell Housing Authority Executive Director Gary Wallace's employment contract, the LHA board unanimously approved an amended deal that reduces the number of board-member votes needed to terminate Wallace.

The board's 4-0 vote at a special meeting Wednesday night also expands the reasons for which Wallace can



Wallace ... board OKs new provisions

be terminated "for cause," which is among the changes that will need state approval. Chairwoman Kristin Ross-Sitcawich and board members Tim Green, Bopha Peou and Rosaline Willie-Bonglo voted

Please see **WALLACE/10**

OBITUARIES



Voice silenced
Poet and cultural icon Maya Angelou dies at 86. **Page 9**

ON THE WEB

lowellsun.com
TODAY'S QUESTION
What happened to your high school prom date?
 ■ I married him/her
 ■ We dated for a while
 ■ We stayed friends
 ■ It was a one-time thing
 ■ We lost touch

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION RESULTS
What's your favorite beach in Massachusetts?
 ■ Coast Guard 5%
 ■ Crane 16%
 ■ Good Harbor 9%
 ■ Nauset 4%
 ■ Plum Island 17%
 ■ Salisbury 28%
 ■ Wingersheek 21%

Total votes: 378
Vote at lowellsun.com

BUSINESS

Google at wheel
Imagine a future where you simply order a self-driving car when you need one. **Page 6**

LOCAL

Green's good for business
The nonprofit Devens Eco-Efficiency Center is growing as local firms get on board. **Page 3**

TOMORROW'S WEATHER
Could thunder high of 71°
DETAILS ON **PAGE 16**

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