

Parking fees slated to go up in Salem

By DUSTIN LUCA
Staff Writer

SALEM — Parking rates are set to increase across downtown Salem.

The City Council is due to review a series of changes from the Traffic and Parking

Commission to increase rates for metered parking on 12 city streets, prices for the Museum Place and South Harbor garages, passes at the Riley Plaza lot and more.

In addition, officials are also asking councilors to extend meter enforcement

MORE ON THE WEB AT SalemNews.com
See more information on the rates

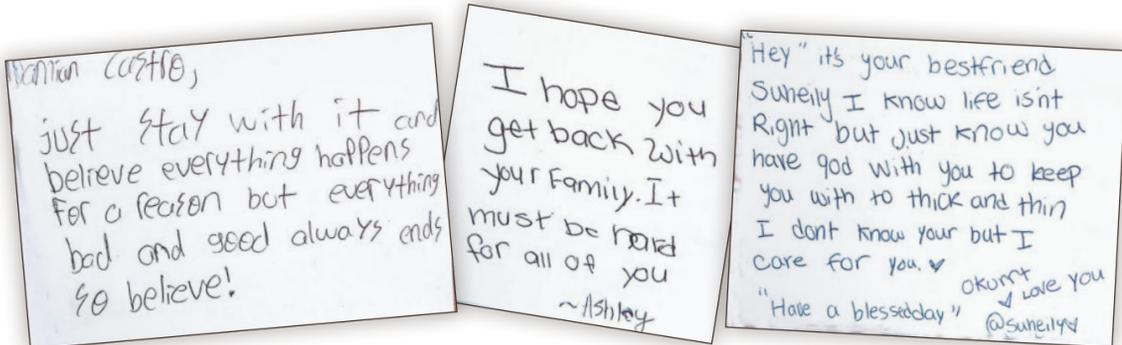
hours from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and entertain the idea of charging for parking in kiosk lots on Sundays.

“Salem’s parking rates have been unadjusted for almost a decade, one of the few city fees to be so unmodified, even though the bulk of these charges are borne by non-residents and despite the fact that over the last few years we

have invested heavily in our parking facilities,” Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll wrote in a letter to the City Council. “To carry out large scale improvements and maintenance efforts such as these, without corresponding adjustments to the revenues

directly collected at those facilities, is not sustainable in the long term.”

Driscoll’s recommendations keep residential rates close or equal to their current levels. Should Sunday kiosk enforcement be
See **PARKING**, Page 9



SENDING CARING MESSAGES



AMY SWEENEY/Staff photo

Bowditch School seventh-graders Ayaris Velez, left, and Candace Gaff look at cards the students made with the Rev. Debbie Phillips, rector of Grace Episcopal Church. Students from the Bowditch School went to the Grace Episcopal Church Wednesday for their fourth annual end-of-the-year lunch. The students wrote cards to send to the migrant children held in the U.S. detention centers.

RETAIL POT START DATE UP IN SMOKE

Lack of licensed testing labs latest delay

By DUSTIN LUCA
Staff Writer

SALEM — July 1 has been unofficially hailed as the start date for recreational pot sales in Massachusetts. But the only retailer in Salem with city approval says it’ll be months before he’s open for business.

“July 1 isn’t happening,” said Chris Edwards, executive director of Alternative Therapies Group. “It isn’t happening anywhere in the state, and we do have concerns about a lot of misinformed people showing up and being quite disappointed that they can’t come in.”

The company, which opened a medical marijuana dispensary at 50 Grove St. in 2015, has inked a deal with City Hall that paves the way for retail pot sales once it gets its license from the state’s Cannabis Control Commission.

But Edwards said ATG will also need products to sell — products which need to be tested by labs that aren’t yet operational, or even licensed.

So far, the commission has not received
See **MARIJUANA**, Page 9



File photo

The Essex County Regional Communications Center in Middleton may be taken over by the state in 2019.

State proposes takeover of regional dispatch center

By ETHAN FORMAN
Staff Writer

MIDDLETON — The troubled Essex County Regional Emergency Communications Center may be poised for a state takeover as soon as next summer, a move that would lift the operation’s financial burden off participating communities, Sheriff Kevin Coppinger announced Wednesday.

“Today, State 911 funds the regional services, provides and maintains the equipment as well as the infrastructure, sets the training standards, and provides operational policies and procedures,” Coppinger said in a statement. “It’s a perfect fit for the State 911 Department to oversee the operation in its entirety.”

Top state public safety officials have said once the center becomes part of the State 911 Department, as soon as July 1, 2019, it
See **DISPATCH**, Page 2

Ipswich man faces child enticement charge

By DAVE ROGERS
Staff Writer

NEWBURYPORT — An Ipswich man who believed he was about to meet a 12-year-old girl for sex was instead charged with child enticement of a child under 16 when the girl turned out to be an undercover Newbury police officer.

John T. Payne, 38, of 27 Southern Heights was arrested Tuesday night on Central Street and arraigned in Newburyport

District Court on Wednesday afternoon.

Payne contacted the undercover police officer via Facebook after he first made contact with a New York child in the same manner, according to Newbury police.

Payne was ordered held on \$100,000 cash bail during his arraignment. If Payne posts bail, he must remain in the state, surrender his passport, wear a GPS monitoring device and have no contact with children under 16.



John T. Payne

Kennedy’s request for bail and conditions. Payne is due back in court July 19 for a pretrial hearing, by which time he could be

indicted by a Salem Superior Court grand jury.

Payne’s attorney, Jackson Casey, didn’t argue any of the conditions but said his client couldn’t come up with that kind of money and asked bail to be set at \$2,500. Casey argued that his client had never been charged with child enticement or any similar crimes in the past and that he had no intention of meeting up with the child.

“Foolish, but no intent to
See **ENTICEMENT**, Page 9

The Learning Zone to close following state investigations

By ARIANNA MACNEILL
Staff Writer

BEVERLY — When investigators with the state Department of Early Education and Care were asked to look into the practices of The Learning Zone day care in the Cummings Center, they found toys that had not been cleaned or disinfected properly, unqualified staff and incomplete background checks into some of the people working there.

In all, six investigations

were launched into the child care service since the beginning of the year, according to EEC records, and all resulted in finding that The Learning Zone did not comply with state standards.

Two additional investigations are pending, and Kathleen Hart, the department’s communications director, could not comment on what these are.

The Learning Zone intends to close on July 13.

Whether the complaints
See **DAY CARE**, Page 9

LOOKING FORWARD TO FIREWORKS



File photo

Fireworks illuminate Salem’s waterfront during Fourth of July festivities at Derby Wharf. For complete list of area fireworks, go to North Shore Life on Page 13.

INSIDE TODAY

- Calendar.....7
- Classifieds.....23-26
- Comics.....27
- Entertainment.....19, 23
- Local news.....2-4
- Lottery.....7
- North Shore Life.....13, 14
- Obituaries.....6
- Opinion.....11
- Police.....7
- Public Notices.....25
- Sports.....15-18

Titanium Money Market Account

Open at any one of our offices, call 978-462-3106 for more information or visit us online at institutionforsavings.com.

INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS
BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER SINCE 1820.

Member FDIC • Member DIF

2.25% APY*
Balances of \$1,000,000 and above

2.05% APY*
Balances between \$250,000 and \$499,999.99

*APY denotes Annual Percentage Yield as of 6/25/18. Rate is variable and subject to change at any time without notice. This is a tiered rate account. A minimum balance of \$250,000 is required to open the account and avoid a \$10 monthly service charge. Maximum balance is \$10 million. Balances of \$1,000,000 and above earn 2.25% APY; balances between \$500,000 and \$999,999.99 earn 2.10% APY; balances between \$250,000 and \$499,999.99 earn 2.05% APY; balances less than \$250,000 earn 0.25% APY. Transaction limits apply. Must be present to open. Fees may reduce earnings.

Use your smart device to connect to saalemnews.com

WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy with t-storms. Details, Page 28.

Weather art by: Victoria Valgueiro, grade four, Burke School, Peabody