



Two families escape a fast-moving blaze in Northbridge
LOCAL, A3



Street artist transforms wall of Denholm building
LIVING, B6

LOCAL

Worcester
Sex offender restrictions could be challenged, **A3**
West Brookfield
Ex-officer, wife file suit against police, **A3**
Worcester
Student housing planned behind Union Station, **A3**

Tuesday, August 19, 2014



See Page A2

TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

telegram.com

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Our 148th year



Mostly sunny
High 75, Low 55
Page A2

\$1.25

\$1.50 Outside Worcester County

Online Today
It's all a blur



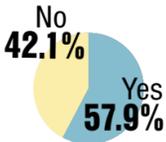
Riders reached speeds greater than 40 mph during the downhill racing event held at the Central Mass Longboard Festival held in Harvard. See our photo gallery.

Your Opinion
Today's question

Do your family members have electronic access to their medical records? See story on this page, then go to telegram.com to vote.

Yesterday's question

Is it discriminatory to make tenants paying a lower rent to use separate entrances to apartment buildings?



Inside Today
Late-breaking deal



Egypt late Monday announced a 24-hour extension in talks between Israel and the Hamas militant group aimed at salvaging a long-term arrangement that would allow reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. See Page A9.

ANNIE'S MAILBOX... B12 EDITORIALS... A15
BRIDGE... B13 ENTERTAINMENT... B6
BUSINESS... B8 HOROSCOPE... B13
CLASSIFIED... B11 LOTTERIES... A2
COMICS... B10 NATION/WORLD... A9
CROSSWORD... B10 STOCKS... B9
DEATHS... A6 TELEVISION... B5

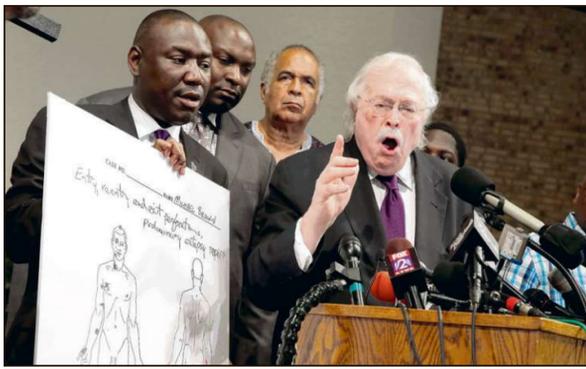
Home delivery | Phone: 800-922-8200
email: newstips@telegram.com
Phone: (508) 793-9245

Voted Best Business Lunch
SOLE PROPRIETOR VIA

Come On Over. We'll Fire Up The Grill.
ONE ELEVEN CROP HOUSE

Worcester Shakespeare Company Presents:
The Merry Wives of Windsor & The Winter's Tale
July 18 thru August 24
ALTERNATIVES
Whitin Mill

Missouri teen shot in a hands-up position?



Dr. Michael Baden, right, speaks Monday as Brown family attorney Benjamin Crump holds a diagram after a second autopsy.

'We don't know' say two forensic pathologists

By Alan Scher Zagier
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FERGUSON, Mo. — An unarmed 18-year-old whose fatal shooting by police has sparked a week of protests in suburban St. Louis suffered a bullet wound to his right arm that may indicate his hands were up or his back was turned, a pathologist hired by his family said Monday.

But the pathologist said the team that examined Michael Brown can't be sure yet exactly how the wounds were inflicted, citing the need for more information.

An independent autopsy determined that Michael Brown was shot at least six times, including twice in the head, the family's lawyers and hired pathologists said.

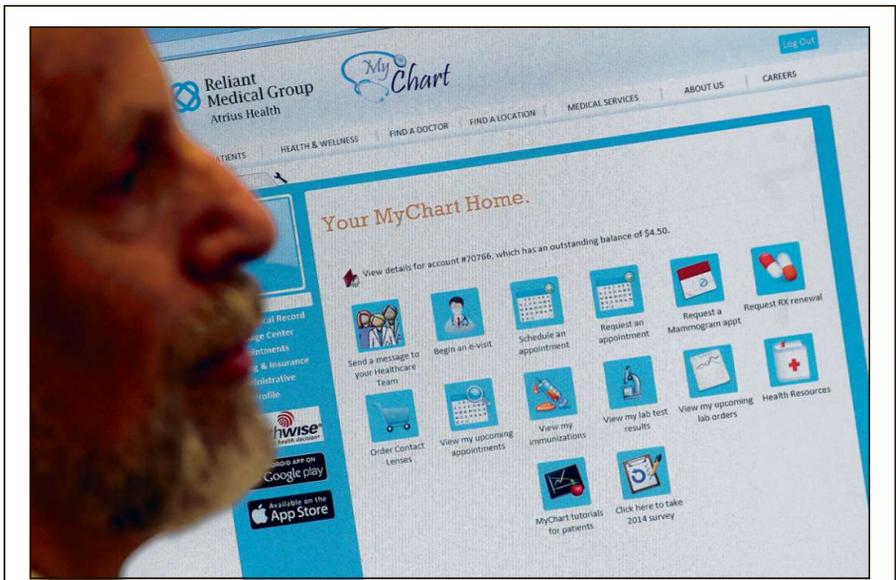
Witnesses have said Brown's hands were above his head when he was repeatedly shot by an officer Aug. 9 in Ferguson.

In Washington, President Barack Obama said the vast majority of protesters in Ferguson were peaceful, but warned that a small minority was undermin-

ing justice. During a brief pause in his summer vacation, Obama said overcoming the mistrust endemic between many communities and their local police would require Americans to "listen and not just shout."

The president also weighed in for the first time publicly on the militarization of some local police departments, saying it would probably be useful to examine how federal grant dollars

Turn to Shooting/Page A16

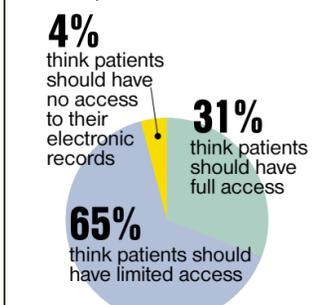


Reliant Medical Group's medical director for informatics, Lawrence Garber of Southboro, is seen in his office in Worcester. Dr. Garber works with the group's electronic health records.

Playing an active role

Med record access expands

Patient access to electronic health records
U.S. doctors survey on beliefs about patient record access



49% of doctors surveyed believe that giving patients access to their records is crucial to providing more effective care.

21% of doctors surveyed currently allow patients to have online access to their medical summary or patient chart, the most basic form of a patient's record.

Source: Accenture Doctors Survey T&G Staff

By Susan Spencer
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

The 76-year-old Hubbardston man is not a doctor, but after looking at his medical information online, he questioned an imaging test that his physician had ordered.

"He said, 'Oh yeah, you're right, that wasn't quite the right one,' and he changed it," said the man, whose name is Richard, but who asked that his last name not be used.

Richard's primary care physician, Dr. Lawrence Garber, who is also the medical director of informatics at Reliant Medical Group in Worcester, had no problem having a patient ask about his medical record.

"We think of it as a patient safety tool," Dr. Garber said. "Even if we missed something, you'll catch it. We believe in 'trust but verify.'"

Reliant has been using for about five years a program called MyChart, a secure electronic medical record with patient portal that allows patients to see their chart summary, send a message to medical staff, get lab results, request prescriptions and even schedule appointments. MyChart can be accessed by computer or apps for iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

Electronic health record use of any kind among office-based physicians has grown nationwide to 78 percent in 2013 from 18 percent in 2001, according to the Na-

'It can only help patients.'
DR. WILLIAM F. CORBETT
SPEAKING OF ELECTRONIC RECORDS

Turn to Records/Page A12

Kurds say they have dam back

By Vivian Salama and Dina Hadid
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — Boosted by two days of U.S. airstrikes, Kurdish forces said Monday they had wrested back control of the country's largest dam from militants of the extremist Islamic State group.

Kurdish peshmerga forces regained full control of the dam and its vicinity following two days of fierce clashes, Halgurd Hekmat, a spokesman for the Kurdish forces, told The Associated Press.

Earlier Monday, Iraqi army spokesman Lt. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi said the dam itself

was secured by Kurdish peshmerga troops and Iraqi security forces, but that the southern side of the complex was contested. No one from the Iraqi army was immediately available to confirm that Kurdish forces seized control.

Earlier, the Islamic State group, which two weeks ago captured the Mosul Dam spanning the Tigris River just north of the city of Mosul, denied the claim, insisting it was still in control of the facility.

The retaking of the dam would mark the first major victory for the Iraqi and Kurdish forces battling the Islamic mili-

Turn to Iraq/Page A13



Kurdish forces, known as peshmerga, stand guard near Mosul Dam at the town of Chamibarakat. Kurdish forces took over parts of the largest dam in Iraq on Sunday after it had been captured.

Militias complicate situation at border

By Christopher Sherman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISSION, Texas — On a recent moonlit night, Border Patrol agents began rounding up eight immigrants hiding in and around a canal near the Rio Grande. A state trooper soon arrived to help. Then out of the darkness emerged seven more armed men in fatigues.

Agents assumed the camouflaged crew that joined in pulling the immigrants from the canal's milky green waters was a tactical unit from the Texas Department of Public Safety. Only later did they learn that the men belonged to the Texas Militia, a group that dresses like a SWAT team and carries weapons but has no law-enforcement training or authority of any kind.

The situation ended peacefully with the immigrants get-

ting arrested and the Border Patrol advising the militia members "to properly and promptly" identify themselves anytime they encounter law-enforcement officers. But the episode was unsettling enough for the Border Patrol to circulate an "issue paper" warning other agents.

The presence of armed militia members working on their own in a region known for human smuggling, drug smuggling and illegal immigration has added one more variable to an already complex and tense situation.

Although the Aug. 6 incident in Mission resulted in no harm, it's not hard to imagine deadlier outcomes throughout the Rio Grande Valley, a wide area patrolled by more than 3,000 bor-

Turn to Militias/Page A13

Records

From Page A1

tional Center for Health Statistics.

Health record systems that include at least a patient's comprehensive history, problem lists, clinical notes, medications and lab results are used in 48 percent of physician offices in the United States. Massachusetts stands above the average with more than 70 percent of offices meeting these criteria.

A 2009 federal law offering incentives through Medicare and Medicaid payments prompted the growth in electronic health records that meet certain criteria, such as allowing patients to view their information and communicate electronically with medical staff.

The move to electronic health records was furthered in 2012 by provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

About 40 percent of Reliant's patients have signed up for MyChart, Dr. Garber said.

While "99.9 percent of the time it's accurate," he said, "we tell them if they see something wrong, tell us and we'll fix it."

Dr. Garber also occasionally gets direct updates from patients on family history, changes in prescriptions or new conditions such as an allergy.

Richard said, "The main thing is it affords access to doctors and staff. If I have questions, I just type it in and they get back to me in a day or two."

He also likes being able to connect to his doctor's office through his laptop computer if he's traveling and a health concern arises.

Dr. Garber said that the system is designed with "branching logic," so if someone were to send a message about difficulty breathing, for example, it would send an alert to call for emergency help immediately.

"I encourage patients to use the portal. It can only help patients improve their understanding of their medical conditions and ask questions," said



T&G STAFF/TOM RETTIG

Reliant Medical Group's medical director for informatics, Dr. Lawrence Garber of Southboro, sees "a patient safety tool" in increased access.

Dr. William F. Corbett, a Shrewsbury internal medicine physician who is vice president for community practices at UMass Memorial Medical Group.

The group, which encompasses 70 community-based practices throughout the region, has been rolling out the interactive FollowMyHealth electronic record over the past year. Dr. Corbett said 28,000 patients have enrolled in FollowMyHealth.

FollowMyHealth can also be accessed through a mobile app.

Errors in electronic health records, whether from an incorrect keystroke, miscommunication among health care providers, or some other snafu might be more visible now to patients. But, Dr. Corbett said, "It happened in paper records too."

Most physicians say it helps

improve quality of care when patients can double-check their information, ask questions and provide updates.

But according to a 2013 Accenture survey of physicians, fewer than a third of U.S. doctors thought patients should have full access to their electronic health record.

"What I like is hearing from patients, 'I'm not taking that medication anymore. My cardiologist told me to stop,'" Dr. Corbett said.

He said the electronic record was a more organized way to coordinate care across settings.

"It's a patient-centric record," Dr. Corbett said. "If my patient sees me and five specialists, they all enter data into it."

If a patient sees a specialist outside the UMass system, a paper note will be sent and

scanned into the electronic record.

In Reliant's system, billing data from other providers that share financial risk with the medical group load automatically into the patient's MyChart.

At St. Vincent Hospital, which has an integrated system with Reliant, "One minute after they're registered, our electronic health record transfers to their electronic health record," Dr. Garber said.

"Later this year we hope to do this with other ERs in the county."

Dr. Garber said the system allowed physicians to monitor whether patients were filling multiple prescriptions from multiple doctors, too, a sign of potential prescription painkiller abuse.

GOP mainline on roll in primaries

By Donna Cassata
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Republicans got their man — and woman — in a half-dozen House primaries as establishment conservatives knocked out right-flank candidates, improving the party's chances of increasing its majority in November. Arizona poses the next test of whether mainstream GOP can extend its streak.

With little fanfare, Republican Party favorites prevailed in New York, Iowa, New Jersey and Virginia as establishment-backed candidates beat back tea party-supported challenges in the primaries for competitive seats. The House GOP wants to boost its numbers above the current 234-199 advantage.

In Arizona's 1st Congressional District, bigger geographically than the state of Pennsylvania, a bruising, three-way primary pits state House Speaker Andy Tobin against businessman and rancher Gary Kiehne, who had to apologize for saying Democrats pulled the trigger in most of the nation's mass shootings, and state lawmaker Adam Kwasman, who mistakenly identified YMCA campers as young refugees from Central America.

The winner of the Aug. 26 primary will face Democratic Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, who won a House seat in 2008, lost it in the 2010 tea party wave and then prevailed by 9,180 votes in 2012. She's sitting on \$1.4 million, far more money than any of the Republicans, and speaks Apache and some Navajo in a district where 24 percent of voters are American Indian.

Tobin, 56, has the backing of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Mitt Romney and plenty of mayors, supervisors and sheriffs. He highlights his record as a businessman as well as his eight-year legislative record, which he says includes cutting taxes, reducing government and improving the Arizona economy.

Of his opponents, he said in an interview, "It's nice that they're able to talk a game, but everyone clearly knows that I'm the one who has the record that's actually accomplished all these things."

But as of Aug. 14, Tobin had a little more than \$82,000 on hand and hadn't run a television ad, even though early voting began July 31.

He declined to say whether he would air a commercial before the primary, insisting his "endorsements alone should send a clear message."

Tea party-backed Kwasman, 31, is on the air with a commercial that highlights his opposition to the nation's health care law and Common Core education standards, and boasts of his endorsement from Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, the state's well-known opponent of illegal immigration.

Kwasman, as a state lawmaker, represents 40 percent of a district that is home to the Grand Canyon and Petrified Forest National Park. He dismisses his rivals for their ties to the establishment and wealth, and maintains he will be his own man in Washington.

"I don't answer to elephants. I don't answer to donkeys. I answer to the people," said Kwasman, who announced a week and a half before the primary that he has a form of slow-growing blood cancer.

Kiehne is airing two ads, one of which says "Washington is broken" and seeks to highlight his status as an outsider, with images of him roping steer. The other spot describes Arizona's border as "378 miles of crisis," with Kiehne promising to make border security a top priority.

The blunt-spoken rodeo standout has stirred controversy for saying, "If you look at all the fiascos that have occurred, 99 percent of them have been by Democrats pulling their guns out and shooting people."

Emerging solar plants scorch birds to death in mid-air

By Ellen Knickmeyer and John Locher
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IVANPAH DRY LAKE, Calif. — Workers at a state-of-the-art solar plant in the Mojave Desert have a name for birds that fly through the plant's concentrated sun rays — "streamers," for the smoke plume that comes from birds that ignite in midair.

Federal wildlife investigators who visited the BrightSource Energy plant last year and watched as birds burned and fell, reporting an average of one "streamer" every two minutes, are urging California officials to halt the operator's application to build a still-bigger version.

The investigators want the halt until the full extent of the deaths can be assessed. Estimates per year now range from a low of about a thousand by BrightSource to 28,000 by an expert for the Center for Biological Diversity environmental group.

The deaths are "alarming. It's hard to say whether that's the location or the technology," said Garry George, renewable-energy director for the California chapter of the Audubon Society. "There needs to be some caution."

The bird kills mark the latest instance in which the quest for clean energy sometimes has inadvertent environmental harm. Solar farms have been criticized for their impacts on desert tortoises, and wind farms have killed birds, including numerous raptors.

"We take this issue very seriously," said Jeff Holland, a spokesman for NRG Solar of Carlsbad, California, the second of the three companies behind the plant. The third, Google, deferred comment to its partners.

The \$2.2 billion plant, which launched in February, is at Ivanpah Dry Lake near the California-Nevada border. The operator says it's the world's biggest plant to employ so-called power towers.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some of the 300,000 computer-controlled mirrors are seen at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in Primm, Nev.

More than 300,000 mirrors, each the size of a garage door, reflect solar rays onto three boiler towers each looming up to 40 stories high. The water inside is heated to produce steam, which turns turbines that generate enough electricity for 140,000 homes.

Sun rays sent up by the field of mirrors are bright enough to dazzle pilots flying in and out of Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

Federal wildlife officials said Ivanpah might act as a "mega-trap" for wildlife, with the bright light of the plant attracting insects, which in turn attract insect-eating birds that fly to their death in the intensely focused light rays.

Federal and state biologists call the number of deaths significant, based on sightings of birds getting singed and falling,

and on retrieval of carcasses with feathers charred too severely for flight.

Ivanpah officials dispute the source of the so-called streamers, saying at least some of the puffs of smoke mark insects and bits of airborne trash being ignited by the solar rays.

Wildlife officials who witnessed the phenomena say many of the clouds of smoke were too big to come from anything but a bird, and they add that they saw "birds entering the solar flux and igniting, consequently become a streamer."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials say they want a death toll for a full year of operation.

Given the apparent scale of bird deaths at Ivanpah, authorities should thoroughly track bird kills there for a year, including during annual migrato-

ry seasons, before granting any more permits for that kind of solar technology, said George, of the Audubon Society.

The toll on birds has been surprising, said Robert Weisenmiller, chairman of the California Energy Commission. "We didn't see a lot of impact" on birds at the first, smaller power towers in the U.S. and Europe, Weisenmiller said.

The commission is now considering the application from Oakland-based BrightSource to build a mirror field and a 75-story power tower that would reach above the sand dunes and creek washes between Joshua Tree National Park and the California-Arizona border.

The proposed plant is on a flight path for birds between the Colorado River and California's largest lake, the Salton Sea — an area, experts say, is richer in avian life than the Ivanpah plant, with protected golden eagles and peregrine falcons and more than 100 other species of birds recorded there.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials warned California this month that the power-tower style of solar technology holds "the highest lethality potential" of the many solar projects burgeoning in the deserts of California.

The commission's staff estimates the proposed new tower would be almost four times as dangerous to birds as the Ivanpah plant. The agency is expected to decide this autumn on the proposal.

While biologists say there is no known feasible way to curb the number of birds killed, the companies behind the projects say they are hoping to find one.

BrightSource also is offering \$1.8 million in compensation for anticipated bird deaths at Palen, Desmond said.

The company is proposing the money for programs such as those to spay and neuter domestic cats, which a government study found kill over 1.4 billion birds a year. Opponents say that would do nothing to help the desert birds at the proposed site.

CMSC Central Mass Safety Council
Driver Ed Classes throughout Worcester County
Motorcycle Training, Lowest prices in the state!
508.835.2333 • centralmassafety.org

SAFES NEW USED
OVER 100 MODELS IN STOCK ON OUR SHOWROOM FLOOR TO CHOOSE FROM
• FIRE PROOF SAFES • INSULATED VAULT DOORS
• HIGH SECURITY SAFES • BURGULAR RESISTANT SAFES
• HOME & OFFICE SAFES • DEPOSITORY SAFES
JOSEPH'S LOCK & SAFE
55 Green St. Worcester 508.757.1434 www.josephslock.com

A Bounce Above Party Rentals
We Deliver Summer Excitement
Waterslides • Tables • Chairs • Tents
Cotton Candy • Sno-Kone • Popcorn • Dunk Tank
Moon Walks • Photo Booths • Helium Tanks & More.....
508-949-7069
PartyRentalsMA.com • ABAPartyRentals@gmail.com Owner Pedro Villegas

Massachusetts Mortgage Corp.
Celebrating Our 29th Year!
Kevin Holloway, V.P.
Kevinh@townisp.com
508-791-3400 • NMLS#48963
23 Burncoat St., Worcester, MA
www.massmortgagecorp.com

Bolton Orchards
Quality at the Crossroads
Junction of Routes 110 & 117 Bolton, MA
978-779-2733
Open Daily 8am - 6pm (Coffee open at 7am)
Local Apples and Fresh Pressed Cider - Available Year Round
Deli-Meat, Cheese, Sandwiches, Homemade Entree's, Soups and Salads
Market Fresh Produce-Seasonal Native Fruits & Vegetables
Red Barn Coffee Cafe
Ice Cream Stand

We have all the nutrients and soil amendments your garden will need to keep it producing through the upcoming fall months
EMERALD CITY
INDOOR GARDENING SUPPLY CENTER
51 Main St., Westminster, MA 01473
978-668-5393
M-F 10-6 • Sat 10-4 • Sun 12-4
emeraldcitygrowstore.com • emeraldcitygrowstore@gmail.com