

Calling for a day of action  
Correia declares Immigration Day of Action. **A7**

Starting off on right note  
Karaoke kickoff for SB Best Buddies program. **B10**



# LATE-GAME MAGIC

Celtics come back to life to defeat Wizards at home. **B1**

# The Herald News

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## Three races shaping up in Somerset town election

### State changes leading to Housing Authority tweaks

**Michael Holtzman**  
Herald News Staff Reporter

SOMERSET — The May 8 town election may lack the pizzazz of prior ones.

No race for Board of Selectmen. A race for regional school committee and for two other offices, trustees of public library and Water and Sewer Commission.

Also, the incumbent School Committee chairman, Arastou “Stu” Mahjoory, said he decided Thursday that family and work demands offset his desire to seek re-election or run for selectman.

Under the category of quirkiest election activity, the seat for Housing Authority will be removed

TURN TO **ELECTION**, PAGE A7



AP PHOTO | J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

FBI Director James Comey, left, joined by National Security Agency Director Michael Rogers, right, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday before the House Intelligence Committee hearing on allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

## Comey says FBI probing Trump’s links to Russia

### Director says no evidence to back wiretapping claims

**Eric Tucker and Eileen Sullivan**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI is investigating whether President Donald Trump’s campaign associates coordinated with Russian officials in an effort to sway the 2016 presidential election, Director James Comey said Monday in an extraordinary public confirmation of a probe the president has refused to acknowledge, dismissed as

fake news and blamed on Democrats.

In a bruising five-hour session, the FBI director also knocked down Trump’s claim that his predecessor had wiretapped his New York skyscraper, an assertion that has distracted White House officials and frustrated fellow Republicans who acknowledge they’ve seen no evidence to support it.

The revelation of the

TURN TO **FBI**, PAGE A7



HERALD NEWS PHOTOS | KEVIN P. O’CONNOR

ABOVE: Bristol Community President John “Jack” Sbrega speaks during the announcement that BCC will receive \$4.4 million from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to renovate its science and engineering buildings. BELOW: Massachusetts Life Sciences Center President and CEO Travis McCready announces that the center will provide the grant to BCC and \$99,951 to Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School.

## FUNDING THE FUTURE

### BCC, Fall River schools get life-sciences boost

**Kevin P. O’Connor**  
Herald News Staff Reporter

FALL RIVER — The next great industry in Massachusetts will be based in medicine and life science, state officials say.

The industry is already here. It is growing and expanding away from Harvard and MIT, and it is globally known, said Travis McCready, president and CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center.

And to back up those words, McCready came to town with checks: The

MLSC granted Bristol Community College \$4.4 million to renovate its science and engineering buildings. Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School got \$99,951 to buy equipment for its physics and biotechnology labs. Kuss Middle School got \$40,530 to purchase biotechnology labs and to train teachers in how to use them.

The hope, McCready said, is to interest students in science and technology so they will go into the life sciences field to help the industry grow.

TURN TO **GRANT**, PAGE A7



**“This is all part of our master plan, to capture these students young.”**

— Travis McCready, right, president and CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center.

## Legal-pot backers urge panel to pause on law changes

**Bob Salsberg**  
Associated Press

BOSTON — Backers of legalized recreational marijuana urged Massachusetts legislators Monday to hold off, at least for now, on making any significant changes to a law voters approved in November.

The appeal came during the first public hearing held by a special legislative committee formed to review

the law, which passed by a 240,000 vote margin and made Massachusetts one of eight states that allow adults to use recreational marijuana.

House and Senate leaders have promised to respect the will of the electorate. Yet lawmakers also have angered many marijuana advocates by making clear their willingness to consider a higher tax rate on legal marijuana sales and address other issues, including the ability of local officials to

keep pot shops out of their communities; limits on the potency of edible marijuana; and further restrictions on homegrown marijuana, now capped at a dozen pot plants per household.

The group that led the ballot initiative, Yes on 4, said the Legislature should take a hands-off approach until a state regulatory board is in place and has a chance to formulate recommendations for lawmakers.

That board, known as the Cannabis Control Commission, has yet to be appointed.

“In no way are we trying to curtail any of your legislative duties,” insisted Jim Borghesani, spokesman for Yes on 4, when asked pointedly by the committee’s House chairman, Democratic Rep. Mark Cusack, why the panel should defer to regulators.

TURN TO **POT**, PAGE A7

WEATHER

H: 52 | L: 32

Variable cloudiness.  
Five-day forecast, A9.

INSIDE

Amusements..... A9  
Business..... A6  
Comics ..... B6  
Lotteries ..... B2  
Obituaries..... A2  
Opinion..... A4  
Public Notices..... B7  
Scoreboard ..... B2  
TV Listings ..... A9

LOCAL

### BEAUTY AND THE STREETS:

The first projects that are part of the Fall River streetscapes program — such as Columbia Square at Columbia and South Main streets — are moving forward. **PAGE A10**



HERALDED

**“My decisions have never reflected a judgment about the people before me, only my best judgment about the law and facts ...”**

— Supreme Court justice nominee Neil Gorsuch, during the start of his confirmation hearing.  
**PAGE A8**



ST. ANNE'S  
CREDIT UNION

Annual Meeting: Sunday, 3/26 - 2PM at Venus de Milo

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# Grant: BCC also using \$2M of own cash

## FROM PAGE A1

“This is all part of our master plan, to capture these students young,” he said.

McCready announced the grants Monday during an event in the John Sbrega Health Science Building at BCC.

In addition to the \$4.4 million BCC will get in the grant, the college will appropriate \$2 million of its own money to finance the projects planned.

The money will be used to upgrade six laboratories at BCC that will be used by students in the

health science field, according to Anthony Ucci, the associate vice president of academic affairs at BCC.

“You’ve probably heard employers say they can’t find employees with the skills they need,” he said. With the upgrades, students will train on the latest equipment used in the life science fields to build surgical instruments, prosthetics and vaccines, Ucci said.

“The lasting impact of this grant will be far greater than the immediate future,” he said.

The development of the life

science curriculum is one of the hallmarks of Sbrega’s presidency at BCC, according to Robert Mellion, the CEO of the Bristol County Chamber and an adjunct professor of social sciences at BCC.

“BCC is laying the educational foundation for a lot of the economic growth and the turnaround for the city and the SouthCoast,” Mellion said. Health care and life science is the largest employment sector in Fall River now, and it is growing.

“BCC figured this out 20 years ago because of Jack Sbrega,”

Mellion said.

The grant money is provided through MLSC, an investment agency formed and funded by the state. The agency will award a total of 63 grants worth \$39 million to colleges, high schools and middle schools around the state.

It will be used well locally, Sbrega promised.

“The money will be put to good use to further enhance the experience of the student,” he said.

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