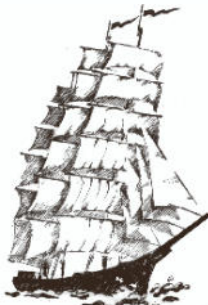


WEATHER

Today:
Cloudy and breezy
with flurries;
high of 34.
Tonight:
Low of 30.
Page 16

The DAILY NEWS



WWW.NEWBURYPORTNEWS.COM

WEDNESDAY
February 3, 2021
\$2.00

New England Newspaper & Press Association's 2019 Newspaper of the Year



Newburyport resident Helen Pinsky.

RICHARD K. LODGE/
Staff photo



Confusion, frustration plague rollout of vaccine

By JIM SULLIVAN
jsullivan@newburyportnews.com

AMESBURY — Phase 2 of the state's COVID-19 vaccination plan went into effect Monday, but so far only one local pharmacy is involved in the rollout. The pharmacy at the Super Stop & Shop in the Carriagetown Marketplace in Amesbury is the only Massachusetts location northeast of DoubleTree by Hilton hotel in Danvers to offer a COVID-19 vaccine, according to

a state website. Fire Chief Ken Berkenbush, who is also the interim health director, confirmed last week that Amesbury High School and Dr. John C. Page School in West Newbury will be used as mass vaccination sites as soon as this week. Phase 2 of the vaccination rollout includes people 75 and older and employees in education, transit and food service. "Each individual pharmacy needs to apply to the state to be a site," Berkenbush said. "Stop

& Shop in Amesbury applied and became a site. You can call there and make an appointment and I think they are taking eight vaccinations a day. That is how it is working right now." The Amesbury location has been administering more than eight doses of the vaccine a day, according to a Stop & Shop spokeswoman. But since the state has the ultimate say on how many doses are made available, the spokeswoman would not elaborate on how many

people can be seen each day. Qualified Stop & Shop customers have been asked to refrain from calling the store and will instead need to make an online appointment through the chain's vaccine scheduling system at <https://stopandshop.com/pages/ss-pharmacy>. But Helen Pinsky, 84, said she has had no luck making an online appointment through Stop & Shop. "I can sort of manage but I'm

See **VACCINE**, Page 7

A WINTER WALLOP



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

Three generations of the Myers family — grandfather Peter of Amesbury, right, son Jacob of Dover, N.H., and grandsons Jasper, 4, and Jace, 6 — sled together Tuesday in the heavy snow at Woodsom Farm in Amesbury.

Powerful nor'easter rocks Greater Newburyport

By DAVE ROGERS
drogers@newburyportnews.com

NEWBURYPORT — High winds and heavy, wet snow from a powerful nor'easter that rocked several Northeast states led to power outages locally Monday night into Tuesday morning.

Among the hardest hit was the Salisbury Beach area up Route 1A to the New

See **WINTER**, Page 16



Residents deployed the tools to dig out from the storm, including snowblowers and shovels, on Purchase Street, Newburyport.

RICHARD K. LODGE/
Staff photo

STATEWIDE PLASTIC BAG BAN PUSHED

Environmentalists, lawmakers seek single prohibition

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
cwade@cnhi.com

BOSTON — Nearly 140 communities have restricted single-use plastic bags, creating a patchwork of local laws that lawmakers and environmental groups want to replace with a blanket, statewide prohibition.

A number of proposals to phase out single-use plastic bags in convenience stores and supermarkets are expected to be considered in the upcoming two-year legislative session. They include one filed by Rep. Lori Ehrlich, D-Marblehead, that would allow retailers to charge a 10-cent fee for reusable and recycled paper bags.

See **BAG BAN**, Page 7

State trooper ordered held without bail

By DAVE ROGERS
drogers@newburyportnews.com

GROVELAND — A Massachusetts State Police sergeant accused of attacking a New Hampshire woman and then fleeing from police early Sunday was ordered held without bail by a judge Tuesday following his arraignment.

Bryan W. Erickson, 38, of Groveland was charged with second-degree assault (strangulation), simple assault, obstructing report of a crime, disobeying an officer, criminal trespass, and reckless operation of a motor vehicle.

He was arrested without incident by state police shortly after returning to his

See **TROOPER**, Page 7

COVID-19 CASE COUNT

▶ WORLDWIDE	
Cases confirmed.....	103,830,367
Deaths	2,251,345
▶ UNITED STATES	
Cases confirmed.....	26,422,593
Deaths	446,689
▶ MASSACHUSETTS	
Cases confirmed.....	502,378
Deaths	14,362
▶ NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Cases confirmed.....	66,384
Deaths	1,066

Statistics source: Johns Hopkins University Tracking COVID 19 Dashboard (Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m.); Mass. Department of Public Health; N.H. Department of Health and Human Services

Amesbury 3-year-old is beating the odds

By JIM SULLIVAN
jsullivan@newburyportnews.com

AMESBURY — An East Greenwood Street family is beating the odds with their miracle 3-year-old redhead.

Sajjona Murphy was born with Trisomy 18, a rare genetic disorder that leads to an extra chromosome in some or all of the body's cells.

The illness is also known as Edwards syndrome and can result in an undersized head or jaw, kidney, lung and stomach

defects, slowed growth and clenched fists with overlapping fingers, among other symptoms.

Heidi Murphy, Sajjona's mother, said the child's doctors were not optimistic when she was born in late 2017.

"They told us that she is incompatible with life and will be lucky if she lives two weeks," Murphy said. "Then, they said that they would pretty much send her home to die."

Murphy said she refused hospice care for her daughter "because she was alive."

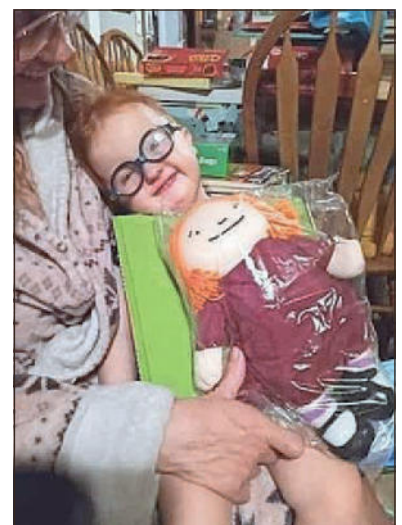
"They gave me a book about children that die and I threw it in the trash," Murphy said.

Sajjona came home to Amesbury to live with her mother; her father, Kenneth; and five siblings. The Murphy family decided to focus on the little girl's life and not her limitations.

"It was a journey and it wasn't easy," Murphy said. "We were back and forth to the hospital for nine months and we almost lost her in November of 2018."

Sajjona, however, made it past

See **ODDS**, Page 7



Sajjona Murphy, 3, was born with Trisomy 18, a rare genetic disorder.

Courtesy photo

INSIDE TODAY

Comics	15
Dear Abby.....	12
Obituaries.....	5
Sports.....	10
TV listings.....	16
Weather	16

HASTINGS FLOOR COVERING

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL





tile • stone • hardwood • luxury vinyl • carpet

919 Salem Street | Groveland, MA | 978-521-8848 | hastingsfloor.com

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

On this date in 1772, a committee was appointed to raise money by subscription to buy a bell for the meetinghouse of the Third Religious Society in Newburyport, and "send to England for one as soon as may be agreeable to said subscription."

— The Museum of Old Newbury

FREE financial review with your TAX RETURN



EROCK TAX
(781) 247-5569

