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\$2

'A COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROJECT'

Monitors to check air quality near compressor station



TOM GORMAN/FOR THE PATRIOT LEDGER

Robert Kearns, of Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station, checks the newly installed air monitor outside a Quincy Point home. The monitor is set up to detect emissions from the Fore River natural gas compressor station in Weymouth.

By Jessica Trufant
THE PATRIOT LEDGER
USA TODAY NETWORK

QUINCY

Toshed light on the effects of industrialization on the Fore River Basin, a citizens group plans to install 10 air-quality monitors throughout the area.

"This is a community science project," said Robert Kearns, a member of Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station. "We're installing 10 monitors around the basin as a public service for the public to get air-quality data in their hands and phones and check it out. It's a holistic approach."

The citizens group recently installed the first air monitor, made by the company PurpleAir, at a home in Quincy Point. The monitors measure and report fine particulate matter and volatile organic compounds.

Neighbors will be able to learn whether the compressor station is affecting air quality in the Fore River Basin

"I've lived in the basin my whole life, and we didn't know what was in the air," Kearns, of East Braintree, said. "We'll smell funny things, but now we'll get this data and get it into folks' hands."

Kearns said the project will focus on environmental justice neighborhoods, or areas with minority and low-income populations that often take the brunt of industrialization.

Two more monitors will soon be installed

in the Germantown neighborhood of Quincy and in East Braintree. Citizens Against the Rehoboth Compressor Station donated three air monitors, which cost about \$250 each.

Kearns said Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station raised about \$1,700 to buy more monitors, including a donation from the climate advocacy group Mothers Out Front.

"We've had a great show of support from around the area, so we're thankful," he said.

While the basin has long been burdened by industry, residents started paying close attention to air quality in the area when the recently completed natural gas compressor station was first proposed.

Algonquin Gas Transmission, a subsidiary of Enbridge, received initial approval for the compressor station in January 2017 from a federal agency. The company also needed sev-

MONITORS/PAGE 2

Convicted rapist wins appeal of habitual offender verdict

By Joe Difazio
THE PATRIOT LEDGER
USA TODAY NETWORK

BOSTON — A Randolph man convicted of multiple rapes has been allowed a new trial for the charge of being a habitual criminal after the state Appeals Court ruled a Superior Court judge made a mistake by not allowing the man to represent himself at the first trial.

The Appeals Court said in a recent ruling that Ricardo Barbosa, 43, should have been able to represent himself in a 2016 jury trial in which he was convicted of being a habitual criminal, a charge that is part of a so-called "three strikes" statute. Convicted habitual offenders are subject to the maximum penalties for their crimes.



Barbosa

Barbosa, in a separate, earlier 2016 trial, was convicted of raping a woman in Quincy's Houghs Neck neighborhood, his third serious offense, triggering the habitual criminal trial. His prior convictions came in March 2005 for raping a child and in 2010 for assaulting a corrections officer.

The habitual criminal conviction netted him an enhanced sentence of 20 years in state prison, which was thrown out by the Appeals Court. If Barbosa wins his new trial, a judge could reduce his sentence on the rape charge.

Barbosa's prison sentence for the Quincy rape was handed down in conjunction with the habitual criminal conviction.

APPEAL/PAGE 2

Biden panel aims to reunite families separated at border

By Rebecca Morin
USA TODAY

President Joe Biden continued to review and roll back several of the Trump administration's hardline immigration policies Tuesday, including introducing a task force to reunify families and signing an executive order that reviews the "Migrant Protection Protocols."

The task force, which will be led by the secretary of homeland security, will work

to identify the children and parents or guardians who were separated at the border, facilitate and enable reunification of children with their families, and then provide a report to the president on recommendations to ensure that the federal government does not have policies in place that separate families,



Biden

senior administration officials said.

There are still at least 628 parents who were separated from their children at the border who are still missing as of December. Former President Donald Trump's administration had a policy that separated children and their parents or guardians at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The task force, which will consist of government offi-

FAMILIES/PAGE 2

FLOOD FIGHTER



GREG DERR/THE PATRIOT LEDGER

Scituate police Sgt. James Bulman patrols low-lying areas in the police department's high-water rescue "buffalo" on Tuesday. The vehicle is used to help town residents who need to get to higher ground.



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TONIGHT
Snow showers
Low: 29

TOMORROW
Partly cloudy
High: 37 Low: 21



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