



Worcester woman recounts near-fatal COVID-19 bout

LOCAL, 3A



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HERE COME THE CHAMPS

WORCESTER – Members of the North High School state championship boys' basketball team celebrated their historic win with ecstatic fans during Sunday's rolling rally through the city. The Polar Bears boarded the duck boat Beantown Betty at the high school on Harrington Way, and paraded to Polar Park on Madison Street for a main event rally with fellow students, supporters, city residents and officials. North captured the state Division 1 boys' basketball crown with its 73-64 victory over Needham last week. For a complete story and more photos on Sunday's rolling rally, go to telegram.com.

ABOVE: Members of the North High boys' basketball team cheer aboard the duck boat Beantown Betty during Sunday's rolling rally in recognition of the team's MIAA Division 1 state championship.

PHOTOS BY ALAN ARSENAULT/
SPECIAL TO TELEGRAM & GAZETTE



Worcester schools and city officials get ready for Sunday's rolling rally.

LEFT: Members of the team get ready to board the duck boat Beantown Betty for Sunday's rolling rally through Worcester to Polar Park.

Trump, DeSantis escalate bickering

GOP concerned about divide as Democrats delight

David Jackson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – It's on in the GOP. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is starting to fight back, verbally, against former President Donald Trump.

After months of ignoring Trump's barbs, DeSantis is engaging the ex-president over leadership, character and the ability to win elections.

So begins a political battle that may dominate the 2024 presidential race.

"You know, you can call me whatever you want," DeSantis told television host Piers Morgan in an interview that aired Thursday. "I mean, just as long as you, you know, also call me a winner."

Trump responded by again mangling and making fun of the governor's name – "Ron DeSanctimonious" – and saying he "is not working for the people of Florida as he should be, he is too busy chatting with a Ratings Challenged TV Host from England."

An angry GOP?

Amid the escalating Trump-DeSantis feud, Democrats are joyful and Republicans are concerned: The bickering augurs a brutal and divisive primary that could weaken Republican general election campaigns in 2024.

"There's already anger within the GOP," pollster Frank Luntz said. "But this takes it to a new level."

Democratic strategist Josh Schwerin said, "the longer and messier the Republican primary is, the better it is for Democrats. ... They (Republicans) are all trying to win the primary even if it means losing the general."

Hush money, porn star

DeSantis began talking back to Trump at a time when the former president faces a possible indictment in New York City in a case that revolves around hush money payments to an adult film star.

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President Donald Trump is greeted by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2019. The potential presidential rivals have turned up the heat.

PROVIDED BY RICHARD GRAULICH

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