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LOCAL, A2

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CONCORD MONITOR



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

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BACKSTAGE PASS

Charlie Sawyer's photos unlock memories, including his time with B.B. King



Charlie Sawyer installing "B.B. King, From Indianola to Icon: A Photographic Journey" at Kimball Jenkins, which features a concert and author talk Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. COURTESY

CONCORD SCHOOLS

Croteau picked to replace West

Former School Board member to return to seat formerly held by official who lost her housing

By EILEEN O'GRADY
Monitor staff

The Concord School Board voted Monday to appoint former Board member Tom Croteau to temporarily fill the open Zone A seat formerly held by Kate West.

Croteau, who has been serving as School Board treasurer since 2021, is a former teacher and principal and was an elected School Board member from 2013 to 2020. He also served as a member of the 2021-2022 Concord School District Charter Commission.

"Mr. Croteau's integrity and his open mind and his willingness to listen to all sides of an argument make him, in my opinion, an outstanding candidate," said School Board President Jim Richards, who nominated him for the position.

West was elected in 2020 to the Zone A seat formerly held by Croteau, who decided not to seek another term. Last month, Concord School Board members unanimously voted to declare West's seat vacant and seek a replacement, since West no longer resided in Zone A. West

SEE CONCORD SCHOOLS A2



Croteau

B.B. – BEHIND THE CURTAIN

By KELLY SENNOTT
For the Monitor

About six years ago, when in his mid-70s, Charlie Sawyer began sifting through his old photos.

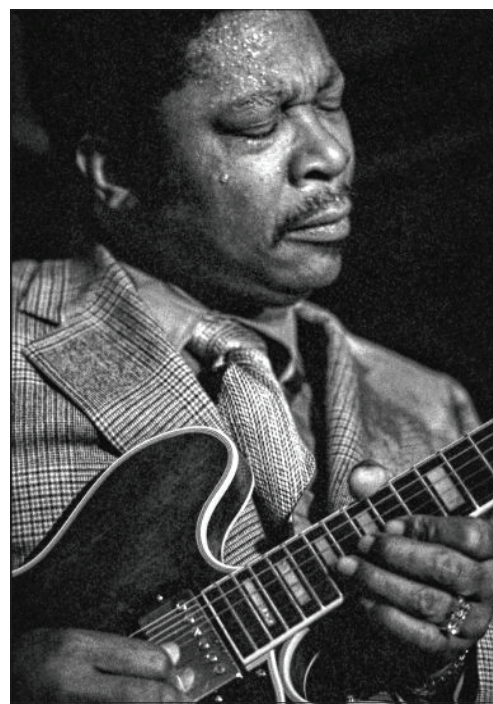
The Concord native had retired from his software career, most recently as a programmer at Google's Cambridge office, and finally, after more than 30 years, it was time to revisit the life he'd lived as a journalist, photographer, and biographer.

"It was a bit overwhelming. For a 15-year period, as a young man, I was as fully invested in my photography as any human can be," Sawyer said via phone last week. "I had in this archive every photo I ever took. It was waiting for my attention."

Some photos in this archive were of his then-colleagues at New England College. Others were snapshots of the Hopkinton State Fair. A large number featured the great American blues artist B.B. King, who Sawyer befriended in the 1960s at a small nightclub called Lennie's on the Turnpike in Peabody, Mass. Their professional relationship would culminate with his writing the blues artist's biography, *The Arrival of B.B. King: The Authorized Biography*, in 1980.

Slowly, Sawyer marched through the images, organized them in big plastic tubs, and built a digital photography studio in his home in Boxford, Mass. He began scanning. And when he finally got to King, he found more

SEE B.B. KING A2



COURTESY/Charlie Sawyer

The Concord Historic Society will be featuring a talk by Charlie Sawyer on February 9th with a performance by Charlie's band.

SALISBURY

Town considers doubling police patrol hours

Voters will also weigh creation of new highway department

By ERIC RYNSTON-LOBEL
Monitor staff

The possibility of doubling police patrol coverage to 16 hours a week became a main point of discussion

during the Salisbury budget public hearing Monday night.

A petitioned warrant article will ask residents at Town Meeting to approve an additional \$33,000 to increase "police patrol coverage" beyond the current 8 hours a week "to ensure the safety of the motoring public and safety of the residents of Salisbury."

Salisbury does not have its own department and contracts with New Hampshire State Police for services. Even if residents want more coverage, the question of availability remains.

"They are shorthanded, and they are, at this point, not able to provide the eight hours that were budgeted, so for me, it's a pretty

simple decision," said Brett Walker, the selectman chair. "It doesn't make sense for us to raise another \$33,000 if the State Police are not able to provide patrols."

Neither the Board of Selectman nor the Budget Committee recommended this increase.

SEE SALISBURY A4

Developers hoping to build about 650 housing units on 95 acres near the Concord Monitor building have taken an option on 40 more acres located between the project area and the new Merchant's Way development and Wheelabrator trash-to-energy plant.

"The development team is studying different potential uses for the additional 40 acres," the group said in a statement.

The 40-acre property abuts the southern end of the Wheelabrator and Merchant's Way properties, near Exit 17 of I-93, and would be reached

SEE DEVELOPMENT A2

CONCORD

Proposed development could add 40 acres

Monitor staff

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INSIDE



LOCAL POLICE PRESENCE AT RUNDLETT

Social media threat against middle school gets local response. **Page A2**

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CONCORD

Rundlett threat under investigation

Middle school gets police presence for second day after social media post

By EILEEN O'GRADY
Monitor staff

A social media post threatening violence against Rundlett Middle School was still under investigation as of Tuesday morning, police said. The school was placed in "secure campus" mode Monday after a student allegedly posted a threat of school violence on social media.

In a message to parents sent via ParentSquare on Monday afternoon, Superintendent Kathleen Murphy wrote that a threat was posted on a student's Facebook page on Sunday night, which suggested that an "armed threat" would take place at Rundlett Middle School Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Murphy said she learned about the post at about 1:30



Geoff Forester / Monitor staff
A Concord police cruiser sits outside Rundlett Middle School on Tuesday morning.

p.m. on Monday, and immediately alerted Concord Police, who went to the school to investigate.

Rundlett was placed in "secure campus" mode Monday afternoon, meaning no one

was permitted to enter or exit the building while the police investigation was ongoing.

"We asked students to just stay in place in their classrooms, not in the hallways or roaming all over the building,

we asked them to stay in place while the police did their investigation," Murphy said at a School Board meeting Monday night.

Concord Deputy Chief John Thomas declined to discuss the case Tuesday morning, saying it is still under investigation.

Murphy said she reached out to Chief Bradley Osgood to request additional police presence at Rundlett Middle School for Tuesday.

"These kinds of incidents cause a lot of anxiety for our families, our parents, our grandparents, our community in general," Murphy said. "So I asked the Chief to stage additional officers at the school so that folks could see that. There will be officers in the morning and throughout the day in the buildings just to let people know they're around, they care about the youngsters at the school, and they want to make sure that everyone is safe."

CONCORD

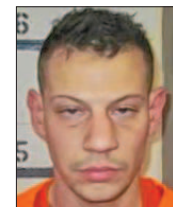
Pembroke man faces felonies

He was arrested Sunday by Concord Police on warrants, new charges

By JAMIE L. COSTA
Monitor staff

A 36-year-old Pembroke man was arrested in Concord on Sunday after police said he tried to evade officers and hide his identity.

Thomas McEneaney was taken into custody on arrest warrants issued by the State of New Hampshire Parole Board, the Hooksett Police Department, and the Allenstown Police Department. He was later charged by Concord Police with three felonies, including being an armed career criminal, possession of a con-



McEneaney

trolled drug with intent to distribute, and being a felon in possession of a dangerous weapon. He also was charged with driving after suspension and disobeying a police officer, both misdemeanors.

Police said they spotted McEneaney while on patrol in the area of Route 106 near Autumn Drive. He pulled into the driveway of a private residence and shut off the vehicle's lights, police said.

At the time of his arrest, police said he was in possession of an illegal handgun, a knife, an unidentified crystallized substance, two scales, pill pouch bags and \$190 in cash. His passenger was released at the scene and does not face criminal charges.

McEneaney refused the services of the bail commissioner and was transported to the Merrimack County Jail. He was arraigned in Merrimack County Superior Court on Monday and remains incarcerated.

Behind the curtain with guitar legend B.B. King

B.B. KING FROM A1

than 3,000 photos taken during that period.

"All these years later, when I began a serious investigation of my photo archive, I realized that for every photo I put in the first biography, there were several complimentary photographs," Sawyer said.

He packaged the images and sent them to the B.B. King Museum in Mississippi, which were so well-received, he was summoned to travel south and discuss publishing a B.B. King photo book.

Sawyer was interested. Why not? He had the time. Plus, working on this project enabled him to relive this exciting time in his life, when he was the man behind the curtain to one of the country's most prolific blues musicians.

"In a way, the pandemic kind of passed me by. Since I was retired, I didn't have colleagues to connect with. I didn't have an office to stay away from. My office was my study, and my work was my photography archive and this book," he said.

As King's biographer, Sawyer was granted access to accompany the artist wherever he wanted, from the dressing room to the after-party, which once included a nightclub jam session with James Cotton and Paul Butterfield.

"He welcomed me, and granted me a kind of access and intimacy which was unthinkable to me, especially coming from a state that had no African American culture," Sawyer said. "How could I, a farm boy from New Hampshire, imagine entering the world that B.B. King grew up in?"

Though Sawyer would write for high-profile publications, including *The New York*



Courtesy
"B.B. King, From Indianola to Icon: A Photographic Journey" is on view at Kimball Jenkins through Feb. 17 and features an author talk on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Times and *Harper's Magazine*, he eventually found work as a "stringer" was not supporting the life he wanted to build, which is when he switched careers and entered the software industry.

But even in Sawyer's new career, King was present, acting as a special guest during a course Sawyer taught, "History of the Blues," at Harvard Extension School in 2003. At the end of the presentation, at Sawyer's request, King invited him onstage to perform with the band.

"I had an awareness that this whole evening was a great event in my life," Sawyer said. "We played a couple of tunes, and he was very gracious about it. After we finished the song, I leaned over, pulled on his sleeve, and said, 'Tell me you're not a little bit surprised.'"

Sawyer's work during the pandemic culminated in the publication of a coffee table

picture book, *B.B. King: From Indianola to Icon: A Personal Odyssey with the 'King of the Blues,'* published by Schiffer, the originals of which are on view in a photography exhibition at Kimball Jenkins until Feb. 17.

The show in Concord features more than 60 photographs of King, plus other musical greats Sawyer photographed during his time as a journalist, including Tony Bennett, Muddy Waters, Little Richard, and Big Mama Thornton.

This Thursday, Sawyer visits the mansion for a free concert featuring his band, 2120 S. Michigan Ave., and an artist talk from 7 to 9 p.m. in partnership with the Concord Historical Society.

The talk will cover Sawyer's friendship with King and chronicle Sawyer's time growing up in Concord. He'll tell stories of his childhood, including the time he met American politician Estes Kefauver when he was 10 years old, and discuss some of the other photos he found in his archive, including the ones that depict his family.

Sawyer says his aunts and uncles in particular were embedded in Concord's history. One was the town's milkman. Another founded an elementary school in town. He says revisiting these old images has provided him with a great deal of clarity.

"Everybody has a life story. And everybody who's lucky enough to live to be old - I was, after all, born before the U.S. entered World War II - can ask the question, how did I get here?" Sawyer said.

They've also helped him unlock details in his memories. In Sawyer's home hangs a photo of his parents standing out in front of the family farm. The photo itself is black and white, but recently, Sawyer began to see it in color.

"It's black and white. But then I realized the other day that now I see my mother's dress is blue, because it was. And I see the door behind them is green - because it was. And looking at these photos brings up a memory of mine that is so rich. How does it feel? I'll give you one word. Unnerving," Sawyer said.

CHICHESTER

School board proposes 1.95% budget increase

Chichester will hold a public hearing on Wednesday night to answer the public's questions about the school board's proposed budget for the upcoming year.

The proposed operating budget for 2023-2024 is \$2.04 million, which represents a 1.95% increase from last

year's budget.

Board members are expected to discuss the budget and three additional warrant articles that would move funds to a trust.

Chichester will hold its annual meeting on March 14 for the public to vote on the budget and warrant articles.

The budget hearing will begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday night inside the Chichester Central School at 219 Main Street.

Jamie Costa

Croteau picked to replace West

CONCORD SCHOOLS FROM A1

lost her housing in September and had been staying with friends in Concord while she was trying to find a permanent place to live. According to a provision codified by the 2021-2022 Charter Commission last year, Board members forfeit their seats if they move out of their elected zone.

West stated that she was "ousted" from the School Board and disagrees with the decision to remove her, arguing that she didn't choose to leave her zone and she has not yet taken up a permanent residence in any other zone.

According to school policy, Croteau will sit on the Board for the remainder of 2023 until Concord voters elect a Zone A representative at the November city election.

Croteau resigned his position as School Board treasurer to take the interim member position. Richards said he will nominate a new treasurer candidate at the next Board meeting.

West, a single mom, said

the decision to remove her ran against the Board's stated desire to have its members represent more diverse backgrounds.

"I think houseless students deserve representation on the board as well," she said in January.

According to the New Hampshire Secretary of State's office, people who are unhoused can list the address of a shelter, a friend's house or their encampment as their domicile to vote in elections. To run for public office, they need to list a mailing address which can be a resource center, like the Coalition to End Homelessness.

While the vote to move forward to replace West was unanimous, not all Board members felt the decision was right.

"This situation has given us an opportunity to reexamine the ways we choose to govern this Board and how we recognize the validity of our district's families," new Concord School Board member Sarah Robinson said in January.

Proposed development could add 40 acres

DEVELOPMENT FROM A1

through a proposed extension of Whitney Road. It is owned by the Concord Regional Solid Waste Cooperative, a collection of towns and cities that built the power plant in the 1980s and maintains a contract with Wheelabrator Concord Co. for the plant's operation.

The proposed project on the 95 acres along the east bank of the Merrimack River, called Monitor Way, involves what developers call an urban village featuring business, retail and housing in the form of apartments and townhomes. The proposed purchase from Newspapers of New England, the *Monitor's* parent company, is under contract but not completed. The *Monitor* building is not part of the sale.

The developers also announced that developer Mike Dion has joined New England Family Housing CEO Kevin Lacasse and William & Reeves CRE principal Deane Navaroli on the partnership team for the development.

Dion is the founder and chairman of Metro Walls, a commercial framing and dry-wall company. He recently sold it and three other companies for an undisclosed sum.

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