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Holliston football player, 16, dies

► Joseph Larracey collapsed during Friday night scrimmage at Lakeville high school

By **John Hilliard**
DAILY NEWS STAFF

HOLLISTON – A 16-year-old Holliston High football player is being remembered for his “youthful spirit” and willingness to help others, after he died Friday night during a scrimmage. Joseph Larracey died after

being hit in the chest during a scrimmage at Lakeville’s Aponequet Regional High School, said his uncle, Tom Larracey.

“He’ll be remembered for his youthful spirit, unassuming nature and constant cheerfulness,” said the elder Larracey. “It’s a loss to society.”

FIRST REPORTED
YESTERDAY
AFTERNOON AT
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ANOTHER PLAYER INJURED
Cambridge player hospitalized after Wayland game /A10

Holliston schools Superintendent Brad Jackson said the cause of death is still under investiga-

tion. A state police spokesman said the Plymouth County District Attorney’s office is investigating Larracey’s death. An autopsy is planned.

“Any tragedy of this magnitude will have a profound effect” on the school community, Jackson said.

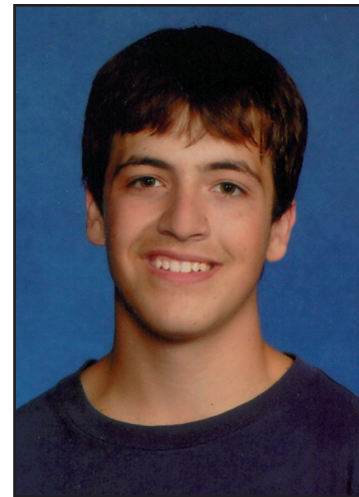
At Holliston High yesterday, grief counselors from the school and Holliston Youth and Family Services were available

to students.

“It’s going to be a long and difficult process for all of us,” said Jackson.

At Larracey’s home on Andrew Lane, more than a dozen cars lined the road while friends and neighbors of the family filed through the front door shortly before noon yesterday.

Tom Larracey, along with Joseph’s grandfather, Vin Cerrati, LARRACEY, Page A5



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joseph Larracey

QUESTION #3

ONE FOR THE DOGS

Ballot question claims greyhound racing is cruel, inhumane

By **Dan McDonald**
DAILY NEWS STAFF

Touting grainy footage of leg-breaking greyhound racing accidents and a three-inch stack of racetrack-related injury reports, the Committee to Protect Dogs hopes it has what it needs to sink the sport in the state.

In a crusade to ban greyhound racing through a ballot initiative – the second attempt in eight years – those two pieces of media constitute the group’s trump card, evidence that the sport is cruel and inhumane.

Greyhound racing is already illegal in 34 states, and Question 3 on the Nov. 4 ballot could eliminate racing at the Wonderland Greyhound Park in Revere and Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Park in Raynham. The committee, along with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the MetroWest Humane Society and the Milford Humane Society, are proponents of the question. The Committee to Protect Dogs has compiled greyhound injuries from recent years and released a grisly video of greyhound accidents GREYHOUNDS, Page A8



Christine Dorchak, president of Grey2K USA, holds a photo taken of a greyhound at Wonderland Greyhound Park in 2006 during a meeting with the Daily News last week. At left, Paula Blanchard of Lexington, co-chair of the Committee to Protect Dogs hugs her greyhound Hope, a rescued dog from the Wonderland track.

DAILY NEWS PHOTOS BY KEN MCGAGH



BROKEN TIES

Mental issues strain family relationships

► Upbringing and connections to relations play a role in recovery

Editor’s note: This is part 2 of a weekly series on the stigma of mental illness.

By **David Riley**
DAILY NEWS STAFF

Mental illness cost Melissa almost everything she had, including custody of her 11-year-old daughter. Living in and out of homeless shelters in Connecticut, she was ready to give up a year ago. It was her adult son who helped her find another chance at rebuilding her life in Massachusetts.

But not all of Melissa’s family has been able or willing to maintain ties with her. Aside from a sister, Melissa said most of her relatives no longer speak to her.

Family, she said, is also where some of her struggles with depression and post-traumatic stress began.

“It’s good to have a good upbringing,” said Melissa, a client at Programs for People, a Framingham nonprofit that helps the mentally ill recover and succeed. “I didn’t.”

MENTAL ILLNESS, Page A7

- A few places families caring for or living with a mentally ill relative can find support and counseling:
 - The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Massachusetts Family-to-Family Education and support programs, 781-938-4048 or namimass.org
 - Wayside Youth and Family support groups, 1-800-4WAYSIDE
 - Advocates Inc., 508-628-6300

TROPICAL STORM

Hanna washes over New England area

► Flooding rain main threat from former hurricane

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARTFORD, Conn. – Road crews cleaned storm drains, festival organizers secured their tents and homeowners in low-lying areas moved valuables out of their basements throughout New England yesterday in anticipation of Tropical Storm Hanna’s arrival. The wind-driven storm, which

came ashore in the Carolinas, was expected to roll across southern New England late last night and into early this morning.

Public safety officials in several shoreline communities and those close to swollen rivers stocked sand bags and blocked off flood-prone intersections Saturday. They also encouraged residents to have flashlights and easy-to-prepare meals ready in case they lose electricity.

“I don’t think in these cases HANNA, Page A8

Peter Seltzer of Peter Seltzer’s Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning Inc. in Hopkinton points to the level of mold damage to a Sudbury home.

DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY KEN MCGAGH



WET WEATHER WORRY

MOLD: A GROWING PROBLEM

► Summer storms put homes and their owners at risk

By **Charlie Breitrose**
DAILY NEWS STAFF

With the remnants of Hurricane Hanna hitting Massachusetts this weekend, some area homeowners may find themselves facing a basement filled with water or a leaking roof, either of which could lead to the growth of harmful mold.

Quick action must be taken to prevent the growth of the spores, said Hopkinton’s Peter

Seltzer, who has been in the business of cleaning carpets and dealing with flooded basements and such situations for three decades.

“The first 48 hours are critical,” Seltzer said. “If your basement is wet, the first thing you want to do is to get as much of the water out as possible, and get a professional in with a moisture meter.”

According to the federal Environmental Protection Agency, molds can cause allergies, be an irritant and even be toxic and lead to death.

MOLD, Page A8

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WEATHER/A9
Clearing, around 80.

DAILY NUMBERS A2



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FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Experts: Families can hurt and heal the mentally ill

MENTAL ILLNESS, From A1

Melissa and three other clients at Programs for People spoke with the Daily News recently about their illnesses and recovery. They also discussed their firsthand experiences with misunderstanding, fear and suspicion of mental illness that they and others face in many aspects of their lives.

"I think the public, they don't understand mental illness, and they don't want to," Melissa said.

Melissa's story illustrates the complex role of family in mental illness. She believes her upbringing contributed to her disease, and family relationships have strained or broken during her battle. Yet it was also a son who helped point her toward recovery and a daughter who motivates her today.

"I want to get back in my daughter's life and live," Melissa said. "Just live."

Professionals say living with or trying to support a relative with a mental disorder can be an agonizing strain for even the most understanding and accommodating family.

"Mental illness is a very painful disease, and it's painful not only to the person who has it, but it's often painful to the people around that person," said William J. Taylor, CEO of Advocates Inc. "Their pain quickly becomes your pain."

At the same time, family members are not immune to the same misconceptions the mentally ill face in other relationships, the workplace, finding housing and other areas.

Iris Carroll, director of Programs for People, said some clients have described family members embarrassed by their mental illness, telling them not to talk to others about their problems or treatment.

After being hospitalized, some clients say relatives just stop calling, or in other cases com-

plain to other family members about the sick person's problems, she said.

"Families will just finally disown someone," Carroll said. "They'd just as soon somebody disappeared than have to deal with them or talk about them."

Cindy, another client at Programs for People, said her husband did not believe in mental illness, though she has faced bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse problems.

When she was hospitalized for treatment—most recently for a suicide attempt that she cannot recall—Cindy said her husband said she was copping out on her responsibilities and going

ized, he said he went to live with his two supportive brothers, but at one point, he tried their patience. As Bill described feeling depressed, one brother said while he understood his illness, he didn't want to hear any more complaining.

For Bill, the remark hurt a bit, but it also helped him realize he needed to refocus on positive things and his relationship with his brothers. "It kind of opened my eyes," Bill said.

Melissa said she had struggled with depression much of her life. "I went years without feeling my mental illness when I had my daughter," she said. "It was such a joy raising her. I felt like I had a purpose in life."

But the stress of a divorce, moving and other problems brought on those symptoms again, and she turned to drugs. She was evicted from her home and lost her daughter. "Just from one mistake, it seems," she was homeless in the scariest time of her life.

Programs for People, Melissa said, has been wonderful, and she has made great strides since then. "I've grown stronger," she said. "I've gotten educated. Depending on what your mental illness is, you can learn to live with it."

She wants to go back to school and find work.

"I want to learn," Melissa said. "I think knowledge is very powerful."

It's important for families too. "It's very important for relatives of people with mental illness to also seek counseling themselves to deal with their own feelings about their relative, about mental illness, about the relationship they might be in," Taylor said. "It's not a disease that just affects you, it affects the people around you."

(David Riley can be reached at 508-626-3919 or e-mail him at driley@cnc.com.)

"It's not a disease that just affects you, it affects the people around you."

William J. Taylor
CEO of Advocates Inc

on a "vacation." She calls that view the "get-over-it mentality."

"I said I had three options," Cindy said with a smile. "Bermuda, Bahamas and (a state hospital)."

Now making major progress, Cindy said she is rebuilding ties with her children and educating them about mental health. "This is stuff that needs to be taught to kids," she said.

Other clients, too, have seen their illnesses affect their families in different ways. Mark said he lost a 16-year-old daughter he had raised since birth to foster care as he dealt with mental illness and alcoholism.

Bill, who has struggled with depression, said he has a close-knit family. After being hospital-

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