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THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024

Healey's message to migrants: No room left

Warning about state's capacity reflects budgetary and political pressures

Loss of airport sanctuary brings feelings of despair

By Danny McDonald, Samantha J. Gross, and Stephanie Ebbert

GLOBE STAFF

At Logan Airport's Terminal E Tuesday night, dozens of migrants settling in for the night attempted to get comfortable. They munched on corn on the cob, a couple of kids clutched slices of pizza, and another had a granola bar. A mother breastfed her child. Some people scrolled through their phones, others tried to catch some shut-eye underneath the harsh lights.

Soon, they will have to leave this temporary home. Governor

Maura Healey's administration announced last Friday that, as of July 9, homeless and migrant families will no longer be allowed to sleep at Logan. And some of the 40 or so people who were sheltering there Tuesday night, uncomfortable but at least in a safe, clean environment, reacted to that deadline with frustration and despair.

"We don't have anywhere to go," said Julienne Louissaint, 35, sitting atop an air mattress not far from the international arrivals gate.

For months, Terminal E has

LOGAN, Page A9



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Sherlie Elisse held her baby, Elisonn Saint, as they settled down for the night at Logan Airport earlier this week.

By Samantha J. Gross

GLOBE STAFF

Last Friday afternoon, 70 homeless shelter residents, newly arrived migrants and Massachusetts residents, gathered at Hildebrand Family Self-Help's Central Square office in Cambridge for a question-and-answer session.

They looked stressed. So did Hildebrand's staff as they attempted to address the uncertainties created by the state's new nine-month limit on emergency shelter stays, and the reality that some of the families would soon be given 90 days to vacate the state-funded shelter.

The new shelter limit means that there may be "some families who may not be in long-term

stable housing, said Shiela Moore, Hildebrand's executive director. "It really cuts against our mission."

But the notices are part of Governor Maura Healey's effort to deliver a stern warning to migrants arriving in the United States: Don't come to Massachusetts. We're full.

The Healey administration has taken numerous steps to broadcast that "no vacancy" message.

On the same day as the Hildebrand session, the governor announced the state is barring homeless and migrant families from sleeping at Logan Airport starting July 9. Days later, Healey's administration announced

MIGRANTS, Page A9

Biden aware of stakes, allies say

Appearances over weekend deemed crucial

By Katie Rogers

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Biden has told key allies that he knows the coming days are crucial and understands that he may not be able to salvage his candidacy if he cannot convince voters that he is up to the job after a disastrous debate performance last week.

According to two allies who have spoken with him, Biden has emphasized that he is still deeply committed to the fight for reelection but understands that his viability as a candidate is on the line.

The president sought to project confidence Wednesday in a call with his campaign staff, even as White House officials were trying to calm nerves among the ranks inside the Biden administration.

"No one's pushing me out," Biden said in the call. "I'm not leaving."

Vice President Kamala Harris was also on the line.

"We will not back down. We will follow our president's lead," she said. "We will fight, and we will win."

Still, Biden's allies said that the president had privately ac-

BIDEN, Page A8



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

BLOOMIN' GROUP

It's not your imagination — the hydrangeas are amazing this year, thanks to a mild winter. And it's everywhere, not just on the Cape. Clockwise from above, an impressive array in Milton, a riot of color in Chatham, and a delicate bloom in Quincy. **B1.**

State pushes for concessions from 8 hospitals' landlords

By Robert Weisman

GLOBE STAFF

As a July 15 deadline looms for bids to buy Steward Health Care's eight Massachusetts hospitals out of bankruptcy, months of quiet talks have intensified into what insiders describe as a high-stakes game of chicken between the Healey administration and the hospitals' landlords.

State officials and their allies on Capitol Hill are pressing Medical Properties Trust and Macquarie Infrastructure Partners — which together own the real estate Steward occupies — to either sell the properties or accept lower rents on long-term leases that currently oblige the eight hospitals to pay more than \$100 million a year.

The concessions would make buying and running the hospitals more financially feasible for new owners, according to several parties briefed on the talks.

They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss private negotiations.

MPT and Macquarie, they said, have so far resisted calls to revamp the leases and may be waiting for a state commitment — which has yet to come — to provide financial backing to new hospital owners. Hanging in the balance are the fate of the hospitals and the shape of the health care market in Eastern Massachusetts.

Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey weighed in Tuesday with a letter to the property owners backing the state's position and urging a "long-term reduction in lease payments, early termination of leases, or other concessions to ensure that new operators can be found to keep Steward's Massachusetts hospitals open and viable."

Hospital systems pondering

STEWARDS, Page A12



Governor Maura Healey's call for lower rents is backed by Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren.

Insurers will pay **135%** of the Medicare reimbursement rate for out-of-network care at urgent care centers in nine Eastern Massachusetts counties

With ERs overwhelmed, patients will be diverted to urgent cares

By Jason Laughlin

GLOBE STAFF

Faced with crushing numbers of patients at hospitals in Eastern Massachusetts, the state Department of Public Health launched an initiative Wednesday to relieve pressure on overwhelmed emergency departments by diverting patients to urgent care centers.

Through the end of September, the state's health insurers will cover treatment at urgent care centers even if the facility is outside their coverage network, according to a DPH memo. Urgent care providers, who treat patients with non-life-threatening conditions, also agreed not to bill patients for the remaining balance after insurance reimbursement.

"What the DPH has done is unprecedented," said Jim Brennan, president of the Massachusetts Urgent Care Association, an industry group. "The Department of Health is preemptively trying to make sure all patients are aware of resources they have above and beyond the

emergency room."

The move comes amid extraordinary strain on the region's hospitals, with summer also the busiest time for ERs. Meanwhile, providers are still reeling from pandemic-era workforce shortages and, this year, must also contend with difficulties at Steward Health Care, the largest for-profit hospital system in the country, which operates seven active hospitals in Massachusetts. Steward declared bankruptcy in May and has curtailed some services.

"It's an already strained emergency department ecosystem in Massachusetts," said Michael Caljouw, vice president of government and regulatory affairs for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the state's largest private insurer. "Looking forward, we want to make sure we're all prepared for continuing care demands during the summertime if and when Steward changes over."

Urgent care centers are equipped to

URGENT CARE, Page A12

A land trust nonprofit is pulling back from a years-long plan to redevelop a decrepit pier into a waterfront park in East Boston. **B1.**

Ballot measures on abortion rights are likely in Arizona and Nebraska, with organizers saying they have the signatures. **A2.**

Fajitas & 'Ritas is closing after 35 years, another blow to Downtown Crossing. **D1.**

Sparklers

Thursday: Summer heat. High 83-88. Low 68-73.

Friday: A bit more humid. High 83-88. Low 69-74.

Weather and Comics, D5-6. Obituaries, C11.

VOL. 306, NO. 4

Suggested retail price \$4.00



The Nation

Abortion rights could be on Ariz., Neb. ballots

Groups say more signatures than needed turned in

By Walter Berry and Anita Snow
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — Organizers in Arizona and Nebraska said Wednesday that they turned in far more signatures than required to get ballot measures on abortion rights before voters in November's election.

In Nebraska, there could be two competing questions. One, like the Arizona proposal, would add a right to abortion to the state constitution. The other would enshrine Nebraska's current ban on most abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy.

In both states, it's now up to election officials to certify the signatures before they're added to ballots.

Democrats have made abortion rights a central message since the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022 and it is a key part of their efforts in this year's elections. Activists in Arkansas are still pushing to meet Friday's deadline to make the ballot there.

In five other states, the issue already is set to go before voters this year: Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Nevada, and South Dakota. New York also has a measure that advocates say would protect abortion access.



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona abortion-rights supporters delivered signatures to the capitol Wednesday to get a measure on the November ballot.

Arizona organizers say they submitted 823,685 signatures, far above the 383,923 required from registered voters. County election officials have until Aug. 22 to verify whether enough of the petition signatures are valid and provide results to the Arizona secretary of state's office.

Arizona currently has a 15-week abortion ban. The pro-

posed amendment would allow abortions until a fetus could survive outside the womb, typically around 24 weeks, with exceptions to save the mother's life or to protect her physical or mental health. It would restrict the state from adopting or enforcing any law that would prohibit access to the procedure.

Opponents say it goes too far

and could lead to unlimited and unregulated abortions in Arizona. Supporters say a change in the state's constitution is necessary to ensure abortion rights cannot be easily erased by a court decision or legislative vote.

Arizona for Abortion Access, a coalition that includes the American Civil Liberties Union

of Arizona and Planned Parenthood of Arizona, turned in 300 boxes of signed petitions to the secretary of state's office, where extra security has been added.

Arizona for Abortion Access spokesperson Dawn Penich said it was the most signatures ever submitted for a citizens initiative in state history.

"That was our goal from the

get-go," Penich said. "We started collecting signatures in September and October 2023 and saw how passionate people are about this issue."

In April, the Arizona Supreme Court upheld a 1864 abortion ban that permitted abortions only to save the mother's life and provided no exceptions for survivors of rape or incest, but the Republican-controlled Legislature voted for a repeal of the Civil War-era ban, and Democratic Governor Katie Hobbs quickly signed. The 19th-century law had been blocked since the US Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization that eliminated constitutional protections for abortion.

The current 15-week ban was signed into law in 2022 and includes exceptions in cases of medical emergencies and has restrictions on medication abortion. It also requires an ultrasound before an abortion is done, as well as parental consent for minors.

In Nebraska, officials with Protect Our Rights said they turned in 207,000 signatures in their effort to enshrine abortion rights. Organizers of SBA Pro-Life America's competing petition effort said they submitted more than 205,000 signatures.

The state requires more than 123,000 valid signatures — or 10 percent of registered voters in the state — to qualify for the ballot.

DAILY BRIEFING

FRANK DISPUTE — Nick Wehry and Miki Sudo faced each other during a weigh-in for the 2024 Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog-Eating Championship in New York on Wednesday. The contest, which will take place at Coney Island on Independence Day, will feature a Massachusetts man who is ranked number two in the world. **B1.**



TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Justice Dept. plans to pursue Trump cases past Election Day

By Devlin Barrett and Perry Stein
WASHINGTON POST

Justice Department officials plan to pursue the criminal cases against Donald Trump past Election Day even if he wins, under the belief that department rules against charging or prosecuting a sitting president would not kick in until Inauguration Day in January, according to people familiar with the discussions.

That approach may become more consequential given this week's Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity, which probably will lead to further delays to Trump's election interference trial in Washington, D.C., and has already affected one of his state cases.

Senior law enforcement officials have long viewed the two federal indictments against Trump — the 45th president and the presumptive Republican nominee in this year's election — as operating with potential time constraints. That's because of longstanding Justice Department policy that officials cannot criminally charge a sitting president.

Lawyers in the department do not believe the policy bars them from proceeding against a president-elect, however, according to the people familiar with the discussions, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal deliberations.

The plan to continue filing motions, seeking court hearings, and potentially conducting a trial between Election Day and Inauguration Day underscores the highly unusual nature of prosecuting not just a former president, but also possibly a future one. In the

months after winning election, a president-elect assumes some of the trappings of the office, such as more security and high-level briefings, but that person is not the commander in chief.

In the midst of a presidential election in which criminal cases have played a central role, any court activity involving a president-elect would push American politics deeper into uncharted territory. Ultimately, it would be up to the courts to decide when and how to hold hearings or a trial involving a president-elect.

"The Justice Department isn't governed by the election calendar. Its prosecution of Trump is based on the law, the facts and the Justice Manual — the department's bible that lays out the post-Watergate norms that have prevented it from being weaponized," said Anthony Coley, a former Justice Department spokesman for Attorney General Merrick Garland who left the agency last year. "Until those norms change, or they're ordered otherwise, I'd expect this Justice Department to be full speed ahead. And they should be."

Current officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, expressed the same sentiment — that if Trump wins the election, the clock on the two federal cases against him would keep ticking until Jan. 20, when he would be sworn in as the 47th president.

A spokesman for special counsel Jack Smith declined to comment. Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said the criminal cases against Trump are "hoaxes" that "are imploding as their collective efforts to interfere in the election have massively backfired."

Blazing hot surfaces are a danger for catastrophic burn injuries in the Southwest

PHOENIX — Ron Falk lost his right leg, had extensive skin grafting on the left one, and is still recovering a year after collapsing on the searing asphalt outside a Phoenix convenience store where he had stopped for a cold soda during a heat wave.

Now using a wheelchair, the 62-year-old lost his job and his

home. He's recovering at a medical respite center for patients with no other place to go. There he gets physical therapy and treatment for a bacterial infection in what remains of his right leg, which is too swollen to use the prosthesis he had hoped would help him walk again.

Sizzling sidewalks and un-

shaded playgrounds pose risks for surface burns as air temperatures reach new summertime highs in Southwest cities like Phoenix, which just recorded its hottest June on record. The average daytime high was 109.5 degrees Fahrenheit, without a single 24-hour high below 100.

Since the beginning of June,

50 people have been hospitalized with such burns, and four have died at Valleywise Health Medical Center in Phoenix, which operates the Southwest's largest burn center, according to its director, Dr. Kevin Foster. About 80 percent were injured in metro Phoenix.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

US deports 116 Chinese migrants

WASHINGTON — The Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday that it sent 116 Chinese migrants from the United States back home in the first "large charter flight" in five years.

The flight, which happened over the weekend, comes as Chinese immigration has become the subject of intense political debate in the upcoming US presidential election.

The department said it was working with China to reduce and deter irregular migration and to disrupt illicit human smuggling through expanded law enforcement efforts. It did

not respond to questions about how long the migrants had been in the United States.

In recent years, the United States has had a difficult time returning Chinese nationals who do not have the right to stay in America because China has resisted taking them back. Last year, the nation saw a surge in the number of Chinese immigrants entering the country illegally from Mexico.

US border officials arrested more than 37,000 Chinese nationals on the southern border in 2023, 10 times the number during the previous year.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadline looms in Baldwin case

SANTA FE, N.M. — Producers of the western movie "Rust" may have to forgo a robust economic incentive as they try to sell the film to distributors and fulfill financial obligations to the immediate family of a cinematographer who was fatally shot by Alec Baldwin during rehearsal in 2021.

New Mexico authorities denied an application this spring by Rust Movie Productions for incentives worth as much as \$1.6 million, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press. A deadline to appeal the decision is approaching.

Meanwhile, Baldwin is

scheduled to go on trial starting next week on an involuntary manslaughter charge in Halyna Hutchins's death. The lead actor and coproducer of "Rust" was pointing a gun at Hutchins when it went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza.

Melina Spadone, a lawyer representing the production company, said the film production tax incentive was going to be used to finance a legal settlement between producers and Hutchins's widower and son.

"The denial of the tax credit has disrupted those financial arrangements," Spadone said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maryland OK's \$50 million Key Bridge cleanup

Maryland's Board of Public Works voted Wednesday to approve a \$50 million contract for clearing debris from the Patapsco River following the collapse of Baltimore's Key Bridge in March.

The Maryland Transportation Authority awarded the contract to Skanska USA Civil Southeast Inc. on an emergen-

cy basis in April, weeks after the container ship Dali lost power and destroyed the span.

While the US Army Corps of Engineers oversaw clearing of the federal shipping channel, which fully reopened June 10, the Skanska crews were busy removing vast amounts of mangled steel and buckled concrete that had collapsed

into other parts of the Patapsco River.

That work allowed vessels that did not need the full 50-foot depth of the main federal channel to resume trade with the Port of Baltimore. The US firm is part of Skanska Group, the Sweden-based construction conglomerate.

WASHINGTON POST



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The contract is with the US division of the Swedish firm Skanska.

For the record

■ **Correction:** Because of a reporting error, a story in Wednesday's Metro section about a congressional investigation into Chinese government influence at Harvard University misspelled the name of Harvard's interim president, Alan Garber. The Globe regrets the error.

■ **Correction:** Because of a reporting error, a Page One story Wednesday about Steward Health Care's international troubles incorrectly identified the person that benefited from an alleged Maltese passport bribery scheme. Igor's Levitin's brother, Russian oligarch Leonid Levitin, acquired the Maltese passport. The Globe regrets the error.

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The World



SAUMYA KHANDELWAL/NEW YORK TIMES

GENERATIONS OF LOSS — Family and friends mourned the deaths of three female relatives across three generations in Sokhana, near Hathras, India, on Wednesday. Family members streamed to hospitals in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh to identify loved ones after at least 121 people, nearly all women, died in a stampede at a guru's gathering.

DAILY BRIEFING

Sierra Leone passes law banning child marriages

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — A bill that bans child marriage in Sierra Leone has been signed into law, President Julius Maada Bio said late Tuesday, in an effort to protect girls in the West African nation where about a third are married before adulthood.

The law is being celebrated widely. It criminalizes marrying any girl who is under 18 years old. Offenders face up to 15 years in prison or a fine of around \$4,000 or both. Witnesses to such marriages will also face jail or a fine.

"I have always believed that the future of Sierra Leone is female," Bio said on social media platform X. "This and future generations of girls must thrive in Sierra Leone in which they're protected, equal, and empowered."

Sierra Leone is home to 800,000 child brides, with half of them married before age 15, according to the UN8 children's agency.

First Lady Fatima Bio was among the key champions of the law, which also provides improved access to education and support services for children affected by child marriage.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

China warns Taiwan on fishing boat incident

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan said Wednesday that China warned its coast guard against interfering in the detention of a Taiwanese fishing boat, in what was seen as Beijing's latest attempt to assert its territorial claims in the Taiwan Strait.

The incident comes as tensions have risen following Taiwan's election of President William Lai Ching-te, whose party rejects unification with the mainland, and a threat by Beijing to execute supporters of Taiwanese independence.

Liu Dejun, a spokesperson for China's coast guard, said Wednesday that the Taiwanese fishing boat was detained on suspicion of illegal fishing. Liu said the boat violated a fishing moratorium in Chinese waters by trawling in a forbidden zone. Liu said the boat also was using nets that were finer than allowed by Chinese law.

Taiwan's coast guard repeated its call for the release of the boat and its crew members, who were taken from waters off the Taiwanese-controlled island of Kinmen just off the Chinese coast on Tuesday night.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hurricane moves on to Jamaica as death toll climbs

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Hurricane Beryl was roaring by Jamaica on Wednesday, with islanders scrambling to make preparations after the powerful Category 4 storm earlier killed at least six people and caused significant damage in the south-east Caribbean.

In Kingston, people boarded up windows, fishermen pulled their boats out of the water, and workers dismantled roadside advertising boards to protect them from the lashing winds.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac. Beryl was forecast to weaken slightly over the next day or two, but still be at or near major-hurricane strength when it passes near or over Jamaica on Wednesday, near the Cayman Islands on Thursday and into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula on Friday, according to the US National Hurricane Center.

Jamaica was under a state of emergency as the island was declared a disaster zone hours before the impact of Hurricane Beryl.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel pushes ahead with West Bank land taking

Move sparks global censure, threatens safety

By Julia Frankel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel has approved the largest seizure of land in the occupied West Bank in over three decades, a settlement tracking group said Wednesday, a move that is likely to worsen already soaring tensions linked to the war in Gaza.

Israel's aggressive expansion in the West Bank reflects the settler community's strong influence in the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the most religious and nationalist in the country's history. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a settler himself, has turbocharged the policy of expansion, seizing new authorities over settlement development and saying he aims to solidify Israel's hold on the territory and prevent the creation of a Palestinian state.

Authorities recently approved the appropriation of 12.7 square kilometers (nearly 5 square miles) of land in the Jordan Valley, according to a copy of the order obtained by the Associated Press. Data from Peace Now, the tracking group, indi-

cate it was the largest single appropriation approved since the 1993 Oslo Accords at the start of the peace process.

Settlement monitors said the land grab connects Israeli settlements along a key corridor bordering Jordan, a move they said undermines the prospect of a contiguous Palestinian state.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric called it "a step in the wrong direction," adding that "the direction we want to be heading is to find a negotiated two-state solution."

The newly seized land is in an area of the West Bank where, even before the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, settler violence was displacing communities of Palestinians. That violence has only surged since Hamas's Oct. 7 attack ignited the war in Gaza. Settlers have carried out more than 1,000 attacks on Palestinians since October in the West Bank, causing deaths and damaging property, according to the UN.

The land seizure, which was approved late last month but only publicized on Wednesday, comes after the seizure of 8 square kilometers (roughly 3 square miles) of land in the West Bank in March and 2.6 square kilometers (1 square mile) in February.

That makes 2024 by far the

peak year for Israeli land seizure in the West Bank, Peace Now said.

By declaring them state lands, the government opens them up to being leased to Israelis and prohibits private Palestinian ownership. This year's land seizures are contiguous, linking two already existing settlements to create a solid block near the border with Jordan. The lands were declared to be closed Israeli military zones before they were declared state land.

The Palestinians view the expansion of settlements in the occupied West Bank as the main barrier to any lasting peace agreement, preventing any possibility of a cohesive state. Most of the international community considers settlements illegal or illegitimate.

Israel captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war, territories the Palestinians want for a future state. Israel's current government considers the West Bank to be the historical and religious heartland of the Jewish people and opposes Palestinian statehood.

Israel has built well over 100 settlements across the West Bank, some of which resemble fully developed suburbs or small towns. They are home to



ZAIN JAAFAR/AFP

A Palestinian woman walked on the rubble of her home in the West Bank, destroyed by Israeli strikes.

over 500,000 Jewish settlers who have Israeli citizenship.

The 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank live under seemingly open-ended Israeli military rule. The Palestinian Authority administers enclaves scattered across the territory, but is barred from operating in 60 percent of the West Bank, which includes the settlements as well as areas with a population of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Yoni Mizrahi, the head of settlement tracking at Peace Now, described the land grab announced Wednesday as part of a strategy to establish a buffer zone between Jordan and Pales-

tinian lands and choke off the practical possibility of a Palestinian state. The aim, he believes, is to push Palestinians into isolated islands surrounded by Israeli land.

"They definitely see this area as a strategic area, as the first and one of the easiest ways to begin annexation," he said.

Prominent human rights organizations have pointed to Israel's rule over the West Bank in accusing it of the international crime of apartheid, allegations Israel rejects as an attack on its legitimacy.

Smotrich was granted expanded powers over Israel's administration of the occupied territory under Netanyahu's governing coalition. Smotrich laid out his plans for the West Bank at a conference for his ultranationalist Religious Zionism Party last month, a recording of which was obtained by Peace Now. He said he intended to appropriate up to 15 square kilometers (nearly 6 square miles) of land in the West Bank this year.

"We came to settle the land, to build it, and to prevent its division and the establishment of a Palestinian state, God forbid," he said during the conference. He vowed to "change the map dramatically" by claiming more West Bank land than ever before as state land.

Israel kills another senior Hezbollah leader in Lebanon

Diplomats race for peace as clashes escalate

By Kareem Chehayeb
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT — An Israeli strike in southern Lebanon on Wednesday killed a senior Hezbollah commander as tensions between the two sides continue to boil, a Hezbollah official told the Associated Press.

The strike near the southern coastal city of Tyre took place as global diplomatic efforts have intensified in recent weeks to prevent escalating clashes between Hezbollah and the Israeli military from spiraling into an all-out war that could possibly lead to a direct confrontation between Israel and Iran.

A Hezbollah statement identified the killed commander as Mohammad Naameh Nasser, who went by the name "Abu Naameh," his nom de guerre. A Hezbollah official, speaking anonymously in line with regulations, said he was head of the group's Aziz Unit, one of three regional divisions in southern Lebanon.

Nasser is the most senior official from the Iran-backed

group killed since Taleb Sami Abdullah, who was killed in an airstrike June 11. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, in a speech honoring Abdullah, said he played a pivotal role on the front line since clashes began on Oct. 8, leading the Nasr Unit.

Hezbollah said in response to the killing of Nasser, it launched Falaq rockets with heavy warheads targeting the headquarters of the Israeli military's 769th Brigade in Kiryat Shmona, as well as 100 salvos of rockets targeting the headquarters of Israel's 210th division and the Kilaa air base in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

The group also shared footage of Nasser taking part in what they said was an operation at an Israeli military outpost in southern Lebanon in 1999, back when it was under occupation.

In a video circulated by local media, residents rushed toward a charred vehicle with a large plume of smoke. Civil Defense said its first responders transported an unnamed wounded person to a hospital.

The Israeli military acknowledged the attack, saying that Nasser alongside Abdullah are "two of the most significant



RABIH DAHER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Smoke billowed over hills in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights after Lebanon and Israel exchanged rocket strikes.

Hezbollah" militants in southern Lebanon. It said Nasser led attacks from southwestern Lebanon.

Hezbollah launched rockets on northern Israel a day after a Hamas surprise attack on southern Israel in October, leading to limited clashes along the tense border. The attacks have since gradually escalated, with Hezbollah introducing new weapons in their attacks and Israel striking deeper into Lebanon.

The group maintains that it will stop its attacks once there is

a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip. Until then, it says it will continue with its attacks to pile pressure on Israel and the international community. Israeli officials have threatened to launch a larger military operation should Hezbollah not stop its attacks.

Hezbollah deputy leader Sheikh Naim Kassem said in an interview Monday that Israel cannot expect the group's attacks to remain limited should it launch a military operation within Lebanon, even if it aims

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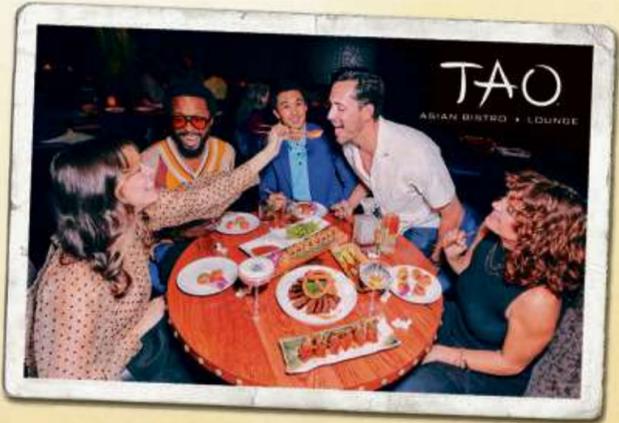
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Post-debate poll shows Trump with a widening lead

Donald Trump's lead in the 2024 presidential race has widened after President Biden's fumbling debate performance last week, as concerns that Biden is too old to govern effectively rose to new heights among Democrats and independent voters, a new poll from The New York Times and Siena College showed.

Trump now leads Biden 49 percent to 43 percent among likely voters nationally, a 3-point swing toward the Republican from just a week earlier, before the debate. It is the largest lead Trump has recorded in a Times/Siena poll since 2015. Trump leads by even more among registered voters, 49 percent to 41 percent.

Doubts about Biden's age and acuity are widespread and growing. A majority of every demographic, geographic, and ideological group in the poll — including Black voters and those who said they will still be voting for him — believe Biden, 81, is too old to be effective.

Overall, 74 percent of voters view him as too old for the job, up 5 percentage points since the debate. Concerns about Biden's age have spiked 8 percentage points among Democrats in the week since the debate, to 59 percent. The share of independent voters who said they felt that way rose to 79 percent, nearly matching the Republican view of the president.

The poll offers early empiri-



JIM WATSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

AN OVERDUE HONOR — President Biden handed Theresa Chandler, great-great-granddaughter of Private George D. Wilson, a posthumous Medal of Honor for her ancestor during a White House ceremony Wednesday. Wilson and Private Philip G. Shadrach were honored for their roles in a daring Civil War mission to hijack a locomotive and sabotage a rail line vital to the Confederacy.

cal evidence of what many Democrats have feared: that Biden's faltering debate performance has further imperiled his chances against Trump this fall. Some Democratic lawmakers and donors are raising questions about Biden's fitness following his struggles to finish his thoughts or articulate a vision during the debate, and they are demanding that Biden prove for a skeptical public that he is capable of serving until he is 86.

Voters have some concern about Trump's age, too, but far less than for Biden's. After the debate, 42 percent of voters view Trump as too old for the job, an increase of 3 points from a week prior and one that was driven heavily by Democrats. Only 19 percent of voters said Trump was so old he was not capable of handling the job.

NEW YORK TIMES

Obama tells allies Biden has tough road

Former president Barack Obama has privately told allies who have reached out to him that President Biden's already-tough path to reelection grew more challenging after his shaky

debate performance on Thursday — a harsher assessment of the presidential race than his public comments, according to several people familiar with his remarks.

Obama separately spoke directly with Biden by phone after last Thursday's debate to offer his support as a sounding board and private counselor for his embattled former vice president, the people said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. It is unclear how directly Obama addressed Biden's performance and his path to reelection on the call.

"President Biden is grateful for President Obama's unwavering support since the very start of this campaign as both a powerful messenger to voters and a trusted adviser directly to the president," Lauren Hitt, a spokesperson for the Biden campaign, said in a statement. A spokesperson for Obama declined to comment.

Obama has long harbored worries about his party defeating Donald Trump in November, repeatedly warning Biden in recent months about how chal-

lenging it will be to win reelection. Just before the debate, Obama conveyed to allies his concerns about the state of the race.

As some Democrats call for Biden to drop out of the presidential race amid widespread panic, Obama has not voiced that conclusion. He sees his role as being helpful to Biden based on their history of working together, the people said. On Friday, Obama appeared at a fundraiser in New York for House Democrats, where he expressed continued support for Biden.

"Bad debate nights happen," Obama wrote on social media after the debate. "Trust me, I know. But this election is still a choice between someone who has fought for ordinary folks his entire life and someone who only cares about himself. Between someone who tells the truth; who knows right from wrong and will give it to the American people straight — and someone who lies through his teeth for his own benefit. Last night didn't change that, and it's why so much is at stake in November."

But for months, Obama has

shared with Biden and friends his deep concerns about Trump's political strengths and the real possibility he is reelected in November.

WASHINGTON POST

MSNBC hosts have harsh words on president

Over the past 3½ years, liberal hosts on MSNBC reliably provided support for President Biden and trained fire on his adversaries, notably Donald Trump.

But in the days since Biden's halting debate performance, there has been a different reality on the network that employs two of his former top aides. MSNBC's marquee names have issued harsh reviews; some have even raised questions about his campaign and fitness for office.

"It was not a good performance," Symone Sanders-Townsend, a former Biden White House senior adviser turned MSNBC host and pundit, said Tuesday morning. She added that "the chatter will not end" about Biden's age.

"No one who watched with their eyes thought that was a good performance," said Jen

Psaki, Biden's former press secretary, who also hosts a show on the network.

The new dynamic started immediately after Thursday's debate, when a panel of MSNBC luminaries took an even harder edge.

Biden's "job was to calm his party," said MSNBC host Joy Reid. "To make them feel that: 'Yes, I can do this. I have four more years in me. I have the ability and the stamina and the strength to do four more years.' He did not do that. He did the opposite of that."

Media observers took note of MSNBC's tone, considering the network's longtime role as a balm for the anxiety of its left-leaning viewers.

"It was remarkable what those guys said," said one veteran cable news anchor, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to talk candidly.

"We knew what Fox was going to say, and I had a pretty good idea of what CNN was going to say, but the question was what was MSNBC going to say, because that's really where a lot of the messaging and alignment with the Democratic Party comes from," said Democratic strategist Michael Starr Hopkins. "And for MSNBC hosts to come out and say, 'Wow, this guy can't do it,' that was really telling."

Perhaps the most significant shift occurred on the network's morning show "Morning Joe," which has reliably trumpeted Biden and hosted relatively sympathetic interviews with the president and Vice President Kamala Harris.

Biden is known to be a power-watcher of the morning show and reportedly speaks regularly with co-host Joe Scarborough. That's what made it so surprising when the host began his Friday morning broadcast by saying that Biden "tragically did not rise to the occasion last night."

Scarborough said he loves the president and believes he has had a productive administration. But, he added, "Donald Trump lied over and over and over and over again, and Joe Biden couldn't respond to any of those lies."

Most strikingly, Scarborough predicted that Trump would win reelection in November "unless things change."

WASHINGTON POST

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US allies see a worrisome turn in presidential immunity ruling

Several partners have nothing like these protections

By Motoko Rich
NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO — Allies of the United States had already been looking at the country's upcoming election with anxiety. Now, with the US Supreme Court granting an unprecedented expansion of executive power by giving presidents legal immunity, analysts in some of those countries are even more concerned about the reliability of American power.

Across Asia and Europe, where allied leaders have grown accustomed to dealing with threats from authoritarian leaders in Russia, North Korea, and China, the idea that they might also have to deal with an unfettered US president is an unsettling prospect.

"If the US president is free from the restrictions of criminal law, if he has that level of criminal immunity, the other leaders of the allied nations cannot trust the US," said Keigo Komamura, a professor of law at Keio University in Tokyo. "We cannot maintain a stable national security relationship."

Komamura added that the Supreme Court's decision now gave the perception of an American president who can operate above the law. "This may be rude to the US, but it is not that different from Xi Jinping in China," he said. "The rule of law has become the rule of power."

Although some give limited immunity to leaders while in office, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and Great Britain — among the United States' closest allies in the world — offer nothing like the sweeping protec-

tions the Supreme Court appears to have granted in its ruling this week.

The court's decision to give the president immunity from criminal prosecution for official conduct — which was itself vaguely defined by the court — was "out of line with global norms," said Rosalind Dixon, a professor of law at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. "I think that what is occurring in the United States in terms of the court's ruling and the presidential election should be of grave concern to all of America's allies."

In South Korea, political leaders essentially have no legal protections from criminal prosecution once they are out of office — and the president is limited to a single term. Four of the past eight former presidents have been convicted and imprisoned after leaving office for corruption and other crimes they committed before and while they were in office.

"I think many Koreans are proud of the fact that no one is above the law, even the president," said Ramon Pacheco Pardo, a professor of international relations at King's College London and chair of Korean studies at the Brussels School of Governance at Vrije Universiteit. "But in the US, it appears that presidents are created differently from the rest of the people."

Still, the frequency of criminal indictments of officials in South Korea has contributed to increasing political polarization, with some supporting the punishments as acts of justice and others viewing them as little more than political revenge orchestrated by a new president.

In Japan, the constitution grants all members of Parlia-

ment immunity from arrest while in office, but not from criminal prosecution, Komamura said. The prime minister, who must be a member of Parliament, is covered under this clause.

One of the biggest scandals of the 1970s in Japan was when former prime minister Kakuei Tanaka was indicted on bribery charges for having accepted \$1.6 million from Lockheed to arrange the purchase of aircraft by All Nippon Airways, Japan's largest airline.

Even in countries where there is some immunity for political leaders, it is usually more narrowly defined. In Britain, where members of Parliament broadly enjoy legal protections from prosecution for political speech, they are not immune from the criminal laws that govern the public.

The police fined former prime minister Boris Johnson, for example, while he was still in office for attending a lockdown party at Downing Street that broke coronavirus laws that his own Cabinet had instituted during the pandemic.

Even where legal immunity is more strictly defined, though, the laws may not be as big a factor as political culture.

In Malaysia, although executive immunity is not as sweeping as the US Supreme Court just granted to presidents, a culture of impunity has meant that few leaders are taken to court despite widespread corruption.

In Israel, all members of Parliament, including the prime minister, are subject to absolute immunity from prosecution of acts committed while performing their official duties. It is a protection not unlike that defined by the US Supreme Court ruling.

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Business leaders urge president to ‘pass the torch’

Call 2nd Trump term a threat to democracy

By Kenneth P. Vogel
NEW YORK TIMES

A group of business leaders is calling on President Biden to step aside and make way for a replacement atop the Democratic Party’s presidential ticket.

Leadership Now Project, a coalition of 400 politically active current and retired executives who mostly but not entirely lean left, issued a statement on Wednesday urging Biden to “pass the torch of this year’s

presidential nomination to the next generation of highly capable Democrats.”

The statement is unsigned, but Daniella Ballou-Aares, the group’s founder and CEO, said that it was supported by an overwhelming majority of the members of Leadership Now Project.

The membership includes Jeni Britton Bauer, founder of Jeni’s Famous Ice Cream; Thomas W. Florsheim Jr., CEO of the footwear maker Weyco Group; Eddie Fishman, managing director of the investment firm D.E. Shaw & Co.; John Pepper, former CEO of Procter & Gamble; and Paul Tagliabue,

former commissioner of the NFL.

The statement comes as major Democratic donors are increasingly concluding that the

debate with Donald Trump. But most donors and big money groups on the left have refrained from going public out of concern about generat-

ing a backlash. In its statement, Leadership Now Project called the prospect of a second Trump term “an existential threat to American de-

mocracy” and said that at the debate Biden “failed to effectively make the case against Trump, and we now fear the risk of a devastating loss in November.”

The statement added that “we have heard from many individuals who share our deep concerns about the present course but fear speaking out” and concluded by imploring others “to join us in making this urgent call.”

In an interview, Ballou-Aares, a business executive who was a senior State Department adviser during the Obama administration, said she had been disturbed by the messaging from the White House and oth-

er Biden supporters in recent days. “This sense that this is a small group family decision is not good for democracy,” she said, calling it “really inconsistent with where people were after watching the debate.”

Her group, which consists of nonprofit arms and a political action committee, has endorsed candidates from both parties, and recently hosted at its annual meeting former Representative Adam Kinzinger, an anti-Trump Republican, and Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, a Democrat mentioned as a possible replacement for Biden.

‘This sense that [Biden’s decision] is a small group family decision is not good for democracy.’

DANIELLA BALLOU-AARES, CEO, Leadership Now Project

party would stand a better chance of holding the White House with a different nominee in the wake of Biden’s weak performance in last week’s presi-

ential debate with Donald Trump.

But most donors and big money groups on the left have refrained from going public out of concern about generat-

Biden well aware of stakes heading into weekend, allies say

►BIDEN
Continued from Page A1

knocked that his next few appearances heading into the July 4 holiday weekend must go well, particularly an interview scheduled for Friday with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News and campaign stops in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

“He knows if he has two more events like that, we’re in a different place” by the end of the weekend, said one of the allies, referring to Biden’s halting and unfocused performance in the debate. That person, who talked to the president in the past 24 hours, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive situation.

The accounts of his conversations with allies are the first indication to become public that the president is seriously considering whether he can recover after a devastating performance on the debate stage in Atlanta last Thursday.

A new poll from The New York Times and Siena College showed that former President Donald Trump now leads Biden 49 percent to 43 percent among likely voters nationally, a 3-point swing toward the Republican from just a week earlier, before the debate. The 6-point deficit underscored the growing challenges to the campaign and could make it harder to hang on.

Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary, said the president told her directly that he had not talked to allies about dropping out of the race.

“That is absolutely false,” she said during the briefing. While battling down speculation about Biden stepping down, Jean-Pierre also referred to Harris, who is seeing a surge of support among Democrats, as “the future of the party.”

One of Biden’s allies, a top adviser to him, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the president was “well aware of the political challenge he faces.”

That person said Biden was aware that the outcome of his campaign could be different from what he is fighting for. Biden, that person said, believes he is an effective leader who is mentally sharp and “doesn’t get how others don’t accept that.”

The Times reported Tuesday that several current and former officials and others who encountered the president behind closed doors noticed that he increasingly appeared confused or listless, or would lose the thread of conversations, in the weeks and months before the debate.

Biden still adamantly views his debate showing as a bad performance, the person said, not a revelatory event about his capacity to do the job for four more years.

Key party donors have been privately calling House members, senators, super PACs, the Biden campaign, and the White House to say that they think Biden should step down, according to Democrats familiar with the discussion.

On Wednesday, Reed Hastings, the Netflix cofounder who in recent years has become one of the biggest donors to the Democratic Party, called on Biden to relinquish his place at the top of the ticket.

“Biden needs to step aside to allow a vigorous Democratic leader to beat Trump and keep us safe and prosperous,” he said in an email to the Times.

An elected Democrat, speaking on the condition of anonymity given the political sensitivities, said the decision is still ultimately up to Biden. “The only thing that matters is his decision on whether or not he’s going to let it go,” that person said.

Inside the White House, senior officials tried to calm nerves in a staff-wide conference call. Jeff Zients, the White House chief of staff, told members of the president’s staff that they should keep their heads down and “execute, execute, execute.”



JIM WATSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

President Biden arrived to speak at a Medal of Honor ceremony in the East Room of the White House on Wednesday.

Zients also told them to “hold their heads up” and be proud, a contradiction that he admitted had an element of humor to it.

Later in the day, Zients appeared on a separate call, a weekly check-in among Biden’s Cabinet officials, and echoed much of the talking points he shared with staff members, according to a person familiar with the call.

Biden had been slow to personally reach out to key Democrats to assuage their concerns, which had fueled anger in the party and frustrated some of his own advisers. According to Jean-Pierre, the president has now “connected with” Representative Hakeem Jeffries of New York, the Democratic leader in the House; Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the majority leader; Representative Nancy Pelosi of California, the former speaker; Representative James E. Clyburn of South Carolina; and Senator Chris Coons of Delaware.

The president had lunch with Harris at the White House and

later the pair met with Democratic governors. Until now, Biden has focused on speaking with trusted advisers and family members, who have urged him to stay in the race.

“The president shared he is staying in the race,” texted Governor Josh Green of Hawaii, who attended the meeting with governors virtually. “He shared candidly he was exhausted the day of the debate, and was very direct about that. The president was clear and focused in our meeting, and I found him to be solid. . . . I suspect people will need to see the president in person and on TV to be convinced he is up to it. He is.”

An aide to Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey declined to comment on the meeting.

Representative Debbie Dingell, Democrat of Michigan, said during an interview on MSNBC that Biden still must do more to address the public.

“He’s got to show the Ameri-

can people that he can do this job,” she said.

Key donors expressed exasperation that he did not join a campaign call Monday meant to assuage them. And some Democrats have grown increasingly suspicious that the president’s team has not been fully forthcoming about the impact that aging has had on him.

Democratic leaders in the House and Senate were not urging their members to rally around Biden on Wednesday. Instead, they were listening to myriad complaints about the president’s handling of the situation from across the party.

Several allies of Biden have underscored that he is still in the fight of his political life and that he largely sees this moment as a chance to come back from being counted out, as he has done many times throughout his half-century career. At the same time, they said, he is clear-eyed about how uphill the battle will be.

Biden’s team had sought to

build a firewall by persuading elected Democrats and well-known party figures not to publicly call on him to drop out. But Representative Lloyd Doggett of Texas became the first Democratic member of Congress to say on Tuesday that the president should step aside. Two others — Representatives Jared Golden of Maine and Marie Gluesenkamp Perez of Washington — said they believed he would lose in November.

In a statement Wednesday, Representative Seth Moulton, Democrat of Massachusetts, cast doubt over Biden’s chances in November.

“Winning will require prosecuting the case in the media, in town halls, and at campaign stops all over the country,” he said. “President Biden needs to demonstrate that he can do that. The unfortunate reality is that the status quo will likely deliver us President Trump.”

Others have indicated privately that they may follow suit and speak out.

Trump advisers hope Biden stays in race, as they eye alternate scenarios

Say president can’t withdraw from campaign

By Isaac Arnsdorf,
Josh Dawsey, and
Marianne LeVine
WASHINGTON POST

Donald Trump and his campaign hope President Biden stays in the race, according to four people familiar with private discussions, believing they can beat him even with Trump’s felony conviction and other charges. But they are also ramping up attacks on Vice President Kamala Harris.

Publicly, Trump and his allies have dismissed suggestions that Biden could withdraw from the race, insisting that it is too late for Democrats to change course. Privately, they have started preparing for different possibilities, and feel it could be harder to beat another Democrat who is not Biden or Harris.

“I’m going to show up and I’m going to campaign whether it’s him or somebody else,”

Trump said in a Monday interview with Richmond, Va., radio host John Reid, referencing polls showing him doing as well or better against other Democrats.

“The funny thing is we’re beating him badly in the polls, but nobody else is doing any better,” he added in an interview that aired Monday with radio host John Fredericks.

Letting Biden be the focus of attention is unusual for Trump, who is more accustomed to dominating the headlines. But he has laid low since the debate, with no public events scheduled. A running mate announcement is expected as early as next week, with the Republican National Convention to follow the week after.

The Trump campaign’s message to surrogates after last week’s debate was that Biden is the Democratic nominee, and Democrats are stuck with him, according to a Republican close to the campaign, who like others interviewed for this story, wasn’t authorized to speak publicly. Biden struggled through the 90-minute faceoff, setting



JIM VONDURSKA/NEW YORK TIMES

At a watch party in Wisconsin, people took in last week’s debate, which many saw as damaging to President Biden.

off widespread alarm in his party.

“It sure seems they want Biden to stay on the ticket. They think he’s vulnerable, and they like where they’re at. You can see they are not excited at all about the prospect of him leaving the race,” said David Axelrod, a longtime top strategist to Barack Obama.

Trump advisers were pri-

vately stunned at how poorly Biden performed, people familiar with the matter said, believing he would be a stronger debater.

Taylor Budowich, who leads Trump’s outside PAC, said the clips from Thursday’s debate “would make for devastating campaign commercials.” But Budowich also said that Harris being the nominee “has the ad-

team cackling with excitement.” On Wednesday the PAC, known as MAGA Inc., circulated an attack on Harris, headlined, “Is Invasion Czar Kamala Harris The Best They Got?”

Biden’s campaign and the White House have insisted the president remains committed to running and are planning a fresh bout of campaign events and at least one television interview. The campaign announced raising \$127 million in June, ending the month with \$240 million cash on hand, compared to Trump’s \$111.8 million raised and \$285 million in the bank.

The incumbent and his aides have sought to stay on the attack against Trump, hitting him over abortion and the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol by a pro-Trump mob, among other issues. On Monday, Biden responded to a Supreme Court decision on presidential immunity, saying it would leave Trump “more emboldened to do whatever he pleases” in a second term.

The Trump campaign expects he will be the Democratic

nominee, Trump spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said. “We are confident no matter what that we will be victorious in tying any Democrat on the ballot to Biden and to the Democratic Party,” she added.

The Trump campaign has begun airing ads suggesting Harris was celebrating Biden’s struggles, showing her laughing in a way that is meant to appear villainous and collapsing the Biden-Harris campaign logo to remove the president’s name. The campaign is also attacking other Democratic candidates for their past defenses of Biden, accusing them of covering up the president’s decline.

Republicans have indicated that they would attack any Democratic effort to replace Biden as an affront to Democratic primary voters and the democratic process.

Outside the campaign, lawyers at the right-wing Heritage Foundation researched ballot access laws in all 50 states to be prepared to oppose any effort to remove or replace Biden after he officially becomes the Democratic nominee.

Healey's message to migrants: No room left

► MIGRANTS

Continued from Page A1

it is also offering to pay for their airline tickets through the state's "Reticketing Program" to cover travel expenses for families who have a safe, long-term place to stay outside of Massachusetts. Last month, several Healey administration officials trekked to the US-Mexico border to "educate" officials and migrant families about "the lack of shelter availability in Massachusetts." The governor herself praised President Biden's order in June shutting the southern border to some asylum seekers.

"I think we've been clear from the outset that Massachusetts, while we have a right-to-shelter law, we've only had so much capacity," Healey said at an unrelated event Tuesday.

Taken together, the actions mark the starkest departure from the state's tradition of housing homeless families under the 1986 right-to-shelter law.

It's a moment that reveals that a family's right to shelter in Massachusetts is not a limitless promise, nor is it immune to political pressures and economic realities.

And it's a reminder that laws can't always withstand the pressure of a strained budget or a political landscape in which immigration remains a top issue of voter concern, even in liberal-leaning Massachusetts, now that a once-distant border crisis unfolds in residents' own communities.

For more than a year, the Healey administration has, like Democratic-led states around the country, attempted to walk a fine line between upholding longstanding liberal values and managing a bona fide crisis straining state and local resources. She's also one of Biden's most high-profile surrogates while navigating an issue that has only grown more fraught since she took office in 2023.

Healey was explicit that her decision to send a team to the border was intended to send a message: "Do not come to Massachusetts if you expect housing. You can only come here if you have a housing plan because we are at full capacity," she said at the Tuesday event.

Last fall, Healey for the first time imposed a new limit on how many families the state's emergency shelter system, which guarantees food and shelter for homeless and migrant families or pregnant people, could accommodate. The system hit that cap of 7,500 families months ago. Nearly 700 families sit on a wait list, with many sleeping in the airport or in temporary overflow shelter sites that face restrictions of their



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF/POOL/FILE

own.

While a recent University of Massachusetts Amherst/WCVB poll shows voters don't hold Healey directly responsible for the migrant crisis, the state is still on the hook to pay for it, and that brings political pressure. Healey's office projects it will cost \$915 million to run the emergency shelter system for the fiscal year that began July 1.

The program quickly ate through the roughly \$700 million allocated for the fiscal year that just ended, and required a temporary infusion to keep the program afloat. The legislation that provided that financial fe-

line also allows her administration to take \$251 million from a surplus revenue savings account to fund the shelter system through the end of June. The bill made another \$175 million available for the current fiscal year.

National polling by Gallup found a record-high 55 percent of Americans see illegal immigration as a "critical threat" to the United States, up from 47 percent a year ago. Among Democrats, that number climbed from 20 percent in 2023 to 29 percent in 2024.

And states are mostly hamstrung over what they can do.

Earlier this year, Healey and other governors met to urge Biden to send them money and expedite work authorization for new arrivals, but the call for help has yet to reach Congress, which repeatedly failed to pass any legislative measures to address the broken immigration system.

In the meantime, Massachusetts schools are struggling, their funding eaten away by higher-than-expected inflation. Some districts say they lack the support needed to absorb migrant students, who often require translators and extra social services, though the state does give money to districts for

In March, members of Bostonians Against Sanctuary Cities demonstrated in front of the State House. Back in January, Governor Maura Healey inspected the shelter conversion at the Melnea Cass Recreational Complex.

each migrant student enrolled. The MBTA remains drastically underfunded even as it continues to provide unreliable service. And the perception that the state is spending too much money on outsiders has caused an uproar in some Massachusetts communities.

The crisis is exacerbated by an acute housing shortage and an unproductive Congress that's failed to help states struggling with large numbers of migrant arrivals, said Jennie Murray, president and CEO of the National Immigration Forum.

"It is quite a shame," she said. "We can't solve the issue at the state level if we don't have money from Congress."

Healey isn't the only governor who has waded through choppy political waters on the issue. In 2014, President Barack Obama asked Governor Deval Patrick if Massachusetts would be willing to house several hundred Central American children who had crossed the US-Mexico border. Patrick obliged, and criticism followed.

Patrick, like Healey, was

grounded in his belief that it was the best thing for the state, said Doug Rubin, who served as a top adviser to Patrick at the time. He said Healey has succeeded in "standing up for the values that make Massachusetts . . . while balancing all that during this crisis."

"You can survive vagaries of the political moment in time and people will respect you," Rubin said.

Danielle Ferrier, CEO of Heading Home, said she doesn't fault Healey, who is the only governor in the country working within the confines of a right-to-shelter law. Heading Home contracts with the state to provide hundreds of family shelter units in the Boston and Lawrence areas, as well as a yet-to-be-opened shelter inside the closed Bay State Correctional Center in Norfolk.

From Ferrier's perspective, Healey is trying to meet competing demands.

"It is really hard sitting in the pressure of a new policy," she said of the new limits on shelter stays. "At the same time, there are families still waiting to come in right into the shelter system. . . Our governor walked into an impossible situation. There is no easy solution."

Others, however, don't give Healey as much credit.

Etel Haxhiaj, a longtime homeless and housing advocate and city councilor in Worcester, said the administration's recent actions "send the wrong message." Instead of limiting the number of people in shelters, she said, they should invest more resources in affordable housing and ways to transition people out of shelters.

"The right to shelter seems to be getting diluted," she said. "They might as well remove it instead of putting limits that don't really resolve the issue."

Pressed if immigrants are still welcome here, Healey said Tuesday that it is important for people outside of Massachusetts to "understand the state of play."

"I think it's irresponsible and inhumane to let people proceed thinking that there is housing in Massachusetts available to them and their families when there is not," Healey said.

"Massachusetts has stepped up and done an awful lot, and I'm grateful to those who've worked with in partnership, and grateful to communities," she added. "But I think any other course would be irresponsible."

Matt Stout of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Samantha J. Gross can be reached at samantha.gross@globe.com. Follow her @samanthajgross.

Impending loss of airport sanctuary leaves many at a loss

► LOGAN

Continued from Page A1

offered shelter to families as the state, with its overburdened emergency shelter system, continues to be buffeted by a migrant crisis fueled in large part by violent unrest and economic turmoil in Latin America.

Healey's policy shift is intended to lessen the strain on state resources as the number of new arrivals continues to overwhelm the shelter system. The change follows a trip by administration members to five Texas towns near the US-Mexico border to educate border officials and migrant families about the maxed-out shelters in Massachusetts.

Healey's administration is also offering to pay for their airline tickets through the state's "Reticketing Program." The program covers travel expenses if families have a safe, long-term place to stay outside of Massachusetts.

Louissaint fled Cap-Haitien in Haiti, where she worked in restaurants and hotels and as a street vendor, to seek a better life. After living for some years in Brazil, she recently crossed into the United States at Brownsville, Texas. She arrived at Logan on Monday with three children and her partner, Larisner Tilién, who was a security guard and glass worker in his homeland. They had heard that in Boston, "they help people, they help families" navigate the immigration system, Louissaint said. She has no friends or fami-

ly in the region.

"We are really sad to hear that," she said of the Logan deadline through an interpreter.

Others shared her sentiment. "Of course I'm stressed about that," said Jean Iliodor, a 43-year-old Haitian who has been staying at Terminal E with his wife and 3-year-old son since mid-June.

"We picked Boston as the best state to come to because at least we could stay in the airport until we figured it out," he said through an interpreter. "Imagine if we went to Florida — we would be out in the street."

"But now they're kicking us out," Iliodor said.

Wednesday morning, a Healey administration spokesperson said the number of families at Logan has declined by half over the last week, as staff and providers work to help migrants find other options with friends or relatives, or, for eligible families, space in the former Bay State Correctional Center in Norfolk, which has been transformed into a safety net shelter that can accommodate up to 140 families. As of Monday, there were 698 families on the wait list for shelter placements, according to the state.

In a statement last week, L. Scott Rice, the state's emergency assistance director, said the administration's decision is "in the best interest of families and travelers and staff at Logan, as the airport is not an appropriate place for people to seek shelter."

The new rule is not the first



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Local volunteers handed out bags with toothbrushes and other supplies to families sleeping at Logan Airport.

to stop homeless families from sheltering in certain spaces in Massachusetts. Last summer, administrators at Boston Medical Center, which serves the neediest patients in the area, barred families from sheltering in its emergency department, in some cases even sending them after-hours in Ubers to Logan Airport.

At Terminal E Tuesday night, many were aware of next week's deadline, but said they were unsure of their next step.

"I don't have any plans, because I have no one," said Dioulié Figaro, 34.

She has been staying at the airport since June 29 with her husband and three small children. Like many here, she fled Haiti.

Earlier this week, a UN agen-

cy announced that gang violence in Haiti has displaced more than 300,000 children since March. The country continues to struggle to curb killings and kidnappings.

Half of the nearly 580,000 people who have become homeless in the last four months are children.

The spike in violence began in late February after a series of attacks on key government infrastructure eventually led Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign in April. The Associated Press recently reported that gangs now control at least 80 percent of Port-au-Prince and the key roads leading in and out of it.

For decades, homeless families have been guaranteed shelter under a 1980s-era law in

Massachusetts, the only statewide right-to-shelter requirement in the United States. But as the housing crisis ramped up and unrest abroad sent more migrants north, the system has become overwhelmed.

In the fall, Healey capped capacity in state-run emergency shelters at 7,500 families — the first restriction on how many people the state would house in the system. And on May 1, state officials began to limit stays in state-run overflow shelters to 30 days, requiring people to reapply monthly.

Logan, meanwhile, has become a refuge. Near Terminal E's international arrivals gate on Tuesday, dozens of people settled in to sleep for the evening, spreading blankets, pillows, and sleeping bags along the floor, charging their phones, and blowing up portable mattresses.

Jean-Paul Alexis, 32, an electrician in Petit Goaves, Haiti, was there with his wife and 10-year-old child. He has no plans for shelter next week. Alexis fled Haiti in 2018 because of its instability, trying to settle first in Guyana and then in Mexico. To hear him tell it, he didn't achieve anything in those locales, so he figured "he'd give Boston a try." He pines for the days when he didn't have to sleep on the floor and "things were better for me."

When Alexis left his home six years ago, the situation in Haiti was taking a turn for the worse, he said. Now, the country has further deteriorated.

"If they were to tell me they were sending me back to Haiti, that would be heartbreaking," he said. "Total despair."

At one point, a group of local mothers who have been visiting the migrants in the airport wheeled in carts filled with home-cooked meals, bags of produce, backpacks with toys and art supplies for children, diapers and wipes, and donated clothing.

"It feels like a game of chicken between Maura Healey and the federal government. And it's hurting real people," said Becky Gilding, a Wakefield resident who was among those trying to help the migrants.

Marc D. Dominique came to Boston with his family because he thought there was infrastructure here that would help them navigate the various bureaucracies. A 27-year-old Port-Au-Prince native, Dominique remains optimistic, despite the looming deadline.

"I think they're going to find some place to put us by then," he said.

Material from the Associated Press was used in this report. Danny McDonald can be reached at daniel.mcdonald@globe.com. Follow him @Danny_McDonald. Samantha J. Gross can be reached at samantha.gross@globe.com. Follow her @samanthajgross. Stephanie Ebbert can be reached at Stephanie.Ebbert@globe.com. Follow her @StephanieEbbert.

Opinion

BOSTONGLOBE.COM/OPINION

EDITORIAL



SKINNER, INC.

WHEN in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the People.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States, for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislature.

He has affected to render the Military inde-

pendent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislature, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

To restore Harvard's reputation, faculty should speak up

By John Evangelakos, Jason H.P. Kravitt, and William Schmalzl

The recent Harvard Crimson op-ed by professor and dean of social science Lawrence D. Bobo calling for sanctions against faculty members who criticize Harvard University leadership with the intent to arouse the intervention of "external actors" into university business was stunning.

The piece sparked another controversy, and backlash, that Harvard may deserve but doesn't need, given the parade of headlines that have left its formerly stellar reputation in shreds. It was also an insult to alumni, like us, who care about the school, don't see ourselves as "external actors," and have a legitimate stake in the debate about how to get Harvard back on track.

When we attended Harvard, we learned that our thinking improved through critical analysis and debate. Criticism exposed the flaws and weaknesses in

[The piece] was also an insult to alumni, like us, who care about the school, don't see ourselves as "external actors," and have a legitimate stake in the debate about how to get Harvard back on track.

our arguments and forced us to better present and support our ideas or to change them in the face of compelling evidence that they were not altogether correct. We were taught not what to think but how to think. Open and free debate was the path to arriving at the best answer, particularly debating the arguments that we found most disagreeable.

What Bobo proposes is that faculty speak only to other faculty, students, and Harvard administrators; no one else needs to be involved in discussing what's going on at Harvard. The university has many constituencies beyond faculty, students, and administrators, however. There are thousands of alumni for example. Harvard is also a renowned international institution that serves as the base for many who engage in public debates around the world. And Harvard is the recipient of millions of dollars of government support — \$676 million in fiscal 2023 alone.

In countries like China and Russia, one is punished if they present an idea that is classified as antipatriotic or that is deemed to promote a foreign ideology. Is this truly the direction that Harvard should now be turning?

Bobo's call for punishing heretics is difficult to understand in light of surveys that year after year demonstrate that self-censorship, by students and faculty, is a

significant issue at Harvard and other schools. The degree to which students and faculty withhold their views diminishes materially the intellectual experience that many come to Harvard to realize and detracts from the public debate on how to improve the university. It is also difficult to reconcile Bobo's proposal with steps that have been taken in the past year to foster more open dialogue at Harvard and to create a culture of civility and tolerance.

As for the external actors that Bobo is concerned about, he identifies them as including alumni, donors, federal agencies, and the government.

I don't know if Bobo intended it this way, but it's difficult to accept his assertion as anything less than an insult to the thousands of alumni who care deeply about Harvard and its mission and who donate their time and money generously to support the university.

As for the government, it provides millions of dollars each year to support university operations and provide financial aid to many students. The government is also responsible for ensuring that Harvard complies with its legal obligations. Notable examples include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin and Title IX of the same act that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. The government often rewards and the media frequently heralds whistleblowers who speak out about wrongdoing. Bobo seems to prefer to retaliate.

Our own personal views are that universities should provide their faculty and students considerable latitude to speak, so we believe Bobo should be free to express his personal views however misguided we regard them to be.

This latitude to express personal views, however, must be evaluated more broadly when the speaker also serves as an administrator who controls the careers of faculty, a considerable budget, and the ability to influence curriculum. When an administrator such as Bobo wields such power while advocating for curtailing one of the most fundamental aspects of academic freedom and free speech, members of the Harvard community must know that he is exercising his authority to promote the highest principles and best interests of the university first and foremost and not personal views that are anathema to those fundamental freedoms.

Interim president Alan Garber, interim provost John Manning, the Harvard Corporation, and the Harvard Board of Overseers should all speak publicly to the issue that Bobo has raised. Is Harvard moving forward toward open dialogue and greater academic freedom or will it cling to the strand of illiberalism that has stained the university in recent years?

John Evangelakos, Jason H.P. Kravitt, and William Schmalzl are Harvard alumni and former partners at international law firms. They participated in founding Harvard Alumni for Free Speech.

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INBOX

We must defend the freedoms the founders gave us

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, the date in 1776 that our Declaration of Independence was adopted, it is important that we reflect upon what it is that we are celebrating. Thomas Jefferson, supported in his writing by a number of other members of the Continental Congress, lists the many ways in which King George had treated the colonists unjustly. At one point the writers state, “A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.”

Monday’s Supreme Court ruling (“Justices give Trump wide immunity,” Page A1, July 2) should truly cause us to reflect with our fellow citizens as we gather for our picnics, family gatherings, and fireworks. What we have been given by our ancestors is precious. It is our turn to defend the freedom for which they fought so hard.

PATRICIA MCGRATH
Marshfield

While the Legislature dawdles, climate change presses on

If you were building a house in 1910, would you add a barn and hayloft for the horse to pull your carriage, or a garage for a new Model T? By 1930 when you wanted to sell that house, you would be glad to have a garage instead of an unnecessary hayloft.

But now, in 2024, Senator Ryan Fattman, a Republican of Sutton, put a state climate bill on hold because he claims that discouraging the use of natural gas in new construction will have a “chilling” effect on the building industry (“Climate bill sees another holdup,” Metro, June 24). And he’s doing this in the midst of record heat around the globe, when climate experts are shouting that we must stop using fossil fuels now. We need to be retrofitting older homes for clean electric heat and certainly not building anything new for this old, dirty fuel. He’s all in on haylofts, when we need to be building garages.

Natural gas is a fuel of the past. There’s no reason to hold up a good bill to keep an outdated fossil fuel front and center in our housing.

MARY MEMMOTT
Framingham

In Matt Stout’s recent article, he references legislative work piling up on Beacon Hill, with a major climate bill stuck in these delays. Often not understood is that environmental and climate justice are deeply intertwined with Indigenous wisdom and history. Currently, bills related to the MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda also are waiting to be moved to the floors of both chambers for a vote. I, and my congregation, First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton, support all of these bills, while focusing on “An Act Establishing Indigenous Peoples Day” (S.1976/H.2989), currently before the House Steering, Policy, and Scheduling Committee.

An article referencing a recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report by leading climate scientists states that “Although they only make up 5 percent of the world population, Indigenous peoples protect 80 percent of global biodiversity.” It’s a moral and a practical issue that we honor Indigenous wisdom and labor and reflect our history accurately for the sake of our children as well as for our shared survival. Like 17 other states in this country, let’s pass Indigenous Peoples Day now.

REV. MICHELLE A. WALSH
Quincy

State Senator Michael Barrett has put an important climate change bill before the Massachusetts Senate that proposes what is necessary for the Commonwealth to meet our stated greenhouse gas reduction goals. The bill has the support of Senate President Karen Spilka, Senator Will Brownsberger, and many others.

But Senator Ryan Fattman, of the Worcester and Norfolk District, twice delayed votes on the bill. He appropriately shared the safety concerns of the New England Gas Workers Alliance, whose members may lose employment opportunities due to the energy transition but may gain some if they apply their expertise to geothermal and hydrogen development.

Fortunately, Fattman has agreed to no longer delay the bill. But I am concerned about his statement, “The idea that natural gas [would be] used as a last option is problematic ...”

Our climate reality is that making natural gas anything but the last option will surely be much more problematic for us and our descendants.

BILL BECKETT
Watertown

Matt Stout’s description of the Legislature delaying critical climate change legislation is very disturbing and paints a picture of a state government that is unresponsive to critical public priorities. Massachusetts has an urgent need to address the issues addressed in this bill: improving our electrical vehicle charging infrastructure and decreasing the use of natural gas, which increases greenhouse gas emissions. We experience the increasingly devastating impact of climate change on our physical environment every day. The Senate needs to put aside its partisan differences to pass this important piece of climate legislation. Our health and safety demand nothing less.

MARVIN BERKOWITZ
Needham

How to right a wrong done to Bill Russell

In writing about the effort to rename Faneuil Hall due to the fact that its namesake owned enslaved people, Joan Vennochi, in her June 20 Opinion column “Should Logan Airport be renamed for Bill Russell?” notes “there’s nothing to suggest a name change is needed because of some inappropriate personal history” of General Edward Lawrence Logan.

So let’s right one wrong without inadvertently creating another by leaving Logan International Airport alone and renaming Faneuil Hall after Bill Russell. Replacing a slaveholder with a civil rights leader and Black man like Russell represents the finest form of historic poetic justice. And the proximity of Faneuil Hall to the home of the Celtics and the Russell statue on City Hall Plaza lends the move a nice geographical symmetry as well.

MARK S. STERNMAN
Somerville

JOAN VENNOCHI

How much did Democrats and the press know about Biden’s decline before the debate?

What did they know and when did they know it? As Democratic Party leaders finally start breaking with President Biden after last week’s debate raised questions about his mental fitness for the job, that old Watergate question is once again relevant.

What did Democrats who interact regularly with Biden know, when did they know it, and why didn’t they tell the public after Biden stubbornly pursued another run for president?

Denial became harder after the debate, and especially after The New York Times provided extensive details that back up a narrative of serious decline.

Instead of country-first thinking, it looks like the first instinct of Democrats was to protect Biden’s and the party’s chances of winning in November — just like Republicans have been doing with Donald Trump. Even after the debate exposed Biden’s obvious inability to engage coherently with his opponent, Democrats took their cues from the Biden campaign and circled the wagons around the president. Now, former House speaker Nancy Pelosi is saying that concerns about Biden’s physical condition are “legitimate.” Former president Barack Obama, who bucked up Biden after the debate, has privately told allies that Biden’s “already tough path to re-election grew more challenging” after his performance, according to The Washington Post. If that’s all he said, Obama is still making the issue about party and winning, not about doing what’s right for the country.

It has been left to Democrats with less lofty titles to speak out more forcefully on that topic. Representative Jamie Raskin of Maryland was one of the first to acknowledge that “very honest, and serious and rigorous conversations” were taking place in the party about Biden’s health. On Tuesday, Representative Lloyd Doggett of Texas became the first Democrat in Congress to call for

Biden to withdraw from the 2024 race. In Massachusetts, the Democratic establishment has been mostly silent on the matter. After watching Biden’s shaky debate performance, state Senator Jason Lewis of Winchester said on X that the president “has contributed a lifetime of distinguished public service to our nation. ... But now it is time for him to step aside.” With that, Lewis said what other Massachusetts Democrats were thinking and talking about in private but would not say publicly.

What did they know and when

did they know it? Of course, that question should also be asked of the press — especially the Washington-based press. In today’s polarized world, partisan politics rule politicians. But it shouldn’t rule journalists. I can only speak for myself. I have no inside information on Biden’s condition; I observe him like everyone else, through the lens of the national media. Because watching him could be uncomfortable, I often looked away, unless I had to watch something like the debate or State of the Union speech in order to write about it.

Then again, I do the same thing with Trump, who is unwatchable for other reasons. The right-wing media depiction of “Dementia Joe” has been so mean, nasty, and devoid of empathy and balance, it is hard to take seriously. Even when respected news outlets like The Wall Street Journal presented sourced reporting about Biden’s condition, liberal news outlets and, of course, the White House debunked that storyline. Now, some Washington reporters are saying they could have done a better job covering Biden’s mental fitness.

Without objective coverage, the polarized media landscape left each of us to choose what we wanted to believe, based on our personal poli-

tics and ideology. Denial became harder after the debate, and especially after The New York Times provided extensive details that back up a narrative of serious decline. As the Times reported, “In the weeks and months before President Biden’s politically devastating performance on the debate stage in Atlanta, several current and former officials and others who encountered him behind closed doors noticed that he increasingly appeared confused or listless, or would lose the thread of conversations.”

Now they tell us?

The debate, with its worldwide viewership, made Biden’s health impossible to ignore as an issue in the 2024 election. But that alone is unlikely to make the Democratic Party break completely with him. Post-debate polling will probably play a role in that. According to a leaked poll done by OpenLabs, a Democratic data firm, “Biden’s diminished standing is now putting previously noncompetitive states like New Hampshire, Virginia, and New Mexico in play for Donald Trump,” Puck reported. According to a CNN poll, most voters now think Democrats have a better chance of winning the White House again with a nominee other than Biden. The poll also found Vice President Kamala Harris “within striking distance of Trump.” In a hypothetical matchup, Trump had support from 47 percent of those surveyed, and Harris had support from 45 percent.

But polling, which is subject to change based on what is asked and who is surveyed, has nothing to do with doing the right thing for the right reason. Biden, meanwhile, does not look ready to step aside. On Friday, he is scheduled to sit down with ABC’s George Stephanopoulos for his first post-debate interview.

For Biden, there’s a lot riding on that interview. But what he is able to do in that moment doesn’t answer the ultimate question: What is the whole truth about his health, and what did the Democratic and media establishment know about it?

Joan Vennochi is a Globe columnist. She can be reached at joan.vennochi@globe.com. Follow her @joan_vennochi.

High electricity rates may prevent people from installing heat pumps in their homes

By Roxana Shafiee and Daniel Schrag

Heat pumps are central to any plan for decarbonization of buildings considering 13 percent of US greenhouse gas emissions are the result of burning fossil fuels to heat and cool buildings. Heat pumps, essentially air conditioners that can also run backward, are able to heat homes using electricity instead of natural gas, propane, or oil, and are roughly three times more efficient than natural gas or oil heat, so they can save energy.

Massachusetts has set aggressive targets for heat pump installations for over 100,000 homes by 2025 and over 500,000 homes by 2030. But the high price of electricity in Massachusetts — the fourth highest in the nation — relative to natural gas or oil makes achieving these targets very challenging unless there is a major change in electricity policy.

We recently released a report that explored how heating bills would change across the state and across different heating types if people switched to heat pumps, both air-sourced heat pumps that extract heat from the ambient air and ground-sourced heat pumps (or geothermal and heat pumps) that extract heat from horizontal or vertical wells in the ground.

Our research shows that in most places across the state, heat pump adoption for homes that use natural gas will increase annual bills. For an average-sized house of 1,800 square feet, switching to heat pumps would increase their annual bill by \$400 to \$500 per year. This means that even with the most generous subsidies, it does not make economic sense for consumers to switch. This is not just a problem for Massachusetts but also an issue for most states across the northern portion of the United States where electricity prices are high relative to the cost of natural gas.

There are some regions in Massachusetts where low electricity prices mean that heat

pump adoption in homes that use natural gas can reduce heating costs, but these savings — less than \$200 annually — are very small relative to the purchase and installation costs.

Oil heat is more expensive, so there are more locations where heat pumps would slightly reduce heating bills, but again the savings are marginal. Some of these households might switch to heat pumps if subsidies from the state and federal governments helped cover the purchase and installation costs of switching. One

Our research shows that in most places across the state, heat pump adoption for homes that use natural gas will increase annual bills.

effective strategy might be to focus on those households with central air conditioning, as heat pump adoption can be timed with air conditioning replacement, reducing the overall cost.

There was one surprising bright spot in our analysis — an opportunity to use heat pumps to reduce electric bills for some of the most economically disadvantaged households that are currently using electric resistance heaters, approximately 16 percent of all households in Massachusetts. Electric resistance heaters are sometimes deployed in low-income housing because their upfront costs are extremely low; you can purchase a baseboard electric heating panel for around \$100 and installation is easy. The problem is that the operating costs are very high, more than 5 times as much as a natural gas furnace in most parts of Massachusetts.

Some of the homes that use electric resistance heating are rental housing, where the landlords have limited incentives to invest in more economical heating systems, even if ten-

ants would save money in the long run. Because heat pumps are three times more efficient than electric resistance heaters, switching these homes to heat pumps would reduce their heating costs by two-thirds, saving bill payers up to \$3,000 per year for an average-sized home. By working with landlords and homeowners on financing for heat pump installation, the state has an opportunity to advance its deployment plan for heat pumps while providing immediate relief to residents in low-income households facing the highest energy burdens.

Massachusetts can make progress in converting its building heating systems to heat pumps by focusing on households that currently use electric resistance or oil heat. But cutting emissions more broadly across the buildings sector will require a significant reduction in the price of electricity to make heat pump adoption cost-effective in homes that use natural gas, currently around half of all households in the state. In the past decade, electricity prices in Massachusetts have doubled, far exceeding the US average.

Without reform, rising electricity prices will not only stymie progress in decarbonizing buildings but will undermine the overall energy transition that depends on electrifying as many energy systems as possible. If Massachusetts is serious about reaching its climate targets, it must work with policy makers, utilities, and regulators to bring down the price of electricity to a level that will accelerate the energy transition.

Roxana T. Shafiee is an environmental fellow at the Salata Institute’s Harvard University Center for the Environment. Daniel Schrag is the Sturgis Hooper Professor, Geology and Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering at Harvard and co-director of the Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program at Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center.

Nazi hunter picks far right over far left on French ballot

Historian says Le Pen's party supports Jews

By Sylvie Corbet and Jeffrey Schaeffer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Days ahead of France's crucial parliamentary elections, renowned Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld is sticking to his advice that if voters are faced with a duel between Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally and a far-left competitor, they should choose the far right.

88-year-old Jewish historian who has dedicated his life to bringing fugitive Nazis to justice, goes against many other Jewish leaders and intellectuals in France who see fighting the National Rally as a top priority in Sunday's runoff vote.

But Klarsfeld told the Associated Press in an interview at his Paris apartment that the far-left France Unbowed party has militant pro-Palestinian supporters and "antisemitic overtones," while Le Pen's party supports Israel and the Jewish people.

"Marine Le Pen is the head of a party which supports Israel and supports the Jews," Klars-

feld said in the interview Tuesday. "So we gave this advice to those who will be faced with this runoff between the far left and what used to be the far right, which for us is now a populist party, to vote for the right," he said.

Klarsfeld shocked many people in France, including those in the Jewish community, when he first stated this position on French television earlier this month.

Klarsfeld said he himself will vote for President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance, but not all of the voters in the 577 French districts will have that

option in Sunday's runoff elections, where many will be able to choose only between a National Rally or a France Unbowed candidate.

The top three blocs are the anti-immigration, nationalist National Rally; Macron's alliance; and a broad leftist coalition that includes the Socialists, the greens, and France Unbowed.

The National Rally fared the best in the first round, propelling the party and its allies closer than ever to the government. But Sunday's outcome remains uncertain as other political parties are trying to block National

Rally's path. An unprecedented number of candidates who qualified for the runoff have stepped aside to favor the competitor they believe is most likely to win against a National Rally opponent.

France's roughly half-million people of Jewish faith make up only a small portion of the country's 66 million inhabitants, but they have been thrust into the electoral fray by the country's bitter divisions over the Hamas-Israel war. Opposing camps in the legislative elections have hurled accusations of antisemitism at each other.

France Unbowed leaders

have condemned the conduct of Israel's war against Hamas and accused it of pursuing genocide against Palestinians. But they have strongly denied accusations of antisemitism.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, cofounder of the National Rally's forerunner, the National Front, has multiple convictions for racism and antisemitism, including for repeatedly saying that Nazi gas chambers were "a detail" of World War II history. He was expelled from the party in 2015 as part of a makeover by his daughter and successor, Marine Le Pen, to make it palatable to mainstream voters.

State pushes for concessions from 8 hospitals' landlords

►STEWARD
Continued from Page A1

bids for the Steward hospitals see the leases as a major obstacle, knowing many of the properties will also require investment for deferred maintenance such as upgrading parking garages and fixing broken elevators. As currently written, the leases obligate new owners to pay MPT and Macquarie substantial rents for the next 17 years, and are unusual in a state where most hospitals own their own real estate.

Some potential buyers have been talking directly to the landlords about restructuring the leases. In May, research firm Green Street Advisors estimated that the property owners would have to cut rents by 40 percent to "bring the hospitals to a reasonable rent position for likely new operators."

"These leases are a ball and chain on any organization who would buy those hospitals," said John McDonough, professor of public health practice at the Harvard School of Public Health. "It's appropriate and smart for the Healey administration to play tough on this."

MPT representatives didn't respond to inquiries about the talks with the state. A spokesperson for Macquarie declined to comment. The parties briefed on the talks said the two property owners maintain it will take state financial aid to enable new owners to preserve the hospitals — while honoring existing lease obligations to the landlords.

"We believe that these hospitals can continue to pay rent at the contractual levels," Edward Aldag, chief executive of MPT, a real estate investment firm based in Alabama, said on May 9.

Both sides have an interest in keeping hospitals on the properties. But pressure from workers and community leaders worried that the hospitals could close is falling on state officials, who have said their aim is to protect

patients and jobs. Hospital closings would disrupt health care in working-class communities from Dorchester to Brockton to Haverhill.

At the same time, MPT and Macquarie face financial pressure. If no hospitals operate on the sites they own, they get no rent payments.

Governor Maura Healey has insisted that state money won't go to Steward or MPT, which owns just under 10 percent of Steward, accusing them of mismanagement in controversial financial transactions at the expense of patients. Steward and MPT dispute those claims.

In an interview last week, the governor declined to say whether the state would provide financial support to operators that take over the hospitals.

The administration "has had many direct and pointed conversations with Steward, MPT, and all of the principals involved to ensure a smooth transition that protects access to care, jobs, and the stability of our health care system," Olivia James, a spokesperson for the state Executive Office of Health and Human Services, said Tuesday.

State officials have a number of options, but they will require spending money. They could boost or advance MassHealth payments to new hospital operators. They could tap a distressed hospital fund being proposed in this year's state budget or dip into a "rainy-day" emergency fund to help pay for hospital upgrades — though those moves would need legislative approval. Or they could seize the hospitals' land and buildings through eminent domain, which would remove MPT and Macquarie from the equation, but require the state to pay fair market value for the real estate.

Of course, if the hospitals close, that could also prove to be expensive for the state and other health care providers, as more patients seek care elsewhere, straining hospital capacity and



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Holy Family Hospital in Haverhill is among the Steward hospitals that are up for sale.

crowding emergency rooms. State law requires hospitals to give 120 days' notice before closing.

"The state of health care in the Commonwealth is in a long-term crisis," said Ellen Lutch Bender, a longtime Massachusetts health care consultant. "One way or another, the state is going to have a financial role in how this crisis is solved. At this point, it's of paramount importance that the state works to ensure that we have a working acute care system post-Steward."

Amid the standoff between the state and the landlords on the leases, Steward, which filed for bankruptcy May 6, has been marketing the hospitals. An auction is scheduled for July 18.

Up for sale are St. Elizabeth's Medical Center and Carney Hospital in Boston, along with Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton, Holy Family Hospital in Methuen and Haverhill, Morton Hospital in Taunton, St. Anne's Hospital in Fall River, and Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Ayer.

Steward-owned Norwood

Hospital has been closed since 2021 due to a flood, and isn't listed among the hospitals up for auction.

The names of few prospective bidders have surfaced so far. And the defection of some doctors and nurses from Steward hospitals in recent months will make the purchases even more challenging for buyers, who will need to recruit staff and reassure patients.

Steward, meanwhile, is engaged in separate talks, through a mediator appointed by the US Bankruptcy Court in Houston, over how to value the hospitals being sold and divvy up proceeds between the hospital system, the landlords, Steward's lenders, and its scores of creditors.

Dallas-based Steward sold its hospital properties to MPT for \$1.2 billion in 2016. As MPT took an equity stake in the for-profit hospital system, the two companies inked a sale-leaseback deal obligating the hospitals to pay rents to the landlord through 2041. But in January, MPT said Steward owed about

\$50 million in unpaid rent. MPT provided Steward with bridge loans and \$75 million in "debtor in possession" financing when the system filed for bankruptcy.

Three years ago, when MPT sold a 50 percent interest in the Massachusetts leases to Australian infrastructure investment firm Macquarie, the leases were valued at \$1.78 billion.

In the letter sent Tuesday to Aldag and Macquarie chief executive Karl Kuchel, Warren and Markey sought to add pressure to the property owners by asserting the landlords already earned a "substantial return" on their investment. They noted Aldag received more than \$85 million in compensation over the last five years and was recently awarded a stock incentive plan that's potentially worth tens of millions more.

The senators also released responses by MPT and Macquarie to inquiries their Senate offices had made to the property owners this spring. In the responses, sent in April and May before and after the bankruptcy filing, the landlords defended their actions

and pushed back against the senators' contention that they had "plundered" the hospitals.

Rent payments represent "only a small percentage" of hospitals' revenue, Richard Strassberg, a lawyer for MPT, wrote on April 26. "If a hospital is struggling financially it is virtually never the consequence of its rent obligations," he wrote. "It is because hospital operations are not generating sufficient revenue to offset aggregate costs."

At the same time, the property owners maintained they were working to help Massachusetts assure a smooth transition to new operators of the Steward hospitals. Zainab Ahmad, an attorney for Macquarie, said in a letter to the senators on April 26 that her client wants the same thing they do.

"The best outcome for [Macquarie] is the same as the best outcome for the eight hospitals themselves," she wrote. "For the hospitals to continue operating successfully."

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With ERs overwhelmed, some patients will be diverted to urgent cares

►URGENT CARE
Continued from Page A1

handle less-dire medical emergencies than ERs, Brennan said.

"For your everyday cough, cold, fever, sutures, we can handle that," he said.

Insurers will pay 135 percent of the Medicare reimbursement rate for out-of-network care at urgent care centers in nine Eastern Massachusetts counties, said Caljouw.

The roughly 200 urgent care centers in Massachusetts have an average turnaround time of one hour, Brennan said, and cost one-fifth as much as a visit to a hospital emergency room. An estimated 13 to 27 percent of emergency department visits could be handled elsewhere, including at doctors' offices, clinics, or urgent cares, according to the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

"This agreement will help reduce overcrowding and longer waits for care, as emergency department volume is typically high during the summer months," Olivia James, a spokesperson for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, wrote in a letter describing the policy change.

Brennan and Caljouw said

the state's policy is in part driven by the ongoing crisis at Steward Health Care, which has been unable to maintain specialized care at its hospitals. That has stressed nearby hospitals, according to health officials and Globe reporting. It remains an open question how Steward's bankruptcy will affect its hospitals; if any of its emergency departments stop operating, the influx of displaced patients to other hospitals could be overwhelming.

Massachusetts public health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein acknowledged during a meeting of the state's Public Health Council in June that Steward was treating fewer patients.

"It is very clear from the data that there are decreasing volumes at the Steward facilities," he said.

DPH was working to understand how hospitals are responding as patients shift from Steward to other care providers, Goldstein said at the time.

"This continues to be a tremendously fragile time for our local hospitals," Steve Walsh, chief executive of the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, said Wednesday. "These concerns have only grown with the busy summer months upon



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

The ER has struggled at Steward-owned Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton.

us and with a wave of Steward patients seeking care at other facilities."

A Steward spokesperson did not address the health system's role in contributing to hospital overcrowding in a statement.

"Emergency room overcrowding is well documented at most hospitals," said the spokesperson, Deborah Chiaravalloti. "This is not a situation unique to Steward hospitals and we support the Commonwealth in find-

ing appropriate solutions that will benefit all patients."

Overcrowding in emergency departments has led to hallways lined with beds, agitated patients who sometimes become violent, and health care workers pushed to their limits.

Patients are spending much longer, on average, at emergency departments in Massachusetts. Six years ago, the average length of an emergency room visit was just over four hours, CHIA re-

ported. That peaked at close to six hours at the beginning of 2023, edging down to 5½ hours at the end of last year — before Steward's problems became acute.

Patients shifting from Steward to other Eastern Massachusetts hospitals for specialized inpatient care are already causing a trickle-down effect that exacerbates overcrowding at emergency departments, said Dr. Joseph Kopp, chairman of the Massa-

achusetts College of Emergency Physicians' government advocacy committee and an emergency physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Faulkner Hospital. Patients at emergency departments may have to wait longer to be transferred for specialized care if former Steward patients are occupying the hospital's beds.

"Hospitals — they're all operating at 100 percent capacity or more," Kopp said.

Patients languishing in emergency departments while waiting for a transfer to another department or facility, called boarders, are increasingly common in Massachusetts hospitals, Kopp said. At times, they occupy more than half the emergency department beds in the state.

Those waits can be deadly. Boarding patients have worse outcomes, are more likely to fall victim to medical errors, and are more likely to die from avoidable complications, Kopp said.

"It just changes the way that you actually deliver your care," he said. "It's by necessity not going to be as good."

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THE BOSTON GLOBE THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024 | BOSTONGLOBE.COM/METRO

YVONNE ABRAHAM

The royal scam



Happy Fourth of July, friends!

On this day, we celebrate that massive moment in 1776 when the Continental Congress voted to break free of Britain, and the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence. Those fireworks and cookouts are all about celebrating America's heroic rejection of monarchic rule, and the tyranny that came with it: We don't do kings around here! Cue the fireworks!

Well, 248 years was a pretty good run.

Thanks to Monday's ruling by the conservative supermajority on the Supreme Court — mini-monarchs themselves, unelected, and answerable to no one — the president of the United States is now above the law, just like an 18th century king. The conservatives decided that former president Donald Trump has near-absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for almost anything he might do in office — so long as he makes sure to say that what would otherwise be crimes were official acts.

Their decision not only kicks the legs out from under the current cases against Trump, but it ensures that, should he be re-elected, he can behave as despotically as he wishes without worrying about being criminally prosecuted. He could openly offer pardons or government contracts in exchange for bribes or favors, and protect those who commit crimes as they carry out his illegal orders. He could demand that the Department of Justice investigate and bring sham charges against his enemies, even if he admits he is doing so as retribution or for political gain. And yes, as Justice Sonia Sotomayor said in her searing dissent, he could order the military to assassinate an opponent, and no court could touch him for it.

Stick a fork in the republic. Long live the king!

It's clearer than ever that these justices dodged and lied through their teeth in their confirmation hearings, banging on about *Roe v. Wade* being settled law, respect for precedent, and no one being above the law. Well, now *Roe* is gone, *stare decisis* is *stare* deceased, and the extremist jurists who pose as originalists, supposedly bound solely by the intentions of the framers, have blown through all that their oracles stood for.

Now, I'm no expert, but I've seen "Hamilton," and I am pretty sure King George III is not the hero of that show. When the frothing monarch sings "You'll be back," to the rebels trying to shake off his tyranny, he's supposed to look pathetic, not prophetic.

Also, a bunch of actual historians have pointed out that the very founders these judges worship are on the record about how they would have hated what is happening right now.

For example, Thomas Paine, hype-man of the American Revolution, wrote a wildly popular pamphlet in 1776 called "Common Sense" that built public support for independence. In it, Paine decried the king, who "hath shewn himself such an inveterate enemy to liberty, and discovered such a thirst for arbitrary power." He was also pretty clear about the effect the new nation should be going for.

"But where says some is the King of America?" Paine wrote. "In America THE LAW IS KING. For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be King; and there ought to be no other."

And here is Alexander Hamilton, in 1788, saying very clearly that, unlike the king of Great Britain, no one, including a president, should be above the law in this country:

"The President of the United States would be liable to be impeached, tried, and, upon conviction of treason, bribery, or other high crimes or misdemeanors, removed from office; and would afterwards be liable to prosecution and punishment in the ordinary course of law," he wrote.

The Declaration of Independence itself says, "a Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people."

Anybody who thinks a President Trump won't exploit the bejesus out of this new unchecked power is lying or living under a rock. Just last Sunday, he escalated his promises to target his political opponents, supporting calls for military tribunals and the imprisonment of the president and vice president, Senators Mitch McConnell and Chuck Schumer, his own former VP Mike Pence and former Wyoming congresswoman Liz Cheney.

This is a cataclysm that should have people marching in the streets. But by all means, let's keep spending every minute talking about Biden's age instead.

Happy Independence Day! Pass the ketchup.

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Plans for E. Boston park scratched

Trustees looking for another site

By Erin Douglas
GLOBE STAFF

A land trust nonprofit is pulling back from a years-long plan to redevelop a decrepit pier into a waterfront park in East Boston, after raising more than \$30 million in pledges toward the project.

Katie Theoharides, CEO of the Trustees of Reservations, said in an interview Wednesday that work on the design to transform the old industrial pier owned by the Massachusetts Port Authority is "on pause."

Theoharides said the land trust is now considering alternative locations in the neighborhood for a green space project after finding that the Piers Park Phase III project, as it stands, would not provide adequate protection, given the costs, from rising sea levels and floods as the climate warms.



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

The project was repeatedly scaled back over the years.

"This work of building resilient coastlines in urban communities is difficult, expensive, and there's permitting challenges," she said. "We're learning as we go."

Piers Park III was conceived of as a "world-class, climate resilient park" in an environmental justice community inspired by the long-gone natural ecology. East Boston is one of the

most diverse neighborhoods in Boston and one of the city's most exposed to air pollution and coastal flooding.

The design featured a fishing pier, kayak launch, beach, and other outdoor recreation features for the public. To provide that, the plan would require partially removing and fixing the 4-acre pier owned by MassPort, then creating tidal pools, salt marshes, and coastal woodlands.

The project was seen as a significant strategic move for the Trustees as the organization's first urban waterfront redevelopment project of its kind. The land trust has a more than 100-year history of preserving land in Massachusetts, including woodlands, parks, farms, and historic homes; Piers Park Phase III had signaled a push into urban spaces.

The project, however, was repeatedly scaled back over the years due to the complexity of the site and the estimated cost, which had ballooned to

PIER, Page B5



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

SAILORS AND SERENADES — Apollo Payton, lead singer of Soul of Boston, sang and danced with the crowd during a block party welcoming US Navy Week in Downtown Crossing on Wednesday. The concert was one of several Harborfest events. **B3.**

Mass. man could be top dog at Coney Island contest

By Nick Stoico
GLOBE STAFF

For years, the winner of Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest has been nearly a foregone conclusion.

But with perennial champion Joey Chestnut missing this year's event over a sponsor dispute, other competitors suddenly have a genuine shot at victory. And a Massachusetts teacher, the runner-up the past three years, is hungry for the chance.

Geoffrey Esper, 49, a teacher from Oxford who is ranked second in the

world by Major League Eating, which hosts the competition, downed 49 hot dogs in 10 minutes in last year's contest, finishing second to Chestnut's staggering 62. Esper's personal best is 51 hot dogs, a mark he hopes to surpass on his way to a win at the annual Fourth of July event at Coney Island on Thursday.

"I definitely have a shot, but it's going to be close," Esper said in an interview Wednesday as he waited for a train in New London, Conn., to New York City.

Sportsbooks have Esper as the favorite to win in the men's contest and take home the \$10,000 prize. Close behind him are Nick Wehry of Tampa, Fla., James Webb of Sydney, Australia, and Patrick Bertolotti of Chicago.

The women's contest begins at 11 a.m., where defending champion Miki Sudo is favored. The men's contest starts at 12:30 p.m.

Esper, who grew up in Leicester and teaches electronics at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High

HOT DOGS, Page B3



CHRIS CHRISTO/WORCESTER TELEGRAM

'I definitely have a shot, but it's going to be close.'

GEOFFREY ESPER, *on challenge*

YOU DON'T NEED TO LOOK UP TO SEE THESE EXPLOSIONS OF COLOR



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

A bee did its business on the flowers of a twin accession of panicle hydrangea at Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain. The vibrant flowers have bloomed in spectacular fashion across New England.

Hydrangeas pretty near petal perfect form

By Shannon Larson
GLOBE STAFF

"Some of it looks like a storybook," photographer Jack Cohen said of the spectacular hydrangea blooms he has captured this season, from the vibrant clusters of purple and pink overflowing from bushes in the Back Bay to the deep blue flowers delicately spilling over white picket fences in Chatham.

"It's sort of hard to believe that it's real," said Cohen, 47, who lives in Boston.

By all accounts, this season has brought one of the most stunning displays of hydrangeas in many years, particularly for the macrophylla variety, also referred to as bigleaf. Commonly planted in gardens, the type is known for its prolific blooms and large mophead flowers in a variety of bright colors.

Long associated with the maritime climate of Cape Cod and the Islands, the flower has bloomed

HYDRANGEAS, Page B4



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

A violet hydrangea shrub graced the front yard of a Jamaica Plain home. The flowers come in a variety of colors but the bigleaf version, which features larger blossoms, has been particularly stunning.

Everett firefighter rescues girl, 3, from burning building

By Emily Sweeney
GLOBE STAFF
and Sabrina Lam
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

EVERETT — A firefighter raced into a burning building Wednesday and rescued a 3-year-old girl from the third floor, witnesses and officials said.

Firefighters arrived at the three-decker at the corner of Hancock and Tappan streets shortly after 8 a.m. to find heavy smoke pouring from the roof, officials said.

“When I pulled up, we had heavy fire coming out of the back of the building,” said Everett Fire Captain Gary Ostler. “Lines were stretched into the building by the crews. We called the second alarm for manpower, just because of the weather and what was going on.”

The girl who was rescued, and the firefighter who carried her from the burning home, were taken to a hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening, officials said.

The firefighter was evaluated at Massachusetts General Hospital before being released.

A mayday was declared at one point during the fire, according to the Everett Fire Department. Despite the dangerous conditions, “firefighters were able to rescue a child” on the third floor and bring her to a waiting ambulance.

The girl was unconscious at first but alert in the ambulance, Ostler said. Her “vitals looked good,” he said.

Two employees from the city’s Public Works Department — Jesse Winocour and Jason Papa — said they were the first to arrive at the fire.

“We were just driving down the street and I smelled something. I said, ‘Papa, you smell that?’ So then, we look up and see smoke coming from the third floor,” Winocour said. “So I tell them to ‘stop the truck, stop the truck!’ We both got out and ran into the building.”

When they went inside, they were quickly overpowered by the smoke, he said.

“We tried, we tried to go in ... but there was just too much smoke, too much fire. I couldn’t breathe.” Winocour said. “But

that firefighter, he went up there and saved the little girl. He’s a hero.”

The firefighter came out of the house holding the girl and ran to an ambulance, Papa said.

“He looked over at us and gave us a thumbs-up and said thank you,” Papa said.

Ostler commended Winocour and Papa for their efforts in aiding the firefighters.

“It was a good thing they were on scene, saw it, and assisted. This is the ultimate team sport, as I like to call it,” Ostler said. “Their assistance got people out of the building, allowed us to go further into the building and got the baby.”

The cause of the fire is under investigation, officials said.

Sueli Decarney lives on the first floor of the home with her husband. She was sleeping when firefighters “knocked on the door and told me to get out of the house.”

Her husband was at work at the time, she said.

“I just got some clothes and my dog,” she said. “I left my dog with the neighbor and waited for



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Firefighters gathered in front of the three-decker house that was on fire Wednesday on Hancock Street in Everett. The fire was discovered by two city workers.

them to get the fire out.”

Decarney said a woman who lives on the third floor was apparently using a “laundry ma-

chine” when the fire started.

“It probably overheated. That’s all I know,” Decarney said.

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Fla. man indicted in case of tech smuggling

Set to appear in Boston court

By Jeremy C. Fox
GLOBE STAFF

A Florida man who is president of a freight forwarding company has been indicted in federal court in connection with the alleged smuggling of technology into Russia, authorities said Wednesday.

Kirill Gordei, 34, of Hallandale, Fla., was indicted on charges of conspiracy to commit offenses against the United States, smuggling goods from the United States, and export of a commerce control item, which requires a license, the US attorney’s office said in a statement.

Gordei was arrested in Florida on Sunday and released on conditions after making an initial appearance Tuesday in the Middle District of Florida, prosecutors said. He will appear in US District Court in Boston later.

“By allegedly smuggling sensitive technology to Russia, Mr. Gordei undermined the critical framework established to protect national security,” acting US Attorney Joshua S. Levy said. “This case highlights the importance of enforcing export controls, especially regarding sensitive items on the Controlled Commerce List, which include technologies vital to scientific and industrial advancement.”

An attorney for Gordei did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Gordei, who has dual citizenship in the United States and Belarus, is the president of Apelsin Logistics in Hallandale Beach, Fla., and has an address in Russia and two websites registered and hosted there, prosecutors said.

Around Aug. 11 last year, Gordei allegedly claimed falsely that he was shipping a scientific research tool valued at more than \$600,000, an Orbitrap Explorer GC 240 mass spectrometer, to Uzbekistan when it was actually headed to Russia, according to the statement.

The spectrometer is made by Thermo Fisher Scientific, which is based in Waltham.

Export controls limiting Russia’s access to high technology were put in place after the nation’s invasion of Ukraine nearly two and a half years ago, with “license requirements for exports, reexports and transfers to or within Russia ... expanded [in April 2022] to cover the most sensitive items subject to controls on a Controlled Commerce List,” prosecutors said.

The spectrometer was on that list, so a license was required to export it to Russia, but Gordei did not obtain one, prosecutors said.

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AMBER GRAINS OF SAND



DAVID L RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

There should be plenty of beach days over the upcoming holiday weekend, with rain activity mostly relegated to the night time. An incognito beachgoer got an early start this week at Jack Knife Cove in Harwich on Cape Cod. **Weather, D6.**

This day in history

Today is Thursday, July 4, the 186th day of 2024. There are 180 days left in the year. This is Independence Day.

Birthdays: Actor Eva Marie Saint is 100. Tuskegee Airman Harry Stewart Jr. is 100. Queen Sonja of Norway is 87. Actor Karolyn Grimes is 83. Broadcast journalist Geraldo Rivera is 81. Funk/jazz trombonist Fred Wesley is 81. Vietnam War veteran and peace activist Ron Kovic is 78. Singer John Waite is 72. Tennis Hall of Famer Pam Shriver is 62. Actor-playwright-screenwriter Tracy Letts is 59. Actor Becki Newton is 46. R&B singer Melanie Fiona is 41. Singer and rapper Post Malone is 29. Malia Obama is 26.

►In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by delegates to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

►In 1802, the US Military Academy officially opened at West Point, N.Y.

►In 1817, construction of the Erie Canal began in Rome, N.Y.

►In 1826, 50 years to the day after the Declaration of Independence was adopted, former presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died.

►In 1831, the fifth president of the United States, James

Monroe, died in New York City at age 73.

►In 1855, the first edition of Walt Whitman’s “Leaves of Grass” was published.

►In 1863, the Civil War Siege of Vicksburg, Miss., ended as a Confederate garrison surrendered to Union forces.

►In 1910, in what was billed as “The Fight of the Century,” Black world heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson defeated white former champ “Gentleman” Jim Jeffries in Reno, Nevada; race riots across the country following the fight killed more than 20 people.

►In 1912, the 48-star American flag, recognizing New Mexico and Arizona statehood, was adopted.

►In 1939, Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees delivered his famous farewell speech in which he called himself “the luckiest man on the face of the earth.”

►In 1946, the United States and the Philippines signed the Treaty of Manila, recognizing Philippine independence from the United States.

►In 1960, the current 50-star version of the US flag was adopted.

►In 1973, when Boston Pops conductor Arthur Fiedler agreed to add fireworks after the Pops’ rousing version of Tchaikovsky’s majestic “1812

Overture,” a tradition was born on the Esplanade.

►In 1976, America celebrated its bicentennial with day-long festivities; President Ford made stops in Valley Forge, Pa., Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and New York, where about 200 tall ships paraded up the Hudson River in Operation Sail.

►In 1984, a fire at the Elliott Chambers rooming house in Beverly killed 15 people. It was the deadliest arson fire in state history.

►In 1987, Klaus Barbie, the former Gestapo chief known as the “Butcher of Lyon,” was convicted by a French court of crimes against humanity and sentenced to life in prison (he died in September 1991).

►In 1995, the space shuttle Atlantis and the Russian space station Mir parted after spending five days in orbit docked together.

►In 2012, scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Geneva cheered the apparent end of a decades-long quest for a new subatomic particle called the Higgs boson, or “God particle.”

►In 2013, the Statue of Liberty reopened on the Fourth of July, eight months after Superstorm Sandy shuttered the national symbol of freedom.

The Boston Globe

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Lottery

WEDNESDAY MIDDAY 7696

Payoffs (based on a \$1 bet)

EXACT ORDER	
All 4 digits	\$3,944
First or last 3	\$552
Any 2 digits	\$47
Any 1 digit	\$5

ANY ORDER

All 4 digits	\$329
First 3	\$92
Last 3	\$184

WEDNESDAY NIGHT 1187

Payoffs (based on a \$1 bet)

EXACT ORDER	
All 4 digits	\$6,570
First or last 3	\$920
Any 2 digits	\$79
Any 1 digit	\$8

ANY ORDER

All 4 digits	\$547
First 3	\$307
Last 3	\$153

LUCKY FOR LIFE

July 3 **10-11-23-35-42**
Lucky Ball 16
Jackpot: \$1,000 a day

MASS CASH

July 3 **13-14-16-23-32**
Jackpot: \$100,000; no winners

MEGABUCKS

July 3 **7-14-19-29-39-43**
Jackpot: \$1,467,400; no winners

MEGA MILLIONS

July 2 **4-8-19-31-45**
Megaball 11, Megaplier 4
Jackpot: \$137 million; no winners

PREVIOUS DRAWINGS

	Midday	Night
Tuesday	7949	1515
Monday	8351	7415
Sunday	8809	8159
Saturday	3670	6200
Friday	2511	4580

WEDNESDAY NUMBERS AROUND NEW ENGLAND

Maine, N.H., Vermont
Day: 3-digit **035** 4-digit **9230**
Eve: 3-digit **530** 4-digit **4199**

Wed. Tri-State Megabucks
6-16-19-29-34-6

Rhode Island **2556**
Powerball **2-26-33-55-57 PB 22**

Jackpot: \$138,000,000



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Luis Toyensdiaz, hoisting Jayden Fernandez, was one of several Navy sailors joining campers at Dorchester YMCA Wednesday.

Harborfest kicks off Fourth of July celebrations

GLOBE STAFF

Harborfest, a multiday event, is as much a part of the city's Fourth of July celebration as cannon fire and the grand finale of the Boston Pops concert and fireworks.

The fun-filled salute to Boston's maritime history, Colonial roots, and revolutionary landmarks started on July 1 and runs through today. The event this year coincides with Navy Week, which has brought a fleet of sailors to town.

The festival kicked off Monday with the arrival of the USS Oscar Austin, a destroyer docked at Black Falcon Pier that will be open for tours through July 7. A welcoming ceremony in the Seaport included a cake decorated in plenty of red, white, and blue.

Chowderfest, a scrumptious summer favorite, returned Tuesday to Downtown Crossing. Several of the city's restaurants competed, and the crown went to The Dubliner Pub, organizers said.

There was a Navy Band concert, and fireworks over the harbor capped the second of the four-day festival. On Wednesday, a fashion show by Macy's showcased the latest trends on the Summer Street Stage.

Hours later, a US Navy Block



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

Aurora Canale of Boston sang and danced as Maddi Ryan performed on the main stage during a block party as part of US Navy Week in Downtown Crossing Wednesday evening.

Party took over the stage for a few hours of revelry.

Of course, the big day is Thursday, when historic reenactors and visitors gather downtown for a Fourth of July parade that steps off from City Hall at 9 a.m. to the Granary Burying Ground for a wreath-laying ceremony at the graves of patriots, including Samuel

Adams and James Otis. The parade continues to the Old State House for a reading of the Declaration of Independence from the balcony.

At 10 a.m., the USS Constitution, the nation's oldest commissioned warship, will leave its berth at the Charlestown Navy Yard for its annual July 4 cruise through

Boston Harbor. The ship will fire a 21-gun salute viewable from Castle Island at 11:30 a.m., according to the Navy

The Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular, scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, will bring its signature patriotic singalong, cannon fire, and fireworks over the Charles River.

With Joey Chestnut out, Oxford man sees possible win in contest

HOT DOGS
Continued from Page B1

School in Charlton, said his path to competitive eating began with challenges at local bars and restaurants around New England — “man vs. food” kinds of events, he said. His first competition was a taco-eating contest in Connecticut, where he tied for first place.

“I knew I had a knack for it,” Esper said.

The competitions, and the portions, grew from there as Esper worked his way up to qualifying in 2015 for the Nathan's Hot Dog contest, bringing him to the global stage. He has been a mainstay ever since, easily spotted with his trademark worn-out Red Sox hat.

Thursday will mark his ninth appearance in the event. He has placed in the top five seven times and came in second the past three years, losing out to Chestnut each time.

This year, it could be Esper's turn to hoist the Mustard Yellow Belt at last.

“In recent years, Joey has stood in the way of Geoff and a championship, kind of like how [Tom] Brady might have stood in the way of [Chargers quarterback] Phil Rivers and a title,” said Richard Shea, who co-founded Major League Eating with his brother, George. (The Shea brothers were born in Boston and lived in Brookline as young kids before moving to Maine, where they spent most of their childhoods.)

Chestnut is widely recognized as “the greatest eater in history.” He's won the Nathan's contest a

record 16 times, claiming the title every year but one since 2007, and holds dozens of world records. In 2021, he set the current record of downing 76 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes.

But Chestnut had a high-profile falling-out with organizers over a sponsorship deal he struck with Impossible Foods, a company that makes plant-based hot dogs, according to the Associated Press.

‘In recent years, Joey has stood in the way of Geoff and a championship.’

RICHARD SHEA, *Major League Eating cofounder*

“Our sponsor, Nathan's Famous, has long had just one stipulation — that the competitors can't promote another hot dog brand,” Shea said. “When my sponsor found out that there was a branded hot dog that he was endorsing — this is nothing new, this has been in place ever since Joey started and before, and this just became a sponsor conflict.”

Chestnut will still spend the Fourth downing dogs, but he'll be competing with soldiers at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, in a five-minute eating contest.

“We love Joey, the fans love Joey, I wish he were [here] but I salute what he's doing with the troops,” Shea said.

With Chestnut out of the race, the spotlight has turned to Esper and other top-ranked eaters. Esper said Chestnut “usually gets about 80 percent” of the media attention, but this year Esper said he has fielded more calls from news outlets and other media than ever before.

Does the extra attention bring some extra pressure? “Definitely, because no one really expected you to win before,” he said.

Esper said he was taking it easy Wednesday and watching what he ate.

“I'm trying not to eat anything with high fiber or anything like that to keep my stomach empty, so for tomorrow I'll be nice and empty and be able to maximize my capacity as best I can,” he said.

While Chestnut may be the GOAT of competitive eating, Esper boasts a number of eating feats of his own, from downing 281 buffalo wings in 12 minutes in 2019, to 76 3.2-ounce brats in 10 minutes in 2022, and 17.75 bagels with cream cheese in eight minutes in 2023.

He said he competes in a little more than a dozen eating contests each year, sending him around the country for events with different cuisines, from pizza and tamales to strawberry shortcake and banana pudding.

As for his favorite food? A cheese pizza, no “fancy toppings,” he said.

“Maybe with extra cheese,” he said.

Nick Stoico can be reached at nick.stoico@globe.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bilal Khan a/k/a Bilal Waid, Zari Bilal to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, dated November 1, 2022 and recorded in the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 80919, Page 43, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee, as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, recorded on March 22, 2024, in Book No. 82590, at Page 131

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 AM on July 18, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 30 Hartford Street, Bedford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT:
Land situated in the Town of Bedford in the County of Middlesex in the State of MA
A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND TOGETHER WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON, SITUATED IN BEDFORD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
WESTERLY BY HARTFORD STREET, EIGHTY (80) FEET; NORTHERLY BY LAND SUPPOSED TO BE NOW OR FORMERLY OF MCMAHON, ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET; EASTERLY BY THE LOCATION OF THE BOSTON AND MAIN RAILROAD, TWELVE (12) FEET;
SOUTHERLY BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF SAID RAILROAD, SEVENTEEN AND 5/100 (17.52) FEET; EASTERLY BY LAND OF SAID RAILROAD, SIXTY-FOUR (64) FEET; AND
SOUTHERLY BY LOT 2, AS SHOWN ON PLAN HEREINAFTER MENTIONED, SEVENTY-TWO AND 64/100 (72.64) FEET.
THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PREMISES AS SHOWN AS THE LOT 3 ON A PLAN OF LAND ENTITLED, 'LAND OF PAUL MALAGUITI AT BEDFORD, MASS.', BY F.P. CUTLER, C.E. DATED JUNE 1925, RECORDED AT MIDDLESEX SOUTH DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BOOK 4859, PAGE END, TOGETHER WITH A STRIP OF LAND TWELVE (12) FEET WIDE, WHICH ADJOINS SAID LOT 3 ON THE NORTH; SAID LOT 3 AND TWELVE (12) FEET STRIP TOGETHER CONTAINING, ACCORDING TO SAID PLAN, 6,171 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, BE ALL OF SAID MEASUREMENT AND CONTENTS MORE OR LESS.

Subject to a UCC Financing Statement recorded on November 8, 2021 in the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds at Book 79094, Page 238.

For mortgagors' title see deed recorded with Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42159, Page 396.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, mortgages, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax liens, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02459, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617) 558-0500
25630



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF FILE

What's open and closed on July 4th

- Retail stores: Open
- Liquor stores: Open
- Supermarkets: Open
- Convenience stores: Open
- Taverns, bars: Open
- Banks: Closed
- Stock market: Closed
- Municipal, state, federal offices: Closed
- Libraries: Closed
- Schools: Closed
- Mail: Post offices closed; self service kiosks open.
- Parking: Parking meters in Boston are free.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Project File No. 606496

A Virtual Public Informational Meeting will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Bridge Superstructure Replacement and Widening Project, B-16-052, Bowker Overpass over Mass Pike, MBTA/CSX, and Ipswich Street in Boston.

WHEN: Thursday July 11th, 2024 @ 6:00pm
WHERE: www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events

PURPOSE: A Live Virtual Public Information Meeting will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed bridge superstructure replacement and widening. This meeting will provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of replacing and widening the bridge superstructure of the existing Bowker Overpass bridge that spans over I-90, MBTA's Worcester Commuter Rail Line, and Ipswich Street and reconfiguring the ramps to and from Commonwealth Avenue. The project includes bridge widening to the west and the elimination of the existing down ramp structure that spans the Muddy River to Commonwealth Avenue. The proposed project will provide bridge and roadway safety improvements, increase vertical clearance, improve seismic resiliency, and enhance the public realm with improved connections for all users to the adjacent Charlesgate and Back Bay Fens parklands. MassDOT will use staged construction to maintain traffic and to accommodate utilities during construction.

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TDD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

This meeting will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY SOLICITATION FOR GENERAL ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SYSTEM-WIDE ACCESSIBILITY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
MBTA CONTRACT NO. SWAP03

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority is soliciting General Engineering Contract for Technical Support Services for System-Wide Accessibility. The Scope of Service(s) may include, but are not limited to: ad hoc station/facility site assessments aimed at identifying barriers to accessibility, design services for small projects addressing minor moderate barriers to accessibility project scoping, plan reviews, and site visits by subject matter experts in universal and inclusive design; review of miscellaneous electronic documents, websites, and applications to ensure compliance with WCAG2.1, graphics development and document formatting; QA/QC and development of tactile braille products, coordination of user testing/feedback. The scope of services will be authorized on a task order basis by phase. The duration of this contract will be five (5) years, with options to extend based on the needs of the MBTA.

This project is expected to utilize non-federal funding. Although there is no DBE participation goal for this project, the Authority strongly encourages the use of Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as prime consultants, sub-consultants and suppliers in all of its contracting opportunities.

The complete Request for Qualifications can be found on the MBTA website. Please see the following link:
http://bc.mbta.com/business_center/bidding_solicitations/current_solicitations/

This is not a Request for Proposal. The MBTA reserves the right to cancel this procurement or to reject any or all Statements of Qualifications.

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‘It’s been superb so far, and I think it’s only going to get better.’

MICHAEL DOSMANN, of the Arnold Arboretum



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

For hydrangeas in full bloom, it’s been nirvana

►HYDRANGEAS

Continued from Page B1

in spectacular fashion all across New England this year, inspiring awe and curiosity over their abundance.

For almost five decades, Mal Condon, who is known as the “Hydrangea Guy” or “Hydrangea Whisperer,” has spent hours toiling in the soil with the woody ornamental landscape shrub.

The curator of hydrangeas at the Heritage Museums and Gardens in Sandwich, Condon said that “it’s a very good year” for the flower so far.

Why might that be?

“It’s pretty simple,” said Condon, 86, who lives in Yarmouth.

There are six major species of hydrangeas, but “all of the focus is on just one of them: hydrangea macrophylla,” which he said is both the least cold-hardy and most temperamental. Of the 25 million produced annually, approximately 85 percent of hydrangeas are macrophyllas, which are adored for their flowers, he said.

Whether the flower thrives is largely dependent upon the weather that winter, Condon said. Last year, for instance, hydrangeas suffered.

A polar vortex that February dropped the temperature on the Cape from 40 degrees in the afternoon to -5 degrees the next morning. Because macrophyllas cannot withstand such a sudden change, “all the stems were literally shattered,” he said.

Native to the coastal regions of Japan, macrophyllas set their flower buds in the autumn, which must survive the winter to be “the next summer’s flowers,” he said.

If it is cold, windy, and dry, the blooms become desiccated and die.

But this year, the weather

was kind to hydrangeas.

“We have to have an easy winter, and we did this year,” Condon said.

In Boston, for instance, the lowest temperature was 14 degrees. As a result, nearly all the blooms that were established last summer, the second rainiest on record in Boston, made it through the winter and are now on full display.

Along with a lack of extreme cold in the winter, adequate moisture in the growing season is also crucial, said Michael Dosmann, keeper of the living collections at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston.

After last summer’s heavy rainfall, the plants were healthy heading into the fall, when the hydrangeas “set a lot of flower buds,” Dosmann said. “They had a nice, pampered winter. And then spring arose, and they came to grow, and all of a sudden, the flowers are starting to explode.”

At the arboretum, the oak-leaf hydrangeas are beginning to peak, the panicle hydrangeas are about two weeks from coming into bloom, and the bigleaf hydrangeas, which can vary from blue to pink depending on the acidity of the soil, are already open, Dosmann said.

“It’s a whole summer of different species,” he said. “It’s been superb so far, and I think it’s only going to get better.”

This season could match the striking blooms observed in 2021, which Condon ranked as the best year for the flower in a decade.

“This is going to be pretty equal to it, maybe even a little ahead,” he said, describing the bloom count, the number of flowers on each of the bushes, as “pretty exceptional.”

Typically, hydrangeas peak around the second week of July, Condon said. They are a long-lasting flower, and in the ab-



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Top, a beachgoer strolled past a colorful, flowered sidewalk in Chatham. Above, Arnold Arboretum curator Michael Dosmann checked on an oak leaf hydrangea. Right, even mailboxes are decorated with the colorful hydrangea plant in Chatham.

sence of fierce and direct sun, their blossoms “will last well into September.”

“The difference this year is that it’s a wonderful bloom count that’s developing,” he said. For the “much-loved hydrangea macrophylla, it’s really a very, very excellent year.”

Heritage Museums and Gardens has one of the largest collections of hydrangeas in the country between two of its gardens: the Cape Cod Hydrangea Display Garden, which has about 155 species and cultivars of hydrangeas, and the North American Hydrangea Test Garden, where new hybrid varieties are planted and studied.

The Heritage facility will take part in the 10th annual Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival beginning Friday.

The Cape’s annual festival



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

showcases the two major gardens with hydrangeas at Heritage and includes daily tours of private gardens maintained by homeowners. In the past, Condon has had almost 1,000 visitors to the festival walk through his garden, which has been described as “hydrangea heaven.”

Cohen spent this past weekend in Chatham, which he referred to as the “hydrangea capital.” He took pictures of incredible blooms and struck up conversations with residents who were as shocked as he was

“at how good and amazing” this year has been.

“There’s so much negativity in the world. Everything seems to be heavy,” Cohen said. “But it’s really hard to feel that way when you’re just looking at a sea of colored flowers with the ocean breeze hitting you.”

Globe correspondent Dave Epstein contributed to this report. Shannon Larson can be reached at shannon.larson@globe.com. Follow her at [shannonlarson98](https://www.instagram.com/shannonlarson98).

Inmates’ families file suits in deaths

Allege indifference in 2023 suicides

By Amanda Milkovits

GLOBE STAFF

CRANSTON, R.I. — The families of three men who died by suicide at the Adult Correctional



Institutions last year are suing the prison’s supervisors and staff, arguing that they were “deliberately indifferent” to their risk of suicide.

Cooperating attorneys for the ACLU of Rhode Island filed the lawsuits in US District Court on Wednesday on behalf of the families of 39-year-old Dana Leyland, 27-year-old Brian Rodenas, and Peter De Los Santos, 35, who all died within a five-month span last year.

Leyland was awaiting trial on drug offenses and suffering from withdrawal when he hanged himself with a bed sheet while in solitary confinement in April 2023.

Rodenas had a history of severe mental illness, which the lawsuit says prison officials knew. He also was in solitary confinement where he also hanged himself with a bed sheet in May 2023.

De Los Santos had a history of substance abuse and was suffering from withdrawal while awaiting trial at the intake center. He used his shoelaces to hang himself there in August 2023.

The three lawsuits also allege that prison officials were negligent in failing to properly intervene or provide the men with necessary medical care and violated the Eighth Amendment’s ban on “cruel and unusual punishment.”

“These three deaths were tragedies, and they highlight all too unfortunately the critical need to vastly limit the cruel and too-extensive use of solitary confinement at the ACI,” Steven Brown, executive director of the ACLU of Rhode Island, said in a statement announcing the lawsuits. “The loss of these lives is only compounded by the lack of transparency surrounding their passing.”

The lawsuits were filed by Mark Decof, Jeffrey Mega, and Shad Miller, from the law firm of Decof, Mega & Quinn, P.C.

A separate pending ACLU lawsuit has led to solitary confinement reform at the prison, according to the ACLU, including a general limit of 30 days that prisoners can be placed in solitary confinement and prison officials should consider the prisoner’s mental health before moving them to solitary.

There were at least four suicides at the ACI in 2023 and 27 between 2001 and 2019, according to the US Department of Justice.

The ACLU has called on the state Department of Corrections to fill the medical director’s position, which has been open for nearly two years.

Amanda Milkovits can be reached at amanda.milkovits@globe.com. Follow her at [AmandaMilkovits](https://www.instagram.com/AmandaMilkovits).

Democratic Maine representative says he’s OK with Trump win

By Shannon Larson

GLOBE STAFF

As other Democrats go public with their concerns about President Biden’s ability to win reelection following his disastrous debate performance last week and fresh reports about his apparent memory lapses, a House Democrat from Maine said he doesn’t share their fears.

While “lots of Democrats are panicking about” whether Biden should step aside as the party’s nominee, Representative Jared Golden said he has long accepted what he believes will be the outcome of the election: “Donald Trump is going to win. And I’m OK with that.”

Golden, a moderate who has represented Maine’s vast Second Congressional District since

2019, quickly came under criticism for his remarks, which he made in an op-ed for the Bangor Daily News on Tuesday amid growing anxiety among Democrats about the presidential election and the prospect of a second Trump administration.

Golden, who is up for reelection this year in the second-most rural district in the country — and the only slice of New England where Trump won an electoral vote in 2016 — said he does not believe a Trump victory poses “a unique threat to our democracy,” sparking outrage among some Democrats and his own constituents.

“I reject the premise. Unlike Biden and many others, I refuse to participate in a campaign to scare voters with the idea that

Trump will end our democratic system,” wrote Golden, a Marine veteran of two wars.

Golden said he does not plan on voting for Trump. He did not comment on whether he was voting for Biden or if the president should drop out of the race.

Looking ahead to Independence Day, Golden said in light of the wars and changes that the nation has withstood, “pearl-clutching about a Trump victory ignores the strength of our democracy.”

He referred to Jan. 6, 2021, when loyal supporters of Trump violently stormed the Capitol, as a “dark day.” But “Americans stood strong,” pointing to judges, police officers, lawmakers, and military service members who “joined in the defense of de-

mocracy,” he said.

“This election is about the economy, not democracy. And when it comes to our economy, our Congress matters far more than who occupies the White House,” Golden said. “Some of Congress’s best work in recent years has happened in spite of the president, not because of him.”

Democrats have increasingly expressed their worries about Biden’s reelection campaign, with growing calls for Biden to withdraw from the race. Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey and other Democratic governors met with Biden at the White House Wednesday as Biden sought to shore up support.

Golden, however, said he has



ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP/2022 FILE

Maine Representative Jared Golden wrote an op-ed.

already accepted that “Trump is going to be in the White House.”

“Maine’s representatives will need to work with him when it benefits Mainers, hold him ac-

countable when it does not, and work independently across the aisle no matter what,” he said.

“We don’t need party insiders in smoke-filled back rooms to save us. We can defend our democracy without them,” Golden said. “This Independence Day, we should reflect on the history and strength of our great democracy, safe in the knowledge that no one man is strong enough to take it away from us.”

For some, his remarks rang hollow. Austin Theriault, a Republican state lawmaker who was endorsed by Trump in May and is seeking to unseat Golden this fall, labeled it a “very phony attempt to avoid accountability.”

Shannon Larson can be reached at shannon.larson@globe.com.



MassPort said it will now work “as quickly as possible” to redevelop a small portion of land at the edge of the existing park that had been fenced off.

Plans for park in East Boston are scratched

►PIER
Continued from Page B1

\$55 million as of last fall. Originally, the nonprofit planned a 2-acre park built on a significant amount of artificial land (known as fill). The most recent design plan would have covered only half that at high tide.

The nonprofit would have to dedicate more than a third of the budget to fix the structural integrity of the pier to make construction of the park possible.

The Trustees’ former CEO, Barbara Erickson, who had championed the project, died from cancer in 2021. Since her death, the organization has had three different leaders — two interim CEOs and then Theoharides, who started as the permanent leader last summer. The nonprofit then laid off 30 employees, a 10 percent cut, in February to address a “multimillion-dollar structural deficit.”

Since the East Boston project was conceived in 2018, sea level rise projections have gotten worse. A state model of coastal

flood risk shows that much of the site would be underwater by 2050, and the rest of it highly susceptible to coastal flooding during storms.

With the updated data, the organization no longer believes the park’s current design would provide the neighborhood with meaningful protection from coastal flooding, Theoharides said. Protecting the neighborhood from flooding was a key part of the pitch to funders.

“We really have one chance to get this investment right,” Theoharides said. “What we’re trying to determine is: How do we spend tens of millions of dollars in East Boston to have the most impact [on coastal resilience]? ... That’s why we’re taking a hard look at this.”

The first two larger phases of Piers Park are already complete; those projects included building a berm and elevating the land to block areas where flood waters could penetrate low-lying neighborhood as sea levels rise. The redeveloped pier was

meant to be the final link for what would have been a little more than 14 acres of open space on East Boston’s waterfront.

“To have another setback in realizing the full potential of our waterfront is very disappointing,” said Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, who represents District 1, which includes East Boston. “I am hopeful that the Trustees will make good on their promise to continue working with the community. All the funds raised for this project should stay in the neighborhood.”

Coletta Zapata added that she trusts the organization’s analysis of the problem and Theoharides’s leadership. If the organization pursues another site, she said, they ought to select one that would block one of the many pathways that floodwaters could take during an extreme storm.

The City of Boston plans to discuss the future of the pier with MassPort, said Stacia

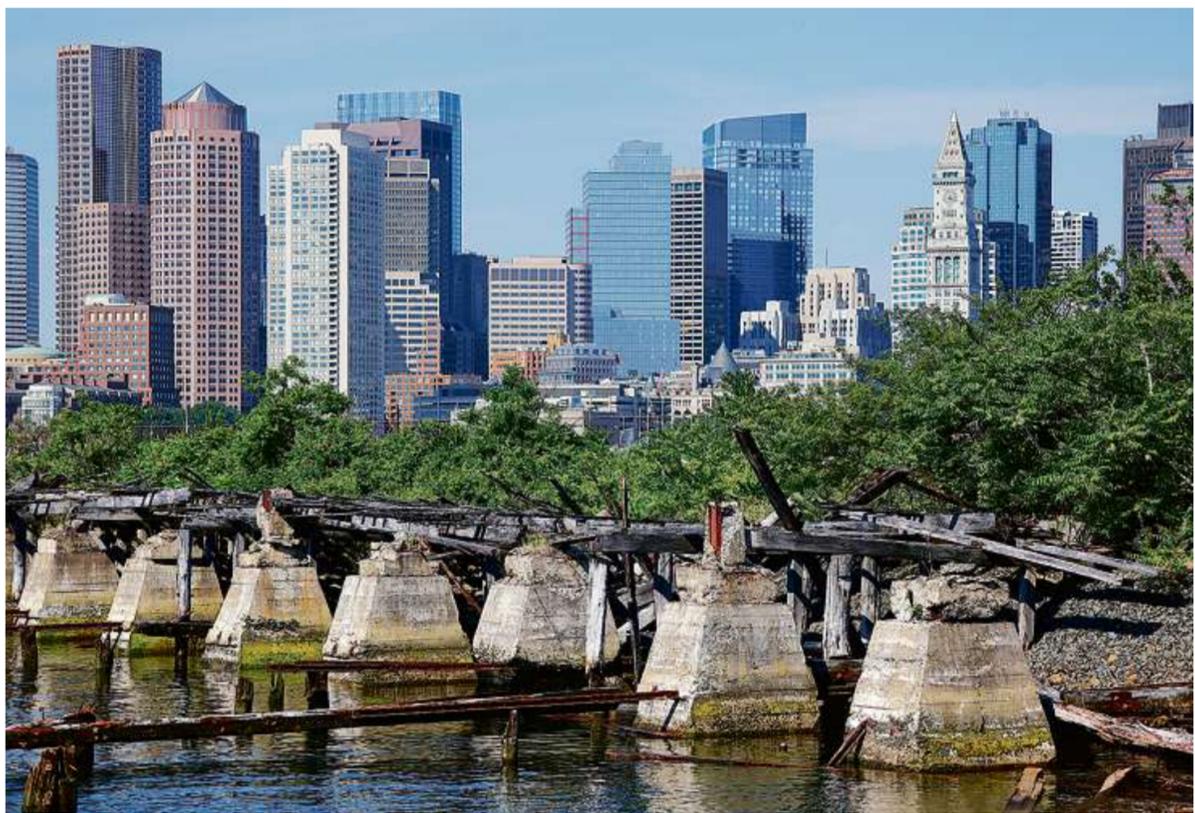
The plan would require partially removing and fixing the 4-acre pier owned by MassPort, then creating tidal pools, salt marshes, and coastal woodlands.

Sheputa, a spokesperson for Boston’s environmental office.

Jennifer Mehigan, a spokesperson for MassPort, which owns the site, said in a statement that given the pier’s condition and location, “converting it to a park is an extremely complicated project.”

Because the park would have connected to the larger and already redeveloped sections of Piers Park, Mehigan said that MassPort will now work “as quickly as possible” to redevelop a small portion of land at the edge of the existing park that had been fenced off.

Construction on the Phase III park was supposed to begin this year for a spring 2025 open-



PHOTOS BY LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF



ing, and tens of millions of dollars had been pledged by Boston-area corporations. The project also received \$2 million in federal funds in 2022 that were requested from Congress by Massachusetts Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey.

When the Trustees decide how to proceed, the group will return to the funders and ask if they still want to pledge the dollars in East Boston, according to

Mary Dettloff, spokesperson for the Trustees.

Theoharides said the nonprofit is not moving away from working in environmental justice communities. While urban coastal projects are challenging, she said, “It’s work that we are absolutely committed to, and it’s work that needs to happen.”

Erin Douglas can be reached at erin.douglas@globe.com.

Mosquitoes with EEE virus found in Mass. for the first time this year

By Nick Stoico
GLOBE STAFF

Eastern equine encephalitis virus has been found in mosquito samples from Carver, the first detection of the virus this year in Massachusetts, state health officials said Wednesday.

The samples were collected on June 30 in Carver, a town south of Boston, the state Department of Public Health said in a statement.

In response, health officials increased the EEE risk level to “moderate” for the communities of Carver, Kingston, Middleborough, Plymouth, Plympton, and Wareham. No human or animal cases of EEE have been detected so far this year, health officials said.

EEE is a “rare but serious and potentially fatal disease” that is generally spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito, officials said. The last time EEE infected humans in Massachusetts was in 2020, when five people contracted the illness and one died, officials said. In 2019, there were 12 human cases of EEE and six deaths.

On Tuesday, health officials alerted residents to the presence of West Nile virus taken from mosquito samples in Quincy.

“Combined with yesterday’s announcement of West Nile vi-

rus in mosquitoes in Massachusetts, we are asking everyone to take the necessary precautions to prevent mosquito bites,” said the state’s public health commissioner, Dr. Robbie Goldstein. “We recommend that people use mosquito repellent when they are spending time outdoors so they can celebrate the July 4th holiday and enjoy the rest of the summer without being bitten.”

State epidemiologist Dr. Catherine M. Brown said EEE activity in Massachusetts “tends to occur in outbreak cycles.”

“When EEE is found in mosquitoes like this at the start of the season, the risk may increase throughout the rest of the summer,” Brown said. “We rely on our mosquito surveillance program to monitor for the presence of virus to let people know when and where the risk is occurring.”

Symptoms of EEE include fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, behavioral changes, and drowsiness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC said there are no vaccines to prevent EEE or medicine to treat the virus.

The peak time for mosquito bites is between dusk and dawn. State health officials urged people to use bug spray and consid-

er wearing long sleeves, pants, and socks when outdoors, or to reschedule outdoor activities during those hours in high-risk areas.

Officials also encouraged residents to check around their homes for areas with standing water, where mosquitoes lay their eggs. Officials recommended that homeowners check their rain gutters and drains and empty out unused flower containers and wading pools.

Animal owners should consider flushing out water troughs at least once a week during the summer to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas, officials said.

“Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes,” they said.

Animal owners are required to report animals that may have West Nile virus or Eastern equine encephalitis to the state Department of Agricultural Resources and the Department of Public Health.

More information about mosquito-borne illnesses and a map tracking the risk of West Nile virus and EEE are available on the state’s website.

Nick Stoico can be reached at nick.stoico@globe.com.

Mosquitoes with Eastern equine encephalitis virus have been detected in Massachusetts. Also this week, officials said mosquitoes with West Nile virus were also found in the state.



RICK BOWMER/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE/2019

The Boston Globe

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The heat is off

In 'Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F,' Eddie Murphy returns as the beloved Detroit detective in this lackluster fourth installment of the action-comedy franchise

By **Odie Henderson**

GLOBE STAFF

The original “Beverly Hills Cop” turns 40 this year. To remind audiences how good that movie was, Netflix presents “Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F,” the fourth movie in a series that didn’t need a second installment let alone a third one. Martin Brest’s Oscar-nominated 1984 action comedy was a lively slice of early ’80s-era excess, a feeling this new film desperately tries to emulate.

The “Axel F” in the title is Axel Foley, one of Eddie Murphy’s most beloved roles. His theme song, Harold Faltermeyer’s “Axel F,” is one of the great movie instrumentals, a calling card that immediately evokes the character in your mind the way Henry Mancini’s theme conjures up the Pink Panther.

Foley is a street smart Detroit detective who, in the original film, visited Beverly Hills to investigate the murder of one of his friends. He ran afoul of the Beverly Hills Police Department, but eventually bonded with detectives Rosewood (Judge Reinhold) and Taggart (John Ashton).

The trio reunited in 1987’s dreadful “Beverly Hills Cop II,” which was an even bigger hit than the first film. Only Rosewood reteamed with Foley for 1994’s “Beverly Hills Cop III,” widely considered the worst of the series (it’s not — “Cop II” is the worst) and notable here only for the detail of Taggart’s retirement from the police force.

After a 30-year gap, “Axel F” not only reunites Ashton, Murphy, and



PHOTOS BY MELINDA SUE GORDON/NETFLIX

Reinhold, it brings back Paul Reiser’s Detective Friedman from the first two movies and Bronson Pinchot’s wacky art gallery salesman, Serge, from installments one and three. As the 2-hour runtime drags on, it becomes evident that director Mark Malloy and writers Will Beall, Tom Gormican, and Kevin Etten will do anything to goose the fans, no matter how nonsensical it may be.

The attempts at fan service are so relentless that we even get poorly remastered versions of songs from the soundtracks of the first two movies — Bob Seger’s Oscar-nominated “Shakedown,” Glenn Frey’s “The Heat Is On,” and The Pointer Sisters’ “Neutron Dance” blare through the

Top (from left) John Ashton, Eddie Murphy, and Judge Reinhold in “Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F.” Above: Murphy, as Axel, with Taylour Paige, who stars as Axel’s daughter.

speakers at certain points. They sound terrible.

“Axel F” follows the same pattern as its predecessors: Open with a chase through Detroit that causes maximum property damage, then find some danger-filled reason to get Foley to Beverly Hills. This time, it’s his lawyer daughter, Jane (Taylour Paige), who is defending a drug smuggling prisoner accused of kill-

ing cops. She thinks he might have been framed. Her theory appears to hold water; some masked men try to kill her.

Meanwhile, Rosewood has quit the Beverly Hills police force and become a private investigator. His former boss, the retired Police Chief Taggart, refused to believe his claim that fellow officer Captain Grant (Kevin Bacon) might be in cahoots with a drug cartel. Never mind that Grant is wearing a Rolex no honest cop can afford, is a member of the Narcotics force, and is played by Kevin Bacon.

Rosewood disappears after alerting Foley that his daughter is in danger. That’s enough to bring him to

MOVIE REVIEW

★★
BEVERLY HILLS COP: AXEL F
Directed by Mark Malloy. Written by Will Beall, Tom Gormican, and Kevin Etten. Starring Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold, John Ashton, Kevin Bacon, Taylour Paige, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Paul Reiser, Bronson Pinchot. 117 minutes. On Netflix. R (violence, “filth-flarn-filth” — I mean, profanity)

Beverly Hills to investigate. But Jane wants nothing to do with the father who deserted her. Making matters worse, the cop who will eventually become Foley’s partner in the investigation, Detective Bobby Abbott (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), used to date Jane.

You know what happens next. “Axel F” doesn’t make a single plot move that you can’t see coming miles away. To be honest, such familiarity wouldn’t be a big deal if the film weren’t so poorly edited and shot. Action scenes that are meant to quicken the pulse have no sense of geography and look like random stock footage edited together. Characters often don’t appear to be in the same scene together.

Out of all the reunited actors, Murphy is the only one who hasn’t seemed to age. There’s still a roguish charm to his face that he uses to great effect here. He can easily get a laugh just by looking at us and smiling, or tossing off a profane line with his impeccable delivery. The chemistry between him, Reinhold, and Ashton remains, which will please fans.

Paige, so good in “Zola,” is unconvincing as Foley’s daughter. I get the feeling that her character is being set up to succeed Murphy (there’s a “Beverly Hills Cop 5” reportedly in the works), but Jane has so little charisma that we’d miss her Dad immensely. Gordon-Levitt is a memorable new addition, though it feels like he’s in another movie altogether.

Bacon, as always, gives good villain, offering a variation on the first film’s big baddie, Victor Maitland.

I can imagine my Black brethren firing up this film on Netflix during their July Fourth cookouts (and being mad at me for panning it). But “Axel F” is a joyless affair, a mediocre simulacrum that made me long for the original. As soon as it was over, Netflix popped up a screen for “Beverly Hills Cop,” as if the streaming service were taunting me for not watching that movie instead.

Odie Henderson is the Boston Globe’s film critic.

With her new novel ‘Jackie,’ Westport’s Dawn Tripp aims to peel back the Kennedy myth

By **Lauren Daley**

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

You might assume Westport resident Dawn Tripp’s “Jackie,” (released June 18) is for Kennedy devotees or baby-boomers raised on the Camelot mystique — and those readers will likely devour this novel. But it’s also for readers like me, more interested in Bernie’s mittens than Jackie’s Chanel.

True, you can’t peel away the money — her sister marries Polish royalty; her second husband owns an island — but you can peel back myth. Point the flashlight beam into crevices. Illuminate crannies. Dig underneath the layers of polish. Show us the human underneath the pearls. And that was Tripp’s goal, as she looks at the details of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis’s life and imagines her inner thoughts.

“I was riveted by not her glitz or her erudition or her glamor — or even the unthinkable violence she suffered, endured, and survived. I was drawn to explore her through the lens of things she loved,” said the Harvard alum. “Her passion for books, her free-spirit, her hunger for solitude, her love of horses, the sea, children, art, architecture, languages.”

Essentially, Tripp set out to do for Onassis in “Jackie” what she did for Georgia O’Keeffe in her 2016 bestselling novel “Georgia” — to create a portrait of a famous woman’s mind.

“Jackie” underscores Jackie the poetry lover. The one-time “Inquiring Camera Girl” for the Washington Times-Herald. The book editor. The devoted mother. The nail-biter. The art appreciator. The teenager whose yearbook ambition was: “Not to be a housewife.”

While “Georgia,” Tripp said, was

“about excavating a story that’s not so well-known, with ‘Jackie,’ it was peeling back layers and layers of media and myth.”

“Jackie” opens with JFK’s assassination, then rewinds to the spring of ’51 to meet “Miss Jacqueline Bouvier, Newport Society Girl,” as her engagement announcement in the New York Times would read: a word-loving debutante, with her sights set on journalism. We follow her chronologically, through nearly 500 pages to her later years on Martha’s Vineyard. The novel is interspersed with shorter chapters from JFK’s perspective. New Englanders Carly Simon and Ken Burns make cameos.

Tripp’s research involved the JFK Library’s online archives and trips to Hyannis Port and Newport. She spoke to the Globe ahead of a string of New England events — including Chatham on July 8, Belmont on July 11, and Newton on July 18 — to talk all things Jackie.

Q. So why Jackie?

A. I came to her story through “The Best-Loved Poems of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis” about 15 years ago. I was reading it aloud to my sons. In the introduction, Caroline Kennedy talks about her mother’s profound passion for literature, books, poetry, words. She described inheriting that passion — and a faith in the power of literature to create change. That was arresting. It was such a different lens into a woman we think we know.

Q. When did you begin writing?

A. I got the idea while finishing “Georgia.” Before I [wrote], I read five or six biographies. I began to explore Jackie’s

story, mostly through her passion for books.

Around 2017, I finished a draft, written in the third-person. I turned away from it because it wasn’t working.

Q. You write in your introduction: “I came to Jackie’s story through a photograph.” You found the photo at this point?

A. Yes, I started hunting up candid imagery. I found a photograph, now the cover. To me, it was striking: Jack and Jackie in the summer of 1957 at the airport, her back to the camera, her skirt filled with wind, the triple strand of pearls around her neck, he’s leaning in perhaps to say something, or kiss her goodbye.

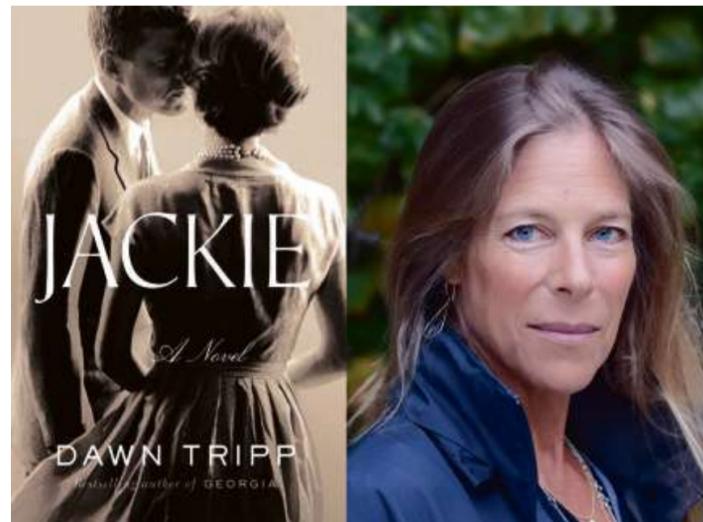
I printed out copies. I studied it. I wanted to know: Who were they in that moment? Who was she? Who was he? Who were they together before they were myth? I wrote passages into it, asking those questions. And it was alive.

Q. You said a quote from Doris Kearns Goodwin was a “key.”

A. I read a [NYT] review of “America’s Queen,” [a Kennedy Onassis biography by Sarah Bradford]. The reviewer quoted Goodwin: “Culturally something happened between her and the decade that she lived in.” I was curious to unpack a story that would be an extended exploration of that sentence.

Q. Why did you decided to begin the book with the assassination?

A. I feel like that’s a core dimension of our shared experience. It had a profound impact on her life, her choices, her determination to construct a safe and — to the extent she could — sane



and reasonable world and life for her children.

Q. From reading this, it sounds like Onassis wasn’t great to her.

A. He was tricky. I think he offered refuge when she needed one. But he was a complicated person. He was hard to write.

Q. Why did you decide to lace Jack’s perspective throughout?

A. It was an opportunity to explore her through a different lens. Also, the more research I did, the more it became clear to me that they were in love. That was not something I expected to find, to the extent that I found it. There’s an integrity to their love, a playfulness, an intellectual bond. They were such passionate readers; they really came together through books.

Q. With someone this ubiquitous, how do you even begin researching?

A. It’s distilling. For example, there are many biographies that mention his affairs. Why do we focus on that in a woman’s life? Why aren’t we focused on what she’s interested in?

Q. You have Jackie thinking: “And why

In “Jackie,” author Dawn Tripp said she wanted to give readers “some sense of who (Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis) might’ve been beyond the woman we think we see.”

does it seem like such a radical thing? The idea of a woman in love with her own life?”

A. Right! And also first ladies — their role is adjacent to power. One thing that interested me: how does a woman harness that power and use it to shape the direction and the course of her own life?

Q. What do you want readers to get out of this book?

A. Some sense of who she might’ve been beyond the woman we think we see. The magnitude and reach of her mind. I wanted to create a portrait of her intellectual life, a holistic understanding of a woman who’s been written into American myth and who took a role in forging that myth, even as she was living it.

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TV HIGHLIGHTS

Tennis: Wimbledon, 6 a.m., ESPN
Baseball: Red Sox-Marlins, 1:10 p.m., NESN
WNBA: Connecticut-Minnesota, 8 p.m., NBCSB
Listings, C8

Sports

THE BOSTON GLOBE THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024 | BOSTONGLOBE.COM/SPORTS



MARTA LAVANDIER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Red Sox' Brayan Bello allowed one run and seven hits in 6⅔ innings to improve to 8-5.

Bello, Sox have no trouble with Marlins

By Peter Abraham
 GLOBE STAFF

Red Sox 7 **Marlins 2** MIAMI — Whether Brayan Bello got his season back on the rails or not depends on to what degree you see beating the dreadful Miami Marlins as an accomplishment.

But the righthander in fact pitched well into the seventh inning on Wednesday night, doing what was required to give the Red Sox a 7-2 victory.

Bello allowed a run on three hits in the first inning but kept going after the hitters, pitching with confidence not seen in several weeks.

Rafael Devers had a little something to do with that, giving Bello a dugout pep talk after the inning.

"That first inning he was a little bit timid," Devers said through a translator. "I felt like he was

just throwing the ball instead of pitching the way that he can. I said, 'Come on, let's go. You've got this.'"

Bello listened, giving up two hits over the next five innings. He had retired 11 in a row before allowing two-out singles by Emmanuel Rivera and Nick Fortes in the seventh.

Sox manager Alex Cora had Brennan Bernardino ready for the lefthanded-hitting Jazz Chisholm. Bernardino retired Chisholm on a ground ball to first base to end the inning and the Sox were on their way to a third consecutive victory.

At 46-39, the Sox matched their season best at seven games over .500 and are a half-game behind the Royals for the third wild card. They can sweep the series on Thursday afternoon with Nick Pivetta facing Kyle Tucker.

"It's getting there," Devers said.

RED SOX, Page C2



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Boston University goalie Mathieu Caron isn't the only 24-year-old at Bruins development camp, but he's the oldest player with the least experience.

Caron's game included some delays

Goalie glad to finally be at Bruins' camp

By Sarah Barber
 GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

The first NHL development camp of a player's career is memorable. Jonathan Morello, the youngest Bruins prospect and 2024 draftee, is getting the op-

portunity at 17, but that's the fast track. Boston University goalie Mathieu Caron is also at his first development camp this week with the Bruins. Caron is seven years older than Morello, but he's just as eager to show his skills at Warrior Ice Arena.

In November 2018, Caron tore his left ACL in a British Columbia Hockey League game for the Chilliwack Chiefs,

and he remained undrafted through 2020.

"That threw a wrench in the plans. And then COVID basically right after, so stuff happens, everyone's career is different," Caron said after Wednesday's on-ice session. "I took my time, I guess. I felt like everything I've gone through, it just made me more mature, learned from it. And obviously, I'm here. So

that's all that really matters at this point."

Caron isn't the only 24-year-old on the ice this week, but he's the oldest player with the least experience.

The 6-foot goalie played the first portion of his collegiate career at Brown, starting in 2021. In two seasons for the Bears, he compiled a 2.49 goals-

BRUINS, Page C5

BEN VOLIN
 ON FOOTBALL

On offseason, Patriots' grade is incomplete

The Patriots have spent a decent chunk of money this offseason, agreeing to more than \$400 million in contracts for a dozen players, with more than \$170 million fully guaranteed.

They signed a bridge quarterback in Jacoby Brissett; gave big extensions to Christian Barmore, Kyle Dugger, and Mike Onwenu; re-signed Hunter Henry, Kendrick Bourne, David Andrews, and Rhamondre Stevenson; and added a few value free agents, such as K.J. Osborn and Antonio Gibson.

Yet with training camp set to open on July 24, Eliot Wolf's job feels ... incomplete.

Wolf, the Patriots' new football boss, had three main areas to address this offseason: starting quarterback, No. 1 wide receiver, and starting left tackle.

Realistically, Wolf went 1 for 3. And that's assuming the plan at quarterback works out.

At least Wolf addressed the most important position by signing Brissett and drafting Drake Maye with the No. 3 pick. Whether Maye pans out, at least the Patriots have a coherent plan at quarterback.

Yet the majority of Patriots moves this offseason amount to little more than a rearranging of

ON FOOTBALL, Page C6



BUTCH DILL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patriots rookie quarterback Joe Milton III's arm strength dazzled at the NFL Combine.

"[Throwing] 70 yards is real easy to me. I can do it anytime, anywhere."

JOE MILTON, in 2017, after signing with Michigan

INSIDE

Father-son team

LeBron James and son Bronny have deals with the Lakers. C6

Star power

Gauff and Alcaraz advance to third round at Wimbledon. C8

For Milton, arm strength no issue

Will it be enough for Patriots rookie?

By Christopher Price
 GLOBE STAFF

Donovan Dooley remembers the first time he met Joe Milton III.

"When he got out of the car and was walking toward me on the field, he kept getting bigger and bigger," Dooley, an independent quarterback coach, recalled of Milton, who was 20 years old but already a curved 6 feet 5 inches and 230 pounds when they connected in 2020.

"I said to myself, 'This dude looks like an action figure.' To be fair, the 24-year-old quarterback, who was taken in

the sixth round by the Patriots in April's draft out of Tennessee, has sparked hyperbole his entire life. Everyone has a story about Joe Milton III.

One opposing high school coach swears he saw Milton throw a football from one end zone to another in practice.

Receivers at the University of Tennessee talk about turning the JUGS gun all the way up and PUTTING on two sets of gloves before throwing with him. "Like just a threshold below breaking your fingers," said receiver Bru McCoy.

MILTON, Page C6

Baseball

Duran the biggest of many surprises

CHAD FINN



Playing nine innings while hearing Mo Vaughn's voice as Alex Cora works daily wonders with these Red Sox. "The price keeps going up ..."

1. Considering the consensus of low expectations entering the season and the brutal assortment of injuries endured early, this Red Sox season feels better, more hopeful, than their 46-39 record might suggest. One major reason for the generally good vibes even as they sit on the outside of the American League wild-card race: an uncommon number of extremely pleasant surprises.

We didn't know if Tanner Houck would begin the season in the rotation or bullpen until March 22, when Cora announced Houck had secured one of the final two starting spots. Now he has a case to start the All-Star Game.

I thought David Hamilton was a Quadruple A guy with a granite glove whose value was almost entirely as a pinch runner. Instead, he's helped the Sox develop an identity as an athletic, daring team on the bases — he reminds me of the kind of player Dan Duquette would find that would give the Red Sox a fine year or two out of nowhere. A Lee Tinsley of modern times, or something

like that. Then there's Connor Wong with his .845 OPS, and Brennan Bernardino with his 1.19 ERA, and Greg Weissert and Justin Slaten with their combined 81 strikeouts in 76 innings. Just impressive contributions up and down the roster from players who began the season as question marks, who's-hes?, and presumed roster filler.

2. The biggest surprise to me though, is Jarren Duran. Not necessarily because he's improved or exciting — the ridiculous physical tools have been obvious even as he struggled to a .729 OPS in 697 plate appearances while playing erratic outfield defense from 2021-23.

It's about how much he has improved, and how much excitement he has provided at an age when players are pretty much what they are going to be.

Duran turns 28 on Sept. 5. He's 49 days older than Rafael Devers. He's older than, among others, Ronald Acuna Jr., Vladimir Guerrero Jr., and Juan So-

Duran might be a young player when it comes to certain experiences, such as playing center field, but he is not by standard MLB measures.

That's no knock on him. It's an acknowledgment of his uncommon developmental path, which, beyond his extraordinary athleticism, includes his admirable dedication to maintaining

his confidence and focusing on his mental health.

3. For multiple reasons, it would be fulfilling to see Duran make the All-Star team.

And does he ever deserve it. He is vastly improved in center — reps have made such a difference — and offensively, he has set the tone for this merry band of overachievers.

As for his numbers, well, you don't see seasons quite like this — this particular combination of stats — often in Red Sox lore.

Though 85 games, Duran has 10 homers, a major league-leading 10 triples, an AL-best 23 doubles, and 21 stolen bases, with an .848 OPS.

Over a full season, that adds up to 19 homers, 19 triples, 44 doubles, and 40 steals. I wanted to say that's Rickey Henderson-caliber stuff, but Rickey never had double-digit figures in triples in a season.

4. It was nice, if bittersweet, to see Xander Bogaerts return to Fenway Park over the weekend.

Watching him linger alone in the Padres dugout after the final out Sunday, then salute Devers and Cora before disappearing, it was clear it was nice, if mostly bittersweet, for him, too.

Bogaerts wasn't a superstar for the Red Sox, but he was in that admirable next tier down — a very, very good player who carried himself with grace, appreciated the jersey he wore and who

he wore it for, and was at the center of some meaningful victories that became enduring memories.

He plays for another team in a different league on the opposite coast now. But it's apparent that even as he left Boston, Boston has never left him.

5. The Red Sox' lukewarm evaluation of Bogaerts's future production when he hit free agency after the 2022 season may prove correct. Maybe it already has.

In 202 games for the Padres, he's slashed .269/.331/.410 with just 23 home runs in 865 plate appearances. He turns 32 on Oct. 1, and he's already moved away from shortstop, over to second base, where he got hurt in his 44th game at the position. Not exactly trending the right way.

The 11-year, \$280 million deal he signed with the Padres is already regrettable on their end, and it's only going to become more so, to the point that it could become the worst in baseball. There really is no disputing that.

6. But please, do not suggest that the Red Sox deserve praise for not signing Bogaerts to such a deal. Two hundred and eighty million for Bogaerts is insane! Good thing the Red Sox didn't give him that!

Yeah, no kidding, but remember that the foolish contract by the Padres has nothing to do with the Red Sox. That happened long after they made their decision.

By most accounts, Bogaerts was looking for a deal that paid roughly half of that — \$141 million; Jose Altuve terms — to stay in Boston. He wanted to be here, and never ceased making that clear.

The Red Sox pretended they wanted to keep him, lowballed him all along, then threw \$90 million at one-tool player Masataka Yoshida a week after Bogaerts left. They will get no credit and like it.

7. The Red Sox were right to move on from Chaim Bloom last September, but it must be noted that some of his, uh, curious deals have looked better this season.

Getting Josh Winckowski in the Andrew Benintendi deal was savvy, as was acquiring Hamilton in the Hunter Renfro trade.

And I don't know about you, but I never minded dealing Christian Vazquez for Willyer Abreu and Emmanuel Valdez in the first place.

8. What becomes of Connor Wong (hitting .326) when Kyle Teel is ready? Is "occasional catcher/frequent second baseman" entirely out of the question?

9. Benintendi is hitting .192 with a .538 OPS for the White Sox. Never could have imagined such a decline in the fall of 2018.

Chad Finn can be reached at chad.finn@globe.com. Follow him @GlobeChadFinn.

RED SOX NOTEBOOK

Yoshida is heating up, and surge encouraging

By Peter Abraham GLOBE STAFF

MIAMI — It has been a year and a half since the Red Sox surprised all of baseball by signing Masataka Yoshida to a five-year, \$90 million contract.

Among Sox players, only Rafael Devers and Jarren Duran have had more plate appearances than Yoshida the last two seasons. But he remains an enigma.

But a more productive enigma of late. Yoshida was 2 for 4 with a walk in Wednesday night's 7-2 victory against the Miami Marlins.

Yoshida is 11 of his last 25, boosting his OPS from .617 to .691.

That is still well below the league average of .739 for designated hitters. Plus Yoshida has only seven home runs in 375 at-bats dating back to the All-Star break last season.

But at least there's some progress.

"We like the hitter; we like the at-bat," Sox manager Alex Cora said. "I think people get caught up in the [slugging percentage] and not hitting the ball in the air.

"But this guy is a quote unquote professional hitter, right? We know that he can hit. I think he's getting his rhythm back and that's very important."

But that faith has limits. Yoshida batted seventh for only the second time in his career on Wednesday. The Sox pushed him down against Miami lefty Trevor Rogers.

Yoshida was on the injured list from April 29 to June 11 with a strained left thumb. He feels his swing is finally back in shape.

"Overall, I've been able to see the ball well and identify [location] and swing at pitches I can hit," he said via a translator. "Obviously take one game at a time. I want to be part of a team that keeps winning.

"It's all about keeping it simple. If it's an outside pitch, go

the opposite way, just stay with it. That's the approach."

Campbell shines

Portland infielder Kristian Campbell was named the Eastern League player of the month for June.

The 22-year-old second baseman and center fielder was promoted to Double A on June 4 and hit .420 with a 1.182 OPS over 22 games last month with 21 runs and 15 RBIs. He had hit streaks of nine and 13 games.

A fourth-round pick out of Georgia Tech in 2023, Campbell was recently ranked 89th among Baseball America's top 100 prospects. He was the May player of the month in the South Atlantic League while playing for Greenville.

Pivetta up next

Nick Pivetta starts the series finale at 1:10 p.m. on Thursday. The righthander has allowed eight earned runs on 13 hits over 8 1/3 innings in his last two starts.

The focus in his work this week has been improving the command of his sweeper.

"Getting this [pitch] back, it's very important," Cora said. "I put him on another level last year. So hopefully with the work between starts he can find it and if he does, he's going to be good."

Pivetta has a 5.23 earned run average in 13 career appearances against the Marlins, 3.57 in four games at loanDepot Park.

Getting their work in

Liam Hendriks threw in the bullpen before the game and emerged feeling fine. He will take the mound again on Friday in New York for a shorter session to fine-tune his mechanics. Hendriks has yet to throw breaking balls off the mound . . .

Triston Casas is still taking non-contact swings as he progresses with his rehab work. He has been out since April 21 with

strained cartilage in his ribs . . . Righthander Bryan Mata will remain with Triple A Worcester on his rehab assignment and pitch again this weekend. He put four runners on base and threw 51 pitches over 2 1/3 innings on Tuesday at Syracuse. "The line is the line. We feel OK with the way he competed," Cora said . . . Adan Severino, the organization's minor league mental performance coordinator, joined the team for the Marlins series . . . Miami righthander Declan Cronin, who allowed two runs over two innings on Tuesday, is a product of Holy Cross. He was a 36th round draft pick in 2019 by the White Sox who came to the Marlins via a waiver claim in February.

Red Sox 7, Marlins 2

Table with columns: AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. for Boston and Miami players.

Table with columns: IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO, NP, ERA for Boston and Miami pitchers.

Boston.....002 000 104 - 7 12 1 Miami.....100 000 001 - 2 9 0

E-Refsnyder (3), LOB-Boston 12, Miami 7. 2B-Rafaela (14), Edwards (2), 3B-Devers (4), Rafaela (3), SB-Wong (4), Gonzalez (5), SF-Rivera. Runners left in scoring position-Boston 9 (Duran, Refsnyder, O'Neill, Yoshida, Smith 4, Rafaela), Miami 4 (Chisholm Jr., Edwards 2, Rivera). RISP-Boston 5 for 20, Miami 1 for 3. Runners moved up-Refsnyder, Yoshida, Bell. GIDP-Bell. DP-Boston 1.

HOW THE RUNS SCORED

FIRST INNING - MARLINS - Chisholm singled to right. De La Cruz singled to right, Chisholm to second. Bell filed out to center, Chisholm to third. Sanchez singled to right, Chisholm scored, De La Cruz to second. Burger struck out. On balk, De La Cruz to third. Sanchez to second. Edwards filed out to center.

THIRD INNING - RED SOX - Duran grounded out to second. Refsnyder walked. O'Neill singled to left, Refsnyder to second. Devers singled to center, Refsnyder scored. O'Neill to third. Wong popped struck to right, Gonzalez walked. Devers to second. Yoshida hit an infield single to second, O'Neill scored, Devers to third, Gonzalez to second. Smith struck out.

SEVENTH INNING - RED SOX - O'Neill walked. Devers walked. O'Neill to second. Wong hit an infield single to short, O'Neill to third, Devers to second. Gonzalez grounded into fielder's choice, first to catcher, O'Neill out, Devers to third, Wong to second. Nardi pitched. Yoshida grounded out to third. Devers scored, Wong to third, Gonzalez to second. Smith struck out.

NINTH INNING - RED SOX - O'Neill singled to left. Devers tripled to right, O'Neill scored. Wong grounded out to second. Hamilton, pinch-hitting Gonzalez, struck out. Yoshida walked. Smith walked. Yoshida to second. Rafaela doubled to left, Devers, Yoshida, and Smith scored. Duran lined out to second.

MARLINS - Edwards doubled to left. On left fielder's error, Edwards to second. Rivera hit a sacrifice fly to center, Edwards scored. Fortes filed out to right.



Ceddanne Rafaela cleared the bases with a three-run double in the ninth for the Red Sox.

Bello, Sox have no trouble with Marlins

RED SOX Continued from Page C1

Cora felt the biggest adjustment Bello made was his commitment to challenging the hitters. But Bello also mixed in 11 four-seam fastballs among his 91 pitches.

Bello typically relies on a two-seam sinking fastball, a change-up, and a slider. At an average of just under 97 miles per hour and higher in the strike zone, the four-seamer gave the Miami hitters a different look.

"It's another hard lane hitters have to see," catcher Connor Wong said. "The two-seamer bottoms out and the four-seamer has less vertical drop and stays above the bat."

Bello had a ball in his glove when he left the game in the seventh inning. As he walked to the mound, he flipped the ball into the crowd behind the dugout.

"It felt good to be able to have a successful start. All the work that we did between starts paid off," Bello said via a translator.

Bello allowed 22 earned runs in his five previous starts. They led to the Sox giving him two days of extra rest.

Whether it was adding a pitch, the added days off or maintaining his confidence, it worked. Bello (8-5) allowed one run on seven hits over 6 2/3 innings with seven strikeouts and one walk.

"I think he was locked in," Cora said.

Masataka Yoshida, the king of loanDepot park, was 2 for 4 with two RBIs and a walk. He is 8 of 16 with six RBIs in four games here counting the 2023 World Baseball Classic when he helped lead Japan to the championship.

Marlins starter Tyler Rogers (1-9) threw 84 pitches in the first three innings and put eight runners on base. But the Sox scored only two runs.

Both came in the third inning. Rob Refsnyder walked and Tyler O'Neill singled with one out. Devers singled to center to drive in Refsnyder and send O'Neill to third.

Wong, who extended his hit streak 17 games with a single in the second inning, popped to shallow right field. Romy Gonzalez walked to extend the inning and a run scored on Yoshida's

tapper to the right side.

The Sox stranded runners in scoring position in the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings against Huascar Brazoban.

Facing Calvin Faucher, the Sox loaded the bases in the seventh as O'Neill and Devers walked and Wong reached on an infield hit. He's hitting .326.

Gonzalez grounded to first and the Marlins got an out at the plate. Facing lefthander Andrew Nardi, Yoshida was able to drive in a run on a grounder to third base. That made it 3-1.

Chris Martin pitched a scoreless eighth inning to protect the 3-1 lead. He has not allowed a run in five appearances since coming off the injured list.

The Sox put the game away with a four-run ninth inning, three coming on a double by Ceddanne Rafaela. Devers (2 for 4 with a walk) had an RBI triple in the inning.

The Sox are 36-4 when they score at least five runs, with 19 consecutive victories.

Peter Abraham can be reached at peter.abraham@globe.com. Follow him @PeteAbe.



Red Sox left fielder Rob Refsnyder made a nice diving catch — to the approval of Rafael Devers — in the eighth inning.

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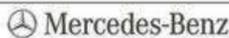
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Baseball

AL

EAST	W	L	Pct.	GB	Div.	Last 10	Streak
*Baltimore	54	31	.635	—	19-7	5-5	W 1
New York	54	34	.614	1½	12-14	3-7	L 2
Boston	46	39	.541	8	11-10	6-4	W 3
Tampa Bay	43	43	.500	11½	10-17	6-4	L 1
Toronto	39	47	.453	15½	12-16	4-6	L 1

CENTRAL	W	L	Pct.	GB	Div.	Last 10	Streak
Cleveland	53	31	.631	—	13-10	5-5	L 1
Minnesota	48	38	.558	6	16-12	7-3	L 1
Kansas City	48	40	.545	7	16-10	6-4	W 1
Detroit	39	47	.453	15	13-11	4-6	W 1
Chicago	25	63	.284	30	7-22	4-6	W 1

WEST	W	L	Pct.	GB	Div.	Last 10	Streak
*Seattle	47	40	.540	—	17-5	3-7	L 3
Houston	44	42	.512	2½	15-12	8-2	W 1
Texas	39	47	.453	7½	9-14	3-7	L 1
*Los Angeles	36	48	.429	9½	8-8	7-3	L 2
*Oakland	31	56	.356	16	7-17	3-7	W 1

NL

EAST	W	L	Pct.	GB	Div.	Last 10	Streak
Philadelphia	57	29	.663	—	14-8	7-3	W 3
Atlanta	47	37	.560	9	12-11	5-5	W 1
New York	42	42	.500	14	13-11	6-4	L 1
Washington	40	46	.465	17	15-12	3-7	W 1
Miami	30	56	.349	27	7-19	4-6	L 3

CENTRAL	W	L	Pct.	GB	Div.	Last 10	Streak
Milwaukee	52	35	.598	—	20-10	8-2	W 2
St. Louis	44	41	.518	7	12-12	6-4	L 1
Pittsburgh	41	44	.482	10	13-12	5-5	W 1
Cincinnati	41	45	.477	10½	12-14	5-5	W 2
Chicago	39	48	.448	13	10-19	2-8	L 3

WEST	W	L	Pct.	GB	Div.	Last 10	Streak
*Los Angeles	53	33	.616	—	18-13	7-3	W 1
San Diego	47	43	.522	8	14-15	7-3	W 1
San Francisco	42	45	.483	11½	15-14	6-4	L 1
*Arizona	41	44	.482	11½	15-13	4-6	L 1
Colorado	29	57	.337	24	10-17	3-7	L 2

* — Not including late game

RESULTS

WEDNESDAY

Boston 7	at Miami 2	San Diego 6	at Texas 4
Chi. White Sox 8	at Cleveland 2	Detroit 9	at Minnesota 2
At Pittsburgh 5 (10 inn.)	St. Louis 4	At Kansas City 4	Tampa Bay 2
At Washington 7	NY Mets 5	Milwaukee 3	at Colorado 0
Cincinnati 3	at NY Yankees 2	LA Angels	at Oakland
Houston 9	at Toronto 2	Arizona	at LA Dodgers
At Atlanta 3	San Francisco 1	Baltimore	at Seattle
Philadelphia 5	at Chi. Cubs 3		

TUESDAY

Boston 8	at Miami 3	Philadelphia 6	at Chi. Cubs 4
At Cleveland 7	Chi. White Sox 6	At Texas 7	San Diego 0
St. Louis 7	at Pittsburgh 4	Tampa Bay 5	at Kansas City 1
NY Mets 7 (10 inn.)	at Washington 2	Milwaukee 4	at Colorado 3
Cincinnati 5	at NY Yankees 4	Baltimore 2	at Seattle 0
At Toronto 7	Houston 6	At Oakland 7	LA Angels 5
San Francisco 5	at Atlanta 3	At LA Dodgers 6	Arizona 5
At Minnesota 5	Detroit 3		

THURSDAY'S GAMES

2024 Team	2024 vs. opp.	Last 3 starts
Odds	W-L ERA rec.	W-L IP ERA W-L IP ERA

BOSTON AT MIAMI, 1:10 p.m.										
Pivetta (R)	-160	4-5	4.52	7-5	0-0	0.0	0.00	1-1	15.1	6.46
Tyler (R)	+135	0-1	3.38	1-1	0-0	0.0	0.00	0-1	8.2	3.12

NY METS AT WASHINGTON, 11:05 a.m.										
Quintana (L)	-115	3-5	4.57	9-7	0-0	0.0	0.00	2-0	16.1	1.65
Irvin (R)	-105	6-6	3.03	7-10	0-0	0.0	0.00	1-1	17.0	3.18

ST. LOUIS AT PITTSBURGH, 12:35 p.m.										
Pallante (R)	-120	4-3	4.50	4-2	0-0	0.0	0.00	2-1	14.0	3.86
Pérez (L)	+100	1-4	5.28	4-8	0-0	0.0	0.00	0-1	11.1	7.15

CINCINNATI AT NY YANKEES, 1:05 p.m.										
Montas (R)	+145	3-6	4.23	4-11	0-0	0.0	0.00	0-1	17.0	3.18
Stroman (R)	-170	7-3	3.29	12-5	0-0	0.0	0.00	1-1	16.0	5.63

HOUSTON AT TORONTO, 1:07 p.m.										
Valdez (L)	-115	6-5	4.11	7-7	0-0	7.2	0.00	1-1	17.2	3.06
Bassitt (R)	-105	7-6	3.24	7-10	0-1	4.1	8.31	1-0	19.0	1.89

CHICAGO WHITE SOX AT CLEVELAND, 1:10 p.m.										
Kuhl (R)	Off	0-0	4.91	1-0	0-0	0.0	0.00	0-0	3.0	0.00
Lively (R)	Off	7-4	3.03	8-5	0-1	5.2	4.76	1-2	15.2	4.60

DETROIT AT MINNESOTA, 1:10 p.m.										
Maeda (R)	+160	2-4	5.76	5-9	0-0	6.0	1.50	0-2	15.0	5.40
Ober (R)	-190	7-4	4.30	8-8	1-0	12.0	0.75	2-0	21.1	1.69

PHILADELPHIA AT CHICAGO CUBS, 2:20 p.m.										
Sánchez (L)	Off	6-3	2.41	9-7	0-0	0.0	0.00	3-0	23.0	0.39
Tailor (R)	Off	4-4	3.03	6-7	0-0	0.0	0.00	1-2	19.0	2.84

SAN DIEGO AT TEXAS, 2:35 p.m.										
King (R)	+115	6-5	3.61	10-7	0-0	0.0	0.00	1-1	16.2	3.78
Scherzer (R)	-135	1-1	1.74	1-1	0-0	0.0	0.00	1-1	10.1	1.74

LA ANGELS AT OAKLAND, 4:07 p.m.										
Contreras (R)	-105	1-0	3.82	1-0	0-0	5.0	1.80	0-0	3.0	3.00
Sears (L)	-115	4-7	5.00	6-11	0-0	0.0	0.00	0-2	11.2	11.57

BALTIMORE AT SEATTLE, 4:10 p.m.										
Burns (R)	-140	9-3	2.28	12-5	1-0	6.0	0.00	2-1	20.0	3.15
Miller (R)	+120	6-7	3.88	9-8	0-1	5.1	6.75	1-2	14.2	6.14

SAN FRANCISCO AT ATLANTA, 7:20 p.m.										
Webb (R)	+105	6-6	3.12	8-10	0-0	0.0	0.00	0-1	20.0	3.60
Morton (R)	-125	5-4	3.89	7-8	0-0	0.0	0.00	2-1	18.0	3.00

MILWAUKEE AT COLORADO, 8:10 p.m.										
Myers (R)	-145	5-2	3.26	6-5	0-0	0.0	0.00	2-0	17.1	2.08
Quattrini (R)	+125	6-6	3.78	8-9	0-0	0.0	0.00	0-2	16.1	6.06

TAMPA BAY AT KANSAS CITY, 8:10 p.m.										
Eflin (R)	-130	4-5	3.92	9-6	0-0	0.0	0.00	1-1	14.2	3.38
Marsh (R)	+110	6-5	4.19	10-5	0-0	0.0	0.00	1-2	14.2	6.75

ARIZONA AT LA DODGERS, 9:10 p.m.										
Gallen (R)	+115	6-4	2.83	6-6	0-0	0.0	0.00	1-1	13.0	2.08
Knack (R)	-135	1-1	2.08	2-4	0-0	5.0	1.80	0-0	14.1	1.26

LEADERS									
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AMERICAN LEAGUE					NATIONAL LEAGUE				
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Through Tuesday's games					Through Tuesday's games				
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BATTING	AB	R	H	Avg.	BATTING	AB	R	H	Avg.
Judge, NYY	305	67	96	.321	Ohtani, LAD	328	69	105	.320
Rengifo, LAA	248	36	79	.311	Arraez, SD	137	22	41	.312
Witt, KC	347	66	108	.311	Proffar, SD	299	47	93	.312
Correa, Min	245	44	76	.310	Betts, LAD	283	50	86	.304
Altuve, Hou	344	51	106	.308	Harper, Phi	287	52	87	.303
Soto, NYY	297	69	89	.300	Freeman, LAD	316	53	94	.297
Guerrero, Tor	326	42	97	.298	Bohm, Phi	320	38	95	.297
Alvarez, Hou	313	51	93	.297	Ozuna, Atl	307	48	91	.296
Kinsler, Tex	257	32	75	.292	Contreras, Mil	339	59	99	.292
Smith, Tex	258	40	75	.291	Merrill, SD	292	39	85	.291

HOME RUNS					HOME RUNS				
Judge, NYY	23	Harper, Phi	27	Ohtani, LAD	21				
Ramirez, Cle	22	Chapman, Atl	21	Hernández, LAD	20				
Santander, Bal	22	Walker, Ari	18	Soto, NYY	18				
Soto, NYY	20	Alonso, NYM	18	Naylor, Cle	18				
Naylor, Cle	18	Swisher, Phi	17	Devers, Bos	18				
Alvarez, Hou	18	Gorman, StL	17	Alvarez, Hou	18				
Stanton, NYY	18	Bohm, Phi	17	Stanton, NYY	18				

RUNS BATTED IN					RUNS BATTED IN				
Judge, NYY	83	Ozuna, Atl	67	Ramirez, Cle	76				
Ramirez, Cle	76	Ohtani, LAD	64	Soto, NYY	58				
Soto, NYY	58	Hernández, LAD	58	Naylor, Cle	51				
Naylor, Cle	51	Harper, Phi	58	Henderson, Bal	58				
Henderson, Bal	58	Adames, Mil	58	Santander, Bal	56				

ON-BASE PERCENTAGE					ON-BASE PERCENTAGE				
Judge, NYY	.440	Betts, LAD	.405	Soto, NYY	.435				
Smith, Tex	.435	Ohtani, LAD	.402	Freeman, LAD	.399				
Henderson, Bal	.398	Harper, Phi	.398	Freeman, LAD	.398				
Correa, Min	.378	India, Cin	.381	Correa, Min	.378				
Guerrero, Tor	.376	Ozuna, Atl	.379	Guerrero, Tor	.376				
Alvarez, Hou	.374	Winker, Wash	.374	Alvarez, Hou	.374				
Devers, Bos	.369	Swisher, Phi	.373	Devers, Bos	.369				
Rengifo, LAA	.362	Slugging Percentage	.646	Rengifo, LAA	.362				
Witt, KC	.362	Harper, Phi	.582	Witt, KC	.362				

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE					SLUGGING PERCENTAGE				
Judge, NYY	.718	Harper, Phi	.646	Henderson, Bal	.600				
Henderson, Bal	.600	Ohtani, LAD	.600	Devers, Bos	.568				
Devers, Bos	.568	Freeman, LAD	.503	Soto, NYY	.562				
Soto, NYY	.562	Winker, Wash	.484	Ramirez, Cle	.550				
Ramirez, Cle	.550	De La Cruz, Cin	.483	Alvarez, Hou	.537				
Alvarez, Hou	.537	Hernández, LAD	.480	Rooskar, Oak	.515				
Rooskar, Oak	.515	Walker, Ari	.480	Santander, Bal	.503				
Santander, Bal	.503	Alonso, NYM	.478	Westburg, Bal	.502				





JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

A four-time veteran of Bruins development camp, Ty Gallagher called his three years at BU the best of his life.

Caron's game had some delays

► BRUINS

Continued from Page C1

against average and .921 save percentage.

Last summer, the netminder transferred to BU, and he started for the Terriers in the Frozen Four against Denver, though BU lost, 2-1, in overtime.

This time last year, development camp wasn't a thought for Caron. His focus was on his transfer.

"It just felt like it was better for me to get used to BU. We have summer classes, so you just come in, and the transfer process isn't going to be the smoothest thing ever," Caron said. "[I was thinking] the season's going to be the big part, it's going to be what moves me forward at the end of the day. So for me, it was just like, 'All right, let's get close with the guys, start off on the right foot in school, and just try to make that transition as seamless as possible.'"

Forward Jaxon Nelson and defenseman Drew Bavaro, also at camp this week, are the same age as Caron, but both have played for the Providence Bruins. Caron isn't putting pressure on himself, though, and his career could be picking up steam at the right time.

"Last year was a big learning year," he said. "Obviously, all in all a pretty good year, personally and as a team. This year, just going in I know what to expect. I'm very comfortable, I'm confident, and I'm just looking at having an even better year."

This fall, Caron will be in his final year of NCAA eligibility. He's hoping that a strong season will show teams what he can do.

"I just need to have a good start to the season, and then once we get a good start to the season, a good midseason, good playoff push, and then if that all goes well most likely, something good is coming out of that," said Caron. "So, that's the mentality, just one step at a time and really just enjoying the moment."

Despite it being his first development camp, Caron recognized some faces. He's played against fellow goaltenders Philip Svedeback (Providence College) and Ryan Bischel (Notre Dame), and blue-liner Ty Gallagher, who is transferring from BU to Colorado College this fall.

"He was our backbone all year. Then to see him come to this camp and his

success translating to the next level, it's awesome," said Gallagher, who played 113 games across three seasons for the Terriers, recording eight goals and 34 assists.

A four-time veteran of Bruins development camp, Gallagher called his three years at BU the best of his life, but he opted for the transfer portal in hopes of having a bit more opportunity in his final year of eligibility.

This time around, when he's not making sure the new guys such as Caron feel welcome, Gallagher is focusing on his confidence.

"Confidence in the summer translates into the year," Gallagher said. "Just going into the year with the experience, knowing that there's nothing that you left behind in the summer is a huge thing. Not looking back on a summer training and a summer at dev camp and being like, 'What if this happened,' or 'What if I did this differently?' So just building that confidence and just making sure that I'm fully prepared for the year."

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BRUINS NOTEBOOK

Jones likely to be real hit with fans

By Jim McBride

GLOBE STAFF

Bruins fans are going to warm up to **Max Jones** quickly.

"I kind of like to play the game with my hair on fire a little bit, just kind of go, go, go. I think the more I get invested in a game, the more my heart rate gets up, the more effective I can be," the new forward said Wednesday, when asked for a self-scouting report. "And I think that just makes it easier for me to cement my playing style into a game each and every night."

A 6-foot-3-inch, 216-pound thumper, Jones uses his size and snarl to be a physical presence. He's most comfortable making other players uncomfortable.

Jones, who missed 30 games last season with multiple upper-body ailments, scored five goals and 15 points in 52 games with the Ducks.

"Possessing pucks, forechecking, getting pucks back, going to the net, creating a little bit of havoc around the net and on the other team," said Jones, Anaheim's first-round pick in 2016. "And I think playing up and down the lineup is something that I can do. I can play each and every role. I think that's kind of what I did in Anaheim over the years. So, I kind of learned how to play in every single situation and every role and just learned my way in each setting. But I try to stick to my core values of being a big, strong, fast, heavy player."

General manager **Don Sweeney** said earlier in the week that Jones, like fellow free agent signees **Riley Tuft** and **Cole Koepke**, was a player the scouting staff recognized as a good fit in the Bruins' system. All three are players the staff has kept close tabs on in recent years.

"Max has been an intriguing player, not just because of where he was drafted, but the size of the player, the ability to forecheck, the ability to possess pucks," said Sweeney. "He's shown a willingness to get to the net, can he finish a little bit more if he's pushed up the lineup and play with guys, that's what we're going to find out in terms of Max."

But he just plays both sides, the possession game that [coach **Jim Montgomery**] wants to have, creates a little more anxiety, to tell you the truth, with arriving on time on the forecheck is a big part of the identification of several of these players."

Korpisalo excited

Joonas Korpisalo is poised to partner with **Jeremy Swayman** for the 2024-25 season, and the ex-Senator is looking forward to a fresh start after a down year in Ottawa.

"Last year was a tough year for everyone in Ottawa," said Korpisalo, noting that GM **Pierre Dorion** and coach **D.J. Smith** and his staff were dismissed during the season. "It's a long season when it goes that way. And for me individually, and I think the whole team, we [were] underperforming the whole year, and that's that. It's behind me and I look back and obviously learn some things about it, and now it's a nice time to look forward and [I have] a great opportunity here with Boston and couldn't be more excited."

Korpisalo, who acknowledged the trade to Boston was a "shock," is eager to work with goalie coach **Bob Essensa**, who has helped mold three Vezina Trophy winners in Boston.

"He's done his research, which is great for me," said Korpisalo. "He's looked at how [I am as] a goalie and I'm super excited to get to work with him, as well."

It's a date

The Boston and Providence Bruins will play in a "Black & Gold Game," Sept. 21 at Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence. The game will feature players participating in Bruins training camp split into two teams for an exhibition game. This is the first "Black & Gold Game" held in Providence since 2011 . . . Tickets for the Bruins regular-season games are now on sale at ticketmaster.com/bruins.

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Going deep not at issue for Milton

►MILTON
Continued from Page C1

Some of it gets caught on video, such as the time at Tennessee when Milton tossed an orange from one end of the practice field to the other. (A move that apparently upset the coaching staff; they were worried Milton could have thrown his arm out.)

There were the throws at Manning Passing Academy that left people shaking their heads. Or the 70-plus-yard flips he casually delivered at the NFL combine in February that had fans cheering and analysts astonished.

"Thanks for putting on a show, Joe," laughed NFL Network host Rich Eisen.

Some of it isn't captured, such as when Milton delivered a pass 70 yards from one knee as a high schooler, fired a baseball 95 miles per hour (his high school coach told him to never do that again), or the time at Patriots minicamp this spring when, out of nowhere, he delivered a standing backflip during a slow moment between drills.

So when it comes to the legend of Joe Milton III, where does the truth lie? Somewhere in the middle.

Asked recently how far he can throw a football, Milton thought for a second.

"The last time I was in a distance competition, that was when I was 16, in high school," he said. "Those were my young days. That was only, like, 75 yards. That was nothing.

"I wouldn't say 100. Not yet. Got to work in the weight room a little bit."

Of course, there was a reason Milton was available in the sixth round. His inconsistency with short and intermediate throws stood out. But that one tool you can't teach a quarterback — arm strength — was tantalizing enough to get Milton to the NFL.

Now, the question regarding his development is obvious: Working with the Patriots' coaching staff, can he take that one extraordinary aspect of his skill set and have it translate to the rest of his game?

"If that happens," Dooley said with a laugh, "well, somebody's ass is going to be in trouble."

'They had a cheat code with that kid'

Milton grew up in Pahokee, Fla., where every fall and winter farmers clear the land for next year's sugar harvest by cutting up and burning whatever is left standing. The fires send rabbits scurrying, and young men and women track them down, looking to make money by selling their pelts.

Milton, who has a rabbit tattoo on his arm to remember his roots, managed to capture his share of rabbits, but it wasn't a cakewalk for him and his family.

"Growing up in Pahokee was not easy," Milton said. "It could be very difficult at times. And so my mom decided to move our family to the Magic Kingdom: Orlando, Florida."

Milton was a conscientious student — you have to be if your mother threatens to take away your Nerf football if you come home with a C. But it was still a challenging transition for the quarterback, who credited Olympia High School coach Kyle Hayes with easing the move and shaping him into

a college prospect.

"Especially coming from Pahokee, and not seeing too many white people," Milton said. "So when I moved to Orlando and I went to an all-white high school — only people who were Black were football players — and being able to go to class, walk around the campus and be a regular student. A regular person. Not known for my athleticism. It allowed me to be smart and grow up faster.

"Kyle Hayes, Coach Hayes, Pops, whatever you want to call him. He helped me out a lot. Understanding defenses, understanding football. But most importantly, just taking care of myself off the field. Not going to parties. Not drinking. Not doing all the other stuff. Just leaving practice, go home, and taking care of my family. That was big for me."

Milton kept growing and kept firing touchdown passes. There was work in the weight room and a diligence in his approach to the game that belied his years. But those who knew him in high school realized there was something special about his right arm: He had been given a gift, one he wasn't shy about showing off.

"The first time I saw him up close was when we played against him," said Travis Gabriel, who coached at nearby Boone High. "He just looked different. I kind of compare it to Derrick Henry at that age. He was a man amongst boys.

"When we played them, I was the defensive coordinator on the other side, and he walked by me, and he was bigger than my two defensive ends. They asked me, 'What are we supposed to do with him?'"

"I thought they had a cheat code with that kid."

As a senior at Olympia, Milton completed 90 of 188 attempts for 1,317 yards, with 10 touchdown passes and 6 interceptions, as well as 262 rushing yards and 5 touchdowns. His high school résumé was enough to get him offers from a variety of colleges, but he settled on Michigan, where he worked his way into the starting lineup after sitting most of his first two seasons behind Shea Patterson.

Milton started five games in the COVID-shortened 2020 season, going 80 of 141 for 1,077 yards, with 4 touchdown passes and 4 interceptions. At the end of the season, coach Jim Harbaugh opted to go with Cade McNamara. That prompted a change of direction for Milton, who transferred to Tennessee in the spring of 2021.

With the Volunteers, Milton initially shared the starting role with Hendon Hooker, but he became the full-time starter as a senior, completing a career-best 65 percent of his passes while throwing for 2,813 yards and 20 touchdowns with 5 interceptions.

'We're going to take the driver out'

While Milton's college résumé drew plenty of attention, he landed on the radar screen of many casual NFL fans this spring at Tennessee's Pro Day.

First, the workout was moved outside, ostensibly so Milton wouldn't hit the roof of the practice facility with one of his throws. Second, quarterback consultant

Jordan Palmer, who had been working with Milton in the run-up to the workout, offered a memorable analogy near the end of the session.

"All right," Palmer said to Milton, "we're going to take the driver out."

Milton proceeded to unleash one of the most memorable throws of the predraft process, a pass so high and so far it looked like the work of CGI trickery.

And so, on Day 3 of this year's NFL Draft, even after the Patriots had taken quarterback Drake Maye with the third overall choice, they took Milton.

While Patriots coach Jerod Mayo praised Milton's "cannon of an arm," as well as his "energy" and "natural leadership skill," he acknowledged the rookie remains a work in progress. There were times this spring when Milton struggled to consistently hit a target from roughly 10 yards.

"The No. 1 trait with any quarterback, in my eyes — this is, I guess, a philosophical thing — it's just decision-making," Mayo said. "It's nice to have a big arm, but if you can't make the right decision, I mean, you'll be throwing cannonballs to the other side, to the other team.

"Accuracy, competitiveness, all that stuff is definitely important."

"He can throw the ball," said Patriots quarterbacks coach T.C. McCartney. "It's very impressive. He gives you the ability to push the ball down the field. He can make every throw.

"But there's a lot more to playing quarterback. We're really focused on those things."

'I think this is a horse that can win'

It's clear that while Milton understands all the attention on his arm strength, he is aware that he has work to do if he wants to succeed in the NFL.

"It's been great," he said. "I'm just enjoying it. Every day, you wake up and you get an opportunity to come out here and put on a show. But most importantly, you get to learn from older guys. I'm used to being the oldest guy in the locker room, so coming here, seeing guys who are 31 and have got a full family, it's different.

"It's been very rewarding, but also a very humbling experience, as well. Coming from Tennessee, being the starter, and then coming here, you have other guys taking reps, it humbles you.

"At the same time, that's always been me — learning from the older guys. And when my time comes, I'll be ready."

With Maye, Jacoby Brissett, and Bailey Zappe all theoretically ahead of him on the depth chart, is there value in having Milton sit for a year? After all, he received scant work in team drills this spring, yielding to the other signal-callers on the depth chart. Maybe catch a case of the Foxborough Flu, spend the year on injured reserve, and work on the developmental aspects of the game?

"I would never tell my quarterback to tuck his tail in a fight," Dooley said. "If he's not injured, let the facts be the facts and the truth be the truth. Roll the balls out there, the system, the play sheet, see if he can produce. Can he move the chains? Don't just put him on the shelf for a year.

"There's some merit. To use a horse racing analogy, you don't put a horse in a race he can't win. But I think this is a horse that can win."

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On offseason, Patriots' grade is incomplete

►ON FOOTBALL
Continued from Page C1

deck chairs. Most of the money went to players from last year's 4-13 team, and the outsiders they brought in almost all got one-year, value contracts. The website The 33rd Team recently ranked the 10 worst rosters in the NFL, and rated the Patriots as the worst, "startlingly devoid of high-end playmakers and young prospects with the traits to become stars."

Most startling is the lack of answers at No. 1 receiver and left tackle, the two most important and highest-paid positions on offense outside of quarterback.

The complexion of the wide receiver unit looks the same as it has since Julian Edelman retired four years ago — a bunch of guys who don't scare defenses.

Osborn, signed to a one-year deal worth a maximum of \$6 million, had a good off-season and seems to already be a leader in the room. He's also mostly a slot receiver who has never had more than 655 receiving yards in a season, though he was consistently productive in three years with the Vikings.

The rest of the group is uninspiring. Kendrick Bourne is coming off a torn ACL, and who knows if he can get back to his old self? DeMario Douglas had a nice rookie season, but a 5-foot-8-inch, 192-pound receiver can't be a No. 1 guy. JuJu Smith-Schuster used to be a No. 1, but now he's dealing with chronic knee issues that limited him to 260 yards in 2023. Tyquan Thornton and Jalen Reagor are former high draft picks who will be lucky to make the team as kick returners.

That leaves rookie second-round pick Ja'Lynn Polk and fourth-round pick Javon Baker as the best chances at finding a No. 1. From what I was told, the rookies had a nice spring, but they're rookies — still find-

ing their way around the building and learning how to be pros. It's certainly possible for the 10th (Polk) and 18th (Baker) receivers drafted in April to blossom into stars, but it's also not a sure bet.

A few players remain available, such as Hunter Renfrow, Randall Cobb, and Michael Thomas, but none are the answer. Absent a big, surprise trade for Brandon Aiyuk or Tee Higgins, the Patriots likely will have to wait for a No. 1 receiver until next year's draft, when they will potentially have another top-five pick. That's fine for next year but does nothing for Brissett or Maye this year.

The Patriots' plan at left tackle is equally uninspiring. They signed Chukwuma Okorafor from the Steelers and drafted Caedan Wallace in the third round, but both have been strictly right tackles. Wallace was already back at right tackle for minicamp last month, and it will be interesting to see when camp starts if the Patriots have already scrapped their plans to move him to the left side.

The only other options are Calvin Anderson, a journeyman who missed most of last year with medical issues; Vederian Lowe, who started four games at left tackle last year (and four at right tackle); and Tyrone Wheatley, who hasn't played an NFL snap.

One player who would have made a lot of sense is Geron Christian, who played fairly well in nine starts at left tackle for the Browns last year. Christian is familiar with the Patriots' coaches and new offense, having played for offensive coordinator Alex Van Pelt and offensive line coach Scott Peters.

But Christian chose to follow his other offensive line coach, signing with the Titans and reuniting with Bill Callahan, who also was with the Browns last year. Why

the Patriots didn't pursue Christian harder given their left tackle concerns is a head-scratcher.

There is one other free agent available who makes sense — former Packers left tackle David Bakhtiari. He's a five-time All-Pro, only 32 years old, and spent the first five years of his career with Van Pelt and Wolf in Green Bay. Bakhtiari could be a perfect addition to bolster the line and provide Maye with more veteran mentorship.

Of course, Bakhtiari also had five surgeries on his left knee that limited him to 13 games the last three years, including just one last year. And Bakhtiari said recently on Adam Schefter's podcast that he wants to play with the "next Super Bowl MVP," which I'm going to go out on a limb and say won't be Maye or Brissett. It seems Bakhtiari would only come to the Patriots if no other team offers him a better opportunity.

Other veteran left tackles available are D.J. Humphries, Charles Leno, Donovan Smith, Cam Fleming, and James Hurst. If the Patriots get to the third week of training camp and the left tackle situation hasn't improved, they'd better bring someone in.

Yes, Wolf took over a major rebuilding project — a team that finished 4-13 and tied for the fewest points per game in 11 years. Yes, you have to acknowledge that Rome wasn't built in a day, etc. There's always next year for finding a No. 1 receiver or left tackle.

But the Patriots began their new era by batting 1 for 3 on their biggest needs. That kind of hit rate could get Wolf into the Baseball Hall of Fame, but for the Patriots could result in a long, painful season.

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RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Bronny James signed a four-year, \$7.9 million deal with the Lakers, with about \$1.2 million as his rookie year salary.

James back for two more years

He has deal with Lakers; son, too

By Tim Reynolds
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James is making it official: He's coming back for a record-tying 22nd season in the NBA, one where the league's all-time scoring leader could share the floor with his son Bronny as teammates with the Lakers.

James agreed to a two-year contract to remain with the Lakers, a person with knowledge of the negotiations said Wednesday. The second year of the deal is at James's option and means he could become a free agent again next summer, said the person, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been announced publicly.

ESPN reported that the Lakers and James's agent, Klutch Sports CEO Rich Paul, may agree on a salary slightly less than the max that James could have gotten — a move that could keep the team from reaching the second apron and preserve some roster flexibility going forward.

Either way, the expectation is that James will make around \$50 million — give or take a little bit — this coming season, pushing his career on-court earnings to around \$530 million and making him the first player in NBA history to eclipse the \$500 million mark.

It will be James's 22nd season in the NBA, tying Vince Carter for the league record. The Lakers selected Bronny James last week in the second round of the draft, putting them in position to have the first on-court father-son duo in NBA history.

Bronny James already has signed his first NBA contract, the Lakers announced Wednesday. It is a four-year deal, the last of those years at the Lakers' option, worth \$7.9 million — with about \$1.2 million as his rookie year salary.

Getting his latest deal done clears one logistical hurdle for LeBron James: He needed a contract to be in place before he could take the floor with USA Basketball for the start of its training camp in Las Vegas this



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

LeBron James, turning 40 in December, will make around \$50 million in 2024-25.

weekend, one where the squad will start preparations for the Paris Olympics. James will play in the Olympics for the fourth time, his first since helping the US win gold at the 2012 London Games.

He'll turn 40 in December and averaged 25.7 points, 7.3 rebounds and 8.3 assists last season — as the oldest active player in the league.

Not only is James the all-time leader in points (40,474), but he's fourth in assists (11,009), sixth in games played (1,492) and eighth in both 3-pointers made (2,410) and steals (2,275).

His 20 All-Star selections is a record, as are his 20 appearances on the All-NBA team. He holds the records for being both the youngest player, and oldest player, to make an All-NBA squad.

James became the youngest to make All-NBA when he was voted onto the team for the 2004-05 season. This past season, he became the first player to be age 39 or older in what became an All-NBA campaign.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Tim Duncan were both just a few days from turning 39 when the regular seasons ended in what became their final All-NBA campaigns, Abdul-Jabbar's being 1985-86 and Duncan's being 2014-15. James played in 71 games this past season, the last 42 of those coming after he turned 39.

Fans come to rescue when Celtics' Brown loses ring

By Conor Ryan
BOSTON.COM STAFF

Celtics star Jaylen Brown promised a "big reward" for whoever found his branded "7uice" ring, which he lost during the team's championship parade on June 21.

Brown made good on his promise Tuesday after a couple of fans found the missing jewelry a week and a half after the title festivities.

"Got it back. Thank you to Luke and Adi," Brown wrote on X Tuesday — displaying his returned ring. "I'll see you court-side at the [ring emoji] ceremony."

In a video posted from Brown's Instagram account, the fans returning his custom "7uice" ring are greeted by an incognito Brown — sporting sunglasses and a hoodie — on Causeway Street after handing off the ring.

Based on Brown's post on X, it looks as though the two will get courtside seats at TD Garden when Brown and his teammates get their championship rings during the Celtics' home opener for the 2024-25 season.

Brown, who took home both Eastern Conference finals MVP and NBA Finals MVP honors this spring, also gifted them a signed basketball and signed jersey.

Despite losing his ring during the celebration that stretched from TD Garden to Boylston Street, Brown seemed to enjoy his time on the iconic duck boats, hyping up more than a million fans in attendance and wearing a T-shirt that read, "State Your Source" — a clear dig at ESPN's Stephen A. Smith.

Conor Ryan can be reached at conor.ryan@globe.com.

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WIMBLEDON

Gauff, Alcaraz stay on track

By Ken Maguire ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON — Coco Gauff likes No. 1 Court at Wimbledon. It's where she beat Venus Williams back in 2019 when Gauff made her Wimbledon debut at age 15.



MOSA'AB EL SHAMY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Wednesday, Gauff beat qualifier Anca Todoni, 6-2, 6-1, to advance to the third round at the All England Club.

"This is the court where I first started here at Wimbledon. Court 1 is always a special place for me to play on," the 20-year-old Gauff said in her on-court interview.

The victory also allows Gauff, the No. 2 seed, to move another step away from last year's first-round exit.

"Overall, I just learned about life a lot," the US Open champion said when asked about putting that three-set loss to Sofia Kenin behind her.

"I just realized that, yes, what I do I'm very passionate about, but it's not ever that serious and sometimes the world can make you feel like there's so much pressure, there's so much expectation," she said. "At the end of the [day], it's a game. It's sport."

The 19-year-old Todoni is from Romania and was making her Grand Slam debut.

"I do think I could have played cleaner at some moments," Gauff said.

Five years ago, Gauff beat Williams

ed Borna Coric, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1, 6-3.

When told by the on-court interviewer that Tiafoe said he's "coming after you," the 21-year-old Spaniard replied with a smile: "I'm going for him."

"We played a really good match in the US Open," the No. 3 seed said of their 2022 semifinal that Alcaraz won at Flushing Meadows.

In other results, four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka was eliminated in the second round by No. 19 Emma Navarro by a score of 6-4, 6-1, while No. 1 Jannik Sinner got past 2021 runner-up Matteo Berrettini, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 2-6, 7-6 (4), at Centre Court in an all-Italian contest.

No. 11 Danielle Collins completed her first-round match — a 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) win over Clara Tauson. It had been suspended Tuesday night at 4-4 in the second set.

No. 20 Beatriz Haddad Maia advanced to the third round by beating Magdalena Frech, 7-5, 6-3.

On the men's side, No. 16 Ugo Humbert eliminated Botic van de Zandschulp, 7-6 (11-9), 6-1, 6-3.

Coco Gauff beat qualifier Anca Todoni of Romania, 6-2, 6-1, to reach to the third round.

— a five-time Wimbledon champion — 6-4, 6-4, in the first round and eventually reached the last 16, all in her Grand Slam debut.

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz trailed, 6-5, in the first set Wednesday before coming back to beat Aleksander Vukic, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 6-2, setting up a third-round meeting with No. 29 Frances Tiafoe after the American eliminat-

SportsLog



RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Shohei Ohtani hit a two-run shot that went 433 feet in the Dodgers' 6-5 win Tuesday.

Ex-Raptor charged in betting scandal

Former Toronto Raptors player Jontay Porter will be charged with a federal felony connected to the sports betting scandal that spurred the NBA to ban him for life, court papers indicate. Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn filed what's known as a criminal information sheet on Tuesday. The document shows the case is related to an existing prosecution of four men charged with scheming to cash in on tips from a player about his plans to exit two games early. An NBA investigation found in April that Porter tipped off bettors about his health and then claimed illness to exit at least one game, creating wins for anyone who'd bet on him to underperform expectations. Porter also gambled on NBA games in which he didn't play, once betting against his own team, the league said.

Vrioni (2 goals) sparks Revolution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Revolution 2 F O X B O R O U G H — Giacomo Vrioni scored twice in the first half and the Revolution held on for a 2-1 victory over Atlanta United on Wednesday night.

Vrioni used defender DeJuan Jones' first assist of the season to find the net in the 11th minute and 19-year-old Noel Buck's first helper of the campaign in the 45th to give New England (7-11-1) a two-goal lead at half-time.

Vrioni, who set a career high with six shots on goal in Saturday's devastating 5-1 home loss to the Columbus Crew, emerged as the team's top scorer with seven goals in 18 appearances this season. The striker has five goals in his last four games, including two braces.

Vrioni was denied a third goal on a 75th minute breakaway when he was ruled offside at midfield. Video assist officials confirmed the call on the field.

Atlanta United (6-9-6) avoid-

ed a shutout when Daniel Rios scored in the first minute of second-half stoppage time. Defender Ronald Hernández notched his first assist of the season and the second of his four-year career on Rios' fourth netter this season.

Aljaz Ivacic turned away six shots, including two bids in first-half stoppage time, in his 10th straight start for New England. Six of the Revolution's seven wins this season have come with Ivacic in goal.

Brad Guzan totaled three saves for Atlanta United.

The Revolution won for the fifth time in their last six matches under first-year manager Caleb Porter. The only blemish was the loss to the defending-champion Crew following a run of four straight wins.

The Revolution have climbed from last place in the Eastern Conference to 11th during their 5-1-0 run.

New England travels to play the Seattle Sounders on Saturday.

BASEBALL

Ohtani: No Home Run Derby

Shohei Ohtani won't participate in the Home Run Derby July 15 despite the Japanese superstar ranking second in the majors with 27 homers for the Dodgers. Ohtani has taken part in the Derby just once, exiting in the first round in 2021 at Coors Field in Denver.

Brewers acquire NU's Civale

Milwaukee has acquired righthander Aaron Civale from the Rays in the NL Central-leading Brewers' latest attempt to boost a starting rotation that's been decimated by injuries. Civale, who starred at Northeastern, has gone 2-6 with a 5.07 ERA in 17 starts this season.

NFL

League ordered to pay \$4.7b

The damages a federal jury has ordered the NFL to pay for violating antitrust laws in distributing out-of-market Sunday afternoon games on a premium subscription service is \$4,707,259,944.64. The figures from the June 27 judgment against the NFL were listed on the verdict form, which was posted on the case docket Tuesday. The lawsuit covered 2.4 million residential subscribers and 48,000 businesses in the United States who paid for the package on DirecTV of out-of-market games from the 2011 through 2022 seasons. The lawsuit claimed the league broke antitrust laws by selling the package at an inflated price.

NHL

Campbell to make history

Jessica Campbell will become the first woman to work on the bench of an NHL franchise after the Kraken hired her as an assistant coach. Anton Lundell and the Panthers agreed to a six-year, \$30 million contract, ensuring that the Stanley Cup champions have all eight of their leading scorers from this past season back. The raiding of the Cup champion Panthers continued with the Red Wings signing winger Vladimir Tarasenko to a two-year contract worth \$9.5 million. Tarasenko, 32, is the sixth player from Florida's Game 7 lineup to leave in free agency.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Cavendish captures a record 35th stage

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAINT-VULBAS, France — Mark Cavendish wrote a new chapter of Tour de France history in what is expected to be his last appearance at cycling's biggest race.

The veteran Isle of Man sprinter broke Eddy Merckx's long-standing record for career Tour de France stage wins with his 35th on Wednesday. The 39-year-old Cavendish sprinted for the win in the fifth stage of the Tour, pulling away some 100 meters from the line despite being bunched in. He crossed the line ahead of Jasper Philipsen and then celebrated with teammates.

Norwegian rider Alexander Kristoff, who had crashed earlier, finished third. They were given the same time of 4 hours, 8 minutes, 46 seconds.

Sixteen years after his first Tour stage win, Cavendish spoke of his constant hunger for victory.

"I always needed to win one more, more more," said Cavendish, who was joined by his children on the podium. "It takes a lot to get there every year. I've got me incredible people around me."

Two-time champion Tejay Pogacar narrowly avoided a crash and finished nestled in the main pack in 35th place. While Pogacar retained the race leader's yellow jersey, the day be-

longed to Cavendish.

He equaled Merckx's mark of 34 stage wins during the 2021 Tour and went close to No. 35 in the seventh stage last year when he was narrowly beaten by Philipsen. He crashed a day later and broke his right collarbone.

Merckx, the Belgian considered the most dominant rider in cycling history, won his 34 individual stages at the Tour from 1969-75.

Cavendish's decision to give it one more shot paid off.

"I just wanted to get the run-in to do it. I'm a little bit in disbelief. Astana put a big gamble on this year to make sure we're good at the Tour de France," Cavendish said. "We've done it."

With his 2023 race ending early, Cavendish decided to put off retirement by a year and came back to try again.

Finally, Cavendish made cycling history, after winning his first Tour stage in 2008.

Other riders were happy for Cavendish, with several stopping to speak with or hug him after the 110-mile leg from Saint-Jean-De-Maurienne to Saint-Vulbas.

Merckx amassed his wins in an era during which his domination was such that he earned the nickname "The Cannibal." Unlike Merckx, one of four riders to win the Tour five times, Cavendish has never won the overall title, or come close.

Scoreboard

Table with columns for days of the week (THU, FRI, SAT, SUN, MON, TUE, WED) and various sports events like MLB, NFL, NBA, etc.

ON THE AIR

Table listing TV and radio programs such as NY Mets at Washington, Boston at Miami, Philadelphia at Chicago (NL), etc.

PRO BASKETBALL

8 p.m. WNBA: Connecticut at Minnesota NBCSN

GOLF

6:30 a.m. DP World Tour: BMW Open Golf

PGA Tour: John Deere Classic Golf

MEN'S SOCCER

9 p.m. Copa America: Argentina vs. Ecuador Fox

TENNIS

6 a.m. Wimbledon ESPN

(For latest updates, go to bostonglobe.com/tvlistings)

International League

Table showing league standings for the Eastern and West divisions.

UEFA Euro

Table showing UEFA Euro tournament results for Quarterfinals, Thursday's Games, and Friday's Games.

CONMEBOL Copa America

Table showing CONMEBOL Copa America tournament results for Quarterfinals, Thursday's Game, Friday's Game, and Saturday's Games.

MLS

Table showing MLS Eastern and Western Conference standings.

Syracuse, 8-6

Table showing Syracuse team statistics for various categories like RB, H, BI, BB, SO, AV, etc.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Table showing results for Thursday's games across various leagues.

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WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Table showing results for Wednesday's games across various leagues.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Table showing results for Thursday's games across various leagues.

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Transactions

MLB Arizona: P Gavin Hollowell sent to minors. P Cristian Mena called up. Baltimore: P Nick Vespi sent to minors. P Dean Kremer removed from 15-day IL and recalled from minors rehab. Cincinnati: RF Levi Jordan sent to minors. CF Blake Dunn called up. Colorado: P Riley Pint sent to minors. P Peter Lambert called up from minors. Detroit: P Keider Montero called up. Miami: P Valente Bellozzo sent to minors. P Anthony Maldonado called up. Milwaukee: 3B Vinny Capra, P Janson Junk called up from minors. P Aaron Civale traded. P Taylor Clarke designated for assignment. P Enoli Paredes placed on 15-day IL. SS Joey Ortiz placed on 10-day IL. Minnesota: P Brock Stewart transferred to 60-day IL. SS Brooks Lee purchased from minors. SS Royce Lewis placed on 10-day IL. NY Mets: P Christian Scott called up from minors. P Matt Festa designated for assignment. Tampa Bay: P Justin Sterner called up. Toronto: CF Steward Berroa called up from minors. 3B Justin Turner placed on paternity leave. Washington: F Eddie Rosario released. C Riley Adams recalled.

NFL

New England: LB Jahlan Tavai resigned. Anaheim: RW Carson Meyer signed. Calgary: LW Justin Kirkland signed. Carolina: D Riley Stillman signed. Florida: C Anton Lundell re-signed. Ottawa: D Matthew Andonovski signed. CW Row Jenik traded. Pittsburgh: RW Maxim Cajkovic signed with european team. Ufa: LW Egor Sokolov traded. LW Miros Klemenec re-signed. Washington: D Hardy Haman Aktell, RW Riley Sutter re-signed.

NHL

Minnesota: P Brock Stewart transferred to 60-day IL. SS Brooks Lee purchased from minors. SS Royce Lewis placed on 10-day IL. NY Mets: P Christian Scott called up from minors. P Matt Festa designated for assignment. Tampa Bay: P Justin Sterner called up. Toronto: CF Steward Berroa called up from minors. 3B Justin Turner placed on paternity leave. Washington: F Eddie Rosario released. C Riley Adams recalled.

WNBA

Table showing WNBA Eastern and Western Conference standings.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Table showing results for Wednesday's WNBA games.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

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BY CITY AND TOWN

BEVERLY
McMAHON, Thomas P.

BOURNE
FABER, Thomas W.

BURLINGTON
MITCHELL, Joan Marie (Dowling)

FALMOUTH
COHEN, Arlene Tofias

HINGHAM
LANE, Richard B.

IPSWICH
McMAHON, Thomas P.

MARBLEHEAD
COHEN, Arlene Tofias
SCHNEIDER, Selma G.

QUINCY
LANE, Richard B.

SCITUATE
LANE, Richard B.

SWAMPSCOTT
COHEN, Arlene Tofias
SCHNEIDER, Selma G.

WELLESLEY
COHEN, Arlene Tofias

WENHAM
McMAHON, Thomas P.

WINTHROP
DeMILD, Nancy J. (O'Meara)

OUT OF STATE

NEW HAMPSHIRE
LANE, Richard B.

COHEN, Arlene Tofias



Arlene (Shube) Tofias Cohen, age 82, of Providence, RI, Falmouth, MA and Palm Beach Gardens, FL, passed away Monday, July 1, 2024 at her residence. She was the wife of David A. Cohen and the late Allan Tofias.

Born in Lynn, MA, she was the daughter of the late William and Sylvia (Jaffe) Shube; and mother of the late David Marglous.

A graduate of Marblehead High School, class of 1959, she went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from Boston University.

A longtime volunteer and board member of the Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Arlene also spent many years volunteering at the Friends' Corner Gift Shop at the hospital. An avid golfer, Arlene enjoyed skiing, reading and playing card games, like Bridge and Canasta.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by two daughters, Debra Maltzman, and her husband Stephen of Natick, MA and Jennifer Marglous of Atlanta, GA; a daughter-in-law, Linda Marglous of Sharon, MA; four grandchildren, Jacob and Samantha Marglous and Allie and Ryan Maltzman; two brothers, George Shube and his wife Carol of Marblehead, MA and Richard Shube and his wife Mary Anne of Denver, CO. She is also survived by her beloved stepchildren, step-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to her funeral Friday, July 5, 2024 at 12:00 PM at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence. Burial will follow in Sons of Israel and David Cemetery. Shiva will be observed at the Cohen residence on Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 PM and Sunday from 2:00 to 6:00 PM.

Memorial contributions in her honor may be made to Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, David Marglous Fund, Suite 120, 450 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215.

Arrangements are in the care of Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, PROVIDENCE. For condolences and to view livestream, www.sugarmansinai.com

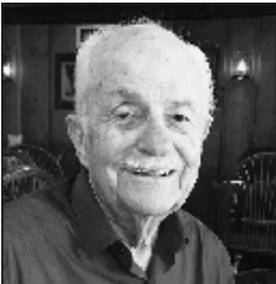
DeMILD, Nancy J. (O'Meara)



Of Winthrop, June 30, 2024. Devoted wife of the late Robert H. DeMild. Loving mother of Cheryl Ann DeMild Nichols and her husband Stephen of Winthrop, Donna M. West and her husband, Roger of Winthrop, Robert H. DeMild, Jr. and his wife, Patricia of Reading and Richard P. DeMild and his wife, Joanne of Wakefield. Dear sister of Joseph O'Meara of Wakefield and Robert O'Meara and his wife, Helen of Malden. Cherished grandmother of Alexandria, Stephanie and her fiancé Michael, Michael, Jacqueline, Kelsey, Kimberly, Krista, Bailey and Brian. Family and friends are cordially invited to attend the Visitation from the Ernest P. Caggiano and Son Funeral Home, 147 Winthrop St., WINTHROP, on Friday, July 5, 2024, from 9:00 to 10:30 AM, followed by a Funeral Mass in St. John the Evangelist Church, 320 Winthrop St., Winthrop, at 11:00 AM. Services will conclude with Military Honors in the Cross Street section of Winthrop Cemetery. For directions or to sign the online guestbook, go to www.caggianofuneralhome.com

Caggiano-O'Maley-Frazier
Winthrop

FABER, Thomas W.



Age 100 years old, of Pocasset, MA, passed away peacefully on June 28, 2024.

Beloved husband for 47 years to the late Marilyn (Swan); son to the late Thomas J. Faber and Florence Manning Faber of Newark, NJ; father to sons, Thomas and wife, Nancy Faber, Robert and wife, Rhonda Faber; father to daughters, Donna and husband, Donald Spellman, Karen and husband, Ron Marra; loving grandfather to Steven, Laura, Tom, Tim, Ryan, Kyle, Sean and Kiersten. He also leaves nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was a stepfather to Ruth Ronnquist, Marla Wigglesworth and Tracy Lyn. Mr. Faber was blessed with wonderful caregivers for the past six years, Dorothy, Roxanne, Robin and Sharon, who were his angels to the end.

Thomas W. Faber was a proud American veteran who served in the Navy in the Salomon Islands and the Philippines. He was a member of the Seabees 77th Construction Battalion. Tom began his carpet career after being discharged from the Navy after World War II. In 1949, he worked as an installer. His passion for the carpet business grew and soon Faber Rug Company was founded in Wellesley in 1954. From a small store in the early days, he grew the business to one of the largest family-owned and operated rug stores in New England.

His love for business was also blended with his love for Cape Cod and the beautiful scenery of Buzzards Bay, viewed from his home in Pocasset. He enjoyed boating and collecting vintage cars. He enjoyed dancing and going out to dinner with his wife, Marilyn. Tom loved working with his children and grandchildren at Faber Rug and sharing his carpet and business knowledge with everyone.

Mr. Faber was honored in December 2023 by the Massachusetts House of Representatives for his military service and his 100th birthday.

Thomas' Funeral will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024. Calling Hours at the Bourne-Nickerson Funeral Home, 40 MacArthur Blvd., BOURNE, MA, are from 8:00 to 9:30. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. John's the Evangelist Church, in Pocasset, at 10:00. Burial will be in Oakland Grove Cemetery, 67 Shore Rd., Bourne.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Wounded Warrior Project in Thomas' name or to a charity of your choice.

Funeral Services

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Boston, MA 02131 617-524-1036

www.stmichaelcemetery.com

LANE, Richard B.



Of Scituate, MA and Meredith, NH, formerly of Hingham, MA, passed away, June 24, 2024. Born in Quincy, MA on August 3, 1933, Richard lived a full and vibrant life surrounded by loved ones. The son of Myron N. Lane and Mary Hayward Lane; Richard was the cherished grandson of Daniel Baxter Hayward and Ethel Bartlett Hayward and Thomas Newell Lane and Minnie A. Lane. He was a devoted father to Lisa L. Countryman, her husband, Brad of York, ME, David B. Lane, his wife, Lauren of Hanover, MA and Peter L. Lane, his wife, Victoria of Hingham, MA; and brother to Daniel H. Lane of Spokane, WA. Richard's legacy lives on through his grandchildren, Samuel Ramus, Calvin Ramus, Anna Lane Newcomb, Molly Lane Pappas, Matthew Lane, Erica Lane Burison, Wesley Lane, Courtney Lane and Harrison Lane. He is also fondly remembered by his five great-grandchildren.

Predeceased by his first wife, Joan Lundin Lane, in 1995; Richard is survived by his loving wife, Catherine (Busnengo) Holway Lane. He embraced his role as a stepfather to Kimberly A. Holway of Cumberland, RI and Katherine S. Anderson, her husband, Erik of Norwell, MA; and as a grandfather to Amiah Holway, Frederick Anderson and Kendal Anderson.

Richard graduated from Thayer Academy in Braintree, MA in 1951, Middlebury College in 1955, where he was a proud member of the Kappa Delta Rho fraternity, and Harvard Law School in 1958. He practiced law with his father in Quincy and Braintree, MA and retired from Lane, Lane and Kelly, LLP in 2019. Throughout his distinguished career, Richard served as Special Assistant District Attorney of Norfolk and Plymouth Counties and held various positions in Hingham, MA, including chairman of the Hingham Advisory (Finance) Board of Appeals and member of the Hingham Personnel Committee. He was actively involved in the Norfolk County, Massachusetts and American Bar Associations and served on the boards of Real Services, Inc. and WORK Inc., as well as the Hingham Institute for Savings.

A man of diverse interests, Richard enjoyed traveling to Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Bermuda. He was a developer of Waldron Bay on Lake Winnisquam, in Meredith, NH and the proprietor of Little Plain Frame Shop, in Hingham, MA. Richard found joy in skiing, golfing, fishing, woodworking and bird carving. His love for the outdoors was matched by his dedication to community, evidenced by his membership in the Hingham Yacht Club, Cohasset Golf Club, Laconia Golf Club and Scituate Country Club. He also contributed as an assistant and Special Town Meeting Moderator in Hingham and was a former member of the Quincy Neighborhood Club.

Richard's life was a testament to his commitment to family, community and his many passions. Services will be private, but those wishing to honor his memory can make contributions to the Scituate Food Pantry, P.O. Box 120, Scituate, MA 02066. Words of comfort can be left, at www.richardsongaffeyfuneralhome.com

Richardson-Gaffey
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MON-FRI 9-9; SAT 9-5, SUNDAY 12-5

McMAHON, Thomas P.



Age 93, formerly of Brighton, MA for 53 years, passed away, June 26, 2024, at Beverly Hospital. Son of the late Alice (McArdle) and John McMahon. Thomas was born in County Louth, Ireland. He moved to America in 1958 and worked as a computer programmer at Blue Cross and Blue Shield for over 25 years, until his retirement in 1993.

Thomas is survived by his daughter, Gail and Duncan Noonan of Wenham, MA, Mary and Tom Collins of Pelham, NH, Barbara and Billy McDonald of Needham, MA and Thomas W McMahon of Brighton, MA; along with his grandchildren, Siobhan, Aidan, Thomas, Patrick, James, Will, Dillon and Alyssa.; as well as his nieces and nephews in his home town of Castleblaney, Ireland, JJ, Pauline, Anne, Deirdre and Aidan.

Thomas loved being on his computer, following the Irish news, U.S. stock market and U.S. politics. He was an avid pool player, watcher of tennis, golf and horse racing.

He will be missed.
Information, directions, condolences, at www.campbellfuneral.com

Visiting Hours: Services for Thomas will be private at the request of the family.

Campbell
FUNERAL HOME

Campbell Funeral Home, 525 Cabot Street, Beverly.

MITCHELL, Joan Marie (Dowling)



Age 90, a long-time resident of Burlington, died peacefully in her sleep, on Saturday, June 29, 2024. She was the beloved wife of the late Charles F. Mitchell, until his passing in 2011.

Visiting Hours: Relatives and friends are invited to Joan's Life Celebration on Sunday, July 7, 2024, from 3 until 6 PM, at the McKenna-Ouellette Funeral Home, 327 Hildreth Street, LOWELL. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, at 10 AM, in St. Veronica Parish, St. Malachy's Church, Burlington. Burial to follow in Pine Haven Cemetery, Burlington. For full obituary, condolences and directions, please visit www.mckennaouellette.com

SCHNEIDER, Selma G.



Selma G. Schneider of Swampscott, formerly of Marblehead, entered into rest on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at the age of 99. Beloved wife of the late Gilbert Schneider. Devoted mother of Leslie Hooker and Joanne Shursky and her husband Stanley. Cherished grandmother of Eric Hooker. The loving sister of Eleanor Levy and the late Richard Berman. Dear daughter of the late Elias and Edith Berman. Selma grew up in Mattapan and Brookline, MA and raised her family in Marblehead, MA. She was a dedicated mother and grandmother. She was a dedicated member of the Order of the Eastern Star and Daughters of the Nile. She cherished her time spent with family and friends. A Graveside Funeral service for Selma will be held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 1:00PM, at Agudath Israel Cemetery, 776 Baker Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in Selma's memory to Shriners Children's Boston. For more information or to register in the online guestbook, please visit www.stanetskybrookline.com

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B

Obituaries

Robert Towne, 89, Oscar-winning writer of ‘Chinatown,’ ‘Shampoo’

By Hillel Italie
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Robert Towne, the Oscar-winning screenplay writer of “Shampoo,” “The Last Detail,” and other acclaimed films whose work on “Chinatown” became a model of the art form and helped define the jaded allure of his native Los Angeles, has died. He was 89.

Mr. Towne died Monday surrounded by family at his home in Los Angeles, said publicist Carri McClure. She declined to comment on any cause of death.

In an industry which gave birth to rueful jokes about the writer's status, Mr. Towne for a time held prestige comparable to the actors and directors he worked with. Through his friendships with two of the biggest stars of the 1960s and '70s, Warren Beatty and Jack Nicholson, he wrote or co-wrote some of the signature films of an era when artists held an unusual level of creative control. The rare “auteur” among screenwriters, Mr. Towne managed to bring a highly personal and influential vision of Los Angeles onto the screen.

“It’s a city that’s so illusory,” Mr. Towne told The Associated Press in a 2006 interview. “It’s the westernmost west of America. It’s a sort of place of last resort. It’s a place where, in a word, people go to make their dreams come true. And they’re forever disappointed.”

Recognizable around Hollywood for his high forehead and full beard, Mr. Towne won an Academy Award for “Chinatown” and was nominated three other times, for “The Last Detail,” “Shampoo,” and “Greystroke.” In 1997, he received a lifetime achievement award from the Writers Guild of America.

Mr. Towne’s success came after a long stretch of working in television, including “The Man from U.N.C.L.E.” and “The Lloyd Bridges Show,” and on low-budget movies for “B” producer Roger Corman. In a classic show business story, he owed his breakthrough in part to his psychiatrist, through whom he met Beatty, a fellow patient. As Beatty worked on “Bonnie and Clyde,” he brought in Mr. Towne for revisions of the Robert Benton-David Newman script and had him on the set while the movie was filmed in Texas.

Mr. Towne’s contributions were uncredited for “Bonnie and Clyde,” the landmark crime film released in 1967, and for years he was a favorite ghostwriter. He helped out on “The Godfather,” “The Parallax View,” and “Heaven Can Wait” among others and referred to himself as a “relief pitcher who could come in for an inning, not pitch the whole game.” But Mr. Towne was credited by name for Nicholson’s macho “The Last Detail” and Beat-

ty’s sex comedy “Shampoo” and was immortalized by “Chinatown,” the 1974 thriller set during the Great Depression.

Mr. Towne was a particular favorite of prominent movie critic Pauline Kael, who reached the peak of her influence during New Hollywood’s heyday. “With his ear for unaffected dialogue, and with a gift for never forcing a point,” she wrote in her review of “Shampoo,” “Towne may be a great new screenwriter in a structured tradition — a flaky classicist.”

“Chinatown” was directed by Roman Polanski and starred Nicholson as J.J. “Jake” Gittes, a private detective asked to follow the husband of Evelyn Mulwray (played by Faye Dunaway). The husband is chief engineer the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Gittes finds himself caught in a chaotic spiral of corruption and violence, embodied by Evelyn’s ruthless father, Noah Cross (John Huston).

Influenced by the fiction of Raymond Chandler, Mr. Towne resurrected the menace and mood of a classic Los Angeles film noir, but cast Gittes’s labyrinthine odyssey across a grander and more insidious portrait of Southern California. Clues accumulate into a timeless detective tale, and lead helplessly to tragedy, summed up by the one of the most repeated lines in movie history, words of grim fatalism a devastated Gittes receives from his partner Lawrence Walsh (Joe Mantell): “Forget it, Jake, it’s Chinatown.”

Mr. Towne’s script has been a staple of film writing classes ever since, although it also serves as a lesson in how movies often get made and in the risks of crediting any film to a single viewpoint. He would acknowledge working closely with Polanski as they revised and tightened the story.

In Mr. Towne’s original draft, Evelyn kills her father — what might be called a happy ending, since evil is punished. (In his book “The Big Goodbye: ‘Chinatown’ and the Last Years of Hollywood,” published in 2020, Sam Wasson maintained that Mr. Towne had an uncredited co-writer, Edward Taylor.) But Polanski, who had escaped death in his native Poland during the Holocaust and had more recently lost his pregnant wife, actress Sharon Tate, to the murderous Charles Manson family, had darker ideas. He wanted Evelyn to die, and Noah to get custody of the fruit of his incest.

Director and writer went at each other in Polanski’s rented house for two months before filming began. “Bob would fight for every word, for every line of the dialogue as if it was carved in marble,” Polanski recalled in an interview with Peter Biskind for his book “Easy Riders, Raging

Bulls: How the Sex-Drugs-and-Rock ‘n’ Roll Generation Saved Hollywood” (1998). For once, Mr. Towne agreed with him: “We fought every day, over everything.”

In the end, Polanski prevailed. Evelyn gets shot through the head and Noah makes off with their daughter, as Jake looks on helplessly. The ending is indelible, and the movie’s closing line has come to be regarded as a classic: “Forget it, Jake. It’s Chinatown.”

Mr. Towne later agreed it was the right choice.

But the concept began with Mr. Towne, who had turned down the chance to adapt “The Great Gatsby” for the screen so he could work on “Chinatown,” partly inspired by a book published in 1946, Carey McWilliams’s “Southern California: An Island on the Land.”

“In it was a chapter called ‘Water, water, water,’ which was a revelation to me. And I thought ‘Why not do a picture about a crime that’s right out in front of everybody,’” he told The Hollywood Reporter in 2009.

“Instead of a jewel-encrusted falcon, make it something as prevalent as water faucets, and make a conspiracy out of that. And after reading about what they were doing, dumping water and starving the farmers out of their land, I realized the visual and dramatic possibilities were enormous.”

The back story of “Chinatown” has itself become a kind of detective story, explored in producer Robert Evans’ memoir, “The Kid Stays in the Picture”; in Peter Biskind’s “East Riders, Raging Bulls,” a history of 1960s-1970s Hollywood, and in Sam Wasson’s “The Big Goodbye,” dedicated entirely to “Chinatown.” In “The Big Goodbye,” published in 2020, Wasson alleged that Mr. Towne was helped extensively by Taylor. According to “The Big Goodbye,” for which Mr. Towne declined to be interviewed, Taylor, a college roommate of Mr. Towne’s, did not ask for credit on the film because his “friendship with Robert” mattered more.

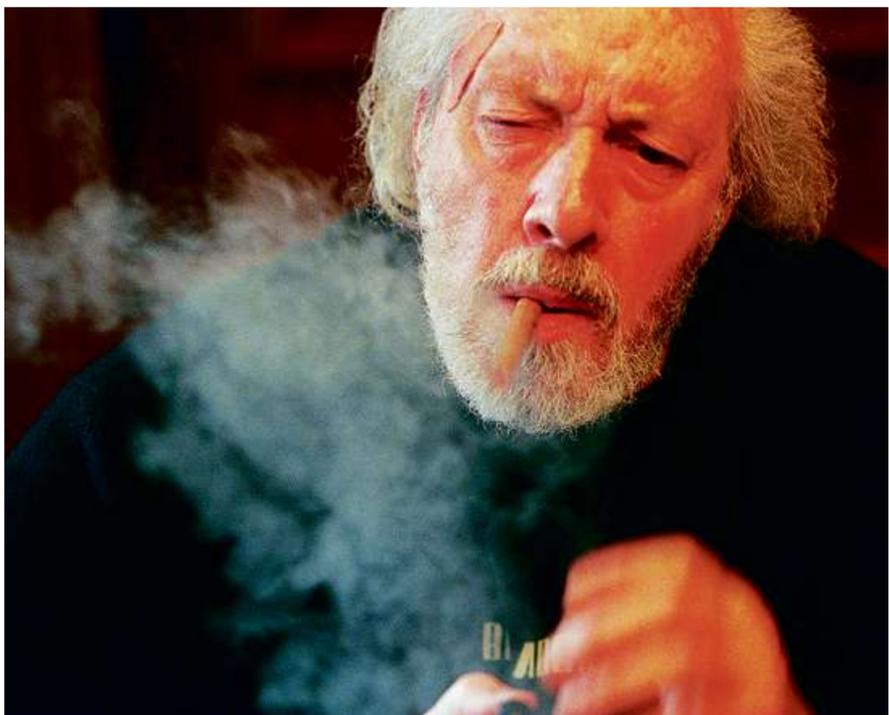
“Robert Towne once said that Chinatown is a state of mind,” Wasson wrote. “Not just a place on the map in Los Angeles, but a condition of total awareness almost indistinguishable from blindness. Dreaming you’re in paradise and waking up in the dark — that’s Chinatown. Thinking you’ve got it figured out and realizing you’re dead — that’s Chinatown.”

The studios assumed more power after the mid-1970s and Mr. Towne’s standing declined. His own efforts at directing, including “Personal Best” and “Tequila Sunrise,” had mixed results. “The Two Jakes,” the long-awaited sequel to “Chinatown,”



THE EVERETT COLLECTION

At left, actor Jack Nicholson starred in Mr. Towne’s 1974 film, “Chinatown.” Below, the veteran movie writer and director joined the Boston Film Festival in 1998 for his film “Without Limits.”



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

was a commercial and critical disappointment when released in 1990 and led to a temporary estrangement between Mr. Towne and Nicholson.

Mr. Towne’s greatest regret, he said in a 2006 interview, was how “Greystoke” turned out. Mr. Towne wrote the adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs’ novel “Tarzan of the Apes” and wanted to direct it. But production troubles on “Personal Best” bled into his hopes for “Greystoke.” Hugh Hudson, instead, directed the 1984 film. And while “Greystoke” received three Oscar nominations, including for Mr. Towne’s script, he was unhappy with the result. Mr. Towne took the name of his dog, P.H. Vazak, for his screenwriting credit, making Vazak an unlikely Oscar nominee.

Around the same time, he agreed to work on a movie far removed from the art-house aspirations of the ’70s, the Don Simpson-Jerry Bruckheimer

production “Days of Thunder,” starring Tom Cruise as a race car driver and Robert Duvall as his crew chief. The 1990 movie was famously over budget and mostly panned, although its admirers include Quentin Tarantino and countless racing fans. And Mr. Towne’s script popularized an expression used by Duvall after Cruise complains another car slammed him: “He didn’t slam into you, he didn’t bump you, he didn’t nudge you. He rubbed you.”

“And rubbin, son, is racin.” Mr. Towne later worked with Cruise on “The Firm” and the first two “Mission: Impossible” movies. His most recent film was “Ask the Dust,” a Los Angeles story he wrote and directed that came out in 2006. Mr. Towne was married twice, the second time to Luisa Gaule, and had two children. His brother, Roger Towne, also wrote screenplays, his credits including “The Natural.”

Mr. Towne was born Robert

Bertram Schwartz in Los Angeles and moved to San Pedro after his father’s business, a dress shop, closed down because of the Great Depression. (His father changed the family name to Towne.) He had always loved to write and was inspired to work in movies by the proximity of the Warner Bros. Theater and from reading the critic James Agee. For a time, Mr. Towne worked on a tuna boat and would speak often of its impact.

“I’ve identified fishing with writing in my mind to the extent that each script is like a trip that you’re taking — and you are fishing,” he told the Writers Guild Association in 2013. “Sometimes they both involve an act of faith ... Sometimes it’s sheer faith alone that sustains you, because you think, [Expletive], nothing — not a bite today. Nothing is happening.”

Material from *The New York Times* was used in this obituary.

Shay Youngblood, 64, author and playwright wrote uniquely about Black experience

By Penelope Green
NEW YORK TIMES

Shay Youngblood, a novelist and playwright whose works about her upbringing by a churchgoing cohort of “Big Mamas” and her adventures in Paris as a young aspiring writer inspired a generation of young Black women, died June 11 at the home of a friend, Kelley Alexander, in Peachtree City, Ga. She was 64.

Alexander said the cause was ovarian cancer.

Ms. Youngblood, whose mother died when she was 2 years old and whose father was not in her life, grew up in a housing project in Columbus, Ga., where she was raised by her maternal grandmother and great-grandmother, along with a close circle of eccentric and adoring maternal grand-uns.

The Big Mamas — stoic, arthritic, and wise — had much to impart to the young Shay: their dim view of most men; their love of music, dancing, and church; their often bawdy humor; their dignified, powerful resistance to the indignities and horrors visited upon them by the racist white employers for whom they worked as maids.

Ms. Youngblood said that she prayed often for her mother to return, but that as she grew older, she appreciated the richness of her upbringing and turned the experience into her first

book, “The Big Mama Stories” (1989), which before being published was adapted into her first play, “Shakin’ the Mess Outta Misery.” First produced by the Horizon Theater Company in Atlanta in 1988, it has since been staged all over the world, in schools and local theaters.

“The simple act of centering on the stories of Black women, with barely any references to the men (white or Black) in their lives, is itself an act of resistance,” Kerry Reid wrote in a review for the Chicago Tribune when “Shakin’ the Mess Outta Misery” was produced in Chicago in 2017, 20 years after its first staging there.

“And the women we meet in Youngblood’s unapologetically fierce, funny and ultimately hopeful memory-play-with-music might make you want to jump up at the curtain call and ask all of them to run for office.”

When “Shakin’” was optioned as a film project by Sidney Poitier, Ms. Youngblood used the money to attend graduate school at Brown University, where she studied with playwright Paula Vogel and earned a master’s degree in creative writing in 1993. (The film was never made.)

“The Black girl writing world is especially small and the Black queer girl writing world is even smaller, so we’ve known each for a long time,” Jacqueline Wood-

son, noted children’s author, novelist, and poet, said of Ms. Youngblood. “But ‘Shakin’ the Mess Outta Misery’ was the first work of hers I read, and I just fell in love with it.

“It’s a celebration,” she continued, “of so many things about what it means to be a daughter — or niece or cousin or grandchild — of a Black woman, and it makes me think of Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop — a scholar known for her work on multicultural children’s literature — “who said that people need mirrors and windows in their literature. Mirrors so they can recognize themselves. And windows so they can see into worlds they might never otherwise imagine. ‘Shakin’ was that mirror of myself in the world in a bigger way.”

Performer and playwright Daniel Alexander Jones, who befriended Ms. Youngblood at Brown (and who helped stage “Shakin’” in Austin, Texas, in 1997), recalled being struck by another play that Ms. Youngblood wrote, “Black Power Barbie,” about a brother and sister, both gay, whose parents were Black Panthers who had been murdered. The play was reimagined by Ms. Youngblood as a graphic novel in 2013.

“It was a dive into Black queerness,” Jones said in an interview. “She staged these beautiful love scenes, and it was a rare time to see Black queer inti-

macy.” (Ms. Youngblood wrote the play in the early 1990s.)

“She really made us whole onstage,” he added. “She presaged something about the fluidity and multiplicity of identity. Her work is far more radical than it might first seem to be. It’s radical because it’s whole food.”

Sharon Ellen Youngblood was born Oct. 16, 1959, in Columbus, the only child of Mary Lee Kemp and Lonnie Willis Crosby. Her surname, Alexander said, came from one of her mother’s husbands.

Ms. Youngblood earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from Clark Atlanta University, after which she joined the Peace Corps and worked for two years as an agriculture information officer in Dominica. She moved back to Atlanta, where she worked at Chartis Books & More, one of the country’s oldest feminist bookstores, where she got her start as a writer.

The store’s founder, Linda Bryant, nudged her into having a poetry reading there. The assignment terrified Ms. Youngblood, who tried to bail even as the audience was settling in. But she pulled through, and she later credited Bryant with starting her career.

She published her first novel, “Soul Kiss,” about a young girl’s search for the father she never knew after the death of her

mother, in 1997. But it was her second novel, “Black Girl in Paris” (2000), that became a touchstone for many. It tells the story of Eden, a 26-year-old Southern woman on a quest for experience in Paris during a summer of terror bombings there. She feels precarious but also free, and she picks up an assortment of somewhat sketchy mentors. She makes maps of the city, to note its safe routes but also to pinpoint the habitats and hangouts of the Black artists who came before her, notably James Baldwin.

It’s a Baedeker tucked into a novel-memoir — Ms. Youngblood, like her protagonist, traveled to Paris in her mid-20s and worked as an au pair and an artist’s model — spiced with magic realism and strewn with recipes and how-to’s.

In a review for the Los Angeles Times, novelist Paula L. Woods praised the novel’s “eroticism, shifting sexuality and vivid imagery,” and its recipes for pomes tarte Tatin (apple tart) and gratin dauphinois (scaloped potatoes), calling it “an engaging, unpredictable portrait of an artist as a young Black girl.”

Ms. Youngblood also wrote two illustrated children’s books, “Mama’s Home” (2022) and “A Family Prayer” (2023). Among other honors, she won a Pushcart Prize for fiction for “Born With Religion,” one of the short

stories in “The Big Mama Stories,” as well as a Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award in 1993 for “Talking Bones” and several NAACP awards for her plays, which include “Square Blues,” about three generations of activists, staged by Horizon in 2022.

“Black Girl in Paris” is being developed as a feature film by Natalie Baszile, whose novel “Queen Sugar” was adapted for television, and her daughter, Hyacinth Parker. At her death, Ms. Youngblood was working on a book about her mother.

No immediate family members survive. Ms. Youngblood’s marriage to Annette Lawrence, in 2010, ended in divorce in 2020.

“Before I left home, I cut my hair close to my scalp so I could be a free woman with free thoughts, open to all possibilities,” Ms. Youngblood wrote in “Black Girl in Paris. “I was making a map of the world. In ancient times, maps were made to help people find food, water, and the way back home. I needed a map to help me find love and language, and since one didn’t exist, I’d have to invent one, following the trails and signs left by other travelers.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to be, but I knew I wanted to be the kind of woman who was bold, took chances, and had adventures.”

TV CRITIC'S CORNER BY MATTHEW GILBERT

Fireworks, frankfurters, and fabulous performers for the Fourth

Independence Day is here, and TV is marking the holiday with fireworks, music, and, of course, hot dogs — not dogs, of course, many of whom will be given drugs and swaddles to calm them from the loud noises in the sky. Here are some viewing options.

"Macy's 4th of July Fireworks": Country singer Mickey Guyton and entertainment reporter Zuri Hall host the annual special live from the Hudson River, featuring performances by Amber Mark, Brandy Clark, and Lainey Wilson. NBC is noting the debut of a new firework — a silver cascading burst with a center kaleidoscope alternating red and blue. (NBC, Peacock, 8 p.m.)

"The Fourth in America": This one features fireworks and music from across the country. Hosted by Dana Bash and Boris Sanchez from Washington, D.C., and Victor Blackwell and Sara Sidner from San Diego, the night will include performances by the Killers, the Goo Goo Dolls, T-Pain, Keith Urban, Ashanti, REO Speedwagon, Ben Platt, and En Vogue. Fireworks will air from Boston, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, Houston, Las Vegas, Nashville, Niagara Falls, New Orleans, New York City, Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Diego, Seward, Alaska, and D.C. (CNN, 7 p.m.)

"A Capitol Fourth": Presented from the west lawn of the US Capitol Building in D.C., this annual PBS broadcast is hosted by Alfonso Ribeiro. There will be fireworks, and performers will include Smokey Robinson, Fantasia, Darren Criss, Sheila E., the National Symphony Orchestra, the Choral Arts Society of Washington, and the US Army Chorus. (GBH 2, 8 p.m.)

"Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular": Darlene Love, the Mavericks, Kelli O'Hara, and, of course, Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops are performing this year at the Hatch Shell on the Es-



GETTY IMAGES/FILE

PBS's "A Capitol Fourth" is among many Fourth of July viewing options.

planade. Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture anyone? (Bloomberg Television and Bloomberg.com, 8 p.m.)

"Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest": According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, Americans eat an estimated 818 hot dogs every second, and more than 20 billion per year. According to the me, ewww. But every Fourth of July on Coney Island, people compete to eat as many hot dogs and buns as possible in 10 minutes. The record for most hot dogs eaten is 76, by 16-time champion Joey "Jaws" Chest-

nut, who will not be competing this year. (The women's competition is at 10:45 a.m. on ESPN3, the men's is at noon on ESPN2)

"The Books That Shaped America": Last year, C-SPAN partnered with the Library of Congress for this series, which explores important works from American history. C-SPAN2 will rerun it all day in honor of the Fourth, featuring analyses of and commentary on "The Federalist," "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "My Antonia," "Their Eyes Were Watching God," and others. (C-SPAN2, 8 a.m.)

ASKING ERIC

Couple struggles with different life purposes

Q. I've been seeing my partner for more than a year. They're over 40, noncommittal, and "don't know what [they] want out of life." I'm in my late 30s and definitely want to cohabit and consider parenthood. How do I deal with my partner?

NONCOMMITTAL COMMITTED A. It's time for a state-of-the-union conversation. While no one can force a partner (or friend or relative) to make goals or find purpose, you can be frank about the ways that your partner's equivocation is affecting you. It's fair to ask your partner if their not knowing what they want out of life includes being unsure about a future for the two of you.

Share with your partner what your goals are and how your partner fits into those goals and then ask if what you see down the road lines up with the view through their windshield. If you're serious and your partner isn't there yet, posing the question and talking through the answer could prompt a decision.

Now, be aware that their decision could be more not-deciding. Your partner's malaise may be a rut that they're not prepared to get out of yet. Asking questions and follow-ups like "Would you want to work with someone like a coach to help think this through?" may get you answers if your partner is ready. But only if.

Kara Loewentheil, author of The New York Times bestseller "Take Back Your Brain: How a Sexist Society Gets in Your Head — and How to Get It Out" gave me a useful perspective. "Someone else's indecision only impacts us to the extent that we hold ourselves hostage to it. If someone else is treading water, so to speak, then you have to make a decision yourself. You can decide to give up on the undertaking and tread water with them, or you can decide to strike out towards shore on your own. The worst thing you can do is try to push them into making a decision when they are unable or unwilling; that struggle is how you both will drown."

Q. I have a first cousin "Karen" who lives in Florida. I live in Connecticut. We are close in age, but I don't have a close relationship with that side of my family in general. My aunts and uncle have spoken to me a few times in all my 43 years — at our grandparents' funerals, my dad's funeral, and my mom's death. Never a happy birthday, happy holidays, or any phone

calls. I used to feel so hurt, and resentful.

Karen always lets me know that she's coming to Connecticut to visit her parents. It's a half-hour ride from me to their house. For me, it's a long ride and lots of gas. I asked if we could meet somewhere in between. She said "I don't drive" and left the text thread like that. I feel like she has this expectation of me to come see her, and I have, but it was awkward because we don't know much about each other and barely speak all year long. Am I being selfish? I try not to take my resentment against my aunts and uncle out on her.

LONG-DISTANCE COUSIN A. If Karen can't meet you halfway (literally), you can't get much more mileage out of this relationship.

You can tell her how her behavior makes you feel and suggest that she find a ride and join you at your place for dinner the next time she visits. But bending over backward to make it work? I just don't think so.

I'm sorry that your father's side of the family hasn't been supportive. If you think that the relationship with Karen can improve with feedback and communication, by all means have a deeper conversation. But from your account, you've already tried that. It's also OK to let long-distance relatives stay distant.

Q. Recently, I found an old forgotten photo of my first wife. We divorced 40 years ago after a short marriage and now I am happily married to a wonderful woman. I looked up my first wife's brother, who told me that my ex has been married two more times and after a disastrous second marriage is now happily married with kids. I told her brother I would love to catch up after such a long time. Her brother relayed that message, and I've heard nothing but crickets. Should I keep trying or just give up?

RECONNECTING EX A. Sometimes no answer is an answer. If it's a photo that you're sure she would want (we're talking iconic), you can send it to her brother. She's made it clear that she's happy to let the past stay in the past. I understand you're feeling nostalgia or even curiosity about where the last four decades took her, but this photo doesn't need to develop into a reunion.

R. Eric Thomas can be reached at eric@askingeric.com.

Thursday July 4, 2024

TV schedule table for Thursday July 4, 2024, showing channels, times, and program titles. Includes categories for Movies, Sports, Premium Cable, and Family.

TV schedule table for Thursday July 4, 2024, showing channels, times, and program titles. Includes categories for News, Specials, Basic Cable, and various channels like A&E, AMC, Animal Planet, etc.

Content Ratings: TV-Y Appropriate for all children; TV-Y7 For children age 7 and older; TV-G General audience; TV-PG Parental guidance suggested; TV-14 May be unsuitable for children under 14; TV-MA Mature audience only. Additional symbols: D Suggestive dialogue; FV Fantasy violence; L Strong language; S Sexual activity; V Violence; HD High-Definition; (CC) Close-Captioned

THE BOSTON GLOBE THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024 | BOSTONGLOBE.COM/BUSINESS

Vertex to remain at Fan Pier headquarters

Biotech had considered moving elsewhere within the Seaport District

By Jonathan Saltzman
GLOBE STAFF

Vertex Pharmaceuticals will stay at its prominent headquarters on Fan Pier in Boston's Seaport District after considering moving to another spot

in the neighborhood, according to three real estate industry sources familiar with the decision.

Vertex, the most valuable homegrown biotech in the state, with a market cap of roughly \$122 billion, had for months been considering vacating its 1.1 million-square-foot headquarters, according to the brokers, who insisted on anonymity because they weren't directly involved in the negotiations. The company has been based in two towers, at 11 Fan Pier Blvd. and 50 Northern Ave., since it moved from Cambridge in 2014.

In the end, the biotech decided to renew its leases with an arm of the Newton-based real estate investment trust The RMR Group, according to the sources.

"It's a huge win for RMR to keep Vertex and avoid having to re-lease a million square feet in the Seaport," said one of the brokers, noting that demand for laboratory space has plunged as biotech companies have struggled. "A million square feet is roughly the size of the Prudential Tower."

Heather Nichols, a spokesperson for Vertex, de-

clined to comment on the matter. A spokesperson for RMR did not respond to a request for comment.

Vertex's decision not to move was first reported Tuesday by the Boston Business Journal.

The Globe reported in March that Vertex was reevaluating its real estate options, with the lease on its two-building campus set to expire in December 2028.

In recent months, six real estate industry sources have reported on the matter. **VERTEX, Page D4**



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Anthony Nguyen, owner of Arlington Flag & Banner, with the shop's Flags of the World display last week. As sales spike in moments of divisiveness, Nguyen said: "I'm only here to support whoever needs what. Not to pick sides."

LET IT FLY

Flags are great for celebrations. And starting arguments.

By Dana Gerber
GLOBE STAFF

It's no surprise that Arlington Flag & Banner, a tiny flag retailer that's been operating on Mass. Ave. for decades, has annual July 4 patriotism to thank for a healthy chunk of its business. But in recent years, in particular, it has also owed spates of bustling sales to another factor: divisiveness.

After Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, the store and its supplier sold out of Ukrainian flags for several months, said owner Anthony Nguyen. A similar rush happened in the aftermath of the Hamas attack on Israel last October.

"The Palestinian [flags] all of a sudden just took off after the war started," said Nguyen, with many customers telling him they were toting the banners to protests. Only now is the shop starting to get those flags back in stock.

Sales of Israel flags, meanwhile, are more "here and there," he said.

Back in 2016, flags emblazoned with Donald Trump's name were also a hot commodity. "I couldn't stock them enough," Nguyen said; buyers often bundled this purchase with a "Don't Tread On Me" banner. Nobody has ever requested a Joe Biden flag, he said, or any other politician, for that matter. "Only Trump," he said.

It was during one of these transactions that he saw just how vexing the business of vexillology — the study of flags — can be. A customer came into the store to buy a Trump flag, and it prompted a heated argument with an anti-Trump client, Nguyen recalled.

"It was like a shouting match," he said. He had to usher them outside.

Sales of flags — Old Glory in particular — have historically risen and fallen with geopolitical tides. Through the decades, local

retailers have reported increases corresponding with World War II, the Vietnam War, and 9/11.

Nguyen, for his part, tries to stay above the fray.

"There's a lot of people who try not to be one side or the other. They want to be neutral, and they're afraid of flying one flag versus the other," he said. "I'm only here to support whoever needs what. Not to pick sides."

This time of year, what customers need are all things red, white, and blue. Nguyen estimates he has sold a couple thousand American flags in the lead-up to the holiday, ranging from four-by-six-inch hand-held flags (\$3.50) to the mammoth 30-by-50-foot banners, which clock in at over \$3,000.

"It's every other year that people replace the flags. That's when it would kind of wear out — the flag rips or the color fades," said Nguyen. 2024, he said, has proven to be one

FLAGS, Page D4

3-D print firm could be acquired

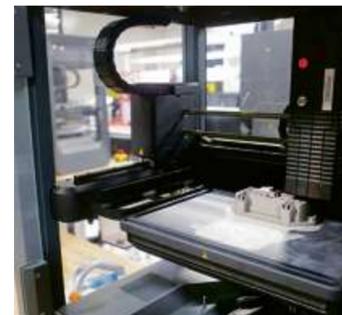
Rival agreed to buy Desktop Metal

By Aaron Pressman
GLOBE STAFF

Desktop Metal's disastrous journey as a public company could come to an end before the 3-D printing company reaches the fourth anniversary of its stock market debut.

On Wednesday, Nano Dimension, an Israeli 3-D printing company with US headquarters in Waltham, agreed to buy Desktop Metal for as much as \$183 million in cash, or \$5.50 per share. The deal, which requires shareholder and regulatory approval, is expected to close in the fourth quarter.

The price represents a premium of 27 percent over Desktop Metal's stock price of \$4.32 a share at Tuesday's close. Desktop Metal's shares gained 21 percent to close at \$5.24 on



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

A 3-D printer worked at making a small metal part.

Wednesday.

If completed, the deal would also lock in a loss of at least 98 percent in stock value for Desktop Metal since February 2021, when the Burlington company's share price peaked at more than \$317 per share (after accounting for a 1-for-10 reverse stock split the company conducted in June to avoid being delisted by the New York Stock Exchange).

Desktop Metal went public in December 2020 by merging with a blank check company. But the company's stock price plummeted as sales growth never met the projections touted in the merger with the special purpose acquisition company, a vehicle for companies to go public without taking the lengthier route of filing for an initial public

DESKTOP METAL, Page D4

Pour one out for Fajitas & 'Ritas, slated to close next week

Tex-Mex staple is the latest in a wave of post-pandemic restaurant closures in Downtown Crossing

By Camilo Fonseca
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Downtown Crossing is losing another longtime restaurant, this time one known for its hefty steak platters and \$7 frozen margaritas.

Fajitas & 'Ritas announced Tuesday that it will permanently close its doors next week, on July 13. The 35-year-old West Street haunt, on the edge of the Theater District and within a stone's throw of Suffolk University, is the latest establishment to close its doors amid big post-pandemic shifts in the downtown office and retail markets.

"We want to thank all our amazing customers for the support and memories we've shared over the years," the restaurant said on social media.

Brad Fredericks, the restaurant's founder and owner, said the decision to

close "was not in my hands." In an email statement to the Globe, he said the building's landlord opted not to renew their lease.

"She has other plans for the building which do not include a restaurant or other tenants encumbered by a lease," he said. "It is probably more surprising that we were able to renew and extend our [lease] six times, than it is that we are closing. It was a very nice run."

Documents filed with the Suffolk Registry of Deeds name the property's landlord as Jill and Hung Cheng of Brookline. Jill Cheng is the founder of Cheng & Tsui, a publishing house that, according to its website, specializes in Asian language textbooks. Cheng & Tsui is headquartered in the same West Street building as Fajitas & 'Ritas, which is five stories with office space on the upper four floors.

Reached by phone, Jill Cheng confirmed that she owns the building through a limited liability company but declined to answer further questions.

The building sits in a fast-changing pocket of downtown. Last year, two neighboring buildings of similar size sold for just \$4.1 million — one-fourth of their sale price in 2016 — an early sign of the weak market for office space in this part of downtown. Just last week, the building at the nearby corner of Tremont and Bromfield streets was purchased by Suffolk University for conversion into a dorm.

Michael J. Nichols, president of the Downtown Business Improvement District, said that a potential sale of the property could potentially lead to a "longer term, more sustainable situation" for similar tenants.

FAJITAS & 'RITAS, Page D3



NATHAN KLIMA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Ricardo Almeida, a manager at Fajitas & 'Ritas, poured drinks for patrons in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

TALKING POINTS

AIRLINES

DELTA FLIGHT DIVERTED AFTER PASSENGERS SERVED SPOILED FOOD

A Delta flight from Detroit to Amsterdam was diverted to New York's Kennedy Airport on Wednesday after passengers were served spoiled food, airline officials said. The redeye flight took off from Detroit around 11 p.m. Tuesday and landed in New York at 4 a.m. "after reports that a portion of the Main Cabin in-flight meal service were spoiled," a Delta spokesperson said in a statement. Emergency medical responders met the flight and treated 12 passengers, the Fire Department of New York said. It was not clear how many of the flight's 277 passengers ate the spoiled food. Delta said it would investigate. "This is not the service Delta is known for and we sincerely apologize to our customers for the inconvenience and delay in their travels," the spokesperson said. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

FAUX MEAT

PANDA EXPRESS AND MCDONALD'S COME TO OPPOSITE CONCLUSIONS

Do Americans want plant-based options at fast-food restaurants? Two recent moves show restaurant chains are still undecided. On Wednesday, Panda Express said it is reintroducing plant-based chicken — which it developed with El Segundo, Calif.-based Beyond Meat — at hundreds of US stores. Beyond Orange Chicken will be available for a limited time, Panda Express said. But last week, McDonald's revealed it has pulled the plug in the United States on the McPlant, the plant-based burger it co-developed with Beyond Meat. McDonald's US president Joe Erlinger said the company's 2022 test of the McPlant at stores in San Francisco and Dallas was "not successful in either market." — ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORTGAGES

RATES CREEP BACK UP

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage rose this week, pushing up borrowing costs on a home loan for the first time since late May. The rate rose to 6.95 percent from 6.86 percent last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Wednesday. A year ago, the rate averaged 6.81 percent. The uptick follows a four-week pullback in the average rate, which has mostly hovered around 7 percent this year. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

AIRLINES

SOUTHWEST ADOPTS 'POISON PILL'



Southwest Airlines has adopted a "poison pill" following activist investor Elliott Investment Management taking a significant stake in the company. The airline said Wednesday that the shareholder rights plan is effective immediately and expires in a year. Shareholder rights plans, or "poison pills," allow existing shareholders to acquire shares at a discouraged rate to discourage a takeover by an outside entity. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

STARTUPS

ALPHABET WINDING DOWN AGRICULTURAL STARTUP

Alphabet is licensing some technology from its agriculture startup Mineral to berry producer Driscoll as it winds down the nascent firm's operations. Mineral is one of the most prominent companies to emerge from Alphabet's moonshot technology lab, X, the birthplace of inventions such as Google Glass and the artificial intelligence hub Google Brain. Last year, Mineral graduated from the lab and became an independent subsidiary of Alphabet. But it has struggled to find a sound business model in an industry with fierce competition and slim profit margins, according to four people with knowledge of the matter. — BLOOMBERG NEWS

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

ANOTHER INVESTOR SHOWS FAITH IN PHILIPS AFTER SLEEP APNEA MACHINES SETTLEMENT

A second major Philips investor raised its holding in the medical technology giant, two months after the Dutch firm settled claims linked to its faulty sleep apnea machines. Artisan Partners raised its stake in Philips to 10.01 percent by June 28, according to a filing with Dutch market regulator AFM on Wednesday. The announcement comes on the heels of Exor boosting its stake in Philips to 17.51 percent from 16.1 percent. The Dutch firm is regaining the confidence of some investors after a lower-than-expected settlement on US claims linked to faulty sleep apnea devices in late April. The recall related to the concerns over disintegrating noise-canceling foam that patients inhaled cost the company around \$5 billion, according to Bloomberg calculations. — BLOOMBERG NEWS

INTERNATIONAL

HIGHEST PAY RAISES IN MORE THAN 30 YEARS NEGOTIATED IN JAPAN

Japan's annual pay negotiations ended with the highest raises in more than three decades, according to the final tally of the country's biggest union group, confirming an upward trend in wages sought by the central bank. Union federation Rengo announced the final calculation of this year's wage negotiations on Wednesday, showing its members achieved a 5.1 percent gain. The figure represents the largest hike since 1991. Rengo unions have around 7 million workers, roughly 10 percent of Japan's workforce. — BLOOMBERG NEWS

E-COMMERCE

BEZOS TO SELL 25 MILLION SHARES IN AMAZON

Jeff Bezos disclosed a plan to unload 25 million additional shares of Amazon worth \$5 billion on the day the stock hit a fresh record. The notice was filed after the market closed Tuesday, though sales could also take place as early as that day, according to the filing. Bezos sold shares worth about \$8.5 billion over nine trading days in February — the first time he disposed of company stock since 2021. The additional sales would bring his total this year to roughly \$13.5 billion, according to calculations by the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Bezos would still hold nearly 912 million shares, or about 8.8 percent of Amazon, following the latest sale. — BLOOMBERG NEWS



AIRLINES

EU APPROVES TAKEOVER OF FORMER ALITALIA BY LUFTHANSA

The European Commission on Wednesday approved Lufthansa's takeover of Italian airline ITA with conditions to protect competition in a deal that Italy's finance minister called "historic." Lufthansa will invest 325 million euros (\$350 million) to acquire a 41 percent stake in ITA, formerly Alitalia, from the Italian government, gaining full control by 2033 with a total investment of 829 million euros. Under the deal, the merged company must make it possible for rival airlines to launch nonstop flights between Rome or Milan and central European airports, where competition is limited; make room for rivals on long-haul routes between Italy and the United States and Canada; and allot slots at Milan's Linate airlines to competitors. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHARMACEUTICALS

DUPIXENT APPROVED FOR USE IN EU

Sanofi's Dupixent was cleared for a chronic lung disorder in the European Union, creating another avenue of growth for the blockbuster drug. Regulators in Europe became the first to clear the shot as an add-on treatment for some patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Sanofi said Wednesday. The medicine, already one of the industry's top performers, marks the first new treatment approach in more than a decade for COPD, a life-threatening inflammatory respiratory disease that causes obstructed airflow, the company said. — BLOOMBERG NEWS

AIRLINES

ALASKA AIRLINES FLIGHT ATTENDANTS GET 32% RAISE

Alaska Airlines's unionized flight attendants are in line to get an average pay increase of 32 percent as part of a new "record contract" with the US carrier, according to a union statement late Tuesday. The Association of Flight Attendants Alaska disclosed further details of its tentative three-year agreement, which, among a slew of improved changes to remuneration and conditions, includes around 21 months of retroactive pay. The initial agreement avoids a costly showdown with workers in the near term, a boon for the airline as the profitable peak summer travel period gets underway. A deal could have broader implications for larger rivals American Airlines and United as unions seek similar increases. — BLOOMBERG NEWS

ROCKLAND TRUST BANK



CARSTEN SNEJBORG/BLOOMBERG

An analysis by doctors at Massachusetts Eye and Ear examined patients on the diabetes and weight-loss drug.

Ozempic linked to rare cases of vision loss in new study

By Robert Langreth
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Novo Nordisk's best-selling diabetes and weight-loss drugs Ozempic and Wegovy appear to be associated with a higher risk of a rare form of vision loss, according to an analysis by doctors at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, a Harvard-affiliated hospital.

Patients who took the drugs for weight loss were more than seven times more likely to be diagnosed with a stroke-like eye condition, known as NAION, than those taking other classes of drugs for obesity, according to the study of patient records. Those taking the drugs for diabetes were more than four times more likely to develop the rare ailment than people on other types of treatments, according to the results published Wednesday in the journal JAMA Ophthalmology.

The relatively small study examined the records of Massachusetts Eye and Ear patients. The low number of cases of the eye condition in people who took the drugs — 37 between both groups — limited the study's statistical power, according to the paper. The findings don't prove the medications caused the eye complication and must be replicated in larger studies involving more hospitals, the Harvard researchers and other experts said.

"I don't think this is a strong enough signal to take patients off the drug," said Susan Mollan, a neuro-ophthalmologist in Birmingham, England, who wrote an editorial accompanying the study. It didn't show that the eye effect immediately followed taking the drugs, as some of the cases occurred months later. Still, doctors should tell patients about the potential risk, she said.

The incredible popularity of Novo and rival Eli Lilly's weight-loss drugs has caused shortages that both companies have worked to rectify. Novo's semaglutide, the active ingredient in Ozempic and Wegovy, has been studied for more than 15 years and scientists largely consider it safe. But as the drugs are used by more people, researchers are looking to see if there are any previously unknown side effects emerging.

"Patient safety is a top priority for Novo Nordisk, and we take all reports about adverse events from use of our medicines very seriously," a Novo spokesperson said in an emailed statement. The Harvard study had some key limitations, the spokesperson said, and other large, real-world studies provide reassurance that the drugs are safe. NAION isn't among the adverse reactions listed on the two drugs' labels, they said.

The Mass Eye and Ear analysis was designed to look at whether semaglutide is associated with increased risk of NAION after doctors noticed a handful of cases and realized those patients were on the drug. The condition normally affects between one in 10,000 and one in 50,000 people per year and usually leads to permanent partial vision loss in the affected eye. There's no standard treatment.

This potential risk "is something that definitely should be looked at more carefully," said Mahyar Etmnan, a drug safety researcher at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, who wasn't involved in the study. "This is a very serious condition so if it were true, it changes the risk-benefit calculus."

That's particularly relevant for people taking Wegovy only for weight loss and don't have other medical conditions that could benefit from treatment, he added.

There are other reasons that make it important to follow up on the study, Etmnan said. Diabetes itself is a risk factor for the eye condition, he pointed out, so it's unclear how Ozempic or Wegovy would cause it. The design of the study makes it hard to know whether it was the severity of their diabetes or heart disease that raised patients' risk, rather than taking the drugs, he said.

The study included 710 patients prescribed diabetes drugs and 979 patients prescribed weight-loss drugs who were treated at Mass Eye and Ear over a six-year period starting in December 2017, when Ozempic was first approved. Within those two groups, the researchers compared the rates of NAION in people who had filled their first prescriptions for Ozempic or Wegovy to the rates of those on rival treatments. They didn't look at Mounjaro and Zepbound, the diabetes and obesity

[This potential risk] 'is something that definitely should be looked at more carefully. This is a very serious condition so if it were true, it changes the risk-benefit calculus.'

MAHYAR ETMINAN,
a drug safety researcher at the University of British Columbia

treatments made by Lilly.

The researchers started the study last summer after three people came into the clinic with NAION over a short period of time, all who were on semaglutide, said Joseph Rizzo, director of the neuro-ophthalmology service at Mass Eye and Ear and a Harvard Medical School professor.

Now his group is talking with other researchers about performing a much larger study involving other hospitals.

"My hope is that doctors and patients are aware of this association," he said, while emphasizing that the study doesn't prove a causal link between the drug and the eye disease. It's particularly important for patients who already have some vision loss so they can make an informed decision before starting it, he said.

Paramount and Skydance near merger deal

By Benjamin Mullin
and Lauren Hirsch
NEW YORK TIMES

For months, Paramount's controlling shareholder and Skydance sought to seal a merger that would transform the media industry, before those talks ground to a sudden halt in June. Now, just weeks later, the two sides have reached a preliminary deal to merge, four people familiar with the negotiations said.

The agreement will still have to be approved by a special committee of Paramount's board of directors, said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity as the talks resumed.

If they win that approval, the deal will combine Paramount — the parent company of CBS, MTV, and Nickelodeon — and Skydance, the up-and-coming movie studio that helped produce “Top Gun: Maverick,” into a new giant in Hollywood.

An agreement would be a changing of the guard in the media world, as legacy companies like Paramount struggle with the decline of cable TV and with streaming services that bleed cash. Shari Redstone, who controls Paramount through her stake in its parent company, National Amusements, is



NICK UT/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

The deal would combine Paramount — the parent of CBS, MTV, and Nickelodeon — and an up-and-coming movie studio into a new Hollywood giant.

part of the family that has run the media conglomerate for decades. The new company would be backed instead by big-ticket investors like private-equity firm RedBird and David Ellison, son of Oracle founder Larry Ellison.

It would also end a dramatic saga that has played out over months. Paramount and Skydance entered into exclusive negotiations in April

only to let them lapse in May without striking an agreement. Their talks continued, even as other suitors emerged.

The two finally seemed to be headed toward a deal in June after a marathon weekend of negotiating. But just as Paramount's special committee was set to vote on that deal, lawyers for National Amusements emailed Paramount's special

committee to end the discussions.

In the weeks that followed, Paramount outlined what a stand-alone future might look like for the company as it navigated a challenging media landscape. It appointed three executives to succeed Bob Bakish, who stepped down as chief executive in April, through a joint “office of the CEO” role. They said in a recent shareholder meeting that they planned to explore a streaming joint venture and cut \$500 million in costs as the media giant grappled with about \$14 billion in debt.

The company's shares have fallen more than 16 percent over the past month, as Paramount's investors have remained concerned about its prospects.

Paramount has been exploring a deal despite strong headwinds to traditional media. Critics have argued that the company was too late to streaming, leaving it undersized and lagging behind its rivals. They also point to missed opportunities, such as when Bakish balked at selling trophy assets like Showtime and BET to suitors offering billions in recent months.

Skydance and National Amusements resumed their negotiations

not long after a cooling-off period, three of the people said. This latest deal would give Redstone better financial terms than the previous iteration. National Amusements' equity would be valued at \$1.75 billion, up slightly from \$1.7 billion in the last incarnation, three of the people said.

The deal would also give National Amusements a greater degree of protection against potential shareholder lawsuits over the deal. That had been a sticking point in earlier negotiations, given significant shareholder angst about the transaction.

The deal is expected to offer Paramount a 45-day “go shop” period in which it can talk to other suitors about a potential deal, three of the sources said. Billionaire Barry Diller and his digital media conglomerate, IAC, have expressed interest in National Amusements, as has Edgar Bronfman Jr., the media and finance executive, and Steven Paul, the Hollywood executive best known for his work on the “Baby Geniuses” franchise.

The Paramount board committee will now evaluate whether those new terms will be sufficiently palatable for shareholders.

GM to pay \$145m over EPA violations

Sold millions of cars that polluted more than allowed

By Coral Davenport
NEW YORK TIMES

The Biden administration reached a settlement with General Motors after determining that the automaker sold nearly 6 million cars that emitted more planet-warming carbon dioxide than the company had claimed, violating federal regulations.

GM will pay more than \$145.8 million in penalties for selling vehicles between model years 2012 and 2018 that were required to comply with Obama-era auto tailpipe emissions standards designed to reduce planet-warming pollution.

An investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency found that in those years, GM had sold about 4.6 million full-sized pickup trucks and SUVs, and 1.3 million midsize SUVs, that it claimed met the pollution standards, but in fact hadn't.

“EPA's vehicle standards depend on strong oversight in order to deliver public health benefits in the real world,” EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan said. “Our investigation has achieved accountability and upholds an important program that's reducing air pollution and protecting communities across the country.”

The company has also voluntarily retired about 50 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution credits, which are issued by the EPA and used by auto companies to make it easier to comply with increasingly stringent federal tailpipe emissions standards. While the market value of those carbon



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

credits varies, a government estimate of \$86 per credit puts the value of the loss of the credits at about \$4.6 billion.

Among the vehicles cited for the violations were several models of the Chevrolet Silverado, which has historically been one of the nation's top-selling passenger vehicles, along with several models

‘We believe this is the best course of action to swiftly resolve outstanding issues with the federal government regarding this matter.’

GM, in a statement about the settlement with the Biden administration

of the Chevrolet Suburban, the Chevrolet Equinox, the Chevrolet Tahoe, several models of the Cadillac Escalade, and the GMC Yukon.

In a statement, the company admitted to no wrongdoing or noncompliance with laws or regulations. “We believe this is the best

course of action to swiftly resolve outstanding issues with the federal government regarding this matter. GM remains committed to reducing auto emissions and working toward achieving the Administration's fleet electrification goals,” the statement said.

The settlement comes as the Biden administration has sharply

fuel-powered vehicles to hybrid and all-electric cars.

Once fully implemented, the new rules are designed to ensure that the majority of new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the United States are all-electric or hybrids by 2032, up from less than 10 percent last year.

The loss of GM's carbon dioxide pollution credits in the settlement could make it more difficult or expensive for the company to comply with those new rules.

The credits are intended to make it easier for automakers to meet the standards: For example, if one company is unable to completely meet the standards in a given year, it could make up the difference by buying credits from another company that exceeded them in that year. GM's loss of credits means that it could be forced to meet the standard by building and selling more low-polluting or all-electric vehicles than it would have otherwise, or by purchasing still more expensive credits.

Among the vehicles cited for the violations were several models of the Chevrolet Silverado, which has historically been one of the nation's top-selling passenger vehicles.

Downtown Tex-Mex staple to shutter amid real estate shifts

► **FAJITAS & RITAS**
Continued from Page D1

“Owners are constantly re-evaluating the best use of their buildings, so we believe something positive could end up coming from this,” he said. “Though, you know, we're certainly never supportive of displacing healthy businesses that are as beloved as Fajitas & Ritas.”

Fajitas & Ritas first opened in 1989. Fredericks now operates two other restaurants nearby, Back Deck and French Quarter.

At one point during the COVID-19 pandemic, Fredericks temporarily shuttered his other two locations but kept Fajitas & Ritas open — thanks in part to its steady clientele of young professionals and nearby college students who flocked there for cheap drinks, nachos, and taco platters.

Fredericks, who is 64 years

old, said he currently has “no plans” to relocate the iconic site elsewhere in downtown, though he suggested that “if there is someone else out there that would want to license the name and brand, or partner with me, I am all ears.”

Tuesday's announcement comes weeks after another downtown food-and-drink staple just blocks away, Silvertone Bar & Grill, served its patrons for the last time. Silvertone owner David Savoie attributed the closure to the sluggish recovery of downtown foot traffic.

However, Nichols said that downtown is heading in the right direction.

“We like where the trend line is right now, relative to restaurants in downtown,” he said. “It's always bittersweet when something that people really love closes, but hopefully it

People waited outside Fajitas & Ritas for tables to open up on a Friday night in Boston in 2021. The beloved restaurant, known for its hefty steak platters and \$7 frozen margaritas, will close its doors on July 13.



NATHAN KLIMA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

will pave the way for a really great opportunity.”

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US filings for jobless claims inch up modestly

By Matt Ott
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits inched up last week and remains historically low, however, the total number of people collecting jobless benefits continues to grow.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that jobless claims for the week ending June 29 rose by 4,000 to 238,000 from 234,000 the previous week. The data was issued one day earlier than its regular Thursday release due to the July Fourth holiday.

The total number of Americans collecting unemployment benefits rose for the ninth straight week, to 1.86 million, for the week of June 22. That's the most since November 2021.

Massachusetts reported 8,995 “advance” initial claims for unemployment insurance last week.

Economists say that while the number of new people applying for jobless aid each week remains relatively modest, some who are receiving benefits are finding it harder to land new jobs. That suggests that demand for workers is waning, even as the economy remains strong. That, combined with recent data showing that inflation continues to ease, could point to the so-called soft-landing the Federal Reserve was aiming for when it began its rate-hiking campaign.

The Federal Reserve raised its benchmark borrowing rate 11 times beginning in March 2022 in an attempt to extinguish the four-decade-high inflation that shook the economy after it rebounded from the COVID-19 recession of 2020. The Fed's intention was to cool off a red-hot labor market and slow wage growth, which can fuel inflation.

Many economists had expected the rapid rate hikes would trigger a recession, but so far that hasn't happened, thanks in large part to strong consumer demand and a sturdier-than-expected labor market.

“The data bear watching for signals about a more material weakening in the labor market going forward, which will have implications for Fed policy,” said Rubeela Farooqi, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics.

The Fed's next policy meeting comes at the end of this month, but few experts are expecting a rate cut then. However, investors are betting that there is nearly a 70 percent chance for a reduction at the Fed's September meeting.

While the labor market remains sturdy, recent government data suggest some softness taking hold.

The four-week average of claims, which evens out some of the week-to-week volatility, also continued to climb, rising by 2,250 to 238,500.

Applications for jobless benefits are trending higher in June after mostly staying below 220,000 this year. The unemployment rate ticked up to 4 percent in May, despite the fact that America's employers added a strong 272,000 jobs last month.

Dana Gerber of the Globe staff contributed to this report.

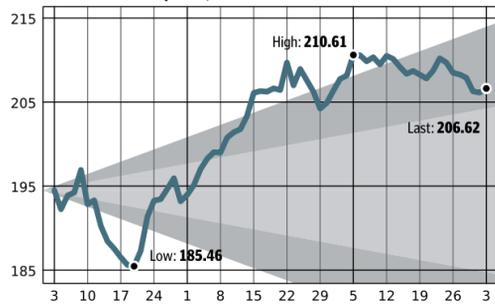
THE BOSTON GLOBE

25

Index of publicly traded companies in Massachusetts

Globe 25 index

Total market cap: \$1,259.3b



Yesterday 206.62 ▲ 0.49 ▲ 0.2% ▲ YTD 9.6%

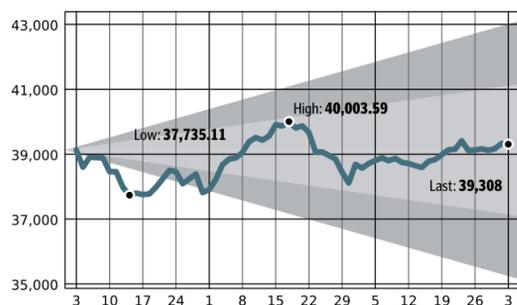
	Price	Chg	% chg	Market cap (bil.)
Thermo Fisher Sci (TMO)	535.61	+1.68	+0.3	204.5
TJX Cos Inc (TJX)	110.39	+0.19	+0.2	124.8
Vertex Pharma (VRTX)	470.28	-3.50	-0.7	121.4
Analog Devices (ADI)	230.02	+1.78	+0.8	114.1
Boston Scientific (BSX)	76.11	-0.44	-0.6	111.9
American Tower Corp (AMT)	194.79	+2.52	+1.3	91.0
GE Vernova Inc (GEV)	172.68	+2.87	+1.7	47.3
Moderna Inc (MRNA)	115.95	-1.12	-1.0	44.4
Keurig Dr Pepper Inc (KDP)	32.72	-0.06	-0.2	44.4
Biogen Inc (BIIB)	224.61	-4.21	-1.8	32.7
Alnylam Pharma (ALNY)	248.68	+1.07	+0.4	31.5
HubSpot Inc (HUBS)	592.31	+8.17	+1.4	30.2
Iron Mountain (IRM)	91.78	+0.93	+1.0	26.9
Teradyne Inc (TER)	151.70	+2.10	+1.4	23.7
Veralto Corp (VLTO)	95.33	+0.98	+1.0	23.5
State Street Corp (STT)	74.14	+0.28	+0.4	22.3
PTC (PTC)	183.97	+1.08	+0.6	22.0
Entegris Inc (ENTG)	140.68	+4.07	+3.0	21.2
Symbotic Inc (SYM)	35.34	-0.85	-2.3	20.7
Eversource (ES)	57.31	+0.79	+1.4	20.1
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	37.44	+0.50	+1.4	18.1
Hologic Inc (HOLX)	73.48	-0.05	-0.1	17.1
Waters Corp (WAT)	287.50	+3.01	+1.1	17.1
Sarepta Therapeutics Inc (SRPT)	153.11	-1.09	-0.7	14.5
Toast Inc (TOST)	25.31	-0.68	-2.6	14.0

Markets

Tesla again helps boost Wall Street

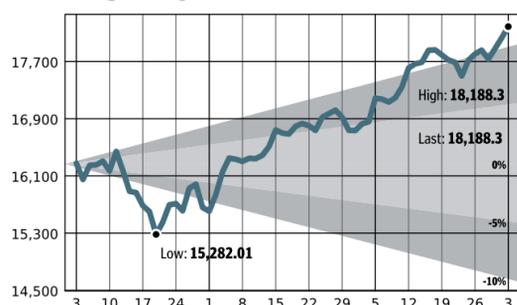
Wall Street's record-breaking rally kept going Wednesday after weak reports on the US economy kept the door open for possible cuts to interest rates. Tesla again helped boost the market and rose 6.5 percent a day after reporting a milder drop in sales for the spring than analysts feared. It was one of the strongest forces pushing upward on the S&P 500, along with Nvidia. The darling of Wall Street's rush into artificial intelligence technology climbed 4.6 percent to bring the chip company's gain for the year so far to 159 percent. The action was stronger in the bond market, where Treasury yields slid following a flurry of reports that came in weaker than expected on both the job market and US services companies. The data could keep the Federal Reserve on course to deliver the cuts to interest rates later this year that Wall Street desires. One report said activity for businesses in the real estate, retail trade, and other US services industries contracted in June for just the third time in 49 months. The reading was weaker than economists' forecasts, which called for just a slowing of growth. The report from the Institute Supply Management also said prices were increasing at a slower pace.

DOW JONES industrial average



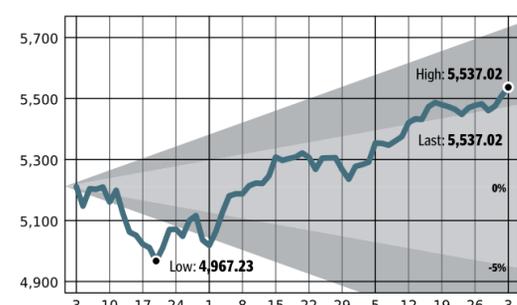
Yesterday 39,308.00 ▼ 23.85 ▼ 0.1% ▲ YTD 4.3%

NASDAQ Composite index



Yesterday 18,188.30 ▲ 159.54 ▲ 0.9% ▲ YTD 21.2%

S&P 500 index



Yesterday 5,537.02 ▲ 28.01 ▲ 0.5% ▲ YTD 16.1%

SOURCE: Bloomberg News

3-D printing firm could be acquired

►DESKTOP METAL
Continued from Page D1
offering.

Though the SPAC deal forecast 2023 sales would reach \$329 million, Desktop Metal generated only \$190 million last year.

Nano can reduce the purchase price to as little as \$135 million, or \$4.07 per share, based on Desktop Metal's expenses and whether Desktop needs to borrow more money from Nano to keep operating before the acquisition is completed.

The sale to Nano is Desktop Metal chief executive and cofounder Ric Fulop's second effort to combine with a 3-D printing rival. The company tried to merge with 3-D

printing company Stratasys in a \$600 million deal last year that was rejected by Stratasys shareholders. Desktop Metal cut 20 percent of its workforce after that deal failed.

But the lower-priced Nano Dimension deal should work out because the two companies have complementary technology, Fulop said in a call with analysts. The two companies reported a combined \$246 million in revenues last year.

Desktop Metal's technology "really dovetails very well with the portfolio that our friends at Nano Dimension have built," Fulop said. "This is setting up a very interesting set of products that are fully complementary."

Fulop started the company in 2015 with a group of MIT professors, including Ely Sachs, who invented the method known as binder jet printing, which sprays liquid onto layers of powder to form products. Starting with a printing system that could make metal replacement parts or prototypes in small batches, the company expanded to make large-scale printers that use a variety of materials.

Desktop Metal's customers have included Toyota, Adidas, and Lockheed Martin.

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"This is setting up a very interesting set of products that are fully complementary."

RIC FULOP
Desktop Metal



PHOTOS BY LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Flag store sees the pulse of public opinion

►FLAGS
Continued from Page D1

of the "on" years.

Nguyen's mother, Linda, started the business in 1983, several years after the flag fervor of the bicentennial. She had immigrated with Anthony to the US from Vietnam, among the throngs of "boat people" who fled the country following the war.

A seamstress by trade, the elder Nguyen found work at the now-closed Flag Center in Cambridge before opening her own shop. Though she now lives in Georgia, she still helps her son with some of the hand-stitched work — the more intricate alternative to printed vinyl flags. This embroidered style is favored by clients such as Harvard University, Nguyen said.

Other big buyers of custom flags include city and town governments in the region, as well as the occasional movie productions that come to town. The shop made dragon-becked flags for the upcoming "The Walking Dead: Dead City" season filming in Massachusetts, Nguyen said.

In addition to these made-to-



Owner Anthony Nguyen (above) with three historic American flags at Arlington Flag & Banner on Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington. The store carries a stock of flags for every country in the world.

order banners, Nguyen carries a stock of flags for every country in the world. He's sold bunting for nations as far away as Nepal — the only country with a non-rectangular flag, if you care to know. "I think they just want to remember their heritage," he said of immigrants who buy the flags of their native countries.

But, at least last week, the stars

and stripes were the bestsellers, with a rush of clients picking up their orders. If you forgot to stock up on your Old Glories, though, you'll have to wait until next July 4 to get it from Nguyen; like many Americans, he's on vacation this week.

Dana Gerber can be reached at dana.gerber@globe.com. Follow her @danagerber6.

Vertex is set to remain on Fan Pier in Seaport

►VERTEX
Continued from Page D1

es told the Globe, Vertex officials have toured a number of lab development sites in the Seaport. The company was particularly eyeing sites in the Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park, toward the outer edge of the Seaport, where it has opened research and manufacturing facilities. Those sources said Vertex was also considering staying put and renewing its lease for another decade.

Founded in 1989 by organic chemist Joshua Boger, Vertex is one of the state's biggest homegrown drug companies by headcount, with about 4,000 employees in the Boston area, Nichols said in March.

The company is best known for its drugs to treat the rare disease cystic fibrosis, but it also co-developed, with CRISPR Therapeutics, the first approved drug in the United States to use the revolutionary gene-editing tool called CRISPR-Cas9.

Cleared by the Food and Drug Ad-



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE/2017

The Vertex site on Northern Avenue in the Seaport District. The biotech company was reportedly considering moving elsewhere within the neighborhood to bring its scientific and corporate operations closer together but ultimately chose to remain in its current headquarters.

ministration in December, the new medicine is marketed as Casgevy and treats sickle cell disease. Vertex has also been working on an experimental non-opioid pain pill whose potential helped catapult the company's market value past \$100 billion.

If Vertex had relocated elsewhere in the Seaport, the move would have been partly intended to bring its scientific and corporate operations closer together, said sources familiar with the company's search. In May 2022, Vertex opened the 270,000-square-foot Jeffrey Leiden Center for Cell and Genetic Therapies at the corner of Northern Avenue and Tide Street

and announced plans to expand into an even larger research facility across the street at 20-22 Drydock Ave. Vertex also operates a 200,000-square-foot manufacturing site nearby.

While such a move would have consolidated Vertex's operations, being further out in the Seaport could also have posed transportation challenges for workers accustomed to a quick walk from the current headquarters to South Station.

Tim Logan of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Jonathan Saltzman can be reached at jonathan.saltzman@globe.com.

Boston's forecast

TODAY 6 A.M. NOON 6 P.M. HIGH 83-88 LOW 68-73 A thunderstorm in the area late this afternoon. Winds SW 8-16 mph. Increasing amounts of clouds tonight with a shower in spots. Winds SW 7-14 mph.

FRIDAY 6 A.M. NOON 6 P.M. HIGH 83-88 LOW 69-74 Humid with a blend of sunshine and clouds. Winds SSE 7-14 mph. Low clouds and humid at night. Winds SSW 7-14 mph.

SATURDAY 6 A.M. NOON 6 P.M. HIGH 78-83 LOW 72-77 Cloudy and humid with a thunderstorm in spots; a breeze after-noon. Winds W 12-25 mph. An evening thunderstorm; otherwise, mostly cloudy and humid. Winds W 8-16 mph.

SUNDAY 6 A.M. NOON 6 P.M. HIGH 87-92 LOW 68-73 Partly sunny and warmer. Winds SSW 8-16 mph. Humid at night with increasing cloudiness. Winds SW 6-12 mph.

MONDAY 6 A.M. NOON 6 P.M. HIGH 83-88 LOW 70-75 Sunshine and areas of low clouds. Winds SSE 7-14 mph. Partly cloudy skies and humid at night. Winds SW 6-12 mph.

New England forecast

TODAY: Warm with a mix of clouds and sunshine. A few scattered thunderstorms will also occur, mainly in the afternoon and evening hours.

TOMORROW: Warm and humid with clouds, some sunshine and a shower or thunderstorm occurring in spots across New England.

EXTENDED: Warm and humid Saturday with showers and a heavier thunderstorm scattered across New England. Mostly sunny and turning hot Sunday.

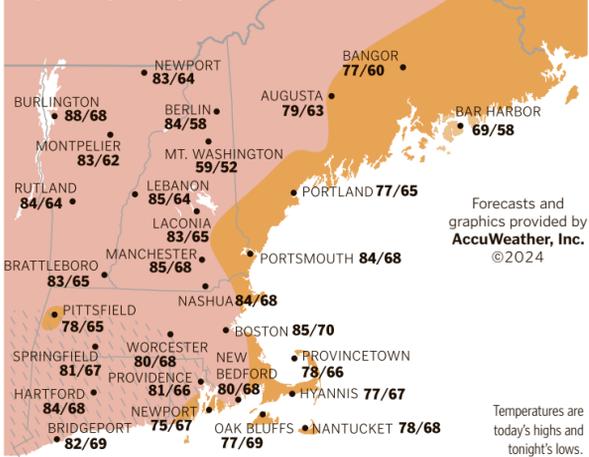


Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, and conditions. Lists cities like Atlanta, Los Angeles, and New York with their respective forecasts.

Almanac

Yesterday's high/low 80°/66° Sunrise 5:13 a.m. Sunset 8:24 p.m. Moonrise 3:23 a.m.

Mount Washington (5 p.m. yesterday) Weather Partly sunny Visibility 70 miles Wind south at 28 m.p.h. High/low temperature 57/47 Snow depth at 5 p.m. 0.0"

24 Hr. Precipitation (valid at 5 p.m. yesterday) Yesterday 0.00" Month to date 0.16" Year to date 29.21"

Table with 4 columns: Tides, High tides, A.M., P.M. Lists tide times for Boston, Gloucester, and other locations.

New England marine forecast Wind Seas Temp Boston Harbor SW 8-16 kts. 1-3 ft. 85/70

Allergies Source: Asthma & Allergy Affiliates, Inc. Trees Weeds Grass Mold Low Absent Moderate N.A.

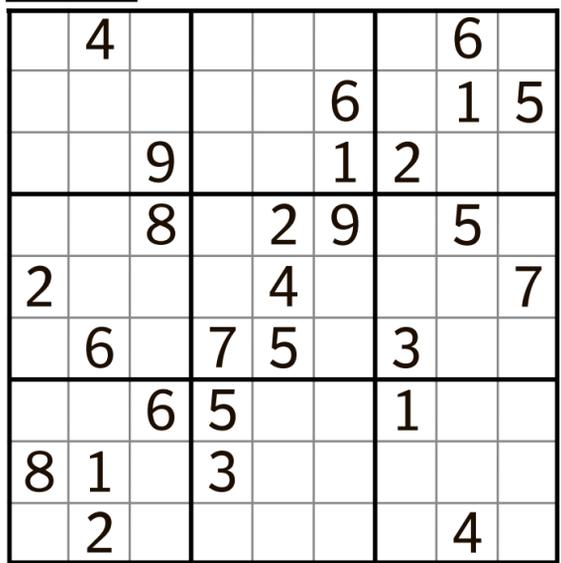
Eastern Massachusetts air quality GOOD MOD. UNHEALTHY HAZARDOUS 50 100 150 200 300

Climate data are compiled from National Weather Service records and are subject to change or correction.

Table with 4 columns: High tides, A.M., P.M. Lists tide times for Hyannis Port, Chatham, and other locations.

Small craft advisory Gale warning Storm warning Wind Seas Temp Martha's Vineyard SW 8-16 kts. 1-3 ft. 78/69

SUDOKU



Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Puzzle difficulty levels: Easy on Monday and Tuesday, more difficult on Wednesday and Thursday, most difficult on Friday and Saturday.

DAILY BRIDGE CLUB

BY FRANK STEWART South dealer — E-W vulnerable North ♠ 8 6 3 2 ♥ A Q 6 ♦ A K J 2 ♣ A 9 West ♠ K Q J 9 4 ♥ J 5 4 2 ♦ 8 ♣ Q 5 3 East ♠ 5 ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ Q 10 9 7 3 ♣ J 8 7 4 South Pass West Pass North 1 ♦ East Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass Opening lead — ♠ K

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, July 4, 2024:

You identify with like-minded people working for a common goal. You find this fellowship to be reassuring and rewarding. You have a strong sense of justice. New beginning, adventures and major changes in your life are likely.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is a laid-back day. Take it easy. Stock the fridge and enjoy family and friends at home. You might redecorate or tweak your digs before you entertain.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is an easygoing day, but it's a poor day for financial decisions. Be cautious about how you spend your money, because you might be extravagant or make poor choices.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) As this day begins, you'll feel a heightened excitement because the Moon is in your sign.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Be clear about plans, because there's room for confusion this morning. Later in the day, you're high-viz, which means everyone notices you!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Tread carefully if you have financial discussions this morning, especially about how to divide or share something. An element of confusion can encourage misunderstandings and false assumptions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Be patient with partners, spouses and close friends this morning, because assumptions and confusion might be challenging. However, by the afternoon, all is well and you will see how to use the re-

sources of others so that everyone can benefit. (Especially you.) Tonight: Check your finances. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Be easygoing and cooperative this morning. If something sounds confusing, postpone decisions until the afternoon.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Issues with children, as well as romantic partners, might be confusing this morning. Fear not, because later in the day everything will be clearer and things will fall into place.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) This morning you might feel like cocooning at home. Nevertheless, get dressed! As this day wears on, you'll want to socialize!

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“Refrigerators should have glass doors,” Cy the Cynic told me. “Then I wouldn’t have to stand there planning my next move with the door open, letting the cold air out.”

Cy isn't great at planning as declarer: He tends to adopt the first line of play he sees. At 3NT, Cy ducked West's king of spades and won the next spade as East threw a heart.

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East took the queen and led a heart. The Cynic won in dummy and took the A-K of diamonds, hoping for a 3-3 break, but when West showed out, Cy won only eight tricks.

Cy's 3NT was as cold as an icebox. At Trick Three Cy gets an extra chance by leading a club to dummy's nine. East wins and leads a heart, and Cy wins in dummy, cashes the ace of clubs, returns a heart to his hand and takes the king of clubs.

If the clubs didn't lie well, Cy could finesse in diamonds and get home with good luck there, or he might well end-play East in diamonds.

ANSWER: Your partner could have nothing — or as many as 9 points. Game is possible. You shouldn't raise the hearts with only three-card support. Bid 1NT, showing 18 or 19 points. Your double promised support for the other suits, so partner can suggest a different contract.

ZIPPY "Eager Believer" by Bill Griffith



BIZARRO by Wayno & Piraro



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM by Mike Peters



ADAM@HOME by Rob Harrell



ROSE IS ROSE by Pat Brady & Don Wimmer



Today's Crossword Solution grid with words filled in.

Today's Sudoku Solution grid with numbers filled in.