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Out in the heat with little protection

Most states don't require safeguards for workers during extreme temperatures

By Erin Douglas
GLOBE STAFF
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GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE — As the stifling heat bore down Wednesday, construction workers building a parking garage near Kendall Square sat down in the shade to take a break. It

was only lunchtime, and the temperature was already climbing into the 90s.

Nearby was an even cooler refuge: a worksite trailer with an air conditioner. The workers use it for quick breaks of five or 10 minutes to cool down, said Joe Davey, 31. Such respites are usually not allowed by

the bosses. But with the oppressive weather of the past three days, "everyone's on the same page," added another worker, Tom Parmensi, 52.

"We know it's bad," Parmensi added. "Everyone knows it."

As in most states, workers in Massachusetts are almost entirely reliant on the goodwill of their employers and their own precautions to protect them from the dangers of extreme heat. Some unionized workplaces bargain for heat-related

accommodations such as more frequent breaks and earlier start times to beat the heat of the day. But in general, workplace advocates and labor law experts said, there are few legal protections in place.

Climate change has made heat waves hotter and longer, and generally has increased average temperatures in the region. That's expected to worsen if greenhouse gas emissions continue: By the middle of this

HEAT, Page A6

Steward delays bid date for hospitals

Questions grow over who will buy Mass. facilities from beleaguered owner

By Robert Weisman
GLOBE STAFF

Less than a week before bids were due for eight of its Massachusetts hospitals, bankrupt Steward Health Care has pushed back its planned auction of the facilities by three weeks amid mounting questions about who will take over their operations.

The new bid deadline is July 15, with the auction set for July 18, according to a Steward filing in US Bankruptcy Court in Houston. Steward proposed a July 31 court hearing to finalize the hospital sales, which would have to be approved by bankruptcy Judge Christopher Lopez.

Steward, which filed for bankruptcy on May 6, gave no reason for the delay. A spokesperson for the company, the nation's largest for-profit hospital system, declined to comment Wednesday.

But the names of relatively few potential bidders have surfaced so far. And communities from Dorchester to Taunton to Haverhill are asking, with growing urgency, what will happen to hospitals that draw no bids. State law requires 120 days' notice before hospitals can be closed.

In interviews this week, some hospital leaders

STEWART, Page A8



FOR JUNETEENTH, SUN AND CELEBRATION

Wednesday was Juneteenth, a day to celebrate the ending of slavery in the United States. Above, Ziya Pye, 9, waved to the crowd as she stood up through a sunroof during the Juneteenth Parade in Boston. The heat did not hinder the crowds celebrating with a ceremony at the Dillaway-Thomas House in Eliot Square that included a flag-raising. The parade afterward went to the National Center of Afro-American Artists. At right, Euronna Taylor, a member of the Boston Juneteenth Committee, wore a Juneteenth flag in her hair as she watched the events. **B1.**



PHOTOS BY JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Players aren't the only Celtics grabbing attention

Videographers, social media specialists aim to be 'gold standard' for the NBA

By Diti Kohli
GLOBE STAFF

Maybe, you've seen the video. An overhead camera captures Celtics stars sinking shot after shot to a lackadaisical, Sunday-morning style beat. One three-pointer slides seamlessly into another, masked

with the fuzziness of a 2000s digital camera. Each pass, punctuated by the squeaks of shoes and the "swish" of the net.

One person in the TikTok comments called it "easily the coolest piece of sports filmmaking I've seen." Another on Instagram, "a

masterpiece." A third, "pure spectacle."

It's the work of the much-admired Celtics digital media team, a small army of content creators whose job is to promote the dominance and wizardry of the winningest franchise in NBA history to a fan base that laps up every highlight. They are behind the memes, videos, and game graphics that have garnered millions of views on-

line and punctuated the Finals run in an era when sports are not just consumed on television anymore.

One sportswriter believes they deserve an Emmy. A few others are campaigning for them to get championship rings alongside the players. Some joke the media team is so good, its members should be drug tested. Their sheer skill "has been feeding families all over the planet,"

CELTICS, Page A9

911 outage blamed on firewall issue

Dispatch centers used workaround for calls

By Sean Cotter and Nick Stoico
GLOBE STAFF

The map of 911 calls coming from Springfield's suburbs was still lighting up with notifications, but the WestComm Regional Dispatch center in Chicopee had gone quiet. Something, executive director Erin Hastings realized, was wrong.

► Experts say statewide outage never should have happened. **D1.**

"We could see calls coming in and the phone wasn't ringing," Hastings recounted, a day after the statewide 911 phone system went down for two hours on Tuesday afternoon.

State authorities said Wednesday that a digital firewall that was meant to be a security measure against hacks and cyberattacks malfunctioned and suddenly began blocking calls to dispatch centers. but, because the 911 centers could still read notifications of the calls on their monitors, dispatchers were able to return the calls and respond

OUTAGE, Page A8



The humid condition

Thursday: Storm possible, hot. High: 93-98. Low: 73-78.

Friday: Stormy. High: 81-86. Low: 62-67.

Sunrise: 5:07 Sunset: 8:24 Comics and Weather, **D5-6.**

Obituaries, **C10.**

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The families of motorcyclists killed in a 2019 crash testified at a hearing for Volodymyr Zhukovskyy, the man who drove the truck involved in the crash. **B1.**

President Vladimir Putin of Russia and North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, revived a Cold War-era mutual defense pledge, as the Kremlin deepened its security relationship with North Korea and vowed solidarity in challenging the United States. **A4.**

Governor Jeff Landry signed legislation requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in every public classroom in Louisiana, making the state the only one with such a mandate. **A2.**

Best Buy is gearing up for one of the biggest product launches of the year: artificial intelligence computers. **D3.**

In Maine, a home with a tainted view

Neighbors accused of poisoning trees to clear sight line to scenic harbor

By David Sharp
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAMDEN, Maine — Suspicious deaths in an idyllic seaside community and detective work that points to poison sound like themes from a classic murder mystery. But the victims in this Maine whodunnit were trees that stood in the way of a wealthy family's oceanfront view, allegedly felled by well-heeled killers who, while ostracized and publicly shamed, remain free.

Wealth and hubris fuel the tale of a politically connected Missouri couple who allegedly poisoned their neighbor's trees to secure their million-dollar view of Camden Harbor. The incident that was unearthed by the victim herself — the philanthropic wife of L.L. Bean's late president — has united local residents in outrage.

To make matters worse, the herbicide used to poison the trees leached into a neighboring park and the town's only public seaside beach. The state attorney general is now investigat-

MAINE, Page A9



ROBERT F. BUKATY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The homes of Lisa Gorman (front) and Amelia and Arthur Bond were seen this month in Camden, Maine.