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Rules to protect whales would slow ferries

On Islands, officials see proposed ship speed limit disrupting residents' lives

By Nick Stoico
GLOBE STAFF

A proposed speed limit for ships around Cape Cod and the Islands to protect endangered whales would eliminate fast-ferry service for key parts of the year, a move opponents say would threaten ferry businesses and upend island life for residents,

visitors, and workers.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is seeking to enact a speed limit of 10 knots (about 11.5 miles per hour) for vessels 35 feet or longer during certain times of the year in areas along the Atlantic Coast, where the critically endangered North Atlantic right

whale migrates from calving areas in the south to feeding areas in the north.

The rule would impact all ferry service to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, as well as ferries from Boston to Provincetown. Regular speed ferries typically operate around 12 to 13 knots, and high-speed ferries travel at around 30 knots.

The proposal would restrict speeds to 10 knots in Vineyard

Sound and Nantucket Sound from Nov. 1 to May 30, when right whales are in the area, along with speed restrictions that would go in effect when whale sightings are reported during the other five months of the year.

The rule is intended to reduce the number of collisions between ships and right whales, a leading cause of the species' decline. NOAA says that fewer than 360 North At-

SPEED ZONES, Page A7

Biden tells governors he needs more rest

In call with colleagues, Healey says president's position is 'irretrievable'

By Reid J. Epstein and Maggie Haberman
NEW YORK TIMES

President Biden told a gathering of Democratic governors that he needs to get more sleep and work fewer hours, including curtailing events after 8 p.m., according to two people who participated in the meeting and several others briefed on his comments.

The remarks Wednesday were a stark acknowledgment of fatigue from the 81-year-old president during a meeting intended to reassure more than two dozen of his most important supporters that he is still in command of his job and capable of mounting a robust campaign against former president Donald Trump.

Biden's comments about needing more rest came shortly after The New York Times reported that current and former officials have noticed that the president's lapses over the past few months have become more frequent and pronounced.

But Biden told the governors, some of whom were at the White House while others participated virtually, that he was staying in the race.

However, Governor Maura Healey of Massachusetts told fellow governors in a separate call Monday that she had told Biden's chief of staff that the president's political position was "irretriev-

BIDEN, Page A5



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

HOLDING FORTH WITH CELEBRATIONS

For America's 248th Independence Day, Boston was the place to be. Andrea Dacosta danced with her son Jeremias, 4, during the Boston Pops Fireworks spectacular at the Hatch Memorial Shell. At right, Becky Plotkin and Josiah Polese, both of Boston, took in the dazzling show from the Esplanade. Other events included the annual reading of Frederick Douglass's "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" and a Boston Harbor cruise for the USS Constitution. **B1-3.**



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

'I get to watch an eating contest, and it's part of our identity in New England.'

THEO BOUGAS, of Publico restaurant, on why he sticks with the dollar oyster deal

A dollar for an oyster? What's not to love?

In era of inflation, bivalve bargain is a draw for patrons

By Diti Kohli
GLOBE STAFF

Theo Bougas leaned against the bar at his South Boston restaurant, Publico, on a swampy evening last month and admired a familiar view: oyster fanatics as far as his eye can see. To his left sat a couple in their early 20s, chomping at two dozen bivalves in what they've made a weekly tradition. Another table hosted a mother introducing her 7-year-old to the meaty treat. At a third, a few newly minted friends downed 72 oysters with Fiddlehead IPAs and chicken wings.

"We die for oysters," said one,



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Audrey Lowebrine, 7, slurped down an oyster at Publico in South Boston, while her friend Stella Belagorudsky, 7, watched.

rather seriously. "Especially when they're a dollar."

Bougas knows it. Every Tuesday, he sells roughly 2,000 oysters in an all-day \$1 promotional deal that has withstood an otherwise rocky time in the food business.

"Yeah, you make no money selling oysters for a buck," he said. "But as far as I'm concerned, I get to watch an eating contest, and it's part of our identity in New England. What are we going to do? Get rid of it?"

Loads of places agree. Publico is one of at least 25 restaurants and bars in Greater Boston still offering dollar oyster deals, according to a recent roundup by Boston.com. But our high-priced times are forcing some businesses to rethink their approach to the staple promo.

OYSTERS, Page A7

"Dali: Deception and Devotion," at the MFA (right), is beautiful and profound, writes critic Murray Whyte. **G1.**

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Of humid events

Friday: Humid, sun, clouds.
High: 81-86. Low: 71-76.

Saturday: Cloudy, humid. High:
81-86. Low: 72-77.

High tide: 11:39 a.m. 11:43 p.m.

Sunrise: 5:14 Sunset: 8:24

Comics and Weather, **G6-7.**

Obituaries, **C8.**

Labour landslide in UK election

The Labour Party was projected Thursday night to win a landslide election victory, sweeping the Conservative Party out of power after 14 years, in a thundering anti-incumbent revolt that heralded a new era in British politics. **A4.**

Email drafts reveal response by officials to Emerson arrests

By Daniel Kool and Ava Berger
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

On the night Boston police violently clashed with Emerson College protesters as they dismantled a pro-Palestinian encampment in an alleyway just off campus, enraging the campus community, the college's communications staff drafted an urgent letter from the president, Jay Bernhardt, and other administrators to students and faculty.

"The arrest of members of our community for violating local ordinances is concerning and troubling for us all," the letter said in part.

Then Emerson sent the draft letter to the office of Mayor Michelle Wu — who together with Police Commissioner Michael Cox made the call to clear the encampment — for review.

"Please let me know if there are any necessary changes," Michelle Gaseau, interim vice president of marketing and communications, wrote in an email to Jessica Pierre, Wu's chief communications officer, at around 11:45 p.m. "I understand that BPD is at the College now."

The back and forth with Wu's team, revealed

EMERSON, Page A6

This paragraph was cut in Google Docs by Mayor Wu's team from the 11:45 p.m. April 24 draft from Michelle Gaseau:

The arrest of members of our community for violating local ordinances is concerning and troubling for us all. Emerson College attempted to prevent these arrests by communicating with the protesters over several days about the city and safety ordinances and encouraging compliance with these policies.

This is how the 7 a.m. draft opened. Gaseau emailed it to Jessica Pierre on Wu's team and asked for final feedback, before excising the points about anguish and injuries:

We are writing to our community this morning with profound concern and anguish regarding the clearing of the tent encampment and mass arrests at Boylston Place Alley overnight by the Boston Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police to enforce city ordinances. The confrontation between the police and protesters was aggressive, resulting in the arrest of more than 100 protesters. Emerson College staff and administrators were present in the alley throughout the night and are supporting those who were arrested and who sustained injuries.