

## Steward sought to build a global medical empire, starting in Malta

It ended in disappointment for the island nation



THE DAPHNE CARUANA GALIZIA FOUNDATION/OCCRP

The former Saint Luke's Hospital in Malta, which was signed over to Vitals and later Steward on the condition that it be redeveloped, was seen in a state of neglect and abandonment in 2023.

By Adam Piore  
GLOBE STAFF

Protesters in the tiny Mediterranean nation of Malta converged last October on the 18th-century Baroque palace housing the prime minister's offices chanting "thieves," and unfurled a massive banner on the steps emblazoned with the words: "Bring back the €400 million now."

The object of their furor wasn't just the government. It was also Steward Health Care, the medical conglomerate that made Malta the first stop in its aggressive bid to expand in-

ternationally, even as its chain of hospitals in Massachusetts teeters on the verge of bankruptcy.

The €400 million figure is the amount Malta's opposition party claims the government paid an affiliate of Steward and another company over an eight-year period to provide medical care to its citizens and transform three dilapidated state-owned hospitals into world-class institutions.

Instead, "not a stone was put in place," said Adrian Delia, a member of the Maltese Parliament and former chief of the opposition party. He accused the companies of "defrauding" the Maltese people.

Over five years, Steward Malta did make some modest im-

provements to the hospitals and delivered on its promise to build a Maltese medical school campus. But overall, the firm's ambitious foray to the island nation proved a disappointment, one with echoes of the current furor over Steward's alleged mismanagement of its Massachusetts properties.

Unpaid bills, detailed in a growing number of court cases filed by creditors. Broken promises, painstakingly spelled out in a pair of recent rulings handed down by Maltese judges. And allegations of profiteering.

Steward's Maltese experiment was a brief one. By the time of the march on the capital, Steward had already pivoted from providing medical care to defending the company's reputation in court, after a Maltese judge invalidated its initial con-

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◀ **STEWART IN MALTA** Steward had signed a 30-year contract to modernize and run three hospitals and build a medical school campus.

### Current events

**Sunday:** Breezy, cloudy.  
High: 40-45. Low: 32-37.

**Monday:** Some sun, gusty.  
High: 38-43. Low: 33-38.  
High tide: 11:50 a.m.

Sunrise: 6:40 Sunset: 7:01  
Complete report, **A22**.  
Deaths, **A16-20**.

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**"Hallyu: The Korean Wave," now at the MFA, layers all the fun and flash of South Korean pop culture** with meaningful narrative about the country's triumph over oppression. **SundayArts, N1.**

**Last year, investigators uncovered an underground trade in human body parts,** allegedly operating out of Harvard Medical School's morgue. It was just the beginning. **Globe Magazine.**

**Apple TV's docuseries on the Patriots plays like Bob Kraft's authorized history** of the team, writes Dan Shaughnessy. **Sports, C1.**

## Ranks thinned, but food co-ops back in stock



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

Elnora Thompson at the **Dorchester Food Co-op** in February. It took about a decade for the co-op in the Bowdoin-Geneva commercial district to come to fruition.

### Renewed interest for community grocers, with 3 underway here

By Devra First  
GLOBE STAFF

For many years, the Harvest Food Co-operative was the only food co-op in the Boston area. It started in 1971 as a bulk-buying collective for people who wanted access to the kind of natural foods then hard to come by. By the time its last remaining branch closed in 2018, the likes of organic vegetables and whole grains had become not just mainstream but big business. Who needed co-ops when even

stores like Wal-Mart and Target sold kale, quinoa, and soy milk?

Then, in May 2023, the Assabet Co-Op Market opened in Maynard. It has more than 2,500 members. "It's a grocery store, and it's so much more than a grocery store," said Laura Mattei, who was the 20th member to sign on. "It's really about community, supporting local, supporting farmers and other artisans, supporting our neighbors. And knowing where your food comes from, which is really hard these days."

Just a few months later, in October, the Dorchester Food Co-op opened in the Bowdoin-Geneva commercial district. A third, the Charles River Food Co-

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## Still at Harvard, Summers still speaks his mind

School's former president says he is motivated to curb antisemitism

By Stephanie Ebbert  
and Deirdre Fernandes  
GLOBE STAFF

Nearly two decades after he was ousted as president, Larry Summers has a lot to say about what's wrong with Harvard University.

At a moment of crisis for Harvard and higher education generally, he has emerged as a leading critic of both, privately offering his colleagues unsolicited advice, faculty and university insiders said in a series of interviews, and publicly blasting those who disregard it.

It is a highly unusual breach of protocol for a former college president to openly undercut his successors and denounce his long-time academic home. And observers note the irony of Summers lecturing university leaders on public diplomacy while he was forced to step down as president after alienating Black scholars and suggesting women may have lesser aptitude for science and math.

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'I do not feel that the fact that many people listen to me constitutes a reason why I should not be allowed to express opinions.'

LARRY SUMMERS



NEW YORK TIMES/FILE 2021

Larry Summers has been criticized for taking aim at his successors.

## A movie classic, retouched for a long engagement

\$14m revival for Coolidge amid industry uncertainties

By Malcolm Gay  
GLOBE STAFF

**BROOKLINE** — When Coolidge Corner Theatre opens its new building to the public Wednesday, movie buffs can play a sort of parlor game: What 1939 movie inspired the new lobby? Do its theaters channel a certain art film of the late 1980s? Does the rear facade conjure images of an old movie curtain?

These are just some of the expansion's marquee features: a pair of theaters that offer an additional 200 seats, an indoor lobby where moviegoers can buy popcorn and beer at the same time, and a third-floor education and events center with sweeping views of Brookline and beyond.

All told, the \$14 million, three-story addition to the rear of the original structure gives the Coolidge six working the-

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LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Among other features, the expansion includes two new theaters, including this 149-seat auditorium rendered entirely in shades of red.

