The Boston Blobe

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024

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Sale of Steward hospitals closer

Landlords step back from talks

By Robert Weisman

Two of the key players involved in financial dealings that helped bring bankrupt Steward Health Care to the brink of collapse could soon be out of the picture, lifting a weight off the protracted negotiations to sell off six of the chain's hospitals in Massachusetts.

Lawyers for Steward and landlord Medical Properties Trust disclosed Tuesday that the landowner and its partner Macquarie Infrastructure Partners will walk away from their hospital properties in Massachusetts, a surprising development that appears to have boosted chances a final deal on the sales can be completed by the end of the week.

The dramatic move was revealed Tuesday at a US Bankruptcy Court hearing. After multiparty negotiations stretched through last weekend, MPT and Macquarie, whose rents on the properties were a major contributor to Steward's financial stress, agreed to turn the portfolio over to their mortgage lender, Apollo Global Management.

Steward's financial spiral stemmed in part from its complex real estate structure. The for-profit company sold its land and hospital buildings eight years ago, netting a big cash payout but saddling the facilities with millions in rent obligations to MPT and Macquarie.

But the latest development effectively removes the longtime landlords from the ongoing hospital sales talks, STEWARD, Page A8

A rising tide swept stocks higher, and calm returned to Wall Street after Japan's market soared to claw back much of the losses from its worst day since 1987. **B5.**

Tropical Storm Debby drenched coastal cities in Georgia and South Carolina, stirred up tornadoes, and submerged streets with waist-high flood waters. A2.

Harvard University will face a lawsuit filed by Jewish students who allege the school allowed antisemitism to prosper after the Hamasled attack on Israel. **B1.**

The New England states won a \$389 million federal award for upgrades to the region's electric grid. **B5.**



A faucet of nature

Wednesday: Damp, cool. High 66-71. Low 58-63. Thursday: More of the same. High 70-75. Low 60-65. High tide: 1:39 a.m., 2:08 p.m. Sunrise: 5:43 Sunset: 7:56 Weather and Comics, G6-7.

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Democrats look to Walz to balance ticket

Through his contradictions, an aura of 'pure authenticity'

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Representative Angie Craig has a quintessentially Minnesota way of summing up why the selection of her home state governor, Tim Walz, as the Democratic vice presidential nominee was being praised by figures from across the party, from Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Joe Manchin.

"Tim has appeal across a number of different constituencies," said Craig, a Democrat from a district south of the Twin Cities. "The best thing I can say — I've been turkey hunting with him in the morning and then to a gay rights dinner that night."

That memory is one of many testaments to how Walz, over nearly two decades in politics, has been able to embody a slew of apparent political contradictions while coming

WALZ, Page A6

Minn. governor with wide appeal in party is chosen to be Harris's running mate

By Jim Puzzanghera and Sam Brodey

GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — In picking Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her running mate Tuesday, Vice President Kamala Harris sought to maintain the unity that has energized Democrats in recent weeks with a seasoned politician boasting a progressive record who is well-liked across the party's factions.

The choice of Walz, 60, finally completes the presidential field after a historic spasm of chaos over the past month and emphasizes the importance Midwest battleground states will play in what is expected to

be another close race for the White House.

Republican nominee Donald Trump tapped Ohio Senator JD Vance as his running mate last month in part because of his Midwestern roots. Harris did the same with Walz, a former National Guard officer, high school social studies teacher, and football coach who grew up in rural Nebraska, as both parties looked to appeal to the region's white working-class voters.

"Minnesota's strength comes from our values — our commitment to working together, to seeing past our differences, to always being will-

VICE PRESIDENT, Page A6



ANDREW HAI

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz joined Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday night at a rally in Philadelphia. "Our values are the same," she said.

Diversity rules not followed for Boston construction

Wth city concerned about legal pushback, panel has issued few fines

By Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF

During the past four years, not a single construction project in Boston has reported meeting all the rules intended to diversify the industry and bolster the number of city residents working on construction sites, a Globe review has found.

There was a \$28 million construction of 88 residential units on Harrison Avenue in the South End. Major renovations to a Charlestown address to create a space for a school for the deaf. A planned 300,000-square-foot parking garage for a hospital in Jamaica Plain. A music venue added to Fenway Park. A new police station in East Boston.

Not one was in full compliance with the Boston Residents Jobs Policy, a city ordinance that requires 51 percent of work hours on a project go to Boston residents, 40 percent of work hours go to workers of color, and 12 percent of work hours go to women. The rules apply to any private development over 50,000 square feet and any public projects.

If the projects were fully compliant with the policy, city authorities in 2022 estimated, Boston residents would have earned \$138.5 million more in wages that year.

The firms and organizations involved in projects that failed to meet the policy's stated thresholds include some of the region's heaviest hitters in construction and development: Suffolk, Turner, John Moriarty & Associates, Shawmut, Consigli, and Dellbrook|JKS. Many development projects are linked with Boston institutions, such as the Red Sox, Brigham and Women's, New Balance, and Northeastern University, among others. "We continue to miss the mark and we need to

do better," said City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.

The Globe reviewed four years' worth of proj-

JOBS, Page A9

PSSST: ON VACATION — AND THE BOSS HAS NO CLUE

Bold remote workers are quietly picking their spots

By Beth Teitell

As far as her boss knew, she was dutifully stationed at her laptop in Boston, helping clients choose menus, defusing delivery problems. But the 26-year-old catering operations manager was secretly in New Mexico, biking past Walter White's house on a "Breaking Bad" tour, sledding the hills of White Sands National Park, vibing to the best breakfast burritos of her life.

"It was like a mini gift from the universe," she said. And what a gift it was. Despite spending three weeks hardly working, she took zero vacation days just a few strategically timed emails and calls, and bin-

"If I can get my work done quicker than the average person, why can't I indulge in my free time?" said the

woman, who works remotely, and who asked for anonymity to protect the good thing she has going (namely her job).

It's called "quiet vacationing," and it's like hooky on steroids, the Friday-afternoon sneakout taken to its inevitable, remote-work-enabled extreme.

In late April, The Harris Poll found that 28 percent of employed adults 18 and older — and nearly 40 percent of millennials — have pulled the move. Many quiet vacationers head out of town, but you can quiet staycation, too.

Not everyone can "quiet vacation." It's a white collar perk, and requires the blessed combo of a manager who's not into micromanaging, a light workload, and chutzpah.

QUIET VACATIONS, Page A9

RUNNING STRONG



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gabby Thomas, who grew up in Northampton and became a star at Harvard, took the gold — her first — in the 200 meters with a dominant performance Tuesday. **More on the day, C1, 4-6.**