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For seaside village, patron’s death one more trial

By Kevin Cullen
GLOBE STAFF

PORT CLYDE, Maine — The burnt-out shell of the Port Clyde General Store in this small, picturesque fishing village was still smoldering last September when Linda Bean vowed to rebuild.

Bean, the granddaughter of the founder of the L.L. Bean empire, owned not only the general store and adjacent restaurant destroyed in the fire but several other businesses and properties in the village. The resolute vow from the hard-nosed businesswoman was a shot of hope for a community whose emotional and economic center had been reduced to ashes overnight.

The historic General Store was a landmark that lent the village its widely recognized charm, and it was a community focal point, where residents bought groceries, got their morning coffee, and caught up with one another.

But Bean’s promise to rebuild “as soon as possible” looks less imminent than it did last fall. Epic storms in January, fed by rising seas and increasingly violent weather, repeatedly flooded the peninsula of Port Clyde, forcing planners to confront the need to raise or relocate the building.

The outlook further clouded in March, when Linda Bean died

PORT CLYDE, Page A10



MICHAEL G. SEAMANS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

A portion of the dock that was once home to the Dip Net is all that remains of the popular restaurant in Port Clyde, Maine.

Israeli military to open aid route

Hard-line officials decry pledge to limit attacks in southern Gaza corridor

By Leo Sands, Susannah George, and Niha Masih
WASHINGTON POST

The Israeli military on Sunday announced it had begun a daily 11-hour pause of operations along an aid corridor in southern Gaza to safeguard deliveries of humanitarian relief — a move that some within the government denounced.

The limited “tactical pause” will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. each day “until further notice along the road that leads from the Kerem Shalom Crossing to the Salah al-Din Road and then northwards,” the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement Sunday. The IDF later clarified that there is “no cessation of fighting” elsewhere in southern Gaza, including Rafah.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir denounced the plan, saying on X that “whoever decided on a ‘tactical truce’ . . . is an evil and a fool who should not continue in his position.” Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich called the pause announcement “delusional” and “detached,” adding that the “‘humanitarian aid’ that continues to reach Hamas keeps it in power and may put the achievements of the war down the drain.”

The two-step choreography of the messaging became confusing when the government suggested

MIDEAST, Page A6

‘The sheep are . . . definitely a more sustainable way to manage the vegetation for us.’

KEITH HEVENOR, of *Nexamp Solar*



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

The sheep have proved to be the ultimate of weed whackers around solar installations like this one in Fitchburg.

SOME THING EWE UNDER THE SUN

A novel use of sheep helps companies maintain their solar panels

By Ivy Scott
GLOBE STAFF

FITCHBURG — Leaning on the back of their pickup truck, farmers Jesse and Elspeth Robertson-Dubois kept a keen eye on their flock of sheep. As the sun beat down, the majority of the flock huddled together, sheltering from the heat under a row of silver solar panels closest to their buckets of water.

But farther up the hill, almost out of sight amid the long array of panels, a sleepy lamb

suddenly awoke to find its mother far away.

“Is the lamb lost over there?” Elspeth Robertson-Dubois asked, in response to its faint bleating. Before long, however, the lamb found its footing and trotted beneath the shade of the metallic panels until it was reunited with the flock.

Once an abandoned apple orchard, this land was converted roughly three years ago into a solar farm, with hundreds of panels spread across its 20 acres. The owner of the

panels, solar company Nexamp, is leasing the land from the orchard owner for 25 years. Not long after launching the site, the company partnered with Finicky Farms, owned by the Robertson-Dubois family. In exchange for keeping the grasses low, the farmers are paid by the solar company and also get to use the land as a free grazing site for a flock of 215 sheep, which they process and sell locally as lamb.

SHEEP, Page A7

Democrats seek beachheads in state houses

Once the domain of GOP, legislatures in key capitals find seats are up for grabs

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — For years, Democrats in Wisconsin found themselves hard-pressed to get candidates to even contemplate a run for the state Legislature.

Republicans had long dominated the capital in Madison, thanks in large part to district maps heavily skewed in the GOP’s favor. Those maps ushered in an era of disproportionately massive majorities in the Legislature even as Democrats routinely won statewide elections.

“Recruitment during gerrymandered maps was tough,” said Dianne Hesselbein, the Democratic minority leader of the Wisconsin Senate. “People knew going into it what they were up against, and sometimes that felt a little demoralizing for some of the candidates.”

But in February, Republicans agreed to far more competitive legislative district maps proposed by Governor Tony Evers, a Democrat, rather than leave the issue to Wisconsin’s liberal-leaning

STATE LEGISLATURE, Page A7


Back to the Garden

Monday: Warmer, breezy. High 79-84, low 65-70.

Tuesday: The heat is on. High 89-94, low 70-75.

Sunrise: 5:07. Sunset: 8:24.

Weather and comics, **D4-5**.

Obituaries, **C10**.



INVISION/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daniel Radcliffe (above) won a Tony, his first major award. B6.

Gunfire injured seven people, two critically, and sent hundreds fleeing a party in Methuen. **B1.**

The Red Sox ran wild Sunday night, swiping a record nine bases to blow out the Yankees, 9-3, and win two out of three games at Fenway Park. **C1.**

Feaster embodies Celtics’ winning attitude

By Jeneé Osterheldt
GLOBE COLUMNIST

On a slanted hill in Carlisle, S.C. — the black walnut shells cracking under her feet and staining her soles — Allison Feaster learned to play basketball on a makeshift hoop. Perhaps her first court was a metaphor, for the battle is often uphill. Victory rarely comes easy.

But we don’t give up. That little Black girl in rural South Carolina used basketball as a way to score access to the best education. She fell in love with the game

and she won.

As Celtics vice president of team operations and organizational growth, she and the team are on the brink of bringing home an 18th banner. It would be one of many history-making moves.

Recently inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame, she wields a stellar basketball resume: as a forward for Harvard University, she was the first athlete in any sport to be a three-time Ivy League Player of the Year. Her record remains one of the best. More than 25 years later, fans replay the 1998 NCAA women’s tourney in their heads. She led No.

FEASTER, Page A10



GEORGE ANNAN JR.

A Celtics Sisterhood, from left: Kash Cannon, Ashley Battle, Taylor Kielpinski-Rogers, Candice Williams, and Allison Feaster all hold leadership positions with the team.

Looking to rebound
Climching a title at home is rare for Boston, Tara Sullivan writes. **C1.**

