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A R.I. blueprint for Mass. health care

BrownHealth’s takeover of hospitals raises hopes for cities, profile of nonprofit chain

By Robert Weisman
GLOBE STAFF

FALL RIVER — On the count of three, Governor Maura Healey and Brown University Health chief executive John Fernandez unfurled the banner outside St. Anne’s Hospital. The old sign reading “Steward Family Hospital” was covered by a spiffy new BrownHealth logo.

The ceremony in November marked the \$175 million handoff of St. Anne’s and Morton Hospital in nearby Taunton to Rhode Island’s largest health care system. It was also a good-riddance celebration of Steward

Health Care’s ignominious departure from Massachusetts that capped the Healey administration’s campaign to put six of the bankrupt company’s acute care hospitals in the hands of new operators.

And maybe most important, it heralded the arrival of a potentially powerful new player to the state’s hospital sector, one that is financially stable at a time when others are struggling, and one that brings the culture of high-level academic medicine to a part of the state away from Boston’s world-famous medical hub.

Fernandez, 59, in an interview, said

“We’ve been holding our breath. Closing [St. Anne’s] would have left a hole right through the middle of the city.’

PAUL COOGAN,
mayor of Fall River

he has no specific strategy for Massachusetts, but spoke of a broad patient-centered vision for BrownHealth.

“I want patients to leave, after they come to one of our hospitals, [and] say, ‘Wow, what a great experience I had, what great care I got,’” said Fernandez. “If we do that right, then a whole lot of other things fall into place. That’s true whether we’re in Massachusetts or Rhode Island.”

The system was previously called Lifespan Health but was rebranded on Oct. 15 to reflect its affiliation with Brown University’s medical school. It has five hospitals in Rhode Island and posted an operating profit of \$8.6 million for last year. It is on track for positive earnings in 2024.

BROWNHEALTH, Page A7

Biden pardons son in tax, gun cases

President repeatedly vowed not to make such a move

By Matt Viser
WASHINGTON POST

President Biden on Sunday pardoned his son Hunter, a controversial decision that reverses his long-standing pledge to not use his presidential powers to protect his only surviving son, who was found guilty of gun-related charges in Delaware and pleaded guilty to tax evasion in California.

Using his executive authority in the waning days of his presidency, Biden lifted the legal cloud that has hung over his son for several years. While the president had pledged several times not to pardon or commute Hunter Biden’s sentences for federal crimes, many close to him had expected the pardon would come, given the president’s loyalty to his family. The move also comes at a time when Biden will face few political ramifications, given that he is a lame duck and voters have already rendered their verdict on his administration by sending Donald Trump back to office.

In a lengthy statement on Sunday night, released just as he was preparing to depart for Afri-



Hunter Biden

BIDEN, Page A5

Document drama

Trump’s antitrans rhetoric sparks a race to update ID forms



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Emily, a North Shore mother, and her transgender son, 12, are waiting for an official copy of his updated birth certificate.

By Kay Lazar and Mike Damiano
GLOBE STAFF

In the heart of New England, where legal protections for transgender people seemed relatively secure just a few weeks ago, there’s a growing uneasiness.

Many transgender people and the parents of trans children are racing to update birth certificates, passports, and other legal documents to match their gender identity, rather than their sex assigned at birth, out

of fear that such changes will be banned once President-elect Donald Trump, who has promised several immediate antitrans actions, takes office in January.

Trump campaigned on promises to revoke all federal dollars for gender-affirming care and to go after doctors who provide it. He also said he would punish schools and teachers who suggest to a child that they may be transgender, ban transgender women from female sports, and ask Congress to

pass a law that “the only genders recognized by the US government are male and female — and they are assigned at birth.”

People in the transgender community are worried that if federal agencies adopt such a policy, and they don’t update their passports and other documents before Trump takes office, they would be blocked from a number of activities, including traveling overseas.

DOCUMENTS, Page A6

For ex-trooper, a history of misconduct, promotions

Disciplinary actions no barrier to climb up ladder

By Dan Glaun
GLOBE STAFF

Brian Gladu’s career with the Massachusetts State Police reads like a police blotter.

In 2009, internal affairs investigators determined that Gladu, then a trooper, falsely accused a woman of carrying drugs, inappropriately touched her, and then tried to influence witnesses to cover it up.

In 2016, another internal investigation found that Gladu — by then a sergeant — misused a confidential police database to look up information about dozens of women and female high school athletes.

There were other complaints along the way, but by 2020, he’d risen through the ranks to captain.

When Gladu retired from the State Police in 2023, he was facing new allegations that he groped a Springfield resident during an unlawful search.

TROOPER, Page A6

State leads way in cutting food waste

Support, education for businesses cited in effort to reduce climate effects

By Ivy Scott
GLOBE STAFF

NEWTON — Johnny’s Luncheonette was bustling at lunchtime on a recent Tuesday, with a steady flow of customers sliding in and out of plum-colored booths and digging into flapjacks and sandwiches. Behind the scenes, through a swinging silver door that led to the kitchen, diner staff were busy separating food scraps from the trash: metallic butter wrappers and tiny jam packets into the garbage, the last bites of sandwiches into three 45-gallon compost bins the restaurant fills to the brim each week.

“It’s not like you’re doing anything that different. Instead of tossing it into one bin, they’re just tossing it into another,” said restaurant co-owner Kay Masterson. “Honestly, it was easier than I thought it was going to be, which is wonderful because not every change is like that.”

The Newton diner is one of hundreds of businesses around the state — including restaurants, grocery stores, schools, and hotels — to rethink the approach to food waste in the two

FOOD WASTE, Page A7



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Jose Freitas took out compost at Johnny’s Luncheonette in Newton. No other state has been able to significantly cut food waste in landfills in recent years.



Push bright button

Monday: Mostly sunny.
High 35-40, low 25-30.

Tuesday: Some clouds.
High 36-41, low 27-32.

Sunrise: 6:55. Sunset: 4:12.

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

Obituaries, **B6.**

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MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

With Bobby Orr (above) and other ex-stars celebrating 100 years of Boston Bruins hockey, the team overwhelmed its longtime archrival, the Montreal Canadiens, 6-3. C1.

The Patriots fell in a crushing, waning-seconds defeat, 25-24, to the Colts. C1.

To attract visitors and shoppers downtown, a business group turns to nutcrackers, with a whimsical twist. D1.

Lawmakers in both parties expressed concern over President-elect Trump’s plan to replace the FBI director with a fervent loyalist. A3.