

The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Roberta Biscan, a Wilmington resident, first became concerned with the ability of Shrub Oak International School to serve her son Connor when it would not craft an individualized education program for him.

Falling short on its homework

Mass. error puts autistic students in unregulated boarding school in New York

By Mandy McLaren
GLOBE STAFF

The emailed photo from Shrub Oak International School came through at 8:14 at night, affixed to a brief note letting Elizabeth Carlson know that her son, Matthew, was “doing fine and slowly adjusting.”

Clad in a Captain America T-shirt, Matthew, then 18, didn’t look fine, though. His right eye was plum-colored and swollen, a nasty shiner that was the result, staff from the New York-based boarding school said, of the autistic student hitting himself earlier that day.

It was October 2022. Nearly three hours away at her home in Uxbridge, Carlson questioned how her son could have blackened his own eye. Even if physically possible, Matthew was supposed to have a one-on-one aide with him at all times. It was his second week at the school, and, already, things just didn’t feel right.

What Carlson didn’t know at the time, but would eventually come to learn, was that Matthew should never have been sent to Shrub Oak in the first place.

SHRUB OAK , Page A7



LIZ MOUGHON/PROPUBLICA

Shrub Oak, in Mohegan Lake, N.Y., was mistakenly listed among approved special-education schools by Massachusetts officials.

Russian missiles pummel Ukraine

Attack on infrastructure among biggest of war; Kyiv vows to press border raid

By Andrew E. Kramer
and Matthew Mpoke Bigg
NEW YORK TIMES

KYIV — Moscow launched more than 200 missiles and drones across a wide swath of Ukraine on Monday, damaging energy facilities and sending residents of Kyiv into basements and subways to seek shelter. President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the assault as “one of the largest strikes” of the 30-month-old war.

The attack occurred at a volatile time in the conflict, coming against the backdrop of Ukraine’s cross-border incursion into southern Russia — the first invasion on Russian soil since World War II. On Monday, Ukraine’s forces continued to try to advance in the region.

The offensive into the Kursk region has shifted the dynamics of the war after months in which Ukraine’s forces were on the defensive in Ukraine’s east. The push has slowed in recent days, but Zelensky said Sunday that Ukrainian forces had advanced by 1 to 3 kilometers and taken control of two more settlements. It was not possible to verify the claim independently.

At the same time, Russian troops have been attacking relentlessly along the front line inside Ukraine, closing in on the key city of Pokrovsk and

UKRAINE, Page A4

State OK’s free jail calls, then yanks funds

Prisoner advocates decry cuts after successful debut

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

Months after the state made phone conversations free for incarcerated people, the number of calls has doubled in state prisons, heartening advocates who long pushed to shift a heavy financial burden off families.

Quickly, however, a new concern has surfaced: The state has slashed the money intended to pay for it.

The state budget that lawmakers passed — and Governor Maura Healey signed last month — provides \$10 million to cover the costs of those now-free phone calls, just half of what the Legislature allocated for the launch of the initiative in December.

That initial \$20 million is expected to cover the first eight months of free calls after the law took effect. Should phone usage remain steady or continue growing, the \$10 million allocation probably won’t meet demand this fiscal year, prompting one sheriff to warn that correction officials may have to restrict, or eliminate, phone access to rein in the rising tab.

CALLS, Page A6

What to know about rare, deadly mosquito virus

By Travis Andersen
GLOBE STAFF

State officials said over the weekend that 10 Massachusetts communities were at high or critical risk for eastern equine encephalitis, the mosquito-borne disease better known by its acronym EEE, and announced plans to spray parts of Worcester and Plymouth counties starting Tuesday evening to combat the threat.

Concerns took on heightened urgency after the state Department of Public Health said Aug. 16 that a man in his 80s exposed to the disease in Worcester County was the state’s first

human case of EEE since 2020. His condition wasn’t known Monday.

Here’s what to know about the rare but potentially deadly disease.

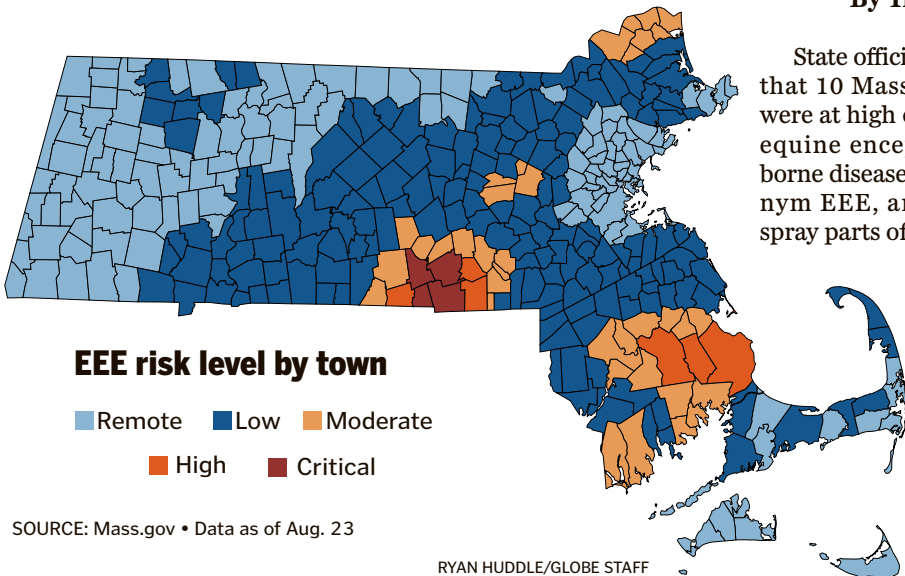
What is eastern equine encephalitis?

The disease cycles between mosquito and bird carriers and also affects horses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“People and other animals, like horses, become infected with the virus when mosquito species that feed on many kinds of animals, feed on infected birds and then bite people,” according to the CDC.

Symptom onset usually comes “three to ten days” after a bite from an infected mosquito, according to the DPH.

EEE, Page A7



SOURCE: Mass.gov • Data as of Aug. 23

RYAN HUDDLE/GLOBE STAFF

Summery judgment

Tuesday: Warmer, some sun.
High 78-83, low 66-71.

Wednesday: Hot, storm late.
High 82-87, low 60-65.

Sunrise: 6:04. Sunset: 7:26.

Weather and comics, **D5-6.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

VOL. 306, NO. 58

*

Suggested retail price
\$4.00

The family of Boston police officer John O’Keefe sued Karen Read, alleging she was responsible for his death in Canton in 2022, as well as two bars that allegedly served her alcohol before his death. **B1.**

Steward Health Care, for the seventh time, delayed a bankruptcy hearing as the embattled company seeks to complete deals for its hospitals in Massachusetts. **D1.**

The Harris and Trump campaigns squabbled over the rules for a coming debate. **A2.**

Megan Khang of Rockland, a veteran of the LPGA tour, finally gets to play a tourney in her home state. **C1.**

For breaking news, updated stories, and more, visit our website:

BostonGlobe.com

BASEBALL’S HISTORIC DOUBLE PLAY

Fans looking at Monday’s box score between the Blue Jays and Sox might think they’re seeing double. There’s Jansen (Danny) on the Sox side, and there’s Jansen on the Jays side. Because the game was halted by rain on June 26 and resumed Monday after the catcher was traded from Toronto to Boston, he appeared for both teams, an MLB first. **C1.**



CHARLES KRUPA/ASSOCIATED PRESS



ANDREW BURKE-STEVENSON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

