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‘Worse year than average’ for deadly EEE

Warnings and risks on rise in New England

By Adam Piore
GLOBE STAFF

New England is on track for a bad year of eastern equine encephalitis.

Rhode Island on Friday warned the entire state was at high risk for EEE and other mosquito-borne illnesses, after recording its first confirmed EEE infection this week. Massachusetts officials announced the state’s fourth case of EEE, the most since 2020, with outbreaks occurring more often. Massachusetts designated four towns at “critical risk,” with an additional 13 towns at “high risk.”

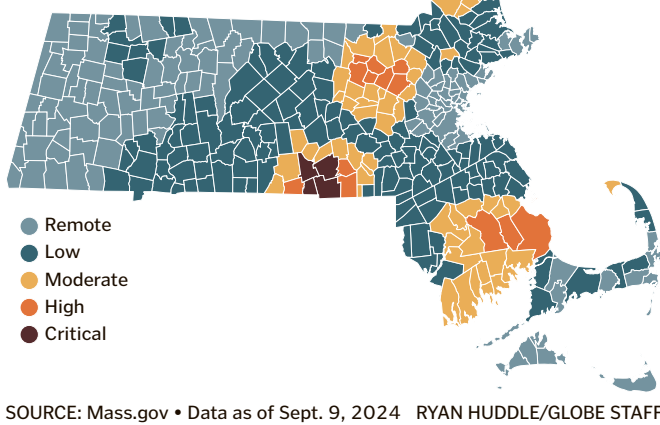
And, in New Hampshire, a 41-year-old Hamstead man became the state’s first case in a decade. He died in August.

► **11th case of West Nile virus reported in Massachusetts. B5.**

In response to the growing threat, public health officials are urging schools and organizations to move early morning or evening sporting events and other outdoor activities inside, or rescheduling them to earlier in the afternoon when

EEE, Page A10

EEE risk level by town



SOURCE: Mass.gov • Data as of Sept. 9, 2024 RYAN HUDDLE/GLOBE STAFF

Shooting at rally shocks Newton

Pro-Israel demonstrator pleads not guilty after his alleged attacker is hit

By Danny McDonald and Nick Stoico
GLOBE STAFF

NEWTON — Nearly a year into the Israel-Hamas war, tensions over the conflict boiled over half a world away on a busy suburban road Thursday evening when a man who allegedly attacked a demonstrator at a small pro-Israel rally was shot during the scuffle.

The demonstrator who was attacked, Scott Hayes, 47, a military veteran from Framingham, was charged Friday in Newton District Court with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, a gun, in connection with the shooting. He pleaded not guilty.

The man who was shot, Caleb Gannon of Newton, suffered life-threatening injuries and was rushed to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he remained on Friday. Prosecutors said they will also seek a criminal complaint that Gannon assaulted Hayes.

Gannon’s father told Newton police his son is mentally unstable and possibly autistic, according to records, and has been “hyper-focused” on Hamas and the Israel-Hamas conflict. There was no answer at a home in Newton listed for the Gannons Friday night.

The shooting rocked Newton, a city with a

NEWTON, Page A7

Biden adds billions in Chinese tariffs

Takes tough stance on Beijing ahead of election

By Ana Swanson and Jordyn Holman
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration on Friday announced measures that will add tariffs to Chinese products worth tens of billions of dollars, a move intended to protect US factories and project a tough-on-China approach before the presidential election.

The tariffs, which range from 7.5 to 100 percent, will apply to clothing, solar panels, electric vehicles, syringes, steel, and other goods that China has been selling at far cheaper prices than many US businesses, threatening to put US factories out of business.

The steps are likely to raise the cost of some imports at a time when Americans are already dissatisfied with rising prices. But they also represent a major effort by the Biden administration to address a salient political issue for some voters: America’s dependence on China for an array of products.

Both Democrats and Republicans have turned away from emphasizing the benefits of freer trade to criticizing the role that Chinese imports have

TARIFFS, Page A6



PHOTOS BY DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Jean Brochi of the EPA entered the water in Hadley Harbor near Naushon Island off Falmouth to study underwater meadows.

SEEKING A NEW WAVE CLIMATE SOLUTION

Scientists turn to seagrass in their search for carbon storage

By Erin Douglas
GLOBE STAFF

WOODS HOLE — Safety pins, zip ties, and red lipstick are almost all that scientist Phil Colarusso needs to complete his study. That, and his scuba-diving gear.

“High-tech science,” said Colarusso, a marine biologist for the Environmental Protection Agency, gesturing toward the relatively rudimentary supplies with a smile.

After a short boat ride to Hadley Harbor near Uncatena Island, one of the small islands off the coast of Woods Hole, Colarusso unboxed the equipment. It was the middle of July, and this was one of several trips he would make to the same research site while the weather allowed for a study that will last



A view of underwater vegetation in Woods Hole. Researchers are studying how seagrasses can capture and store carbon.

through October. He sat on the edge of the boat, tipped himself backward into the water, and began his descent to the underwater meadow of seagrass.

The dive team’s goal this year: to better understand how eelgrass, a type of seagrass prevalent in New England, absorbs carbon dioxide and under what conditions the plants can best do that work.

“There’s this potential to store carbon in these coastal systems because they are so good at it, mangroves and seagrasses particularly,” said Matthew Long, an associate scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and captain of the small research vessel that day.

CARBON, Page A10

It’s crunch time at apple orchards

Farmers learn ways to adjust for warmer, wetter weather

By Ivy Scott
GLOBE STAFF

Each year for more than a decade, Jon Clements has faithfully documented the status of his apples.

From August to October, the University of Massachusetts orchard researcher notes the firmness, redness, and sweetness of each of the many apple varieties grown at the school’s orchard in Belchertown, from gala to honeycrisp to McIntosh, updating his annals every one to two weeks. And if there’s one thing he’s learned in more than 25 years of orchard research, it’s that “there’s nothing perfect in this world of growing apples.”

“It’s not like a car manufacturing line where you can get closer to perfection,” he said. Rather, the quest for the ideal apple — crisp and sweet, or softer and brilliantly red, depending on who you ask — is a delicate science, requiring careful observation that starts around the spring bloom, plus some good luck from Mother Nature.

Last year’s dismal harvest drew attention to the impact of

APPLES, Page A10



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Researcher Jon Clements says the conditions this year portend a fruitful apple harvest.



Doing yard time

Saturday: Sunny, pleasant. High: 75-80. Low: 60-65.

Sunday: Another nice day. High: 71-76. Low: 56-61.

Sunrise: 6:23 Sunset: 6:55

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.** Obituaries, **C10.**

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White House officials are signaling that President Biden will not imminently move to block Nippon Steel’s bid to acquire US Steel amid mounting concerns over the consequences of nixing the deal. **A2.**

Harmony Montgomery’s mother, Crystal Sorey, filed a wrongful death lawsuit on her daughter’s behalf against the state of New Hampshire. **B1.**

About 100 chanting and sign-waving student demonstrators took to the steps of MIT to demand that the school “cut ties with Israel” and to call for a cease-fire in Gaza. **B1.**

Cain Hayes, chief executive of Point32Health, is leaving “to pursue other opportunities” after three years running Massachusetts’ second-largest health insurer. **D1.**