

Steward Health Care files for bankruptcy

Mass. hospitals will stay open as company restructures debt

By Robert Weisman and Jessica Bartlett

GLOBE STAFF

Steward Health Care, which once trumpeted its community hospital system as an accessible low-cost alternative to Boston's medical goliaths, filed for bankruptcy protection early Monday morning.

Under Chapter 11 of the US bankruptcy code, Steward — which expanded nationally before falling into a deep finan-

►Steward, state say patients should continue to get care as usual. D1.

cial crisis — will become a “debtor in possession,” continuing to operate its 31 hospitals in eight states while it seeks to restructure its debt under court supervision. Steward has eight hospitals in Eastern Massachusetts, though its Norwood Hospital remains closed following a flood.

“Steward does not expect any interruptions in its day-to-day operations, which will continue in the ordinary course throughout the [bankruptcy] process,” it said in a news release posted at 3:27 a.m. “Steward’s hospitals, medical centers and physician’s offices are open and continuing to serve patients and the broader community and our commit-

STEWARD, Page A7

Uncertainty about future of facilities

Questions linger over long-term viability as firm, creditors tussle

By Jessica Bartlett and Robert Weisman

GLOBE STAFF

In the bare-knuckled arena of bankruptcy court, high-priced lawyers for Steward Health Care will haggle with creditors over who gets paid, how much, and when. But for people in Massachusetts, there’s a larger looming question: Will the company’s hospitals stay open?

For right now, the answer is yes. But the bankruptcy doesn’t guarantee that all Steward’s facilities will survive.

“[Bankruptcy] could be a positive step forward, and it could be a serious step backwards,” said John McDonough, who teaches in the department of health policy and management at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health. “It could be the beginning of a really negative process for the health care system in the state.”

The fate of Steward’s eight Massachusetts hospitals has been the subject of debate for months. After confronting financial challenges that included a failure to

FUTURE, Page A7

A warning, then airstrikes begin

Israel targets Rafah; scope of operation unclear; Hamas makes offer on truce deal



AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Displaced Palestinians in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip carried their belongings as they awaited transportation to flee the area.

By Vivek Shankar, Liam Stack, and Adam Rasgon

NEW YORK TIMES

Israeli warplanes pounded targets in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah on Monday after the military told about 110,000 people sheltering there to evacuate.

The attacks punctuated a day of dizzying developments, with Hamas saying it had agreed to a cease-fire plan just a few hours after Israel’s warning to evacuate. Many people had scrambled to leave Rafah, fearing the launching of Israel’s long-promised offensive there; others danced in the streets in celebration of the news regarding Hamas’s acceptance of a deal. Yet, Israel balked at the offer by

Hamas, saying the plan contained elements that were not negotiated, as the White House worked through the night to solidify the deal.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said in a statement that the war cabinet had decided unanimously to “continue with its action in Rafah in order to exert military pressure on Hamas,” though it was not clear if that meant the latest airstrikes or something broader. A military spokesperson described the evacuation as part of Israel’s plans to dismantle Hamas and to free hostages taken Oct. 7.

The proposal for a hostage-prisoner exchange and cease-fire that

MIDEAST, Page A4



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Protesters broke down the barricade and reentered the encampment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The university’s effort to close down the encampment stalled Monday night.

Protesters block Mass. Ave. at rush hour

As large crowd gathers at scene, groups at MIT defy encampment deadline

This story was reported by Danny McDonald, Hilary Burns, and Christopher Huffaker of the Globe staff, and correspondents Lila Hempel-Edgers, Alexa Coultuff, and Daniel Kool. It was written by McDonald.

CAMBRIDGE — Protesters shut down Massachusetts Avenue at rush hour, clashed with police, and tore down a fence surrounding a pro-Palestinian encampment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technol-

ogy on Monday afternoon, hours after the university’s president gave demonstrators a 2:30 p.m. deadline to leave the site.

“In short, this prolonged use of MIT property as a venue for protest, without permission, especially on an issue with such sharp disagreement, is no longer safely sustainable,” read a letter from president Sally Kornbluth sent to the MIT community on Monday.

As of Monday evening, the uni-

versity’s effort to close down the encampment appeared to have stalled; protesters had ripped down the tall, opaque fence the university had used to enclose the area, about 25 tents, and hundreds of supporters of the protesters, remained.

There were no arrests on campus Monday, according to an MIT spokesperson.

Around 8 p.m., police told high school students who were blocking Massachusetts Avenue that the

A face-off at Harvard

Demonstrators remained defiant despite the university’s warning of punishments if the campus encampment does not end. B1.

street was going to be re-opened to traffic. Many of those protesters started to leave. By 8:15 p.m., cars were back on that stretch of the thoroughfare.

Around 8:30 p.m., Christian

MIT, Page A5

On Nantucket, a long debate comes to a head

Town Meeting will vote on legalizing short-term rentals

By Beth Treffeisen

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Nantucket has been debating short-term rentals for a long, long time. Tuesday, that debate just might finally come to an end.

After shooting down four separate proposals since 2021 that would limit who on the island community can rent out their house and for how long, Nantucket Town Meeting will vote on a measure that would broadly legalize short-term rentals for good. It’s an effort to lift the popular practice out of a regulatory gray zone and — perhaps — to finally put to rest a debate that has split this tight-knit community.



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

On one side of the debate are organizations such as Ack Now and Put Nantucket Neighborhoods First, who argue that unregulated short-term rentals take away year-round housing on the island and stress the limited local resources such as utilities and road-

NANTUCKET, Page A5

For decades, Nantucket has seen homeowners rent properties to vacationers.



A last glow at it

Tuesday: Mostly sunny.

High 68-73, low 50-55.

Wednesday: Cooler, rainy.

High 57-62, low 51-56.

Sunrise: 5:31. Sunset: 7:51.

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Suggested retail price

\$3.50



The Bruins beat the Panthers 5-1 in Florida to take Game 1 of Round 2 in the playoffs. C1.

Jurors heard a witness tie former president Donald Trump to hush money used to pay for a porn actor’s silence. A2.

Every resident could attend a Massachusetts community college tuition-free under a \$118 million plan state Senate leaders unveiled Monday. B1.

The go-broke dates for Medicare and Social Security have been pushed back due to an improving economy, a report says. A6.

An attorney for Karen Read grilled a Canton police officer in court over how evidence was collected at the scene of John O’Keefe’s death. B1.