



KIERAN KESNER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Joanne Santilli Castater receives care at her Boston-area house through Mass General Brigham's home hospital program.

Growing movement lets patients be hospitalized at home

BY FENIT NIRAPPIL

BOSTON — An IV bag dangled from a curtain rod, pumping fluids into the patient. A paramedic drew a blood sample as an Olympic women's rugby match blared on the television facing the woman's bed.

Lucia Louis was home. Not that long ago, she lingered in an emergency room, stricken with a painful salmonella infection. Rest in the ER proved elusive. Doors slammed, and a patient profanely told a nurse to shut up. Urine drenched a shared toilet. Louis yearned for her reclining Sleep Number king-size mattress rather than a flimsy hospital bed that made her

As crowded facilities turn to such programs, critics see risks

back ache.

"I'm in the comfort of my home," Louis, 55, said this summer as she snacked on Ritz crackers her husband had brought from the kitchen. "It's peaceful."

She'd opted to receive treatment through a home hospital program operated by Mass General Brigham, among the scores of health systems shifting patients to their homes to be monitored virtually and with daily visits as a way to ease

pressure on crowded facilities.

For some seriously ill patients, a hospital is the last place they want to be. A place of healing can instead be a place where they acquire infections, become isolated from family and surrender privacy at a time of deep vulnerability.

The hospital-at-home movement has proliferated during the past decade, reshaping how acute care is delivered and health systems are financed. But nurses and others raise concerns about whether health companies will shutter or gut hospitals and deprive patients of regular, immediate in-person care.

The federal government in 2020 eased

SEE PATIENTS ON A12

Judge dismisses final federal case against Trump

INDICTMENT IN JAN. 6 CASE IS LAST TO FALL

DOJ doesn't allow prosecution of sitting president

BY PERRY STEIN AND SPENCER S. HSU

A judge dismissed the federal election-obstruction charges against President-elect Donald Trump on Monday, ending a historic investigation that never went to trial but led to enduring changes in the legal landscape over a president's immunity from prosecution.

Special counsel Jack Smith won approval from a judge to drop the case, defending its merits in his motion to dismiss but citing Justice Department policy that prohibits prosecuting a sitting president. Smith separately

asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit to remove Trump as a co-defendant from the special counsel's appeal of a ruling in a different case that involved Trump's alleged mishandling of classified documents.

Together, the two motions essentially mark the end of the Justice Department's first federal prosecutions of a former president — and the triumph of a remarkable strategy by Trump's lawyers. All along, Trump seemed to understand that his best hope

SEE TRUMP ON A6

U.S. attorney: Federal prosecutor in Manhattan will step down. A6

Review: Aide sought money from appointees

An internal probe alleges lawyer Epshteyn traded on proximity to Trump

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF AND JOSH DAWSEY

A top adviser to President-elect Donald Trump asked potential administration nominees to give him monthly consulting fees in exchange for advocating for them to Trump, a written review by Trump's legal team concluded.

The scathing review of Boris Epshteyn, a top lawyer to Trump

who has extensive sway in the transition, was prepared by Trump's attorneys in recent days, according to two people familiar with the report. It found that among those whom Epshteyn had unsuccessfully solicited for payment was Scott Bessent, Trump's pick for treasury secretary.

Trump commissioned the report after he heard allegations that Epshteyn had been asking potential Cabinet nominees and others for money, said the people, who spoke on the condition of

SEE EPSHTEYN ON A4

Deputy HHS chief: Tech investor Jim O'Neill is favored for role. A4

Israeli security cabinet to weigh deal to end Hezbollah conflict

This article is by Rebecca Tan, John Hudson, Lior Soroka, Mohamad El Chamaa and Susan Haidamou

Israel's security cabinet will meet Tuesday to discuss the details of a U.S.-backed cease-fire agreement with Lebanon to halt the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, a spokesman for the Israeli prime minister said.

Intense negotiations over the past week have brought the countries closer to a deal, Israeli, Lebanese and Western officials said Monday, but it has not yet been finalized. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the precarious negotiations.

"We believe we're close," White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told re-

porters Monday. He said the Biden administration's negotiator, Amos Hochstein, was back in Washington after "very positive" conversations with the governments of Lebanon and Israel.

Kirby declined to comment on details. "We believe the trajectory is going in the right direction," Kirby said, "but it's not done."

Among the biggest sticking

points is whether Israel will be allowed to continue striking targets in Lebanon that it considers threats. Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, said Monday that the country will retain the ability to neutralize threats in southern Lebanon.

But a top aide to Lebanese parliament speaker Nabih Berri, an intermediary for Hezbollah in the

negotiations, dismissed the prospect of a clause that would enshrine Israel's right to attack over Lebanon's. "Self-defense is a legal right for both sides," said the aide, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing talks.

The aide said a final draft of the deal was "not present yet."

SEE CEASE-FIRE ON A10

Potential conflict of interest atop 'DOGE'

Ramaswamy's crusade to change FDA could boost biotech firm he founded

BY DANIEL GILBERT

Vivek Ramaswamy, an outspoken ex-biotech executive turned fierce critic of the industry's main regulator, is in a position to reshape the agency he derides as the "Failed Drug Administration" in ways that could benefit him personally.

Newly tapped by President-elect Donald Trump to co-lead an initiative to slash the federal bureaucracy, Ramaswamy has heaped criticism on the Food and Drug Administration for "unnecessary barriers to innovation." At the same time, the company he founded, Roivant Sciences, is pursuing studies for three drugs that, if positive, could land before the FDA during Trump's second term. His stock in Roivant is worth about \$670 million.

Ramaswamy argues that the FDA should err on the side of approving promising therapies faster and then monitoring their effects after doctors start

SEE RAMASWAMY ON A13

BARBARA TAYLOR BRADFORD 1933-2024

Author's 'women warriors' were a lot like herself

BY OLESIA PLOKHII

Barbara Taylor Bradford, a British American novelist who debuted in 1979 with "A Woman of Substance," a rags-to-riches tale that she followed with more than 30 bestsellers, mostly about women who were strong, ambitious and resilient — and fabulously rich and beautiful — died Nov. 24 at her home in New York City. She was 91.

The cause of her death was cancer, said her public relations representative, Maria Boyle.

Mrs. Bradford's novels have sold more than 90 million copies, and 10 of them were made into TV miniseries and films. With the sale of screen rights and her colossal advances, she amassed a



Bradford

personal fortune, worth hundreds of millions of dollars, that was said to have rivaled that of Queen Elizabeth II.

Her books centered on women who knew what they wanted in life — not unlike Mrs. Bradford. She was brought up in the northern county of Yorkshire, was driven by her mother to rise above her middle-class station in postwar Britain and worked her way from provincial newspaper secretary-typist to London fashion editor to New York interior-design maven before embarking on a fiction career.

"My mother was a striver. I'm a striver. I write about people who strive," she told the Boston Globe.

SEE BRADFORD ON A7



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Turkeys' day

President Joe Biden pardoned his final turkeys, Peach and Blossom, on Monday. He stopped joking during his speech to say that being president has been "the honor of my life." Story, C1

IN THE NEWS

Plastic waste treaty Global talks to craft an agreement to address the major source of pollution are in their final stages, but negotiators remain divided. A10

Driving in D.C. A right-on-red ban will be enforced only at some intersections, officials said, citing inadequate signage. B1

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D.C.'s attorney general sued a nonprofit director, alleging that he spent money for charity on luxury vacations. B1

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