

Boston Sunday Globe

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Donors again pressing Harvard

Wealthy alumni still upset over school climate

By Hilary Burns
and Ilya Marritz
GLOBE STAFF

Last year, a number of prominent donors lashed out at Harvard University for its handling of reactions on campus to the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attacks on Israel. Some announced they would freeze donations until the university cracked down on student protesters, did more to combat antisemitism, and reduced its focus on diversity.

Harvard has made some changes since then, but the donors are not done: Two of the most outspoken, billionaire hedge fund manager Bill Ackman and former Facebook executive Sam Lessin, are ratcheting up their campaign to reshape the university, each arguing Harvard is home to too much activism, that the university is lacking viewpoint diversity, and its bureaucracy has become bloated.

Lessin's and Ackman's efforts raise questions about
HARVARD, Page B8

Generosity has no season. Globe Santa kicks off the 2024 drive with a new commercial telling the tale of the letters to Santa.
Metro, B1.



The MFA's new show looks at — and past — the biographies of Georgia O'Keeffe and Henry Moore.
SundayArts, N1.

The Globe Magazine is not publishing today. Puzzles can be found on **B4.**



Fall's front

Sunday: Cooler, drizzly.
High: 52-57. Low: 49-54.

Monday: Showers early.
High: 56-61. Low: 42-47.

Sunrise: 6:55 Sunset: 6:05

Complete report, **B10.**

Deaths, **A23-26.**

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The money behind Steward's rise and spectacular fall



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ASHLEY BORG/GLOBE STAFF, ADOBE STOCK, AL.COM, JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

An Alabama real estate firm helped fuel the hospital chain's growth by buying its properties — and helped hide its shaky finances



This story was reported and written by Rebecca Ostriker and Catherine Carlock. It was edited by Gordon Russell.

VESTAVIA HILLS, Ala. — It felt like the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

When Dr. Ralph de la Torre, a brash and brilliant son of Cuban immigrants, jetted into the Birmingham airport in 2015, he was a man with a vision for the struggling Steward Health Care chain, a new approach that could vault it from its roots as a network of Catholic hospitals in Massachusetts to a for-profit giant of national and even global importance.

He couldn't do it without money. That's where a business executive raised in small-town Alabama came in.

Edward K. Aldag Jr. had been inspired to achieve financial success since childhood, when his grandfa-

ther, a German immigrant who worked as a locksmith at the New York Stock Exchange, showed him around the place.

"Ed, this is where dreams come true," his grandfather said, in Aldag's telling.

Young Ed was listening. After college, and a stint managing real estate firms, he had a eureka moment.

In 2003, he founded Medical Properties Trust, aiming to fill a market niche no other real estate investment trust in the world had thought to claim — hospitals. His brainchild: Make hospitals "asset-light" by buying up their buildings and land and then leasing

STEWARD, Page A16

North toward hope

Amid influx of migrants, another looming crisis: maternal health

A series exploring how new migrants are reshaping Massachusetts' political, social, and economic landscape.

By Deirdre Fernandes
and Stephanie Ebbert

GLOBE STAFF

A pregnant woman had just had a miscarriage in the toilet of her hotel room, a La Quinta Inn employee told Auburn police in April. The woman, who was three months pregnant, was whisked away to UMass Memorial Medical Center for treatment, while a firefighter stayed behind with her two other children.

It was not an unusual call for emergency responders in this Central Massachusetts town — or any of the communities where homeless and migrant families have been placed in hotels serving as shelters. The week before, emergency responders had come to La Quinta for a 22-year-old, likely pregnant, who was reporting stomach pain. The month before, they helped another woman having a miscarriage. Between September and December of last year, La Quinta staff called 911 another six times for pregnancies, records show. One woman was in labor, three had abdominal pains, one was having trouble breathing at seven



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Over the past two years, nearly one in nine families that sought shelter through the state's Emergency Assistance program included a pregnant woman.

Sherlie Elisse held her baby, Elisonn Saint Juste, while resting on her blanket at Logan Airport on July 2.

months, and one was bleeding in her first month.

Behind the closed doors of hotel rooms in far-flung communities across the state are hundreds of women far from their extended families, facing the profound emotional and physical toll of pregnancy in a foreign land with no place to call home. The state's Emergency Assistance program is explicitly designed

MIGRANT, Page A20

In swing state, a storm of misinformation

Georgia deluged with hurricane aid falsehoods

By Jim Puzzanghera

GLOBE STAFF

SAVANNAH, Ga. — A warm breeze stirred the Donald Trump flags and tickled the Spanish moss dripping from the towering live oak trees as a crowd gathered outside the former president's local campaign office Tuesday night.

But it was the much more destructive gusts from Hurricane Helene that roared through here two weeks earlier that were on the agenda of this Republican get-out-the-vote rally. With another powerful hurricane taking aim at Florida, Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene slammed what she called "an absolutely pathetic response" to Helene's damage by President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

"Gonna bring it down to this: \$750 for people in Western North Carolina and East Tennessee, \$750 versus thousands of dollars every single month if you're an illegal alien," Greene, a Georgia Republican and top Trump surrogate, said less than a minute into her speech as some of the 75 people gathered there grumbled and booed.

Her charge was incendiary — and false.

The \$750 payments are just quick, initial
GEORGIA, Page A14

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Pictured: (Left to Right) Itamar Chalif, Rockland Trust; Holly Daniels Christensen, Dune Jewelry & Co.

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