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PHOTOS BY JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Natalie Lolar, a member of the Passamaquoddy tribe, looked for artifacts near a tree that protects mounds of shells.

Fighting to save a hidden past

Traces of Maine's Indigenous people are increasingly threatened by rising seas

By Sabrina Shankman
GLOBE STAFF

NEAR MACHIAS, Maine — Along this picturesque stretch of beach in far downeast Maine, there are all the expected bits of majesty — an expansive ocean, a seemingly untouched shore, and not a person in sight. But then there's the tree. And there is nothing normal about this tree.

The tree juts out from the eroded edge of a bluff, protruding sideways toward the sand below at an unnatural angle, seemingly one stiff breeze away from collapsing. Its root system is holding back the earth and shrubs, and something hidden, too — mounds of shells, the remnants of a long-gone Native American development, potentially protecting artifacts buried within.



Olivia Olson, a graduate student at the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, examined an animal jaw she uncovered.

Here on the rocky coast, the past lies buried along beaches and waterfront. For thousands of years, the Wabanaki people sought out these coastal spots to set up camp or make a home, where they could be nourished by the clams and the fish in the Gulf of Maine and easily travel via canoe. Now, as climate change leads to higher seas and stronger storms, archeologists are racing to understand and preserve what they can of that history before it all washes away.

Bonnie Newsom, an archeologist with the University of Maine and a citizen of the Penobscot Nation, a tribe of the Wabanaki, looked up at the tree and sighed. "Once this goes, it's going to take a chunk of that site, and we're going to lose all of it."

Since 1979, a federal monitoring station has been marking the steady rising of seas

ARTIFACTS, Page A7

Migrants, advocates brace for evictions

Many families have nowhere to go after 5-day shelter period is up, aid groups say

By Danny McDonald and Mike Damiano
GLOBE STAFF

and Natalie La Roche Pietri
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE — For Lucie Joseph, a potentially life-changing deadline looms: Unless something changes soon, she, her partner, and their 5-year-old son will be living on the streets.

Joseph said Wednesday that she was told she had to leave the emergency overflow shelter at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds building in East Cambridge by Friday. That's when the state plans to evict potentially dozens of migrants from overflow shelters to make room, officials say, for others who are awaiting relief.

Joseph said she wasn't given options of where else to go, and she was advised to stay with family.

"I don't have any family here," Joseph, 30, said in Spanish.

Originally from Haiti, the family of three has been in Boston since April. After arriving, they spent 20 days sleeping at Logan Airport before securing a shelter bed. Joseph said she's worried about what's to come, and feels for her son, who often asks her when they'll have a house.

Aid groups are protesting the state's new policy and scrambling to provide housing for migrants like Joseph, who they fear could end up on

SHELTERS, Page A10

Community hospitals likely to face more struggles

Continue to be paid much less than large facilities

By Thomas Lee
GLOBE STAFF

Community hospitals like those operated by Steward Health Care had problems before the company's collapse, and they are likely to remain in a financially precarious situation even after the troubled operator departs, state data shows.

That's because community hospitals — including many operated by companies other than Steward — receive a relative pittance from insurers, even when they're providing the same services as Boston's glimmering academic medical centers.

The latest state review of hospital payment data, released this month by the Center for Health Information and Analysis, underscores a persistent gap in the fortunes of acute care facilities. Community hospitals that see a high proportion of people with public insurance commanded prices that are 7 percent below the state average.

It's a twofold problem: Those insurance programs — such as Medicaid and Medicare — pay below-market rates. On top of that, private payers

HOSPITALS, Page A7

A federal judge dismissed a class-action lawsuit claiming MIT reacted with "deliberate indifference" to antisemitism and discrimination on campus. B1.

Harvard University will retain the Sackler name on a pair of prominent buildings, despite the family's role in the opioid crisis. B1.

The number of US women getting abortions rose in the first three months of 2024 compared with before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. A2.

Ukraine launched a surprise ground assault into Russia with troops and armored vehicles, in what could be one of the largest incursions since the war began. A4.



Gloomy, gust

Thursday: Still cool. High 69-74. Low 60-65.

Friday: Showers, wind. High 76-81. Low 70-75.

High tide: 2:19 a.m., 2:45 p.m.

Sunrise: 5:44 Sunset: 7:55

Weather and Comics, D5-6.

Obituaries, C9.

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Top 100 salaries

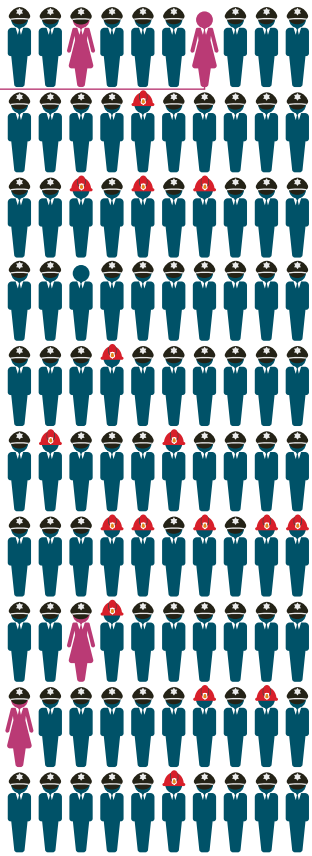
Among the top 100 highest-paid city employees last year, only four were women. Women make up more than half the city's workforce.

MARY SKIPPER

Race: White
Total pay: \$382,096
Department: Schools superintendent's office

Male Female
Police Firefighter

SOURCE: City of Boston, Globe analysis
GLOBE STAFF



Despite diversity effort, most of city's highest-paid workers still white men

By Neena Hagen and Niki Griswold
GLOBE STAFF

Three years since taking office, Mayor Michelle Wu has kept her campaign promise to hire more people of color in city government to be more representative of Boston's increasingly diverse population. However, the city's top earners remain overwhelmingly white and male, a Globe analysis found.

Among the top 100 highest-paid city employees last year, only four were women. Women make up more than half the city's workforce, data show.

Meanwhile, 69 of the top

100 earners in 2023 were white. About half of city employees are white.

Overall, racial and gender disparities in pay persist at all levels of Boston government, the analysis shows. The figures show that while Wu has made strides in hiring more minority employees, women and workers of color have yet to crack the upper rungs of the pay scale.

The median salary for white employees in 2023 was 40 percent higher than the median salary for Black employees. The median pay for white workers was \$123,000, compared with \$88,000 for

SALARIES, Page A7

With bans of kids' books on the rise, authors fight back

By Brooke Hauser
GLOBE STAFF

In 2021, "Gender Queer," Maia Kobabe's graphic memoir about coming out as nonbinary, held the distinction of being the most banned book in America. And last December, when a police officer showed up at a Berkshires middle school after receiving a complaint about the book, it became national news again.

By comparison, "Katie the Catsitter," Colleen AF Venable's middle-grade series about a girl who baby-sits 217 cats, wouldn't seem likely to catch heat. But the second title in the series ended up on a list of challenged books in Florida.

"I started looking through the book like, why, why?" said Venable, who

lives in North Adams. Then she remembered a panel where Katie's mom comforts her about growing apart from her best friend, saying someday she'll find her own boyfriend, girlfriend, or "nonbinary friend."

"That's why," Venable said. The case of "Katie the Catsitter" is a reminder that, amid today's culture wars, a single word in a children's book can be enough to get it blacklisted. Not that Venable needs reminding. Her graphic novel "Kiss Number 8," about a teenage girl from a conservative Catholic community who realizes she's bisexual, is on several lists of banned and challenged books.

The irony, said Venable, is that with "Kiss Number 8" — co-created with El

BOOKS, Page A10



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Author Colleen AF Venable of North Adams is among the co-leaders of the Massachusetts/Rhode Island chapter of Authors Against Book Bans.