

## At Steward, yet another financial maze

Injured patients frustrated by delays in insurance claims

When Melissa Williams looks down at her ruined right hand, all she sees is loss.

Two fingers and part of her palm have been amputated.

Gone, too, is her financial security. Williams has been unable to work regularly since 2017, when she entered a Steward Health Care hospital in Melbourne, Fla., for a common operation, and a botched IV insertion led to searing pain and a host of complications that contin-



*This story was reported and written by Jessica Bartlett,*

*Elizabeth Koh, and Liz Kowalczyk. It was edited by Gordon Russell.*

ue today. Williams sued Steward in 2019 for what seemed an egregious case of malpractice.

Five years later, and facing \$500,000 in medical bills, she hasn't seen a dollar from the hospital chain.

It is unclear why no settlement has been reached, and Steward continues to fight the case in court. But a Globe Spotlight Team review points to a possible explanation for

**STEWARD, Page A10**



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ASHLEY BORG/GLOBE STAFF; MICHAEL NAGLE/BLOOMBERG, CONFLUENT HEALTH, FIU, STEWARD MEDICAL GROUP, MAPCREATOR.IO

## State bracing for cuts to federal checks

Racing to lock up funds before Trump takes office

By Emma Platoff

GLOBE STAFF

The Biden administration has been good for Massachusetts: Strong relationships with the White House helped the Massachusetts politicians advance policy ideas, shape appointments, and win significant federal funding.

That good fortune may be over come January, when the nation inaugurates a new Republican president who has little reason to smile upon this reliably blue state, where Democrats dominate the Legislature and hold every statewide and congressional office.

As they gird themselves for a second Donald Trump presidency, political and nonprofit leaders here are preparing for the possibility that the steady flow of federal funds to Massachusetts could slow to a trickle, potentially threatening major infrastructure and climate projects. Officials are working to quickly spend down and secure federal dollars they worry could be at risk. Some have warned that money already tagged for

**FEDERAL FUNDS, Page A7**

## Abandoned 19th-century Jewish mural finds new home

Dedham woman, 81, salvages historic art

By Mark Shanahan

GLOBE STAFF

Carol Clingan is obsessive, and that can be a mixed blessing.

On the one hand, she can't resist the impulse to collect vintage cookie and cracker tins — thousands of them — which are impressively arranged on shelves throughout her Dedham condo.

"My husband doesn't like them and the kids hate them," Clingan says with a sigh. "They're going to call 1-800-JUNK if I don't find something to do with them."

But there's an upside to her single-mindedness, too. For a decade, Clingan has devoted herself to the recovery and relocation of a century-old mural languishing in the attic of a North Adams apartment building. Motivated by an intense interest in all things Jewish, Clingan was determined to save the mural, which had been commissioned in the 1890s by a congregation of Berkshires-based Lithuanian Jewish immigrants and then abandoned.

**MURAL, Page B5**



MATTHEW CAVANAUGH FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Carol Clingan and David Towler watched a crew remove the mural from a North Adams apartment building.

## Falsely accused and cleared.

## But still waiting.



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

By Amanda Milkovits

GLOBE STAFF

PAWTUCKET, R.I. — As the tide went out, George Guzewicz unchained his neighbor's dog from the yard and set off for a walk on Conimicut Point in Warwick.

The air was bitterly cold just an hour after sunrise on Feb. 28, 1988. He recalls that the dog was tugging him across the shell-strewn beach when he saw something sprawled on the sand.

He thought it was a pile of clothes. Then, he stopped.

Over the previous 7½ weeks, the local news had been filled with stories about a girl missing from the city of Pawtucket, about 15 miles north.

Christine Cole, who'd just turned 10, had left home on an errand and vanished into the freezing January night. Police launched a massive search. Her mother pleaded for her return.

The girl was last seen about a half-mile from the Blackstone River before she disappeared.

Now, it appeared she was here, a small body in a gray parka and purple pants, downstream from where the Blackstone and Seekonk rivers spill into the Providence River and Upper Narragansett Bay.

Guzewicz called the police.

Christine had drowned, the medical examiner would rule, but how she wound up in the water was undetermined. There was no sign of trauma. Police had no evidence of foul play.

**COLD CASE, Page A8**

**Joao Monteiro was charged with killing a girl decades after she went missing in Pawtucket. The charge cost him his job and his home. But even after the case fell apart, police refuse to rule him out as a suspect.**

**Cherokee artist Kay WalkingStick takes on the Hudson River School** with her own views of the American landscape at the Addison Gallery of American Art. **SundayArts, N1.**

**Christmas tree farms opened up** for their big selling season across New England. **Metro, B1.**

**The future will hold cooler ways of keeping food fresh,** and new refrigeration and transportation technology could make the food of the future much greener. **Ideas, K1.**

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

### Get your chill

**Sunday:** Breezy, cold. High: 37-42. Low: 26-31.

**Monday:** Sunny. High: 38-43. Low: 25-30. Complete report, **C22.**

Deaths, **C17-21.**

VOL. 306, NO. 154

Suggested retail price  
**\$6.00**



0 9 4 7 7 2 6 1