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CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Cancer patients in Massachusetts say in vitro fertilization has played a crucial role in preserving women's chances to have children. Above, Katie Holbrook; her husband, Alan Levin; and their son, Alan. Below, Samantha Laverdiere and son, Frankie.

## GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS OF IVF

Alabama ruling shines a light on valued route to parenthood traveled by cancer patients

By Alexa Coultoff  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

In December, when Katie Holbrook and her husband, Alan, started planning for a sibling for their 4-year-old son, the 33-year-old Sterling resident was diagnosed with breast cancer and told that the treatments could harm her fertility.

Ahead of a double mastectomy surgery this month, Holbrook had her eggs frozen at Boston IVF in hopes of having a second child a few years down the road through in vitro fertilization. If her doctors decide she needs chemotherapy and radiation after surgery, her ovarian reserve would be affected and she would probably be rendered infertile.

"It was a huge relief to be able to do it," said Holbrook, who as a teenager also survived thyroid cancer. "I've had some options taken away from me, but I should be able to have another baby."

That lifeline was threatened for cancer patients in Alabama after that state's Supreme Court in February defined frozen embryos as children under state law. The ruling prompted several Alabama facilities to halt IVF treatment and couriers to become hesitant to transport frozen embryos out of state. On Wednesday, Alabama's governor

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JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

'I can't imagine what this process would be like, coming to terms with cancer and possibly dying without having this opportunity to look forward to a future ahead.'

SAMANTHA LAVERDIERE, 33, was planning for a second child when she found a lump on her breast

## Imperative for Patriots: Don't repeat missteps on Jones

By Nicole Yang  
GLOBE STAFF

The Patriots are finalizing a trade to send Mac Jones to Jacksonville, ending his tumultuous tenure in New England and resetting their quarterback priorities.

Only three years ago, the Patriots drafted Jones with the 15th overall pick in hopes that he could serve as their next franchise quar-

terback. Instead, he won't even finish his rookie contract. Although the trade cannot be completed until Wednesday, the official start of the league's new year, the anticipated return is the Jaguars'

### ANALYSIS

2024 sixth-round pick (No. 192 overall).

The pending move all but confirms New England's plans to take a

quarterback in next month's draft, as the organization continues to search for a long-term solution at the position. The downward trajectory of Jones's career should serve as a cautionary tale to new coach Jerod Mayo and de facto general manager Eliot Wolf — a quarterback's situation matters.

Wolf acknowledged the fact at the NFL Combine.

"The main thing is trying to do everything we can to support that person once we get them in the building," Wolf said. "We're going to make the best decision we can in terms of who that person is — if we decide to go quarterback at No. 3 [the team's draft position] — but really putting every resource and everything we have into that person

TRADE, Page C5

## US pulls workers from Haiti embassy

As violence swells, gangs tighten hold on swaths of a capital under assault

NEW YORK TIMES

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — US helicopters descended on the American Embassy in Haiti, transporting security forces in and ferrying nonessential personnel out, the US military said Sunday as gangs infiltrated much of the neighborhood around the diplomatic post and besieged economic and political institutions elsewhere.

The aircraft flew to the embassy compound, the US Southern Command said. It was careful to point out that "no Haitians were on board the military aircraft." That seemed aimed at quashing any speculation that senior government officials might be leaving as the gang attacks in Haiti worsen.

Haiti is in the throes of an uprising not seen in decades. As politicians around the region scramble to hash out a diplomatic solution to a political crisis that has the prime minister, Ariel Henry, stranded in Puerto Rico and gangs attacking police stations, a humanitarian disaster is quickly escalating. The food supply is threatened, and access to water and health care has been severely curtailed.

André Michel, an adviser to the prime minister, said Henry has refused to resign, and has demanded that the international community take all necessary measures to ensure his return to Haiti.

The United States and Caribbean leaders have

HAITI, Page A5

## New tax prep tool free for Mass., N.H.

IRS pilot program gets praise from Warren, darts from GOP, filing firms

By Jim Puzzanghera  
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Many Massachusetts and New Hampshire residents will be able to prepare and file their federal returns online for free this year as part of a controversial Internal Revenue Service pilot program formally launching Tuesday in a dozen states.

IRS Direct File is designed as a no-charge government alternative to Intuit's TurboTax and other commercial tax preparation services that often charge fees. It can prepare returns for taxpayers with standard wage and Social Security income who are eligible for popular tax credits, but can't process more complex returns, including those with itemized deductions and gig economy or business income, the IRS said.

Unlike the commercial services, Direct File doesn't prepare state tax returns. But it will guide residents of Massachusetts and three of the other

IRS, Page A7

Gone with the wind

**Monday:** Breezy, a little sun. High 41-46, low 33-38.

**Tuesday:** Lots of sun. High 49-54, low 33-38.

Sunrise: 7:02. Sunset: 6:46.

Weather and comics, **D4-5**. Obituaries, **C9**.

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AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"**Oppenheimer**" was the big winner at the Oscars, taking seven awards. Those included best picture; best director, Christopher Nolan; best actor, Cillian Murphy (above); and best supporting actor, Robert Downey Jr. Emma Stone won the best actress Oscar for "Poor Things." **B6**.

**As Ramadan begins for many Muslims across Greater Boston**, the joy of this year's holiday is marred by hunger, loss of home, and insecurity affecting residents in Gaza and Sudan. **B1**.

## At brewery, a fermentation of frustration

Boston Beer's use of noncompete pacts prompts lawsuits from all sides

By Katie Johnston  
GLOBE STAFF

At a time when the use of noncompetes has become increasingly restricted, Boston Beer Co., the multibillion-dollar brewer behind Samuel Adams beer, Truly hard seltzer, and Twisted Tea, has become embroiled in a number of lawsuits over its aggressive enforcement of these employment agreements.

Barring workers from jumping ship to a rival company — and going after those who do — is a rarity in the beer industry, and one that several former employees said has kept them out of their chosen field.

The first-hand involvement of Boston Beer founder Jim Koch in upholding noncompetes, sometimes resulting in former employees losing their new jobs, further demonstrates the 2,500-person company's fiercely competitive stance when it comes to protecting proprietary information. Koch used his great-great-grandfather's recipe to start Boston Beer in 1984, long before the craft beer boom began, and one of his publicly stated rules is: "Hire slowly, fire quickly."

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CHERYL SENTER FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

John Brennan, a former Boston Beer Co. sales representative, sued the brewer after he was let go by his next employer amid questions on a noncompete.