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DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Ken Cirillo, dredge director in Barnstable County, walked along a beach in Harwich where new sand was being added.

ON THE CAPE, BRINGING IN SAND TO MAKE A STAND

With erosion seemingly unstoppable, desperate towns are forced to get creative

By Beth Treffeisen
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

FALMOUTH

The engine roared as a large metal pole, like an egg beater mounted on the tip of a massive dredging machine, scooped up silt at the bottom of Great Pond in Falmouth. This was step one of clearing out a channel used by recreational boaters and fishermen on the brackish pond.

But the project had an important side benefit.

The slurry — filled with sand, water, and occasional debris such as old tires and fishing gear — was then pushed through a large

underwater tube, over a rock barrier, and onto a nearby beach along Menauhant Road. As the water was dumped into the nearby ocean, a mountain of sand took shape, the remnants of the slurry.

“Sand is gold,” said Ken Cirillo, dredge director in Barnstable County, overlooking the operation.

Falmouth has big plans for the sand, trucking it to fortify nearby beaches damaged in recent winter storms. It’s a growing trend across the Cape as towns compete to replace sand through dredging projects, as well as from underground pits — located on and off the Cape — or even offshore sand mining, where dredges are sent well into the

ocean to mine the sea floor.

Coastal beaches have always been dynamic environments, where sand is constantly washed away and replaced in a natural cycle. In places like Florida, sand replenishment has long been common after hurricanes. What’s changed on the Cape and Islands is the increasing volume of sand that’s now needed as strong storms and rising sea levels — made worse by climate change — batter the area, leading to more extreme coastal erosion.

In years past, Cirillo said, towns would dump sand on their beaches to make them less rocky. Now, it’s a way to keep them from

SAND, Page A6

Moderna is at a crossroads as demand for vaccine wanes

Analysts split on company’s prospects after COVID

By Jonathan Saltzman
and Robert Weisman
GLOBE STAFF

Plunging sales of Moderna’s breakthrough COVID-19 vaccine have touched off a Wall Street debate about the future of a biotech company once seen as the brightest star in the Massachusetts drug-making firmament.

Sales of Moderna’s messenger RNA vaccine fell 91 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier, a dramatic illustration of waning demand for protection from the virus that caused a global pandemic. The Cambridge company’s earnings report, posted Thursday, continued a downward trend for sales of the biotech’s vaccine, Spikevax.

Nonetheless, Moderna’s shares surged more than 12.5 percent on the Nasdaq exchange, apparently because the revenue drop wasn’t as sharp as many investors had anticipated. Sales of Spikevax, Moderna’s only marketed product, plummeted to \$167 million from \$1.9 billion last year. That actually beat analysts’ predictions of \$97.5 million.

“The stock is eliciting some head scratching” among skeptics who think the stock is overvalued and question if the company can meet the same success with follow-on products, said Mani Foroohar, an analyst with Boston investment bank Leerink Partners who is among the doubters.

Barely known to most people five years ago, Moderna became a household name early in the pandemic. It raced New York-based phar-

MODERNA, Page A6

‘It is really hard to run at this point as a pro-choice Republican and make it through a primary.’

ARIEL HILL-DAVIS, cofounder of Republican Women for Progress

With Senate at stake, Republicans tailor abortion message to where they’re running

By Lissandra Villa
de Petrzelka
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Senator Steve Daines of Montana knows to expect questions about abortion and acknowledges it’s important for Republican candidates to get their messaging right.

But the content of those messages will depend on where they are running.

“We’re advising our candidates first of all to take a position on abortion that best matches the state they represent,” Daines, chair of the National Republican Senatorial

Committee, told reporters at a breakfast Thursday. “That’s what we’re telling candidates, and we’ll let them decide where they’re going to stand on it.”

Since Roe v. Wade was overturned, new court decisions, state laws, and ballot initiatives have continued to change the abortion landscape. For Republican candidates, that means there is no more one-size-fits-all approach as Republicans try to win at least two seats to take the Senate majority outright. Instead, there is a patchwork of positions, with some candidates trying to soften long track records of opposing abortion

access, and at least one avoiding even listing abortion among issues on his campaign website.

For those hoping the top of the GOP ticket would provide guidance, former president Donald Trump offered no lifeline, telling Time magazine in a recent interview, “I’m leaving everything up to the states.”

“It’s all going to be candidate- and campaign-specific,” said Jesse Hunt, a former spokesperson for the NRSC. “I don’t know that there is one specific way [to address abortion] because each state is addressing it in a different manner

SENATE, Page A8

Paramedics testified that Karen Read repeatedly shouted “I hit him” as her boyfriend, Officer John O’Keefe, lay motionless outside during a blizzard. B1.

Jurors heard a recording of Donald Trump discussing with his then-lawyer and personal fixer a plan to buy the silence of a Playboy model who has said she had an affair with him. A2.

Massachusetts may have fewer options for building EV charging stations after market leader Tesla decided to pull back this week. B5.

“The Fall Guy” is a rare crowd-pleasing romantic action comedy, writes movie critic Odie Henderson. G1.



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

FORCED TO GAME 7

The Bruins had a chance to close out their first-round series with the Maple Leafs in Toronto on Thursday night but were outplayed in a 2-1 loss. The deciding game will be Saturday night. **C1.**

Protests must be peaceful, Biden says

Defends right to dissent but denounces campus ‘chaos’

By Peter Baker
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Biden broke days of silence on Thursday to finally speak out on the wave of protests on American college campuses against Israel’s war in the Gaza Strip that have inflamed much of the country, denouncing violence and antisemitism even as he defended the right to peaceful dissent.

In a previously unscheduled televised statement from the White House, Biden offered a forceful condemnation of students and other protesters who in his view have taken their grievances over the war too far. But he rejected Republican calls to deploy the National Guard to rein in the campuses.

“There’s the right to protest, but not the right to cause chaos,” Biden said into cameras in his first personal remarks on the campus fray in 10 days. “People have the right to get an education, the right to get a degree, the right to walk across the campus safely without fear of being attacked.” Antisemitism, he added, “has no place” in the United States.

The president’s comments came as universities across the nation continued to struggle to restore order.

Police officers in riot gear arrested about 200 people as they cleared a protest encampment at the University of California Los Angeles, while other officers removed demonstrators occupying a library at Portland State University in Oregon. Activists erected 30 tents at the University of Wisconsin

BIDEN, Page A9

At Northeastern, resolve, concern as police closed in

School now says decision was made 24 hours before

By Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF
and Alexa Coultuff
and Lila Hempel-Edgers
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

At around 8:30 p.m. last Friday, a protester made an important announcement to the 100 or so people huddled on Northeastern University’s Centennial Common, where the day before students had erected an encampment to protest Israel’s war in Gaza.

Organizers of Huskies for a Free Palestine, the protester said, had heard from a “credible source”

►Pro-Israel counterprotesters visit pro-Palestinian encampment at Harvard. B1.

that sometime that night or early the next morning, a moving company would assist State Police with a sweep of the encampment.

“Call friends and people you trust to take your belongings away from campus,” the protester continued, adding that others should prepare to resist arrest. “If you need to sleep, sleep now and be up.”

The warning would prove prescient. Around

NORTHEASTERN, Page A9



The coats are coming

Friday: Much cooler. High 53-58. Low 44-49.

Saturday: More of the same. High 52-57. Low 44-49.

Sunrise: 5:36 Sunset: 7:46

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.

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