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Steward's troubles hit small businesses



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF
Jay Dobek, creative director of Last Minute Productions, said he doubts he will see the \$16,000 he is owed by Steward Health Care.

Some vendors say they've gone unpaid for several years

By Thomas Lee
GLOBE STAFF

When the check from Steward Health Care didn't arrive on time in early 2022, Jay Dobek at first didn't think much of it.

As the creative director of Last Minute Productions in Needham, Dobek was used to his corporate marketing video clients missing a deadline or two. And Steward, which owns nine hospitals in Massachu-

setts, had been a longtime client. Dobek figured the company would eventually pay him.

But 30 days turned into 60 days. And then 60 days turned into 90 days. And before Dobek knew it, Steward's unpaid bills stretched over the next year or so to the tune of \$16,000, he said, a significant amount of money for a small business. Dobek, who shot videos that promoted hospital services, including joint replacement and

neurology, said he is still waiting to get paid but doubts he will ever see that \$16,000.

"You get mad," said Dobek, noting he hired a collection agency, the first time he has done so because of a client since he started the company in 2005. "It's like yelling at the wall."

"But when you're a small business, what can you do?" Dobek said.

STEWARDS, Page A7

Trump's immunity claim is rejected

Judges say he must stand trial; appeal expected to continue to Supreme Court

By Alan Feuer and Charlie Savage
NEW YORK TIMES

A federal appeals court on Tuesday rejected former president Donald Trump's claim that he was immune from prosecution on charges of plotting to subvert the results of the 2020 election, ruling that he must go to trial on a criminal indictment accusing him of seeking to overturn his loss to President Biden.

The unanimous ruling by a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit handed Trump a significant defeat. But it was unlikely to be the final word on his claims of executive immunity. Trump, who is on a path to locking up the Republican presidential nomination, is expected to continue his appeal to the Supreme Court.

Still, the panel's 57-page ruling signaled an important moment in US jurisprudence, answering a question that had never been addressed by an appeals court: Can former presidents escape being held accountable by the criminal justice system for things they did while in office?

The question is novel because no former president until Trump had been indicted, so there was never an opportunity for a defendant to make — and courts to consider — the sweeping claim of executive immunity that he put forward.

The panel, composed of two judges appointed by Democrats and one Republican appointee, said in its decision that despite the privileges of the of-

TRUMP, Page A4

Health care advocates press for full maternity coverage



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

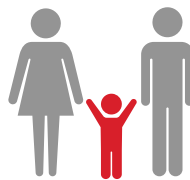
Katie Forde and her twin daughters, Abigail (left) and Cecile, got ready for school. Forde and her husband had to pay \$6,000 out of pocket for her maternity care and delivery for the girls, which took the family three years to pay off.

High-deductible insurance plans put families on the hook for thousands in out-of-pocket costs for childbirth

By Katie Johnston
GLOBE STAFF

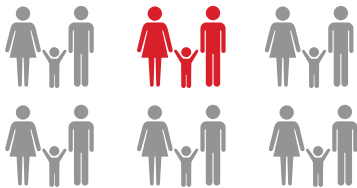
Within days of the Supreme Court decision striking down the constitutional right to abortion, Massachusetts legislators expanded abortion protections in the state, including a requirement that health insurers cover the procedure without deductibles, copayments, or other out-of-pocket costs.

But childbirth itself is still subject to these costs, which can



Families with private commercial health insurance are responsible for more than **\$3,000** on average for delivery costs nationwide

For **one in six** families, childbirth exceeds **\$5,000** in out-of-pocket costs



be prohibitively expensive for the growing number of people with high-deductible health insurance plans.

In 2021, nearly 43 percent of private health insurance members in Massachusetts had plans that require individuals to pay more than \$1,400 out-of-pocket annually (\$2,800 for families) for certain services, including childbirth, before insurance coverage kicks in, according to the Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis. In 2013, only 14 percent of members had such high deductibles,

CHILDBIRTH, Page A6

Nothing big about these condos but the price

Shoe closet. Guest room. Entree to high society.

By Beth Teitell
GLOBE STAFF

Who's the fool? The person who spends nearly \$1 million on a tiny studio? Or the one who doesn't recognize the social-climbing opportunity of a lifetime?

The question took on urgency on a recent morning, when I found myself on the 24th floor of Four Seasons One Dalton, a Back Bay residential building so fancy that the *washing station* in the dog spa could break your heart.

I was being shown around — if the word "around" can be used in a space that can't comfortably accommodate a full-sized bed — unit 2402. It's one of seven studios that Richard Friedman, the building's developer, in his beneficence, is offering for sale to the public.

To give the studio its due: Its ceilings were high, its one window was vast, and its vibe was quiet, if generic, luxury. And oh my god the amenities package that comes with it. The golf simulator room with a wet bar; the 20-seat screening room; the "cultural and lifestyle coordinator" who delivered oysters and champagne during the pandemic. The monied hush.

But in the end, there are still rules in this world. Gravity is one. Another is that 388

CONDOS, Page A7



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Unit 2402 at One Dalton is less than 400 square feet and nearly \$900,000.

Impeachment vote fails

House Republicans did not get the votes to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas after a few GOP lawmakers refused to go along with the party's plan. **A2.**

Jennifer Crumbley was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter for the Michigan gun rampage committed by her teenage son. **A2.**

Hamas's response to the latest plan for a cease-fire in Gaza and the release of hostages was "generally positive," Qatar said. **A3.**

Boston's pandemic-era outdoor dining program will continue into its fifth year this summer. **B5.**

BC swimmer believes she unfairly lost her last season

School mishandled hazing suspension, says transfer student

By Bob Hohler
GLOBE STAFF

Katrina Sommer doesn't drink alcohol, hates hazing, and, as a student-athlete, prizes positive team chemistry. Sommer, a captain of UCLA's 2022-23 swimming and diving team, transferred to Boston College last summer as a fifth-year graduate student, believing after speaking with BC's coaches that she would fit perfectly in the program. She envisioned setting a couple of BC swimming records and pushing herself to qualify, against steep odds, for the US Olympic trials that will determine who joins Team USA at the 2024 Paris Games.

But neither she nor her 66 team-

mates got a chance to compete: BC suspended the program over a hazing case that, Sommer contends, school leaders handled unfairly for the vast majority of the team.

Sommer, who was not a victim of any hazing, is the first team member to speak publicly about the saga.

"I definitely understand why the school had to address the hazing allegations," Sommer said from her home in Southern California. "I just think that everything after that was kind of a mess."

The process lacked transparency, she said, and ultimately supported neither the victims nor dozens of teammates who were not complicit in hazing, particularly the seniors who lost their final chance to compete after coping with the pandemic.

"It's really heartbreaking," Sommer said.

BOSTON COLLEGE, Page C7



Clouding around

Wednesday: Gray. High 36-41. Low: 27-32.
Thursday: Sun returns. High: 39-44. Low: 32-37.
Sunrise: 6:52 Sunset: 5:05
Comics and Weather, **G6-7.**

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