

‘I have my issues with president Trump, [but] I have issues with all the candidates.’

JAMES THIBAUT, *first-time New Hampshire voter*

Behind their votes, a careful sifting of choices

With primary day nearing, undecideds explain breaking for Haley or Trump

By Emma Platoff
GLOBE STAFF

MANCHESTER, N.H. — If you had asked 50-year-old Jeff Connor in December whom he might vote for in New Hampshire’s presidential primary, he would have joked, “single and looking to mingle.” All those

weeks ago, retiree Pamela Coffey was deciding between Chris Christie and Nikki Haley. High school senior James Thibault, preparing to vote for the first time, was excited about Vivek Ramaswamy and Ron DeSantis.

But DeSantis, who early on had

looked like a front-runner, finished a distant second in Iowa and all but gave up on New Hampshire. Christie quit the race, then Ramaswamy. One day Connor was watching ABC News with his mother, who never talks politics, but for some reason chimed in and persuaded him to give Haley another look.

And now, come Tuesday, each of the three once-undecided voters will have fallen in line behind the prima-

ry’s two real contenders: Haley and former president Donald Trump.

The story of Connor, Coffey, and Thibault — who detailed their decision-making process over weeks of texts, phone calls, and in-person interviews with the Globe — is in many ways the story of this year’s New Hampshire primary: a contest that has effectively whittled a crowded GOP field to a two-person race,

UNDECIDED, Page A11



FOR BLACK CHURCHES A NEW MIGRATION

As suburbs offer fresh start, some mourn leaving Boston roots

By Tiana Woodard
GLOBE STAFF

ABINGTON — A pile of debris, broken tiles scattered about, electrical wires strewn all over the floor. These were the last remnants of what was once a Mastrangelo Family Catering function hall on the eastern edge of town. But something new is taking shape in this most unlikely setting: a church.

**MONEY,
POWER,
INEQUALITY**

Closing
the racial
wealth gap

And not just any church but the Ebenezer Baptist Church, which is departing the historically Black South End, where it has been a fixture for 152 years, for an almost all-white suburb 22 miles to the south.

It is a seemingly startling relocation, but one that the Rev. Carl Thompson had no difficulty explaining as he walked around the church’s soon-to-be home. In this little town of 17,000, he believes, the Ebenezer can afford to fulfill his vision of what a congregation can be.

“Take a look around,” Thompson said on a recent Thursday morning. “We’ll have a brand-new audiovisual system, a playground, a basketball court, a concession stand, a lounge for culinary arts.”

All of it, Thompson says, is his idea “to rebuild and rebrand

CHURCHES, Page B10



PHOTOS BY JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Top, the Rev. Carl Thompson preached during a recording of an Ebenezer Baptist Church service at the ABCD office in Mission Hill. Above, the Rev. Tammy Thurman Brown was moved to tears as vocalists performed during the recording.

Hospital system is teetering financially

State regulators racing to prevent fallout as Steward Health is short of money

By Jessica Bartlett
GLOBE STAFF

Steward Health Care, a for-profit health system that serves thousands of patients in Eastern Massachusetts, is in such grave financial distress that it may be unable to continue operating some facilities, according to public records and people with knowledge of the situation. The fast-moving crisis has left regulators racing to prevent the massive layoffs and erosion of care that could come if hospital services were to suddenly cease.

Steward runs nine Massachusetts hospitals, mostly in Boston suburbs and underserved cities from the Merrimack Valley to the South Coast. But the national operator has shown escalating financial difficulties for at least the past three years, according to public records. This month, Steward’s landlord revealed in a news release that the health system hadn’t been paying its full rent for months and would contemplate selling off hospitals nationally.

In a statement, Steward blamed its challenges in part on the relatively low rates it receives for services to Medicaid patients. And even for patients with more lucrative commercial insurance, Steward said, its hospitals still are paid less than what academic medical centers get.

“This gap has only continued to increase and

STEWARDS, Page A14

Dana-Farber is reviewing works of top scientists

Inquiry follows charges that data in some papers had been manipulated

By Jonathan Wosen and Angus Chen
STAT

Scientists at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, one of the nation’s leading cancer research and treatment centers, are “moving to” retract one paper and correct others amid an expanding investigation of data manipulation, officials told STAT.

The investigation includes scores of papers authored by four top scientists and institute leaders, including chief executive Laurie Glimcher and chief operating officer William Hahn.

Dana-Farber officials disclosed that the review process began for some studies more than a year ago. The institute’s research integrity officer, Barrett Rollins, told STAT last week that while Dana-Farber has not completed reviewing all of the claims, several are serious enough that researchers are talking with journals about retracting one paper and correcting others. None of the allegations reviewed thus far was dismissed for lack of scientific merit.

“They were all credible,” Rollins said. “So far.”

DANA-FARBER, Page A15



Gust in time

Sunday: Windy, sunny, cold.
High: 25-30. Low: 16-21.

Monday: Getting cloudy.
High: 36-41. Low: 30-35.

Sunrise: 7:08 Sunset: 4:43

Complete report, **A24.**

Deaths, **A17-23.**

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It may be cold, but that doesn’t stop the arts. Music, shows, museums, and more in the Winter Arts Guide. **N1.**

Luxury hotel chain Raffles offers a room with a view and a butler. Travel writer Christopher Muther checked in and checked it out. **N17.**

Will the arrival of Ozempic kill body positivity? And did we ever really change our attitudes about weight anyway? **Globe Magazine.**

Runner Bill Iffrig died at 89. A photo of him surrounded by police officers after the 2013 marathon bombing became an iconic image of the attack. **B1.**

Newton’s teachers union and its school committee did not reach a deal in ongoing negotiations over a new contract. **B4.**

Behind a gilded front, financial ruin, tragedy

Father hid mounting distress from Dover family, then allegedly killed them, himself

By Dana Gerber
and Dugan Arnett
GLOBE STAFF

DOVER — The house, by any measure, was a portrait of prosperity. The family of three occupied 21 rooms with 11 full bathrooms, and a basement replete with a movie theater, spa, and pool.

A pair of lion statues stood sentry at the entrance to the home, guarding a placard that bore the family name in gold: *Kamals*.

Rakesh “Rick” Kamal, the family’s 57-year-old patriarch, had long cultivated an aura of wealth, legitimacy, and

perfection. The software developer and entrepreneur had managed to manifest it into this 20,000-square-foot temple of a home in the state’s wealthiest town, an estate that he and his wife, Teena, purchased for \$4 million on Valentine’s Day 2019.

But in recent months, all of it started to slip away. It was, after all, a house of cards.

The mansion had been bought almost entirely with borrowed money — a \$3.8 million mortgage taken from its builder, not a traditional bank, and due in full in just two years. By 2021, unpaid

FAMILY, Page A12



PAULA SWIFT PHOTOGRAPHY

Arianna Kamal, Teena Kamal, and Rakesh “Rick” Kamal at the Public Garden in 2021.