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For Lifespan, a logical look to the north

Regulatory hurdles in R.I. prompt hospital system to expand in Mass.

By Alexa Gagosz
GLOBE STAFF

PROVIDENCE — In late 2023, Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha was sitting in a conference room in his office with the heads of the state's largest health care systems, discussing the fate of Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital — two failing hospitals owned by the same for-profit, out-of-state owner, Prospect Medical Holdings.

With oversight powers on hospi-

tal transfers, Neronha asked John Fernandez, chief executive of Lifespan Health System, and Dr. Michael Wagner, CEO of Care New England, if either of their not-for-profit organizations could acquire the two struggling hospitals. He'd even sweeten the deal by throwing in \$20 million each, he said, to help support some of the costs.

He was mostly jesting in his offer, Neronha told the Globe later; but still, Fernandez and Wagner didn't bite.

\$175 million

Lifespan signed a purchase agreement to take over St. Anne's in Fall River and Morton Hospital in Taunton from Steward Health Care.

30,000 patients

About the number from Southeastern Massachusetts who are already served by Lifespan hospitals. If the Steward deal is approved, it would expand that service in the region.

Instead, Neronha was left months later to watch as one of those Rhode Island health systems, Lifespan, stepped forward to rescue two other struggling hospitals — across the state line in Massachusetts.

After months of haggling, Lifespan on Thursday signed a purchase agreement to take over St. Anne's in Fall River and Morton Hospital in Taunton from bankrupt Steward Health Care for \$175 million. If approved by a bankruptcy judge on Wednesday, the deal will give Rhode Island's largest hospital system a foothold in Southeastern

LIFESPAN, Page A7

Israeli leader firm on cease-fire

Amid a swell of protests, Netanyahu vows to keep troops in Egypt-Gaza area

By Patrick Kingsley, Aaron Boxerman, and Thomas Fuller

NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — Brushing aside pleas from allies and the demands of Israeli protesters for an immediate cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday vowed to keep an Israeli troop presence along the border between Egypt and Gaza, a contentious plan that appeared to dim, if not dash, prospects for a truce.

In his first news conference since the bodies of six slain hostages were recovered over the weekend, Netanyahu told reporters Monday night that, to ensure its security, Israel needed to assert control over the border in Gaza, known as the Philadelphi Corridor, calling it the lifeline of Hamas.

Hamas has said the occupation of the corridor is a nonstarter in negotiations for a truce.

"If we leave, we will not be able to return," Netanyahu said of the corridor, as a large crowd protested near his private residence in Jerusalem on Monday night.

Netanyahu made the comments a day after the Israeli military announced that the six hostages had been found dead in a tunnel underneath the

ISRAEL, Page A5

Clean-energy funds may pivot on Nov. election

State has benefited from federal outlay that former president strongly opposes

By Sabrina Shankman

GLOBE STAFF

Early in President Biden's administration, Congress passed a trio of federal laws that promised to supercharge the nation's transition to clean energy. Ever since then, Massachusetts has been gearing up for a big cash infusion.

The prospective money on the table is huge — hundreds of billions of dollars, to be divvied up across the country, often delivered to the state or agency that could make the most compelling bid for how to put that money to best use.

Climate advocates and Democratic lawmakers warn, however, that if former president Donald Trump wins the election in November, the transformative investment embodied in those laws may never be fully realized, given Trump's well-documented resistance to efforts to curb climate-warming emissions.

Vice President Kamala Harris, meanwhile, is widely expected to continue the policies of the Biden administration if elected.

CLEAN ENERGY, Page A6



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Water flowed from a culvert as the Dudleyville Pond dam was taken down late last month in Shutesbury.

A TREASURE TURNED TREACHEROUS

A pond at her house was the backdrop to Lois Brown's life. A dam that held it — and with it, so many memories — was about to fail.

By Erin Douglas
GLOBE STAFF

SHUTESBURY — Lois Brown took her first steps as a teetering toddler in 1952 on a dock next to the pond on her parent's property.

The pond was also the scenic backdrop to her wedding ceremony in 1968. And when she had her first child, in 1973, she brought him home to a small white cabin at the water's edge.

"It's a very idyllic place," said Brown, 73, who now owns the property that has been in her family since the early 1950s. "My roots are dug in deep here."



In 1952, Lois Brown, then a toddler, went for a dip in the pond. Now, she owns the family property there.

But, Dudleyville Pond, as it's known, has become much more of a burden than a source of joy for the Brown family. The old stone dam at one end has long been in disrepair; for the last few decades, the pond has been only partially full and years have gone by since it floated rowboats and swallowed fish hooks. Regulators warned that what was once the shining gem of Brown's property is now a public safety hazard: If the dam failed, the resulting flood could wash out a road downstream and inundate neighboring properties.

The century-old Dudleyville Pond is one of hundreds of dams in

DAM REMOVAL, Page A7

Trump-Kennedy pact resurrects rancor over COVID restrictions

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — In securing Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s endorsement, Donald Trump gained an ally who could steer him crucial votes by providing cover on some of the themes that defined Kennedy's campaign: distrust of the COVID vaccine, opposition to government mandates, and lingering outrage over the handling of the pandemic.

With the 2024 presidential election set to be decided by razor-thin margins in a handful of states, Trump and his team are betting that winning over Kennedy supporters — many of whom deeply distrust Trump, whose Operation Warp Speed initiative launched the COVID vaccines — could help push them to victory.

CAMPAIGN, Page A6



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

A SIDE ORDER OF SOLIDARITY — A union worker delivered meals during the annual Labor Day breakfast, which was held outside of the Hilton Park Plaza hotel in Boston this year because workers there are on strike. The event Monday was organized by the Greater Boston Labor Council. **B1.**



Glory aaahhh

Tuesday: Simply beautiful. High 72-77, low 56-61.

Wednesday: More aaahhh. High 74-79, low 56-61.

Sunrise: 6:12. Sunset: 7:14
Weather and comics, **D4-5.**
Obituaries, **C9.**

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\$4.00



The Boston College Eagles shocked the 10th-ranked Florida State Seminoles, 28-13, in Tallahassee Monday night. **C1.**

Consumer brands often find the waters perilous when they wade into politics. **D1.**

Nantasket Beach offers a multicultural oasis. **As I See It. B1.**

Seeing red over yet another subway shutdown? Some riders actually see a glint of progress for service south of Boston. **B1.**

For many Ukrainian students, the first day of school began in a bomb shelter as Russia again launched a widespread missile attack. **A3.**

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