

Hospital plans pose challenge for regulators

Adding beds changes cancer care landscape

By Jessica Bartlett
GLOBE STAFF

Dr. Harold Burstein remembers wheeling patients out of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in 1997 as its once separate inpatient hospital unit closed, a seminal moment that would define medicine here for decades.

Back then, Dana-Farber was unique in its singular focus on cancer care in Boston. But with treatments growing increasingly complex, Dana-

Farber realized its boutique hospital with 30 oncology beds was insufficient. The hospital moved inpatient services into nearby Brigham and Women's Hospital, where it could treat more patients in a more complete setting.

Now, nearly three decades later, cancer care at Dana-Farber has come full circle — sort of. The institute plans to build a 300-bed hospital just for cancer care, working in partnership with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Burstein sees this coming development as momentous as the one in 1997, one that will again influence the nature of treating cancer.

CANCER, Page A18

A solar boom in search of hookups

Maxed-out grid slowing newer energy projects

By Sabrina Shankman
GLOBE STAFF

The dairy barn at The Farm School in Athol is home to about a dozen cows, a few small rooms filled with cold tanks and pasteurizing equipment, and, most days, classes of Boston-area middle schoolers learning about work, farming, and being good environmental stewards.

By now, the barn could also have been home to 88 solar

panels to help power the farm's operations and offer another lesson for visiting students — one about clean energy, and how everyone has to do their part to address the climate crisis.

But The Farm School has run into a hurdle that's tripping up communities, nonprofits, and solar developers across the state: a maxed-out electric grid that's slowing Massachusetts' progress on solar energy to a crawl at the very time that it ought to be soaring.

Massachusetts has long been a national leader in solar

SOLAR, Page A18



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

The Farm School in Athol wanted to install solar panels on its barns, but Massachusetts' early efforts to push solar power mean its electric grid can't handle big new projects.

CRADLE OF DOUBT

Judging Emily



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Emily Cross, a Cape Cod mother, with her 5-year-old son. She fought state authorities who suggested that she played a role in the death of her 1-month-old son, Marty, when she co-slept with him two years ago.

Parents facing the sudden inexplicable loss of an infant child sometimes have that grief brutally compounded by government officials who hold them at fault because they shared a bed with the baby. Co-sleeping has risks and rewards. Should it be treated like a crime?

This story was reported and written by Deirdre Fernandes and edited by Patricia Wen.



Emily Cross woke up that morning, looked over to her infant son who was lying near her on the mattress, and felt a sudden surge of terror. Her 1-month-old, Marty, was on his back, as usual, but his chest was still.

The minutes that followed are a blur. Marty's father called 911 and administered CPR on their son; the paramedics arrived at her rental apartment on Cape Cod shortly after and attempted their own life-saving measures. All to no avail. Around 7:30 a.m. that June day in 2021, less than half an hour after Cross awoke, her baby was pronounced dead.

She felt the piercing loss of her little boy, whom she liked to call Mighty Marty — a nickname he'd earned. Born a month early after a difficult pregnancy, he had steadily gained weight, kicked up a storm during baths, and started to develop a little smile. Marty, Cross believes, was among the thousands of infants who die mysteriously of SIDS, sudden infant death syndrome, every year.

That same day, after the si-



Marty, just after he was born, with his parents, Emily and her husband.

rens faded, a state trooper, local police officers, and two child welfare investigators arrived and interrogated her. They seemed to have just one question in mind: Did she accidentally kill her baby by rolling over in her sleep and suffocating him?

Cross insisted that was impossible, because she remembered he was a foot away from her body when she woke up and

INFANT DEATH, Page A14

A small device that has deadly consequences

3-D technology turns Glock's into machine guns

By Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

In January, federal agents tracing the origins of components that turn handguns into automatic weapons were led to a modest home in Roxbury. There, in a back bedroom of his mother's apartment, federal agents allege 23-year-old Michael Wilkerson and a friend used a 3-D printer to churn out small plastic devices that can quickly convert pistols to machine guns.

A cooperating witness had purchased a

dozen of the devices for \$1,700, leading to the arrest in February of Wilkerson and Elijah Navarro, 24, on federal gun manufacturing charges, according to filings in US District Court in Boston. Agents said they seized two 3-D printers, printing materials, and eight of the devices from Wilkerson's bedroom during a search of the Homestead Street apartment.

Wilkerson and Navarro have pleaded not guilty in US District Court in Boston and are awaiting trial.

The case has cast a spotlight on an emerging problem in Massachusetts: The number of automatic guns used in street crimes is spiking, largely fueled by technology that can be used by anyone with knowledge of 3-D printing. They are commonly referred to as Glock switches, converters, or chips and have been linked to a wave of violent incidents: In Boston, for example, a 15-year-old girl was one of five people wounded by a gun using the device; in Springfield, police said the widening violence is reflected by a 75 percent increase in the number of

GUNS, Page A17

Movies, music, and stories keep us going. Our critics tell which were their favorite albums, film performances, and books of this year. **SundayArts, N1.**

MBTA riders are an essential part of keeping the agency on track. For their contribution to the city, they are among the Bostonians of the Year. **Globe Magazine.**

Clouds at the mall

Sunday: Cloudy, showers. High: 50-55. Low: 47-52.

Monday: Windy, rainy. High: 59-64. Low: 41-46.

Complete report, **A26.** Deaths, **A19-25.**

VOL. 304, NO. 170

Suggested retail price \$6.00



8 DAYS LEFT TO DONATE

HELP GLOBE SANTA BRING BOOKS & TOYS TO KIDS IN NEED.



SCAN TO DONATE VIA VENMO



SCAN TO DONATE AT GLOBESANTA.ORG

