

Calls for Biden to drop out getting louder

More Democrats go public with their doubts

By Jim Puzzanghera, Lissandra Villa de Petrzelka, and Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Massachusetts state Senator Jason Lewis already was worried about President Biden's struggling reelection campaign before watching his disastrous debate performance on Thursday night. So the next morning, the Winchester Democrat publicly called for Biden to step aside as the party's nominee.

"It wasn't so much that he

was incoherent over the course of the debate," he said. "For me, the thing that was even more concerning was that he completely failed at making the case against Donald Trump."

► Judge postpones Trump's sentencing for hush money convictions. **A2.**

Lewis has heard from several dozen constituents since then, some slamming him for undermining Biden but others thanking him for "being willing to say publicly what a lot of Democrats are saying privately."

Despite the campaign's effort to stem those criticisms, anxiety ratcheted up Tuesday
DEMOCRATS, Page A8



RICARDO MAZALAN/AP

Fishing boats in Barbados were damaged by the record-breaking storm.

Beryl's strength so early alarming

Warmer waters likely to make season rough

By Ken Mahan
GLOBE STAFF

Hurricane Beryl's rapid evolution from a tropical depression to a major Category 5 threat so early in the summer is raising alarms that forecasts for a "hyperactive" Atlantic storm season might be on target.

Late Monday, the churning Beryl escalated to Category 5 intensity, packing maximum sustained winds of 165 miles per hour — unprecedented this early in the Atlantic season, according to the National Hurricane Center. It became the strongest July Atlantic hurricane on record, surpassing the 160-mile-per-hour maximum winds set by Hurricane Emily in 2005. Before Emily, Hurricane Allen in August 1980 held the record for the earliest Atlantic hurricane, clocking 165-mile-per-hour winds.

By Tuesday afternoon, the hurricane had weakened to a still destructive Category 4 storm as it headed toward Jamaica after making landfall earlier Monday on the Caribbean island of Carriacou, Grenada.

"Storms like Beryl are extremely rare," said Philip Klotzbach, senior research scientist at Colorado State University's Department of
HURRICANE, Page A12

Renters rule on the Cape again

Owners finding slower market post-COVID

By Shannon Larson
GLOBE STAFF

In the not-too-distant past, the three rental properties Christine Peterson and her husband manage in Brewster and Barnstable would be booked for the prime summer weeks by February.

But last summer, their Cape-style home in Brewster sat empty for an entire week in July, the first time in 15 years that had happened. "It was unlike anything before," she said. And the four-bedroom dwelling, a few miles from Linnell Landing Beach, still has a week open in July.

It's a marked shift from the intense demand that Cape Cod and the Islands experienced during the pandemic, when people snatched up second homes, real estate prices and rental rates soared, and visitors typically booked lengthy stays well into the fall.

"You could have booked your house three times over, which was great. Your rates could go as high as they could go," said Peterson, 42. "Last year was where it took the dip" but "this year is definitely even slower."

As summer settles in, the vacation rental market is providing a reality check for those who hoped last season's downturn was a blip after three pandemic-fueled boom years.

The message from real estate professionals and local officials: Those days are over.

"Owners need to readjust their expectations," said Ryan Castle, CEO of the Cape Cod and Islands Association of Realtors. "You cannot compare numbers for what
CAPE RENTALS, Page A12



STEWARD SPENT MILLIONS ON SURVEILLANCE OF ITS CRITICS — EVEN AMID FINANCIAL CRISIS



Ralph de la Torre



Herbert Holtz



Armin Ernst

As health care services suffered, Steward prioritized intelligence-gathering on those who were viewed as opponents, records show

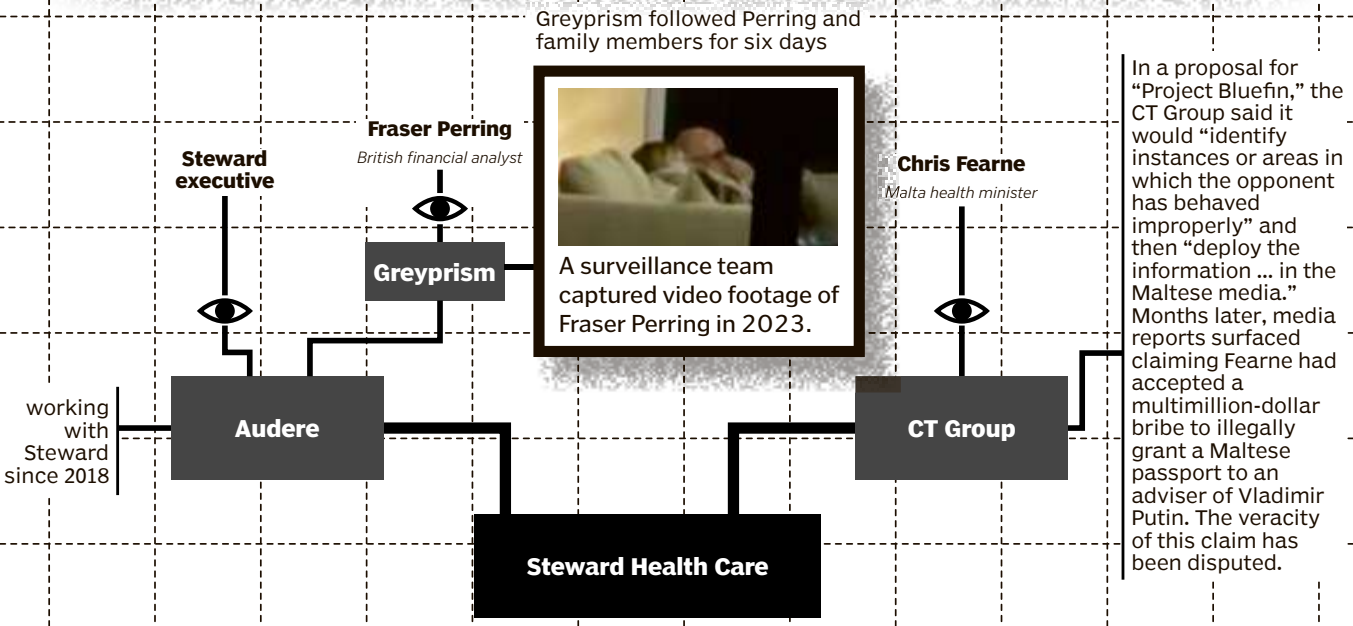
This story was reported by Hanna Krueger, Jessica Bartlett, Mark Arsenault, and Elizabeth Koh. It was written by Krueger and edited by Brendan McCarthy.

One night last year, a surveillance team camped outside a financial analyst's English country home and videotaped him as he watched television with his partner. The team — contracted through a British private intelligence agency — put a tracker on the analyst's car, watched his daughter go to school, and followed him into pubs and on errands, even during a bike ride.

Another time, staffers of an intelligence firm pored over details from a health care executive's phone and seized on sensitive tidbits: a text message with a sex worker, consultations with a doctor about cosmetic surgery, and lewd photos.

On another occasion, an intelligence firm targeted a top Maltese politician and circulated an allegedly fraudulent bank wire transfer that suggested he had illegally granted a

SPOTLIGHT, Page A6



Israel's top generals are urging a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, even if it keeps Hamas in power. **A4.**

Peter L. Slavin, who ran MGH for nearly two decades, has taken a new job heading up Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. **B5.**

Moderna has reached a deal with the US government to fund a trial of its bird flu vaccine. **B5.**

The leader of the State Police said he expects his troopers to face increased scrutiny in their investigations after the Karen Read trial. **B1.**

Boston's needle-collection program is defunct after four years because of a lack of funding. **B1.**

What screams summer to you? We asked 10 food folks what they crave this time of year. **G1.**



Third, party

Wednesday: Warm, nice. High 80-85. Low 64-69.

Thursday: More of the same. High 81-86. Low 68-73.

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

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