

New wrinkle in Dennis shelter fight

Builder: Officials
didn't reveal
land holdings

By John Hilliard
GLOBE STAFF

During a heated meeting over a planned shelter for homeless Cape Cod families in May, one member of the Dennis Planning Board took the microphone for nearly 15 minutes to criticize the project. Member Richard Hamlin questioned the size of the 79-unit project, raised concerns about the impact on traffic and sewage, and asked who was

looking out for the interests of nearby Dennis residents. "If this project isn't large, I don't know what is," Hamlin told his colleagues, according to a recording of the meeting reviewed by the Globe. What he didn't mention during the recording was that he owns more than 20 acres of land near the shelter site and just across the town line in Harwich, a Globe review of public records shows. The properties include parcels along the only road to the proposed site. On Thursday, a lawyer for the nonprofit building the shelter, **SHELTER, Page A7**

Hospital acquisitions

St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Brighton
Commonwealth of Mass., Boston Medical Center

Good Samaritan Medical Center, Brockton
Boston Medical Center

Holy Family Hospital, Methuen and Haverhill
Lawrence General Hospital

St. Anne's Hospital, Fall River
Lifespan Health System

Morton Hospital, Taunton
Lifespan Health System

Healey reveals deals for 6 Steward hospitals

State plans to seize St. Elizabeth's and turn it over to Boston Medical Center

By Robert Weisman and Jason Laughlin
GLOBE STAFF

After months of haggling with bankrupt Steward Health Care and the investment firms that owned its hospital properties, the Healey administration said Friday it has engineered preliminary agreements to keep six of the eight Steward hospitals in Massachusetts open under new operators. The breakthrough deals include a

plan by the state to seize control of the real estate that houses Steward's flagship St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Brighton — a rare exercise of

► **In Ayer, pleas to save Nashoba Valley Medical Center. D1.**

eminent domain in the hospital sector — and turn the hospital operations over to Boston Medical Center. Boston Medical Center, known as BMC, will also take over Good Samar-

itan Medical Center in Brockton, making the state's largest safety net hospital a more critical player in an overburdened health care system. BMC was long run by Kate Walsh, who is now Governor Maura Healey's health and human services secretary and was a pivotal player in putting the Steward hospital deals together.

Lawrence General Hospital will absorb the Methuen and Haverhill campuses of Holy Family Hospital in the Merrimack Valley north of Boston. And to the south, Providence-based Lifespan Health System, soon to be rechristened Brown University **STEWARD, Page A10**



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL G. SEAMANS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Maine blueberry farmers adjust to climate change

By Ivy Scott
GLOBE STAFF

DEBLOIS, Maine — Hopping out of her pickup truck, Brogan Tooley squinted into the August sun as she surveilled the acres of wild blueberries that stretched for miles in every direction. Then, without hesitation, she walked straight into the middle of an unpicked patch, crunching fresh berries beneath her boots with every step. "Don't worry about it — it's a hardy crop," said Tooley, an agro-ecologist for blueberry grower Wyman's, gesturing to the wild berries that popped underfoot. "And it's probably good to return some of those nutrients from the berries back to the soil anyway." The bountiful harvest — a boon for Wyman's and the other 484 wild blueberry growers in the region — was a month early this summer. Growers were ready for it, though, staying laser-focused on changing climate patterns and extreme weather events for the past several years. Cultivators of the wild blueberry, a species only commercially farmed in Maine and eastern Canada, have transformed their growing practices to deal with more heat and swings in precipitation, conducting research on **BLUEBERRIES, Page A7**



Above: A harvester used a blueberry rake at Wyman's Blueberries in Deblois, Maine. Left: Maria Pena dropped berries into a collection box after harvesting them.

'This is the most precious cargo we have navigating our streets.'

MAYOR MICHELLE WU

BPS ready with bus drivers, monitors

District adds training site as it strives to be on time

By James Vaznis
GLOBE STAFF

Long plagued with late buses and staffing shortages, the Boston Public Schools will kick off the upcoming school year with a full slate of bus drivers and monitors for the first time in years, Superintendent Mary Skipper said Friday. Staffing shortages have long hampered BPS's ability to get buses to run on time in a city with the fourth worst traffic congestion in the nation. School districts around the country have also suffered from an acute shortage of bus drivers. In Boston, scores of buses have routinely run late on opening day and well into the school year, testing the patience of families and school staff alike. Since 2022, BPS has been operating under a state edict to get 95 percent of its buses to arrive on time in the mornings and afternoons, but has repeatedly fallen short of that target. BPS ended the last school year with 90 percent of morning buses arriving on time and 87



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

School buses sat ready for the new school year on a lot in Roxbury.

percent of afternoon buses being punctual, according to Skipper. The district has never had all the bus monitor positions filled at the start of a school year in recent memory, Skipper said, but this year will have extra drivers and monitors on hand. BPS will be staffed with more than 740 drivers and 750 monitors to cover hundreds of bus runs, **BUSES, Page A10**

Family of trans girl sues N.H. over sports ban

By Steven Porter
GLOBE STAFF

Parker Tirrell, a rising sophomore at Plymouth Regional High School in New Hampshire, spent four hours each evening this week at soccer camp to prepare with teammates and friends for the fall athletic season. But the 15-year-old was notified Thursday that she won't be permitted to practice with her team on Monday. A new state law banning transgender girls from girls' school sports will take effect this weekend, so she's no longer allowed to participate. "It's a hard reality, a tough pill to swallow, just stupid," Tirrell told the Globe in an interview Thursday night, a few hours after she received the news. "I just want to play soccer. . . . It's part of me," she said. "It will never not be a part of me. It's half of what's shaped me into who I am." Tirrell and her parents haven't given up hope. They, along with another transgender teen girl and her parents, are suing New Hampshire to block enforcement of the law. Their at- **NEW HAMPSHIRE, Page B4**

President Biden designated a national monument at the site of a 1908 race riot that laid waste to a Black community in Springfield, Ill. A2.

The United States, Egypt, and Qatar said that cease-fire talks aimed at ending the war in the Gaza Strip would continue next week in Cairo. A4.

Resident assistants at Emerson College unanimously ratified their first union contract, reaching an agreement with the downtown Boston institution with unprecedented speed. **D1.**



Close calls

Saturday: Humid, cloudy. High: 72-77. Low: 64-69.
Sunday: Still humid. High: 76-81. Low: 63-68.
Sunrise: 5:54 Sunset: 7:42
Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**
Obituaries, **C9.**

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