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Parents defend Children’s gender clinic

Most say GeMS is cautious, despite allegation of pressure

By Mike Damiano
GLOBE STAFF

In the tight-knit community of Massachusetts families with transgender children, Boston Children’s Hospital is regarded as the most cautious institution in the region when it comes to providing medical transition treatments to minors.

So, many parents were flummoxed, they said in recent interviews, when they heard that

a former director at the hospital’s gender clinic, known as GeMS, had called the clinic’s practices “reckless.”

“When this came out, all the families were like, really? GeMS? That’s a head scratcher,” said one mother, Emily, whose transgender son has been a patient at the clinic for years and who asked to be identified by only her first name to protect her child’s identity.

The allegation emerged during extraordinary courtroom testimony in late October. Amy Tishelman — a clinical psychologist, former research director at GeMS, and leader in the field of transgender health — said, under oath, that GeMS had pressured her to assess minors for possible medical interventions, such as hormones, faster than she thought was safe. The clinic, multiple staffers testi-

fied, had shortened its so-called hormone-readiness assessment from four hours to two, and other clinicians shared Tishelman’s concern. “That is crazy in my mind,” the clinic’s founding psychologist, Laura Edwards-Leeper, said of the truncated assessment.

In recent weeks, the Globe spoke with more than a dozen families who have sought treatment for their children at GeMS. Two of the parents

CLINIC, Page A7

S. Korea leader backs off from martial law



YONHAP/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Soldiers tried to enter the main hall of the National Assembly as members of the opposition gathered inside.

Thousands protest Yoon’s declaration; future unclear after gambit backfires

By Choe Sang-Hun, John Yoon, Jin Yu Young, and Thomas Fuller
NEW YORK TIMES

SEOUL — President Yoon Suk Yeol of South Korea declared emergency martial law Tuesday night, then reversed himself hours later as thousands of protesters flooded the streets, capping an extraordinary night of tumult in the deeply divided country.

The threat of military rule had brought political chaos to one of America’s closest allies in Asia and carried echoes of South Korea’s postwar years of military rule and political violence.

But Yoon’s gambit appeared to quickly backfire, leaving his

political future uncertain and the opposition baying for his impeachment.

His announcement imposing martial law, at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, had immediately raised questions over whether the president could commandeer such a highly developed industrialized democracy.

Before dawn Wednesday, those questions appeared to be answered.

The National Assembly quickly passed a resolution demanding an end to martial law, and Yoon backed down, saying he would lift his emergency declaration just 5½ hours after he had issued it.

Martial law was formally

SOUTH KOREA, Page A4

WITH PAID LEAVE, HAPPY FAMILIES

Parents welcome change for Boston workers but say more help needed



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Kamisha Green, a Boston police officer, was grateful for paid leave after having her daughter, Zoey Grace.

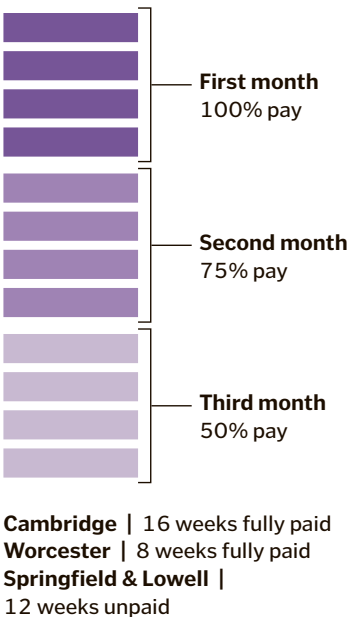
By Niki Griswold
GLOBE STAFF

Kamisha Green, fresh from work and still in her Boston police officer’s uniform on a fall evening, proudly watched her daughter, Zoey Grace, wobble as she pulled herself up onto her little feet.

Life for their family today looks a lot different than it did in January, when Zoey Grace arrived prematurely and needed to spend 10 days in the neonatal intensive care unit. Green remembers how difficult those first few months were, as she adjusted to having a newborn and dealt with postpartum depression and anxiety. Having access to paid parental leave made getting through that tough stretch possible, she said.

“It was a blessing. It was great just to bond with my baby, learn my baby, and not have to worry about, ‘Do I have to get up and go to work?’ ” said Green. “I could still be a mom and still

Boston’s current 12-week parental paid leave policy



be a police officer — it’s not one or the other.”

Unlike many cities in Massachusetts, Boston offers the vast majority of its employees access to paid parental leave, a policy advocates say is an essential support for municipal workers, who don’t benefit from a state law that helps most other workers wanting to start or grow a family. But while Boston employees applaud the city for adopting and expanding the benefit, many argue that it isn’t long enough and that more help should be offered to parents who work for the city.

Although state lawmakers passed a paid family and medical leave program that began in 2021, cities and towns are exempt from complying. According to the Massachusetts Municipal Association, that leaves most city workers forced to either take unpaid leave for the birth or adoption of a child, or solely rely on accrued sick and vacation days.

FAMILY LEAVE, Page A6

Councilor is facing a federal probe

By Danny McDonald, Shelley Murphy, and Milton J. Valencia
GLOBE STAFF

Federal authorities are conducting an investigation of Boston City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson and have sent subpoenas to City Hall, according to two people with knowledge of the requests.

The nature and circumstances of the probe were not immediately known, and no criminal charges have been filed.

“I don’t want to comment on it,” Fernandes Anderson, a Democrat whose district spans Roxbury, Dorchester, the South End, and the Fenway, said when reached.

The Globe had requested public records from City Hall’s offices, including six months’ worth of subpoenas sent to city workers, as well as requests for written communications between Fernandes Anderson, her office, city attorneys, and the

COUNCILOR, Page B4



The Red Sox reached a one-year deal with Aroldis Chapman, a former star closer who in his prime was measured as the hardest thrower in MLB history. **C1.**

A judge previously accused of helping an undocumented immigrant evade federal agents is again under fire for her alleged conduct in the 2018 case. **B1.**

“The United States is all in on Africa,” President Biden said during a visit to Angola, the first by a US leader. **A2.**

Bakery-cafe Sofra has a new branch, in Allston, featuring something missing in the original — space. **G1.**

In the mix

Wednesday: Sunny, rain late. High 38-43. Low 34-38.
Thursday: A bit of snow. High 41-46. Low 26-31.
High tide: 12:56 a.m., 12:56 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:57 Sunset: 4:12
Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C8.

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Long shut out, Hyde Park pushes for health center

‘When you look at the current demographics, it just screams for more local health care centers.’

BILL HENNING,
a Hyde Park resident

By Tiana Woodard
GLOBE STAFF

Irene Nakabonge-Lugude was late again to her recent weekday check-in at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. At this point, she felt like she was gaining a reputation as consistently being “late and with my blood pressure through the roof.”

Her tardiness is in part because of where she lives. To get from her Hyde Park home to the Longwood medical area, Nakabonge-Lugude has to take the 32 bus from Cleary Square to the Forest Hills Station and the 39 from there to the hos-

pital. If either bus is late, so is she.

“As a patient, you want to do good by your doctor,” said Nakabonge-Lugude, who has arthritis and recently tore her meniscus and ruptured her Achilles’ tendons. For that appointment, she took an Uber from Forest Hills after missing the bus. She hoped it would get her there on time, but she was late again.

Nakabonge-Lugude’s Hyde Park neighborhood is something like a health care desert. Many residents there once relied on Carney Hospital in Dorchester for

HYDE PARK, Page A6



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

“Hyde Park just does not get a lot of love, and I don’t know why that is,” said Marcia Kimm-Jackson, who’s leading the Hyde Park Health and Wellness Center steering committee.