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Judge dismisses Trump's Jan. 6 case

Special counsel requests end to cases of plotting to subvert election and withholding classified documents

By Perry Stein
and Spencer S. Hsu
WASHINGTON POST

A judge dismissed the federal election obstruction charges against President-elect Donald Trump on Monday, ending a historic investigation that never went to trial but led to enduring changes in the legal landscape over a president's immunity from prosecution.

Special counsel Jack Smith won approval from a judge to drop the case, defending its merits in his motion to dismiss but citing Justice Department policy that prohibits prosecuting a sitting president. Smith separately asked the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit to remove Trump as a codefendant from the special counsel's appeal of a ruling in a different case that in-

involved Trump's alleged mishandling of classified documents.

Together, the two motions essentially mark the end of the Justice Department's first federal prosecutions of a former president — and the triumph of a remarkable strategy by Trump's lawyers. All along, Trump seemed to understand that his best hope for avoiding trials was to win the presidency again, a re-

ality that Vice President-elect JD Vance underscored Monday on social media.

"If Donald J. Trump had lost an election, he may very well have spent the rest of his life in prison," Vance wrote on X, before repeating Trump's frequent complaint that he had been unfairly targeted. "These prosecutions were always political. Now it's time to ensure what happened to President Trump never happens in this country again."

Trump also responded on so-

TRUMP, Page A7

US seizes phone of Steward's de la Torre

Agents' move aggressively escalates criminal probe of health care company

By Hanna Krueger, Chris Serres,
and Brendan McCarthy
GLOBE STAFF

Federal agents briefly detained former Steward Health Care CEO Ralph de la Torre early last week, served him with a search warrant, and seized his phone — the latest sign that a federal corruption probe is focused on the health care chain's embattled founder, according to three people briefed on the matter.

Another Steward executive, Armin Ernst, a Brookline resident who leads Steward's international entity, was also recently visited by federal investigators and had his cellphone seized, two of the people briefed told the Globe.

The searches come on the heels of a Globe Spotlight Team report that revealed several Steward board members had been summoned to answer questions as part of a sprawling grand jury probe into alleged fraud, bribery, and corruption within the now-bankrupt, Boston-born health care chain.

Federal authorities have also been in talks with several other top Steward executives, the Spotlight Team has learned, seeking information about

STEWART, Page A5



FOLLOW-UP



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Four years ago, hundreds of thousands of women and men mobilized for a march in Washington, D.C., against Donald Trump.

TRUMP IS BACK
AFTER WINNING
MORE WOMEN'S
VOTES. SOME
FEAR IT'S A SIGN
THE COUNTRY
HAS MOVED
BACKWARD.

By Anjali Huynh
GLOBE STAFF

When Donald Trump was first elected in 2016, many women were enraged, mobilizing in pink "pussyhats" against the man who'd bragged about grabbing women by the genitals. Not long after, the #MeToo movement emerged, taking down powerful men accused of sexual misconduct in politics, entertainment, business, and beyond.

Now, Trump is back on top, with more support from women than before, even as he faced publicized allegations of sexual misconduct and a jury verdict finding him liable for sexual abuse. His critics felt further dismay in recent days as he nominated several Cabinet officials who also stand accused of sexual misconduct. They deny the allegations, including Matt Gaetz, the former Florida congressman who on Thursday withdrew his name from consideration to be Trump's attorney general amid a deluge of accusations involving sex with a 17-year-old.

Many once-energized women, especially moderates and those on the left who never backed a Trump campaign, say they're exhausted. Scared. Bitter.

"If it was just the fact that Trump was nominating sexual predators, then there'd be a huge outcry in the sexual assault survivor community," said Louise God-

WOMEN, Page A7

T is easing into effort to fight fare evasion

For now, officials lean on changing riders' mentality; enforcement comes later

By Shannon Larson
GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — On a recent blustery day, Frantzl Mentor, one of the MBTA's new fare engagement representatives, flashed a cheery smile at a woman who had just strolled up to a machine at Lechmere Station to pay with her CharlieCard. Without fare gates, posted signs remind riders to validate their fares. Mentor handed the woman the paper receipt and she headed to the platform. "Have a nice day," he said.

Mentor and his two colleagues wore easy expressions and dark green jackets — intended to give off more of a park ranger than officer vibe — as they chatted with passengers.

Like many other transit agencies across the country, the T has a costly problem with people riding for free. These highly visible crews are Boston's answer. For now, it's all about introducing a presence.

The hard part — actual enforcement — will

MBTA, Page A4

Hard lessons in school power struggles

Hefty fines, loss of pay fail to modify unions' tactics or end teachers' strikes

By James Vaznis
GLOBE STAFF

A teachers' strike can be costly for every side in a community, but in terms of dollars it's especially expensive for the unions behind the walkouts: The three unions that walked out this month in Beverly, Gloucester, and Marblehead have collectively been fined more than \$1.5 million for striking illegally, according to the state.

But the fines appear to have done little to force teachers back into their classrooms, despite a judge's orders to do so. All three remained on the picket line after the fines drained their union funds, according to court documents. Teachers have been calculating that keeping schools closed works in their favor by pressuring officials to give in to their demands for a favorable contract, which paid off for Gloucester educators Friday when they secured a new contract.

The hefty fines have raised questions about why financial penalties don't seem to work in ending teacher strikes and what more can be done to hasten contract negotiations and get educators

TEACHERS, Page A4



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

Members of the Beverly Teachers Association rallied for a new contract in front of Henry's Market in Beverly on Nov. 9.



Dim, wet

Tuesday: Cloudy, some rain.
High 49-54, low 35-40.

Wednesday: Some sun.
High 48-53, low 34-39.

Sunrise: 6:48. Sunset: 4:14

Weather and comics, D5-6.

Obituaries, C10.

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House lawmakers advanced to the Senate Boston's proposal to limit tax increases for homeowners. B1.

President-elect Donald Trump vowed to impose a 25 percent tariff on all products from Canada and Mexico on his first day in office. A2.

Massachusetts had its second-highest voter turnout ever for the election this month. B1.

For Red Lines riders, the slow zones are no more. B1.

Celtics center Kristaps Porzingis made his season debut after missing the first 17 games while recovering from ankle surgery. C1.

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