

The Boston Globe

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MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

Pension concerns reemerge at Steward

Nurses and retirees worry about security of retirement funds tied to hospitals' fate

By Robert Weisman
GLOBE STAFF

For thousands of nurses and other employees of Caritas Christi Health Care, the hospital system's 2010 sale to for-profit Steward Health Care seemed to answer a pressing question: Would their pensions, frozen by financially struggling Caritas, be there in their retirement?

Fourteen years later, the retirement plan is fully funded and pensions are paid regularly to about

11,000 beneficiaries in the state. But with Steward now mired in bankruptcy and its eight Eastern Massachusetts hospitals on the auction block, the old worries have returned.

"Bankruptcy could jeopardize all the work to shore up the [pension] plan," said Julie Pinkham, executive director of the Massachusetts Nurses Association and a trustee of the nurses' retirement plan. "Until we see how things fall out for the hospitals, we just don't know."

'Without new owners, there's no new contributions to the fund. And that would be potentially devastating.'

JULIE PINKHAM
Trustee of the nurses' retirement plan

The future of the pensions — whether workers can count on them for the long haul — is bound up with the fate of hospitals that serve mostly low-income neighborhoods and communities from Dorchester and Haverhill to Brockton, Taunton, and Fall River.

Much is on the line for those who spent decades caring for patients. Retirees such as Karen Kravitz, 72, who worked for 46 years as a nurse at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Brighton under Caritas and Steward, depend on pension income to get by in high-cost Massachusetts.

"If I didn't get my pension," said
NURSES, Page A10

Housing backers in suburbs organize

Fed up with hostile local reception to development, advocates unite, strategize

By Andrew Brinker
GLOBE STAFF

For Cobi Frongillo, a town councilor in Franklin, every meeting about a new housing development goes about the same way.

First, the pitch from the developer. Then, a barrage of complaints quickly follows. The Franklin residents who show up generally hate the height of the building, how large it is, the number of parking spots — pretty much everything about the proposal.

It can be difficult for Frongillo, 25, to sit through. The only way he can afford to live in Franklin is by renting a backyard cottage from his parents, and he sees how few people his age have any opportunity to stay in the community where they grew up. Allowing more new homes in Franklin could help, he said.

Fed up with the hostile reception to new development in Franklin, Frongillo and a group of other residents formed what was once a rare breed of advocacy organizations in Boston-area suburbs: a pro-housing group, whose members go to public meetings to say yes to more housing development, instead of no.

"I can't afford to buy into the community that I love, and, fundamentally, that is a huge problem
HOUSING, Page A10

Movie night turns into a horror show

Mother describes attack on girls at cinema; link to Plymouth stabbings probed

By John Hilliard
GLOBE STAFF
and Daniel Kool
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Saturday was set to be a joyful summer-like night at the movies for Lisa Dembowski's three daughters and their friend — snacks in their hands and a whole theater to themselves to watch the John Krasinski film "If."

But a peaceful evening on the South Shore was shattered Saturday after a man armed with a knife entered the AMC Braintree 10 around 6 p.m., approached the group from behind their seats, and attacked the girls, including Dembowski's twin 9-year-olds and her 17-year-old daughter.

There was no warning, no motive, and the man just laughed as he attacked, according to Dembowski, wounding them before the two oldest girls chased him away. They're physically fine, she said, but deeply shaken.

"I think they are terrified that they could just go to a movie on a Saturday night, and this could happen."
STABBINGS, Page A7

FALLEN BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

YMCA site ensures youths will remember the sacrifice of former camper Tim Delano in Vietnam



PHOTOS BY JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

At a cemetery in Hinsdale, N.H., Sunday, Graeme Noseworthy knelt at the grave of Tim Delano, who was killed in Vietnam in 1968. At top, Vietnam veterans Peter Tamas and Bernie Williams, both with the 589th Engineers unit, paid tribute.

By Kevin Cullen
GLOBE STAFF

HINSDALE, N.H. — As the president and amateur historian of YMCA Camp Takodah in the small town of Richmond, Graeme Noseworthy takes his avocation seriously.

Five years ago, he pulled together the biographies of 12 former campers who died in combat in World War II. Their stories and sacrifice are memorialized on the camp's website and at the camp's Memorial Lodge,

which was built in 1946 by returning veterans. It's thought of as an important part of the camp's history, and legacy.

Last year, Noseworthy was working on a more obscure history about the introduction of plumbing at the camp when, quite by accident, he came across a note about a former camper, Tim Delano.

Delano was killed in Vietnam, the only camp alumnus to die in action in that war, as far as Noseworthy knew. Noseworthy, 48, feels duty-bound to unearth such stories, of those who attended the camp, forging mem-

ories and friendships, but who then gave their lives in the service of their country. He said even mundane details of those lives must not be forgotten, and he hopes they will make future generations pause to consider the meaning of their sacrifice.

So Noseworthy started digging. He has no formal training in history but approached the project with zeal, turning his living room table into a research desk, cluttered with records and photographs he collected. He hunted through camp records and retrieved

DELANO, Page A6

In the 'gigs' economy, joy and trepidation

Carving out a career here takes talent, and loads of perseverance

By Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — It's a Tuesday night and that means Johnny Trama is playing his guitar at The Plough and Stars, as he has for the last 12 years.

The bar is small and crowded. There are about 25 patrons here. Trama's playing surfs atop a soulful and funky backbeat provided by one of several bands he regularly plays with: the Reckoners. The notes crescendo and dive, weave and dip. Outside, a cold spring wind blows down Massachusetts Avenue, but inside, it's warm, and patrons sip pints of Guinness as Trama and the band play. Some chat, others are absorbed in the show.

"I love what I do," said Trama, 49, hours before the gig. "This is what I do. I don't know anything else."

Trama has been here, at the Plough, for more than 600 shows. For a local working musician such as Trama, that's a lifetime. Venues open and close, musicians come and go.

GUITARIST, Page A7



NATHAN KLIMA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Johnny Trama (left) joined singer-songwriter Tim Gearan and The B3 Kings at The Plough and Stars in Cambridge.



Misty memories

Monday: Periods of rain. High 64-69, low 60-65.

Tuesday: Warmer, clearing late. High 78-83, low 58-63.

Sunrise: 5:12. Sunset: 8:11.

Weather and comics, **D4-5**. Obituaries, **C10**.

VOL. 305, NO. 148

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Suggested retail price
\$4.00



Massachusetts officials are overhauling the state's licensing exam for educators to ensure they can effectively teach a more diverse student population. **B1.**

Israeli airstrikes killed at least 35 people, hitting tents for displaced people in Rafah, according to Palestinian health officials. **A4.**

BC women are NCAA lacrosse champions once more, knocking off top-ranked Northwestern, 14-13. **C1.**

Russian spies reportedly are plotting a covert campaign in Europe to use arson to slow the supply of weapons to Ukraine. **A5.**

Violent crime is down, but voter anxiety remains high over sense of lawlessness. **A2.**