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Weighing matters of the arts

Trump to spend millions on garden of heroes even as federal culture funding is slashed

By Jim Puzzanghera
and Julian E.J. Sorapuru
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — For the nation’s 250th birthday next July Fourth, President Trump wants to give the country a statue of the late “Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek.

And statues of Paul Revere, Sitting Bull, William McKinley, Susan B. Anthony, Babe Ruth, Johnny Cash, Martin Luther King Jr., Steve Jobs, and dozens of other presidents, generals, athletes, entertainers, and folk heroes — some famous, some not-so-famous — from US

history.

At a time when the Trump administration is slashing arts funding, the president is pouring tens of millions of dollars into a passion project resurrected from his first term: The National Garden of American Heroes.

It’s a typically grandiose plan from a former real estate mogul who has filled the Oval Office with gold accents and 19th-century portraits and ordered the construction of two giant flagpoles on the White House grounds.

The statues must be “lifelike or realistic ... not abstract or modernist” representations of “historically significant Americans,” according to a 2020 executive order that Trump re-upped in January after former president Joe Biden had canceled it.

They will be displayed in a yet-to-be-named “site of natural beauty” with a stated deadline of July 4, 2026. It was a highly ambitious timetable given the deadline to submit grant applications to the National Endowment for the Humanities was just this past Tuesday, and winning artists won’t be notified until late September. But on Thursday, The Washington Post reported the White House now hopes to have the project finished by the end of Trump’s term in early 2029.

Artists can receive as much as **STATUES, Page A7**

Artists hired can receive as much as **\$200,000** for each statue.

The project already had **\$34 million** from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Another **\$40 million** came from Trump’s domestic policy bill.

Healey signs \$61b budget, with trims

Governor also seeks more power to make cuts later

By Matt Stout and Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

Governor Maura Healey on Friday signed a \$61 billion state budget plan but not before slashing \$130 million from it and holding back tens of millions of dollars more in earmarks for local projects, her administration said.

With the state facing a hazy fiscal future, Healey also asked lawmakers to give her the expanded power to cut across state government if revenues go south.

Healey signed the sweeping spending bill on the Fourth of July holiday, moving well ahead of a deadline to act on it and just hours before President Trump signed a massive federal tax and spending bill that officials say threatens health care coverage, nutrition benefits, and other public benefits for thousands of Massachusetts residents.

Healey’s moves trimmed the state budget for the fiscal year that began Tuesday to \$60.9 billion, and go beyond a series of cost-cutting maneuvers that Democratic legislators embraced in their own negotiations.

In a statement, the first-term Democrat said she is “proud” to sign the plan on the heels of Congress on Thursday sending Trump a hulking bill that includes about \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts and, analysts say, will add trillions to the federal debt. The federal bill, Healey said, will also ultimately kick **HEALEY, Page A10**

RHAPSODY IN RED, WHITE, AND BLUE



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: BEN PENNINGTON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE; CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF; ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

With the rest of the nation, Boston celebrated America’s 249th birthday on Friday, the Fourth of July. Clockwise from top: Fireworks exploded over the Charles River following the Boston Pops concert. Gino Famiglietti, 5, of Andover, watched the holiday parade with his family at City Hall Plaza. Flags were the decoration of the day as crowds gathered on the Esplanade for the Boston Pops performance. **B1.**

‘It’s a heavy burden on taxpayers. And, frankly, it’s a reminder that there is a real chasm of trust that exists.’

TARA PARRISH,
executive director,
Pioneer Valley Project

Claims against police costly in Springfield

City has spent \$11m for settlements since second half of 2019

By Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF

In one case, police officers allegedly stomped on a man in a package store, breaking his nose and ankle. In another confrontation, cops allegedly shot an unarmed man twice. In a third, a woman died after complaining about chest pains and breathing difficulties while in police custody.

In the wake of each of those instances, the City of Springfield paid

money to settle claims of police misconduct.

In a city dogged by allegations of endemic police malfeasance and corruption in recent years, Springfield has ponied up more than \$11 million in taxpayer money to address claims of law enforcement wrongdoing since the second half of 2019, a Globe review of public records has found.

Some of the most recent payouts highlight particularly egregious allegations of police misconduct from years past, from a time the department’s brass insist they are working to leave behind.

“We have been going through a complete overhaul,” said Springfield

Police Superintendent Lawrence Akers.

But some advocates say more than \$11 million in payments over six years is significant for a community with a nonschools municipal operating budget just north of \$315 million.

“It’s a heavy burden on taxpayers,” said Tara Parrish, executive director of Pioneer Valley Project, a nonprofit that has pushed for police reform in Springfield. “And, frankly, it’s a reminder that there is a real chasm of trust that exists.”

Springfield officials did not respond to multiple requests for comment regarding specific cases.

SPRINGFIELD, Page A10



ALEX BRANDON/GETTY IMAGES/POOL

President Trump signed the bill surrounded by his Cabinet members and Republican legislators outside the White House.

Months worth of heavy rain fell in a matter of hours on Texas Hill Country, killing at least 13 people and leaving more than 20 girls attending a summer camp unaccounted for. **A6.**

Hamas said that it had responded positively to a new proposal for a 60-day Gaza Strip cease-fire with Israel and was ready to immediately enter

negotiations on implementing it. **A5.**

Boston’s Mayor’s Commission for Persons with Disabilities is rolling out a new training and certification program for businesses that want to learn simple solutions to better accommodate and welcome disabled people. **D1.**



A day out

Saturday: Sunny, some clouds.
High: 82-87. Low: 67-72.

Sunday: Hot, sunny.
Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**
Obituaries, **C9.**

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