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A special place to get away from it all

Despite president’s attacks on disabled rights, Camp Jabberwocky is a celebration



PHOTOS BY HEATHER DIEHL FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

By Samantha J. Gross

GLOBE STAFF

MARTHA’S VINEYARD — On a quiet, muggy summer Thursday morning, small groups of campers plotted who was going to “propose” to whom for the dance that evening.

They made decorations for the dance at fold-out tables on a wraparound porch and brainstormed what they were going to wear.

“This Must Be the Place” by Talking Heads floated from a building where campers were practicing their dance moves, through open windows and over the archery range, the basketball courts, and the performance yurt.

For many, summer camp is an annual escape. But camaraderie takes on a special meaning at Camp Jabberwocky, the oldest operating sleep-away camp for people with special needs in the country.

“Having this as a constant, it’s huge,” said the camp’s executive director, Hilary Dreyer. “It’s rare to find camps like this.”

For the past 72 summers, the camp, which is run by a team of volunteers, has been a space to play, socialize, and unwind for hundreds of campers. Campers and counselors have grown up together, literally. Jabberwocky is a rare program with no age limit. This summer, the ages of campers ranged from 12 to 63.

They arrive at camp with wheelchairs, crutches, and communication devices. Their needs vary widely, but for

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The camp has been open for 72 summers and campers’ ages range from 12 to 63 this year. From above, James sat atop Francis’ shoulders and played with Amelia; Sophie looked for prom accessories with the help of camp executive director Hilary Dreyer; and the dance floor was rocking.



Up to 350,000 people in the state could lose their Medicaid coverage over the next decade, according to a new analysis. **B1.**

Members of DOGE uploaded a copy of a crucial Social Security database in June to a vulnerable cloud server, according to a whistle-blower complaint. **A2.**

The outlook for Massachusetts’ biotech industry is grim, with funding plummeting, the industry group MassBio said. **B5.**

Cracker Barrel’s latest controversy caught food writer Devra First’s attention. What it’s like to eat there, **G1.**

CRIME DOWN IN D.C.

Violent crime in Washington has dropped **27%** compared to this time last year, according to data published by Washington’s Metropolitan Police. In particular, homicides have been on a steady decline the past two years following a **20-year high mark** in 2023.

Long, long ago (2018), Trump backed criminal justice reform

By Julian E.J. Sorapuru

GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — In late 2018, sitting at the Resolute Desk, President Trump signed a criminal justice reform bill into law that political spectators on both sides of the aisle had previously labeled a long shot.

“Everybody said it couldn’t be done. They said the conservatives won’t approve it. They said the liberals won’t approve it. . . . And I just want to thank all of the people standing behind me,” Trump said from the Oval Office.

The room was made up of a motley

crew, including liberal CNN commentator Van Jones, Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, a progressive Democrat, and Utah Senator Mike Lee, one of the most conservative members of Congress. The bill, called the First Step Act, had passed the Senate by an 87 to 12 vote and the House, 358 to 36.

“We’ve had tremendous support,” Trump continued, speaking about the legislation. “To me, it was shocking.”

The law, considered a major set of reforms to the system, aimed to reduce sen-

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As tops come off in Nantucket, the world spins on

Bylaw gave women the freedom, but not much has changed

By Samantha J. Gross

GLOBE STAFF

NANTUCKET — When Dorothy Stover, a seventh-generation Nantucket resident, began pushing for a bylaw allowing topless beachgoers, an angry email hit her inbox: “If this happens, the devil has taken over the island.”

Well, in 2022, Stover succeeded in getting the measure passed, and three years later, no devil has appeared.

Few people, in fact, have taken advantage of the law, based on Stover’s anecdotal evidence as well as a recent weekday trip to a crowded Nantucket beach. Not to mention, some beachgoers don’t seem to know the law exists.

“It’s the freedom people were looking for,” said Stover. “Not necessarily to go and do it, but to know that they could.”

For the past three summers, anyone, regardless of gender, has been able to go topless at Nantucket beaches under the new bylaw, which passed in the winter of 2022 with an 87-vote margin and secured rights for women that have been afforded to men for decades.

At the time of the bylaw’s passage, there was consternation, pushback, and fears of what the tony island would become. Stover, who considered her efforts a part of the movement for “topfreedom,” didn’t hear from some friends and loved ones. One friend told her they would “never speak to you again.”

Nantucket, which has a number of

TOPLESS, Page A10



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Dorothy Stover, the force behind the measure, said, “It’s the freedom people were looking for. Not necessarily to go and do it, but to know that they could.”

Trump’s Fed move sets off alarms

Attempt to oust Cook could have broad effects

By Ben Casselman, Colby Smith, and Tony Romm

NEW YORK TIMES

In his months-long battle to take control of the Federal Reserve, President Trump has tried threats, name-calling, and — in one particularly memorable news conference with a hard-hat-wearing Jerome Powell — public humiliation. But he has always stopped short of the step that advisers warned could roil financial markets and upend a pillar of the global economy: attempting to fire a Fed official.

On Monday evening, he took that leap.

Trump’s target was not Powell, the Fed chair, at least for now. Instead it was Lisa Cook, one of the Fed’s six other governors. The president, in a letter, said he was removing Cook “for cause,” citing allegations of mortgage fraud. Cook has not been charged with any crime.

But Trump has made little secret of his true aim. He wants to control the Fed.

Janet Yellen, who was Powell’s immediate predecessor as Fed chair and later served as Treasury secretary under President Joe Biden, said she was “utterly alarmed” by the move.

“I feel this is now turned into an all-out assault on the Federal Reserve and an attempt by President Trump to really gain control over decision-making at the Fed,” she said.

THE FED, Page A6

Top colleges face struggle to maintain diversity

By Alexa Gagosz


GLOBE STAFF

PROVIDENCE — The Trump administration has ratcheted up the pressure on colleges and universities by demanding that they prove they are not considering race or sex as part of the admissions process.

Now, elite institutions, including Brown, Harvard, Columbia, and others, are facing a challenge with historic consequences: Can they maintain a diverse student body while complying with Trump’s crackdown?

Higher education leaders say the administration’s new rules could dismantle tools that have long proved to balance equity with academic excellence. To preserve the mix of voices they say is essential to prepare students for an increasingly global workforce, admissions officers may turn more heavily to personal essays and university-specific supplemental questions as legally defensible ways to assess socioeconomic backgrounds, geography, race, and life experience.

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All’s fair

Wednesday: Very nice.
High 75-80. Low 57-62.


Thursday: Just as good.
High 75-80. Low 60-65.

Sunrise: 6:04 Sunset: 7:26

Weather and Comics, G6-7.
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