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PHOTOS BY ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Lisa Thornton (right) and her transgender daughter moved from Tampa Bay, Fla., to Boston to access care at Fenway Health.

Running out of options, trans teens look to Mass.

Clampdown on gender-affirming care brings changes, even in N.E.

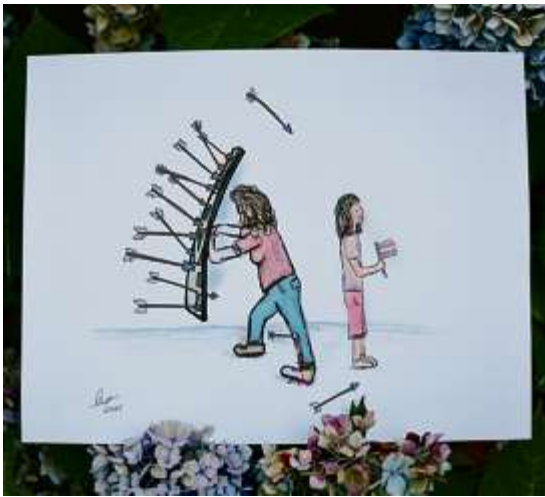
By Sarah Rahal and Amanda Gokee

GLOBE STAFF

At 13, Luke Boisvert was racing the clock.

With New Hampshire poised to ban gender-affirming care for minors, the transgender teen began testosterone injections in May and can now keep receiving the care he needs. Boisvert, who cannot go through male puberty without hormones, is among the last minors in the state to start the treatment.

On Aug. 1, Governor Kelly Ayotte signed legislation making New Hampshire the first state in New England to ban gender-affirming medication for minors, including puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and chest surgery. A provision in the law allows current pa-



An illustration by Lisa Thornton shows her shielding her daughter from arrows representing legislative attacks.

tients and those who enroll before next year to keep receiving puberty blockers or hormone therapy after the law takes effect in January.

Boisvert is one of thousands of transgender teens around the country navigating a rapidly changing legal landscape. In June, the Supreme Court upheld Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming care, a ruling that affected 26 other states that had prohibited medication or surgical care for transgender youth. That encouraged Republican lawmakers already working on New Hampshire's ban.

Even in states that have no restrictions, some hospitals have cracked down on services for transgender youth. Since July, a dozen have stopped providing some types of gen-

GENDER CARE, Page A9

Two weeks after summit, Russia pounds Kyiv

By Maria Varenikova

NEW YORK TIMES

KYIV — An hours-long barrage of Russian missiles and drones killed at least 18 people in Ukraine's capital, including four children, early Thursday, officials said.

The assault, less than two weeks after President Trump's summit in Alaska with President Vladimir Putin of Russia, showed how the recent US diplomatic flurry has done little to change the Kremlin's determination to continue fighting in Ukraine.

Since Trump pulled Putin out of Western diplomatic isolation by inviting him to Anchorage, Alaska, Russia has made no significant concessions on any of the major sticking points between it and Ukraine, leaving the two sides no closer to peace. The attack Thursday was Russia's largest on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, since the Alaska meeting.

Ukrainian authorities said at least 45 people were injured. A five-story apartment building was destroyed, and other homes were damaged. A missile also hit a shopping

UKRAINE, Page A5

INSIDE THE WAR ON HARVARD

Funding halt is another blow to patients with mystery diseases

With network's crucial research on hold, no answers

By Marin Wolf

GLOBE STAFF

As a child, Phoebe Marshall suffered from a constellation of confusing and debilitating symptoms: ankle pain, vision problems, liver inflammation. Her mother, Sarah Marshall, took her to just about every kind of medical specialist in their home state of Minnesota, none of whom could accurately diagnose her mysterious disease.

Hospitalizations and surgeries left Phoebe so weak she couldn't get out of bed for days at a time. They flew to Boston in desperation. It took 12 years and the work of scientists from all corners of the country — supported by a network with nearly \$18 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health — for the Marshalls to get the answer they so desperately sought.

Nearly \$7 million of that grant money is now suspended, a victim of federal cuts targeting Harvard University. Other rare-disease

patients living without a diagnosis are being left without any answers — about their disease, but also about whether their case is being researched at all.

"You're always scared as an undiagnosed patient that people won't believe you," Sarah Marshall said. "It's this visceral fear of being dismissed, gaslighted, questioned, like, maybe this is your fault."

Phoebe, now 17, is one of more than 8,000 patients who have applied to the Undiagnosed Diseases Network, a research group coordinated through Harvard Medical School, in a last-ditch effort to find the cause of compounding health issues. The group is made up of clinical and research experts nationwide who collaborate to solve complex cases, often using advanced genetic techniques.

Originally started as a program at the NIH, the network, known as UDN, is considered a massive success. NIH director Dr. Jay

DISEASES, Page A8

CDC chaos outrages health leaders

Widespread fear for future of agency under Kennedy

By Jason Laughlin and Kay Lazar

GLOBE STAFF

Turmoil at the nation's preeminent public health institution reverberated across the country Thursday as a sudden purge of top leaders and abrupt policy changes threatened to confuse Americans on a myriad of health issues and risked leaving the country unprepared for the next pandemic, medical and public health experts said.

On Wednesday, US Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. fired Susan Monarez, who was confirmed as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention just one month ago. President Trump affirmed her dismissal Wednesday night.

Four other top CDC officials also resigned in protest, including the agency's leaders on vaccination and respiratory illnesses and emerging infectious diseases.

Dr. Robbie Goldstein, the commissioner of public health in Massachusetts who worked at the CDC for two years, described those departing officials as "powerhouses of public health."

For decades, the CDC has served as the country's authority on key public health issues and leader during national health emergencies. Those departures, Goldstein said, go beyond political differences between the right and left.

"What we're seeing here is not politics gone awry," he said. "What we're seeing here is the scientific process being corrupted."

CDC, Page A7

Bus company didn't track accidents, probe finds

Boston schools also faulted for not reviewing records

By John Hilliard

GLOBE STAFF

Transdev, the longtime contractor for Boston Public Schools' bus fleet, failed to keep proper track of bus accidents, or whether school bus drivers held proper credentials or completed required training, according to an independent investigator's report released by the city Thursday.

Boston school administrators also did not regularly follow through and inspect accident and training records until after a Hyde Park kindergarten was struck and killed by his BPS school bus in late April, the report said.

The probe into Transdev was announced by Mayor Michelle Wu and Superintendent Mary Skipper nearly a month after one of the company's drivers fatally struck Lens Joseph, a student at UP Academy Dorchester, and came amid growing concerns from community members about the safety of the city's school bus fleet. In December, another BPS student was badly injured when a school bus struck him on a sidewalk.

The findings of the investigation also come just a week before more than 20,000 Boston students will be transported on BPS buses for the first day of school.

Wu and Skipper, during a press conference Thursday in Roxbury, said the city and BPS will adopt all of the report's recommendations, and will implement them as soon as possible.

"The City of Boston will do everything in our

BUS CRASH, Page A9

A possible federal takeover of South Station

would bring a number of legal questions. **B1.**

It's "very evident" that Gaza needs more aid,

the head of the UN food agency said. **A4.**

The Red Sox stayed hot, completing a sweep

of the Orioles to cap a 7-1 road trip. **C1.**

No weekend worrier

Friday: A few showers. High 73-78. Low 56-61.

Saturday: Very pleasant. High 75-80. Low 55-60.

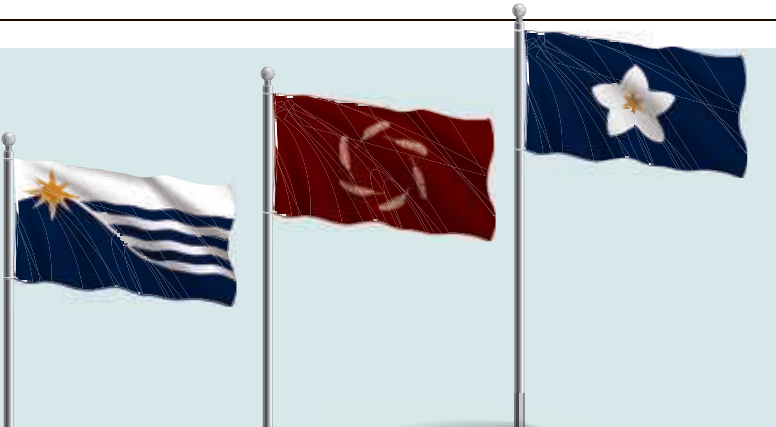
High tide: 3:56 a.m., 4:10 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:06 a.m. Sunset: 7:23 p.m.

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C10.

Waving a new Mass. flag

A state panel has come up with a few possibilities for the flag and the seal, culled from more than 1,000 submissions. **B1.**



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