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For communities, an often unused climate tool

Sustainability officers needed in fight to garner infrastructure project funding

By Sabrina Shankman
GLOBE STAFF

In three years, when the Bennett-Hemenway Elementary School in Natick is outfitted with air conditioning and staff and students will no longer wilt on the hottest days, it will be thanks to two things: a \$2 million grant from the US Department of Energy, and Jillian Wilson Martin.

Wilson Martin is the sustainability director for Natick, one of dozens employed by cities and towns across

the state. They don't always do the most exciting work. Increasingly, the job description includes hours of writing grant applications, trying to get a piece of the billions of federal dollars for climate and infrastructure projects pushed by the Biden administration.

But the payoff can be huge. "You guys. I literally almost passed out when I found out," Wilson Martin wrote last summer in a joy-filled newsletter announcing the Energy Department grant, as well as

a separate \$250,000 grant from the state aimed at helping communities adapt to climate impacts. "Those hand cramps paid off!"

Along with the air conditioning, the school in Natick will be rewired to run totally on electricity. It's a retrofit that's both better for the comfort of students and teachers inside, and better for the fight against climate change.

Having an in-house sustainability officer can greatly enhance a community's odds of winning major grants for local, climate-friendly improvements, including solar panels that lower electric bills, new electric vehicle chargers, and energy effi-

\$2 million and \$250,000

These two grants will help town of Natick battle climate impact

ciency upgrades that save money while slashing greenhouse gas emissions.

But more often than not, it's
SUSTAINABILITY, Page A6

Departure of Gantz a blow to Netanyahu

War Cabinet member quits over Gaza policies after Israelis rescue 4 hostages

By Adam Rasgon
NEW YORK TIMES

Israeli politician Benny Gantz, a key member of the country's war Cabinet, quit the government Sunday over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of the war in the Gaza Strip.

The resignation dealt a blow to the appearance of unity that Netanyahu was able to marshal at the start of the conflict and exposed the divisions at the top of the Israeli leadership over the future of the war and its aftermath.

Gantz, a centrist figure who last month threatened to resign unless Netanyahu addressed his concerns about how the war would end and what would follow it, said his party was leaving the emergency government "with a heavy but complete heart." He said Netanyahu's leadership was "preventing us from advancing to the real victory."

Gantz had delayed announcing his departure while Israeli forces rescued four hostages held by Hamas Saturday.

Israelis on Sunday celebrated the return of Noa Argamani, 26; Almog Meir Jan, 22; Andrey Kozlov, 27; and Shlomi Ziv, 41. They were reunited with their families.

The Israeli forces conducting the daytime raid,
MIDEAST, Page A6

CELTICS TAKE GAME 2, 105-98



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Dončić (77) fell to the parquet as he lost the ball on a turnover during the fourth quarter in Game 2 of the NBA Finals. Jrue Holiday's 26 points led the Celtics, plus he added 11 rebounds. The Celtics are now up 2-0 on the Mavericks in the series, which moves to Dallas Wednesday night for Game 3. **C1.**

Bike-lane blockers are shamed online

Activists hope social media displays stop drivers' bad behavior

By Spencer Buell
GLOBE STAFF

SOMERVILLE — Delivery trucks idling in the bike lane. Mail van popped up on the cycle track.

A cop car hogging the protected lanes next to Boston Common. And on and on. And on and on and on.

Zachary Yaro has seen — and shared — it all. Every time the Somerville resident spots a car, truck, utility vehicle, or anything else on wheels taking up the space meant for people on bikes, it incites rage. And now, it's immortalized online.

"It's so frustrating," the 29-year-old said, adding that cycling friends have been kvetching privately about the problem for years. "We're always texting photos to each other being like, 'Can you believe this?!'"

Lately, before inching into traffic to get around them, Yaro makes a point of snapping a picture, then posts it online to an account on X (formerly Twitter), called BostonBikeBlockers. Since November, the account has shared hundreds of photos, often several times a day, with the faces and license plates of bystanders blurred, but not the offenders.

Yaro is not the only one giving this method of public awareness-raising a shot. As bike activism has ramped up in other cities, countless accounts like this have popped up, from Los Angeles and Seattle to Toronto, Indianapolis, and Washington, D.C.

In the Boston area, obstructions run the gamut: trailers, scooters, even portable toilets have been found blocking the way.

BostonBikeBlockers is relentless. And that's the point.

BIKE LANES, Page A10



JOSH REYNOLDS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Teniya Hicks of Brookline was sedated for the insertion of her IUD at Planned Parenthood.

More clinics moving to offer sedation for IUD procedures

Device's insertion causes severe pain in some women

By Jenna Perlman
GLOBE STAFF

For years, Teniya Hicks, 28, considered getting an IUD but was terrified of the horror stories she saw online: excruciating pain, patients losing consciousness — even vomiting. But, when the Brookline nanny learned that her local Planned Parenthood sedated patients during the procedure, she booked an appointment.

"The overall experience, especially since a lot of us are afraid to get IUDs, was really good," said Hicks, who relaxed comfortably during the procedure.

IUDs — intrauterine devices — are one of the most effective and popular forms of birth control. The quarter-sized devices are inserted into the uterus, where they remain for three to 10 years, depending on the type, and prevent more than 99 percent of pregnancies. They are more effective and carry a lower risk of side effects than birth control pills, are easily reversible, and leave little chance for

human error.

The devices tripled in popularity nationwide between 2006 and 2019, and as of 2019 were the third-most common form of birth control in Massachusetts, behind condoms and the pill, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

The main downside is the pain that often comes with IUD placement, a symptom that medicine has long brushed aside in women. To insert an IUD, doctors, nurses, and other providers use a tube to push the device

IUDS, Page A10

Biden pushes to pluck votes from GOP strongholds

In battleground states, grass-roots effort aims to blunt Trump advantage

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

MENOMONIE, Wis. — In the heart of a rural county that Donald Trump handily won four years ago, President Biden and the Democrats have planted their flag in an old-school attempt to eke out another victory in this battleground state.

The blue-and-white Dunn County Democrats sign above their new home on the main road from Interstate 94 to downtown Menomonie proclaims to passing drivers that the party has a presence in this red swath of northwest Wisconsin. And the modest storefront next to a laundromat serves as a brick-and-mortar hub — one of 47 statewide — for grass-roots efforts to harvest as many votes as possible in a Wisconsin election once again expected to be decided by a razor-thin margin.

"It couldn't be in a more high-visibility location," Pete Huff, the county Democratic chair, said

BIDEN, Page A7

Massachusetts lawmakers are set to help nuclear power plants compete for more "green" contracts after years of shunning special treatment for the industry. **D1.**

The Boston School Committee may change the name of Burke High School to honor a former principal, Albert Holland. **B1.**

Greater Boston's last salt marsh is in danger; activists are ramping up efforts to save it. **B1.**



Take on the gray

Monday: Cloudy.

High 72-77, low 56-61.

Tuesday: Cloudy, showers.

High 69-74, low 58-63.

Sunrise: 5:07. Sunset: 8:21.

Obituaries, **C10.**

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**

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