

# The Boston Globe

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## SLOWLY INCHING BACK TO THE OFFICE



As more companies rethink hybrid work, momentum shifts a bit

By Jon Chesto  
GLOBE STAFF

It was the memo heard around the working world: Amazon chief executive Andy Jassy informed tens of thousands of workers that they should head to the office five days a week come January.

The new policy announced in September sparked intense conversations about returning to the office, and not just at Amazon. The move was seen as a harbinger, an important milestone in the ever-shifting approach to in-person work since the COVID-19 pandemic rewrote the rules nearly five years ago.

As Amazon workers digested Jassy's directive, Sal Lupoli was huddling with his own management team in Lawrence, trying to figure out the best way to improve collaboration among his 200 or so employees at his real estate firm, Lupoli Cos. In the end, the restaurateur-turned-developer came to a similar decision last month as Jassy: It's time, finally, to return to prepandemic practices and bring people back all week long.

BACK TO WORK, Page A10

## Ex-Steward hospitals set to shed Catholic identities

By Aaron Pressman  
GLOBE STAFF

Sunlight streamed through stained glass windows, across a statue of the Virgin Mary, and onto rows of glasses set out to memorialize the deceased on a crisp fall Sunday morning in the Catholic chapel at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center.

Ten people had gathered for Mass, including several still in their hospital scrubs, at the wood-paneled religious space adorned with paintings, statues, and other Catholic iconography. In an alcove, a vase of dried roses sat in front of a statue of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the hospital's namesake.

"I'm here because of my faith," Jim McGuire, an electrician who lives in Brighton and visits the chapel regularly, said after the service. "The serenity of this place brings me back."

But all of the Catholic iconography, the hospital's religious identity, and even St. Elizabeth's very name will likely soon be removed. And the same is expected at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton and Holy Family Hospital's two campuses in Haverhill and Methuen.

The former Steward Health Care hospitals have transitioned to new owners that are not affiliated with the Catholic Church and won't abide by Catholic doctrine on abortion, in vitro fertilization, contraception, and other matters. As a result, the Boston Archdiocese is demand-

STEWARDS, Page A10

## Hacked documents could hurt Gaetz

Working to make conservatives' dream of reshaping higher education a reality

By Hilary Burns  
and Mike Damiano  
GLOBE STAFF

They are right-wing activists and conservative congressional staffers. They include higher education specialists at the Heritage Foundation who contributed to the audacious Project 2025 governing plan, and lawyers who specialize in attacking diversity and inclusion bureaucracies. They are leaders of the very few institutions of higher education that fit the Trumpian view of what a college should offer.

As Donald Trump prepares to

take office in January, a new conservative higher education cognoscenti, espousing views long considered fringe by the liberal-leaning academic world, are ascendant. They see this moment as one of extraordinary opportunity: Higher education is rarely more than a blip in presidential politics, but Trump and his running mate, JD Vance, made elite schools — their cost, their culture, their politics — a red meat issue in their campaign. Trump vowed to "reclaim" the university from "radical leftists," and

HIGHER EDUCATION, Page A7

File reportedly tied to woman's testimony of underage sex with him when she was 17

GLOBE NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump's choice of former representative Matt Gaetz for attorney general came under further scrutiny amid potentially damaging reported testimony and leaks Tuesday stemming from a House ethics investigation and a defamation lawsuit.

The New York Times reported that an unidentified hacker had gained access to a computer file shared in a secure link among lawyers whose clients have given testimony related to Gaetz's alleged involvement in a sex party. The Times,

citing a person with knowledge of the activity, said a file of 24 exhibits reportedly included sworn testimony by a woman who said she had sex with Gaetz in 2017 when she was a

►Dr. Oz, wrestling mogul Linda McMahon latest Trump picks. A6.

minor at age 17, as well as corroborating testimony by a second woman who said she witnessed the encounter.

The information was downloaded by a person using the name Altam Beezley at 1:23 p.m. Monday, GAETZ, Page A6



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Sharon Firefighter Kurt Simpson worked to put out hot spots on a trail in the Blue Hills Reservation on Tuesday.

## Turning the Blue Hills black

Scores of firefighters battle large blaze fueled by dry conditions; some rain likely on way

By Danny McDonald  
and Emily Sweeney  
GLOBE STAFF

A raging brush fire burned more than 40 acres at the popular Blue Hills Reservation this week, but the record dry weather responsible for hundreds of wildfires in the state may finally see some relief with rain in the forecast over the next few days.

The Blue Hills fire was one of 600 that have scorched nearly 1,900 acres in Massachusetts since October, far exceeding what the state typically experiences. And while showers should help tamp down the outbreak, meteorologists say the region needs a sustained period of rainfall to end the

driest fall on record for Boston.

Moreover the extreme weather patterns driven by climate change raise the possibility these conditions will be the new normal for New England.

Mark Ashton, a professor of silviculture and forest ecology at Yale University, expects climate change to amplify the underlying conditions responsible for the high numbers of wildfires, "but in an erratic way." Overall we should expect wetter weather in New England, "with larger stronger rain events but also interspersed with drier periods."

Ashton also said the long history of

BLUE HILLS, Page A3



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Milton firefighters joined the response, near the staging area at Houghton's Pond.

For the first time, Ukraine used American-made ballistic missiles to strike into Russia. A4.

A Roxbury woman who was attacked by her dog inside her home died from her injuries. B1.

market may be starting to move again. B7.

Shelves remain empty at many Stop & Shops in the state after a cybersecurity issue. B7.

Home sales ticked up notably last month in Greater Boston, a sign that the area's housing

Nostalgia is a big feature of the Thanksgiving table, but there's room for new dishes. Check out recipes for the way we eat now. G1, 6, 7.



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

## STRUGGLING BRUINS FIRE MONTGOMERY

With the team falling short of expectations, coach Jim Montgomery was removed Tuesday just 20 games into his third season. He led the Bruins to an NHL-record 65 wins in 2022-23, but the team stumbled in the playoffs that season and the next. Associate coach Joe Sacco will take over for now. C1.

## Dry running out

Wednesday: Some clouds. High 51-56. Low 43-48.

Thursday: Rain, really. High 47-52. Low 42-47.

Sunrise: 6:41 Sunset: 4:18

Weather and Comics, G8-9. Obituaries, C9.

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