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A step to shield abortion providers

Mass. Senate aims to protect info from other states

By Samantha J. Gross

GLOBE STAFF

Every month, Dr. Angel Foster and her team at the Massachusetts Medication Abortion Access Project send abortion pills from her office in the Boston area to about 2,500 patients across the country who might otherwise not have access as states and the federal government restrict abortion access.

A third of those pill packages go to Texas, where abortions are mostly illegal and doctors who perform them face severe penalties, including possible prison time.

Foster and other providers have been pressing for greater protections for themselves and their patients. On Thursday, the Massachusetts Senate answered their call.

On a 37-3 vote, senators passed a bill that aims to better protect the identities and personal information of providers and those seeking abortion and

SHIELD LAWS, Page A6

‘I think the world is safer after these strikes than before, but it’s also more complicated.’



REP. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

Two Democrats diverge from peers on Iran attack

Veterans Moulton and Auchincloss taking a wait-and-see approach

By Sam Brodey

GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — After President Trump ordered dramatic airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities Saturday night, most Democratic lawmakers were outraged — not just because Trump bypassed congressional approval for the attack, but also because many worried the escalation could destabilize an already volatile situation

with Iran.

A smaller but still influential group within the party, however, responded to the attack on Tehran’s nuclear program differently — including two vocal members of Massachusetts’ generally progressive delegation in Congress.

Representatives Jake Auchincloss and Seth Moulton, Marine veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, respec-

tively, were both extremely alarmed that Trump didn’t consult Congress. But they didn’t share the immediate anger of their colleagues that the aftermath of the strikes was obviously dangerous or damaging.

“I think the world is safer after these strikes than before, but it’s also more complicated,” Auchincloss said Monday on MSNBC. The Newton Democrat had also argued before the strike that the United States should be open to fomenting “regime change” in Iran —

IRAN, Page A5

For Lake Winnepesaukee, a clouded future

Bacteria poses bigger threat as climate warms

By Amanda Gokee

GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD, N.H. — Bob Manley is waiting for just the right day.

He’ll slip his scull — a long, slim rowing shell — into the water and row 21 miles clear across Lake Winnepesaukee, from one side to the other. But the weather has to be just right: no extreme heat, no torrential rains, no high winds to whip up 4-foot waves. And the level of bright green, potentially toxic cyanobacteria blooms, made worse by climate change, has to be low enough not to cause problems.

Manley is rowing to raise awareness and money to address the environmental problems brewing in the lake he loves.

In 2024, Winnepesaukee saw record cyanobacteria blooms, amid warmer temperatures and an increase in nutrients that feed the bacteria. It closed parts of the lake to swimmers for days at a time.

For some, the high levels served as a wake-up call about water quality issues

WINNIPESAUKEE, Page A10



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Bob Manley hopes to raise money and awareness of the issues facing Lake Winnepesaukee by rowing 21 miles across it.

No cut too small in belt-tightening

University making painful choices

By Diti Kohli

GLOBE STAFF

Some postdoctoral researchers at Harvard University this summer are seeing their contracts re-

THE WAR ON HARVARD

newed for three months, rather than the usual 12. Labs are killing their mice to save the \$1.40 per day it costs to feed each cage and clean up after. And a Harvard Medical School facility designed to create teensy devices like nanosen-

sors — a resource for researchers on the Cambridge campus and its affiliate hospitals — is shutting down next month after 18 years.

Each small cut is a way to make up for the \$686 million in federal research funding Harvard received last year but cannot count on anymore. Rumblings of an impending deal with the Trump administration to restore funding in exchange for tweaks to university policies do not change the reality on the ground: Right now, Harvard is

pulling from a far smaller pool of money for day-to-day operations than it expected, and cuts are rippling through the university, according to interviews with dozens of faculty, staff, and graduate students.

Department chairs are drafting memos planning belt-tightening measures. Rumors are spreading about widespread layoffs in the coming weeks. And a research scientist who created an acclaimed database of lost federal funding across the country will be terminated himself in October,

HARVARD, Page A10

Faculty of Arts and Sciences lost 320 grants, about

\$400 million

Harvard Medical School needed

\$210 million

to cover operations

Total federal research funding lost

\$686 million

Technology helps, hinders fight against child porn

By Shelley Murphy

GLOBE STAFF

An encrypted messenger app promoted itself as a place for “dads, uncles, and babysitters” to chat, share material, and meet up online.

Investigators allege it was a heinous place, where predators swapped graphic videos of children — many just babies or toddlers — being sexually assaulted by men.

To gain access to the group, prospective members allegedly had to upload a sexually explicit image of a naked child, younger than 13. A handwritten note with the chat group’s name had to appear in the photo or video to verify it was taken by the prospective member.

That’s where Homeland Security Investigations agents allege they found Christopher Sheerer, 35, a pediatric cardiac anesthesiologist at Boston Children’s Hospital. His phone allegedly contained sexually explicit images exchanged on the app, according to court filings related to his arrest last July. He is awaiting trial in federal court in Boston on charges of possession and distribution of child pornography and has pleaded not guilty. His attorney, William Fick, declined to comment. The hospital fired Sheerer after his arrest.

The prosecution is among a staggering number of child exploitation cases brought nationwide over the past year, including a seemingly endless stream in Massachusetts charging teachers, doctors, police officers, and public of-

EXPLOITATION, Page A6

Republican leaders rushed to salvage their sweeping domestic policy bill a week before the July 4 deadline after a top Senate official rejected a slew of major provisions. **A2.**

Newton Public Schools plans to block students without up-to-date vaccinations from attending school in the fall. **B1.**

Bill Moyers, who in more than 40 years as a broadcast journalist brought ideas to television, died at 91. He earlier had served as chief White House spokesperson for President Lyndon B. Johnson. **C9.**



Grayed inflation

Friday: A few showers. High 67-72. Low 59-64.

Saturday: More of the same. High 71-76. Low 64-69.

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.

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SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

KEEPING THEIR MEMORY ALIVE

A man cleaned one of the portraits on the Memorial Wall of Fallen Defenders of Ukraine outside St. Michael’s Golden-Domed Cathedral in Kyiv. Russia’s invasion, the main topic of recent NATO summits, was low on the list of priorities this week, as President Trump took the main stage. **A4.**