

Boston Sunday Globe

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Viral for all the wrong reasons

Heated disputes follow pottery studio owner

By Dana Gerber and Janelle Nanos
GLOBE STAFF

The viral TikTok post didn't mention Rainbows Pottery Studio by name.

It took only a few details — a woman-owned business on Newbury Street and a male employee on the sex offender registry — to spark a cascade of videos detailing other allegations against the sun-dappled studio and its owner, Allison Carroll. Soon, even more stories appeared, laying out a pattern of her menacing both staff and customers at her storefront on one of Boston's toniest thoroughfares.

As views of the videos ticked into the millions, a narrative emerged about just how far Carroll would go to protect her studio's carefully curated reputation, and showed how quickly that reputation could flip amid a social media firestorm. And while viewers online were shocked, offline, many onetime customers, former employees, and current neighbors felt something more like relief.

"We thought we were the only people," said Cameron POTTERY, Page A12

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States and Europe "belong together" in a speech seeking to unify the Western alliance. **World, A2.**

This partial shutdown will hit TSA employees particularly hard, leaving them without paychecks again. **Nation, A10.**

Bad Bunny is only the latest megastar of color to stand up for vulnerable groups at the Super Bowl. **Sunday Arts, N1.**

Real estate is becoming a beauty pageant of traditional and virtual staging. **Address, H1.**



He's gone gold again

American speed skater Jordan Stolz won his second of these Winter Olympics, this time in the 500 meters, and is midway to his goal of four. **Olympics coverage, C1-5.**



Lazy shade of winter

Sunday: A little sun. High 33-38. Low 24-29.
Monday: Cloudy, seasonable. High 35-40. Low 24-29.
Sunrise: 6:41 Sunset: 5:16
Complete report, A24.

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SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Empty seats at UMass Chan Medical School.

As a result of NIH funding cuts in the past year, have any of the following occurred within your research programs?

72% delayed or canceled planned research projects

72% adjusted project timelines or milestones

66% reduced research scope

64% reallocated resources from other projects

56% paused experiments or studies

39% shifted research to areas more aligned with federal priorities

SOURCE: MassINC Polling Group/Boston Globe. Online survey of 367 principal investigators on NIH grants awarded to Mass. institutions conducted Dec. 2-15, 2025. Margin of error +/- 5.3 percentage points. 360 total responses. Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer.

JOHN HANCOCK/GLOBE STAFF

Trump policies are driving out researchers, eroding Boston's standing as a hub for landmark discoveries

By Kay Lazar, Sarah Rahal, and Jonathan Saltzman
GLOBE STAFF

A prominent cancer scientist is uprooting his Harvard University lab of two decades and moving it to Texas. A laid-off expert on aging abandoned academia for a more secure municipal research job in New York City. And a women's health researcher, exhausted by the churn of immigration policies, made the wrenching decision to start over in Canada.

Their departures illustrate a sobering new reality: The Trump administration's research funding cuts, abrupt policy shifts, and crackdown on immigration are driving a brain drain that threatens Massachusetts' standing as a global hub of biomedical research, its economy, and the fight against major diseases such as childhood cancers, Alzheimer's, and sickle cell.

To better understand the impact of the cuts, the Globe partnered with MassINC Polling Group. Together they reached out to nearly 4,000 scientists who received funding from the National Institutes of Health. Ultimately 367 completed the survey, which MassINC's president, Steve Koczela, described as a solid response rate.

The results were stark: Over two-thirds said they recommend their students consider careers outside academia. The majority had delayed hiring in their labs, and one-third had laid off workers. More than one in six said they have lost researchers to institutions in other countries since Trump took office. Sixty-eight percent said funding cuts and federal policy changes had moderately or significantly reduced the scope of their work.

The Globe spoke with more than two dozen of the respondents who said the cuts and policy changes had taken an incalculable toll

BIOTECH, Page A14

A hefty bill for climate change, on the Q.T.

Muted response from Healey over findings that would cost tens of billions

By Sabrina Shankman
GLOBE STAFF

In the next 25 years, Massachusetts would need to spend some \$90 billion to \$130 billion to reinforce the state against threats from climate change, essentially taking on six to eight Big Digs, according to a recent finding by the Healey administration.

But how do you sell the idea of spending such staggering sums, some of it likely tax dollars, at a time when people are struggling with the prices of groceries, heat, and housing? And more so for Governor Maura Healey, how do you sell it while also running for reelection?

For Healey, who has championed herself as a national leader on tackling the climate crisis, the answer, lately, appears to be: don't even try to sell at all.

Healey and her aides have done little to pound the pavement on behalf of one of her administration's major climate initiatives, the so-called ResilientMass Finance Strategy. Although the report was finished around Thanksgiving, it was not distributed to the media or unveiled at a showy announcement, as is common with big political initiatives, and was finally published online just Thursday evening, nearly three months later, after the Globe inquired about it.

"It's remarkable why such a gigantic budget buster is not brought to the attention of the public sooner," said Mary Connaughton, chief operating officer of the Pioneer Institute, a conservative

CLIMATE, Page A13

'I feel reborn. The constant voice in my brain that said, "You need a drink," is gone.'

GINA ROBERTS

Next cure for GLP-1 meds? Addiction.

R.I. pilot tests weight-loss drugs for substance abuse

By Chris Serres
GLOBE STAFF

On a snowy February morning, Gina Roberts awoke in her cramped room at a transitional home for women, her body shaking and covered with sweat from a familiar nightmare. In the dream, Roberts is frantic and broke, roaming the streets and bars in search of liquor. Everywhere she turns, she sees the faces of old drinking companions — but no matter where she looks, the alcohol remains out of reach.

In the past, Roberts would wake after dreams like this with an overwhelming urge to drink. Almost without thinking, she would reach for a bottle of her favorite pineapple-flavored New Amsterdam vodka, at her bedside table. Some days, she would drink one bottle after another until she passed out.

But on this morning, Roberts let the moment pass, free of the cravings she normally felt. As daylight gathered outside her window, she calmly prepared her 14-year-old son, Grifpin, for school. "These days, I feel reborn," she said. "The constant voice in my brain that said, 'You need a drink,' is gone."

Roberts credits her transformation to a bold ex-

GLP-1, Page A16



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Jessica Massarone, shown with her daughter Sophia, hopes to have turned the corner after battling cocaine addiction for years.