

Boston Sunday Globe

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Meet the judicial thorn in president's side!!!

Natick native takes Trump to task, emphatically

By Jim Puzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — US District Judge Richard J. Leon is a plainspoken South Natick native known in legal circles for sprinkling his rulings with exclamation points — an idiosyncrasy now getting national attention thanks to President Trump.

The 76-year-old, bow-tie-wearing judge used 26 exclamation points to convey emphasis

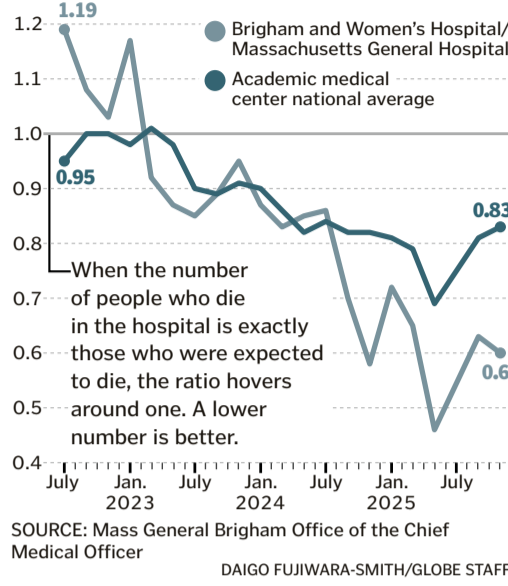
or indignation (“This argument is absurd!”) in an opinion striking down a Trump executive order targeting the WilmerHale law firm last year. He typed 14 of them into a February ruling blocking Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth from punishing Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, a Navy veteran, (“a troubling development in a free country!”) for a video telling US troops that they can refuse illegal orders.

And in a lawsuit to block Trump's White House ballroom, Leon employed 19 exclamation points (“He is not ... the owner!”) in March in ordering a halt to all

JUDGE, Page A11

Mass General Brigham's falling mortality ratio

The observed-to-expected mortality ratio compares how many people died after being admitted to the hospital, versus how many were projected to die, given their levels of illness.



MGB insists it's saving more lives

But skeptical doctors point to shift in how patients are coded

By Jessica Bartlett
GLOBE STAFF

In a meeting for Mass General Brigham doctors in November 2024, Dr. Giles Boland, president of Brigham and Women's Hospital, laid out the vision for becoming the best in the country. Thanks to a corporate merging of its hospitals, he said, the system was well on its way, making progress on delivering the best outcomes possible for patients, in-

cluding its most important job — keeping people alive.

Boland specifically pointed to MGB's strides on a metric called observed-to-expected mortality, which compares how many people died while admitted to the hospital, versus how many were projected to die, given their levels of illness.

“This is a motivating force for our people,” Boland said in the meeting, a recording of which was obtained by the Globe. “We can be proud of what we do.”

Nearly two years later, Mass General Brigham executives say they've continued to have resounding success. By streamlining quality metrics and focusing more in-

MGB, Page A13

She killed a man during a fight.

Could her time inside put her on a new path?

A redemptive journey starts with halting steps



STORY BY KATIE JOHNSTON
PHOTOS BY JESSICA RINALDI
GLOBE STAFF

AUGUSTA, Maine — Sitting among a sea of students in black caps and gowns at the University of Maine commencement ceremony last May, Victoria Scott was tense.

Crowds make her anxious. A lot of things do.

“Some of you took a straight path,” one of the speakers was saying. “Others took a few scenic detours.”

For Scott, now 33, the word “detour” couldn't begin to cover it.

She'd dropped out of school at age 16 and slipped into a life of drugs and violence. At 23, she got into a brutal fight with an ex's friend and, afraid he was about to kill her, stabbed him to death. She was sentenced to 11 years in prison. Released early for good behavior, she was serving the final two years of her term in Rockland, living in her own apartment but under strict supervision.

The past eight years were dizzying for her to even think about. Here she was, four months out of prison and graduating from college, her brothers whooping and her father smiling, trying to picture the gift of a second-chance life. The kind of life that, years ago, she'd never been able to imagine for herself. And one she long feared she couldn't possibly deserve.

In her old life, Scott never thought much

SCOTT, Page A14

Buckets of tears

Sunday: Rain, high 53-58.

Memorial Day: Drying out in the afternoon. High 66-71.

Full weather report, A22.

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President Trump said a deal was near to halt hostilities with Iran. A2.

On the road again? We take a look at the top songs to listen to when behind the wheel. N1.

The Secret Service fatally shoots a man near a White House checkpoint. A12.

The Globe Magazine is not publishing today. Crossword and Sudoku are on B4.

You can say it: ‘We can't make [insert family event] trip’

By Christopher Muther
GLOBE STAFF

On the surface, we want to be there for family events, but what we're really thinking is altogether different.

If a cousin plans a destination wedding and invites you to attend, you'll probably feel obligated to be there, even if you're not keen on going. When your stepsister asks you to travel across the country to go to her daughter's bat mitzvah, you will probably attend out of a sense of obligation, rather than free will. And then there are the punishing family holidays with mandatory atten-

dance. Skipping them can easily lead to years of resentment, grudges, and guilt.

There's a name for these pesky trips. It's called obligation travel. It's about as fun as it sounds. Obligation travel means taking vacation time off from work and spending precious funds or airline points to do something you'd rather not with family members you don't always want to be around. Yay!

We all know the polite thing to do in these situations is to nod and tell our aunt that we'd be delighted to attend her cat's quinceañera in

TRAVEL, Page A8

45% of Americans took at least one obligation trip last year, but if given a choice, half of those surveyed said they would rather do nearly anything than take one.

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