

The Boston Globe

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

In the news



Day dripper

Tuesday: Clouds, bit of rain; high 66-71, low 52-57
Wednesday: Sunny and nice; high 68-73, low 52-57
 High tide: 5:39 a.m., 5:57 p.m.
 Sunrise: 6:25 Sunset: 6:52
 Complete report, **B13**

The United States said it is prepared to talk with Iran about the military campaign against the Islamic State, a foe of both nations. **A3.**

The Justice Department is launching pilot programs to detect American extremists who are looking to join the Islamic State and other terror organizations abroad. **A2.**

Two companies announced a \$3 billion plan to expand pipeline capacity and bring an additional 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day into New England. **B5.**

The state gambling commission pressed Wynn Resorts on how to ease traffic in Sullivan Square if a casino is permitted in Everett. **B1.**

Senate Republicans blocked an opposition bill seeking equal pay for women, but Democrats saw potential political gain in the effort. **A6.**

Boston-based Partners in Health will join the battle against Ebola in Africa, aiming to put treatment units in the remote countryside. **B1.**

An Afghan panel began ruling on candidates' grievances after completing its long review of ballot counting in the presidential election. **A5.**



Possible advantage in Olympic bid

Boston's compact array of venues a contrast with rivals' spread-out plans

By John Powers
GLOBE STAFF

The 2024 Summer Olympics may be a decade away, but in just four months the US Olympic Committee probably will decide whether to enter a US city in the international competition to host the event — and Boston has a potential edge in that race.

Boston is offering itself as a

city with compact venues, and if the International Olympic Committee, meeting in Switzerland in December, decides that is what it wants, Boston is seen as a strong candidate. It would probably gain an advantage over its US competitors, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, whose plans offer less intimate settings.

"The city is the Olympic

park," said Dan O'Connell, president of the Boston 2024 Partnership, the city's potential bid committee. "It becomes a public-transit and walking Olympics."

By contrast, Los Angeles would have five of its facilities in Long Beach, 25 miles to the south. Washington would use sites in Maryland and Virginia. San Francisco would spread its

venues in a large loop around the Bay Area.

While Suffolk Construction chief executive John Fish, who chairs the partnership, acknowledges that "theoretically we have a 25 percent chance as one of four cities," he publicly has reckoned the city's odds of being named the US entry as 75 percent based on the perceived reaction to Boston's pitch to

USOC officials.

"I'm not in this to lose," Fish said. "I would never bet against myself."

But even if Boston is selected, it is not clear that the city is ready to commit to staging the Games. The only first-time bidder among the four, it is still investigating the feasibility and availability of sites in the vicinity.

With potential host cities for **OLYMPICS, Page A8**

A long to-do list for feeling at home in the lighthouse

Buyer of Graves Island station pursues an ambitious makeover



WENDY MAEDA/GLOBE STAFF

David Waller surveyed the lantern room, a glassed-in area atop the Graves Island Light Station, early this month.

By Joseph P. Kahn
GLOBE STAFF

GRAVES ISLAND LIGHT STATION — On a recent, crystal-clear morning, the view from atop the lighthouse stretched from Gloucester to Cohasset. A hundred feet below, harbor seals and sea birds bobbed alongside wave-splashed bou-

Waller, standing high above the outermost entrance to Boston Harbor in the lighthouse he bought at auction a year ago.

Very Zen and highly unusual, considering the 6 miles of open water standing between his lofty perch and the mainland. But could someone comfortably live out here for a weekend? A week? Longer?

beds, and kitchen have been installed. Blueprints for these additions have already been drawn. "We're figuring this out as we go, though," he admitted, "having no previous experience with something like this."

Few people do. Fewer still have the passion and resources that Waller, 51, a Boston businessman who lives in a converted firehouse in Malden, has brought

Boston may end most use of MCAS

Grades 3-8 would switch to new online tests

By James Vaznis
GLOBE STAFF

Most Boston public schools would drop the MCAS next spring in favor of a new online testing system the state is trying out, joining a growing number of districts deciding to change the way school performance is judged.

The recommendation, being presented to the School Committee Wednesday night, would affect more than 22,000 Boston students in grades 3-8 who must take state standardized tests every spring. Tenth-graders would continue to take the MCAS, which remains a state graduation requirement.

If the School Committee approves the proposal, the city would become the largest district in the state to exclusively administer the new online tests in grades 3-8.

So far, 180 Massachusetts districts — including Andover, Milton, and Sudbury — plan to try out the new exams next spring, while 123 others, such as Peabody, Quincy, and Waltham, will stick with MCAS.

Embracing the test represents a major shift for Massachusetts, which has long taken

Former US representative William D. Delahunt re-signed as president of Medical Marijuana of Massachusetts, which was rebuffed in its efforts to open three dispensaries. **B2.**

The Supreme Judicial Court ruled that Tesla Motors Inc. can continue selling its electric cars directly to consumers at the Natick Mall, a practice that opponents said violated dealership laws. **B5.**

Minnesota Vikings player Adrian Peterson reportedly has been accused of abusing a second son in a separate episode. **C1.**

POINT OF VIEW:
STEVEN SYRE

“Can you imagine Roger Goodell standing up as the executive responsible for making good on promises of real change? Any credible plan will need a new leader.” **B5.**

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gets. On to the west, Boston's waterfront glimmered in the late summer sunlight.

“It's very Zen up here,” said David

Wahler, smiling and said he would know better a year hence just how habitable Graves Island Light Station may become, once a bathroom, shower,

to renovating one of the state's iconic landmarks, aiming to convert it into equal parts family vacation home and

LIGHTHOUSE, Page A8

Massachusetts, which has long taken pride in its home-grown academic standards and testing

MCAS, Page A7

More serious charges may be next for mother in child-neglect case

Pair who shared house are due in court in October

By Patricia Wen and Laura Crimaldi
GLOBE STAFF

BLACKSTONE — The couple at the center of a horrendous case of child neglect — and whose home contained the remains of three dead infants — are scheduled to be reunited in the same courthouse next month, each facing different charges related to the depraved scene at their house.

Erika L. Murray, a 31-year-old mother being held at a women's prison in Framingham, is set to appear in Uxbridge District Court Oct. 14 on charges that include concealing fetal death and permitting substantial injury to a child. Murray's court-appointed attorney, Keith Halpern, said Monday that he and his client realize that far more serious charges could be filed after examinations are completed of the remains of three



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

Debris from the house at 23 St. Paul St. has filled two 20-cubic-yard dumpsters, with the cleanup continuing.

infants found in the house.

“We have to wait for forensic work to be done,” Halpern said after meeting with Murray for about two hours yesterday.

Halpern declined to say what Murray has told him

about whether the three infants were born alive, were stillborn, or were the results of miscarriages. If it is determined that the infants were born alive and if their deaths could have been prevented,

BLACKSTONE, Page A7

‘We have major concerns with more consolidation and less competition . . .’

JON HURST *president, Retailers Association of Massachusetts*

Insurers seek curbs in Partners' deal

Say hospital acquisitions could drive up health costs statewide

By Priyanka Dayal McCluskey
GLOBE STAFF

Massachusetts health insurers said Monday that Partners HealthCare's planned acquisition of three hospitals would raise costs for consumers across the state and called on a Superior Court judge to achieve stricter price controls and other limits on Partners before allowing the expansion to go through.

In their first public comments on the case, filed with Attorney General Martha Coakley's office, the insurers stopped short of asking the court to block the mergers, as other groups and individuals have. But without major modifications to a settlement between Partners and Coakley, the insurers said, it would hamper their

ability to contain rising premiums and add to the “dysfunction” of health care pricing.

“We are concerned that the proposed final judgment could increase costs for consumers and employers,” Lora Pellegrini, chief executive of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, wrote in a letter.

The association represents 17 health plans but not the state's largest health insurer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. Blue Cross, which accounts for about half of Partners' commercial business, is not opposing the settlement.

“It will be important that the [attorney general's] office have a robust monitoring process to ensure effective compliance with the terms of the agree-

PARTNERS, Page A6

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