

# Boston Sunday Globe

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## Abortion medicine focus of new fight

Mass. restocks amid US review of mifepristone

By Sarah Rahal  
GLOBE STAFF

Massachusetts is once again on the front lines of the debate over access to abortion after federal officials initiated a review of mifepristone, the most commonly used abortion pill in the United States.

Any changes to the availability of mifepristone could add pressure to a campaign by Massachusetts physicians that's provided the medicine to tens of thousands of people since the US Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe v. Wade* triggered various bans on abortion in numerous states.

The state government is also in the midst of replenishing a stockpile of mifepristone it first created after the court ruling, in anticipation of shortages or efforts to curb access to it.

On Thursday, US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. reiterated the review is necessary after the Biden administration eliminated the in-person requirement for prescribing mifepristone, claiming in a post on

**ABORTION, Page A15**

## Produce prices hint at higher food bills

By Camilo Fonseca  
GLOBE STAFF

As a chef in Cambridge, Tony Figueroa, 41, knows what a quality tomato usually costs.

"\$2.49" a pound, he said, reaching for a vine tomato at the Star Market in North Station to chop into his homemade guacamole. "Those are the ones I normally buy."

But then his outstretched hand pauses for a second: "Now I see they're \$2.99."

Fifty cents may not seem like a steep uptick, but some economists see it as an omen of even higher prices to come for tomatoes and other produce. That's because the impact of President Trump's tariffs on imported food is about to become more significant.

Prices have been inching up, with fruits and vegetables sold in the Northeast 3.2 percent higher in August, the single largest increase of any category in the Consumer Price Index for the month. Nationwide, prices for tomatoes increased even more: 4.5 percent, the largest increase by far of any produce.

William Masters, a professor of food economics at Tufts University, said the increase may be an indication that new duties of

**PRICES, Page A20**

## Spotlight.



‘He saw my vulnerability. I was so desperate.’

### STANDARDS OF CARE

FIRST IN A SERIES

How Massachusetts’ medical establishment should have — and could have — stopped a troubled doctor sooner

By Liz Kowalczyk and Elizabeth Koh  
GLOBE STAFF

Laura Cappello remembers the unease, the heart-racing anxiety, the self-doubt that came with each visit.

Her trusted rheumatologist, Dr. Derrick Todd, made her the last appointment of the day and sent his receptionist home, leaving just the two of them in a deserted office. Cappello changed into a thin hospital gown and waited patiently for answers.

The stay-at-home mother of two, now 33, longed for another child but she needed to get healthy first. In April 2022, she turned to Todd, a specialist she had briefly seen as a teenager, for treatment of an autoimmune disorder. She hoped that the prominent doctor at Brigham and Women's — a Harvard-affiliated teaching hospital long considered among the nation's best — would help.

Over the next 15 months, Todd urged Cappello to believe he was the only doctor who could. *I know better*, was his frequent refrain.

As a highly respected doctor in a profession sworn to do no harm, Todd used his elevated status and charismatic personality to convince Cappello — and hundreds of other patients — that what he was doing to them was acceptable. But over time, her doubts grew.

Other doctors believed her condition had improved. So why, she wondered, did he remain so adamant about performing pelvic floor therapy — an intensely invasive treatment well outside the realm of rheumatology that involved putting his finger in her vagina?

**TODD, Page A16**

‘I wasn’t going to question him; he had this godlike thing about him almost.’

‘There was no other patient, there was no nurse or potential chaperone there... my body went into freeze mode.’



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### Pick of the crop

**Sunday:** Sunny, warm. High: 73-78. Low: 58-63.

**Monday:** Sunny, warm. High: 78-83. Low: 60-65.

Sunrise: 6:46 Sunset: 6:18

Complete report, **B10**. Deaths, **A23-25**.

**Globe Ideas goes to mountains, rivers, urban parks, and open fields** to unearth surprising stories about what nature means today. **Ideas, K11-10**.

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that he hoped to finalize a deal** with Hamas to free the hostages. **A2**.

## On view, an instrument of musical perfection

A 1714 Stradivarius will be on display at Museum of Fine Arts

By A.Z. Madonna  
GLOBE STAFF

Violinist Franz Kneisel had been concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for almost a decade in the late 1800s when he decided his instrument was due for an upgrade. He had heard that his teacher from his days at the Vienna Conservatory, Jakob Grün, was selling a violin — but no run-of-the-mill fiddle was this. It was a 1714 Stradivarius.

Then as now, instruments made by the Italian luthier Antonio Stradivari were regarded to be the pinnacle of musical craftsmanship. And in autumn 1894, according to published reports at the time, the 29-year-old purchased the Stradivarius from Grün for \$5,000, the equivalent of about \$200,000 today.

After 131 years — the rest of Kneisel's life, during which he played it frequently and brought music by prominent European composers to American ears for the first time, and following his death, when the instrument passed to his son (also a professional violinist) and ultimately to unidentified owners — it has returned to Boston and been sold again, this time for more than \$11 million. Soon the public will be able to see it at the Museum of Fine Arts, and potentially hear it as well.

The MFA plans to put the instrument on view in the museum's instrument gallery starting Oct. 20, in keeping with the terms of a loan agreement with its anonymous recent buyer.

**STRADIVARIUS, Page B8**