Boston Sunday Globe

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As they target China, boarding schools in N.E. tread carefully

Conflicts of interest a major concern

By Mike Damiano
GLOBE STAFF

Don McMillan, a private school admissions consultant, works with wealthy families from New England to France to Dubai, and helps them gain entry to prestigious boarding schools in the United States and around the world.

But there is one place he absolutely will not work: mainland China.

Why? "The Chinese market," he said, "is very unique in its value system and expectations."

This is a delicate way to describe a phenomenon that admissions consultants — and the boarding schools they work with — have quietly fretted over for some time: how to recruit students and court donors in China while maintaining American standards around conflicts of interest and impartial admissions. The scandal roiling Suffield Academy in Connecticut in recent weeks highlights the reasons why.

Suffield's longtime head of school, Charles Cahn III, last month went on leave and then

SCHOOLS, Page A12



A big day for high school sports

A total of 25 state champions (above, Duxbury soccer) were set to be crowned across the state, in soccer, volleyball, field hockey, and cross-country. **C1, 11-13.**

Is early childhood trauma the primary driver of psychiatric symptoms, or is it all about chemical imbalances? **Ideas, K1.**

Karaoke novices may be tempted to hit the stage this week. We have some valuable tips. **Art + Life, N1.**

Boston is one of the least pet-friendly cities, as if renters don't have enough problems already. **Address, H1.**

Don't be fooled — winter is coming and it's time to think about an alpine holiday. **Globe Magazine.**

A bunch of pours

Sunday: Showers and more. High 58-63. Low 52-57.

Monday: Clearing, cooler. High 64-69. Low 36-41.

High tide: 8:36 a.m., 9:09 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:23 Sunset: 4:17

Complete report, A24.

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Old rivals in Maine bound for Congress

Jackson, LePage may find common ground this time

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

Though Maine Senator-elect Troy Jackson and Maine Representative-elect Paul LePage defeated bitter rivals in rancorous campaigns in November, they will have to wait until next year in Washington to finally confront their true political nemeses.

Each other.

A decade ago, LePage, then the state's staunchly conservative Republican governor, and Jackson, a pugilistic Democratic state senator, were each other's favorite foils and punching bags.

Over eight years in office, LePage vetoed a number of bills pushed by the progressive Jackson — including several to boost Maine's logging industry, where the Democrat, like generations of his family, made his living.

Jackson once said LePage should be impeached, and in his first term, sponsored legislation to deprive him of his state pension as governor. In 2013, LePage infamously blew up with a stunningly crude jab at Jackson, who he said "claims to be for the people but he's the first one to give it to the people without

MAINE, Page A17

The doctor will see you ... NEXT YEAR

Boston, a medical mecca, is a city full of doctors. Why can't you find one to see you?

This story was reported by Marin Wolf, Jonathan Saltzman, and Scooty Nickerson. It was written by Wolf.

Part one of a three-part series

I was three days into calling doctors' offices, trying to get a primary care appointment. Over and over, I sat on hold, only to hear I'd have to wait weeks or months. It was mind numbing.

Then I reached a voicemail greeting that sounded about as despondent as I felt.

"We've received an extremely high volume of messages due to multiple providers in our area retiring or leaving their practice very recently," the woman's voice said with a hint of exasperation, "so please understand it may take longer than normal to receive a return call back."

The practice called 14 days later. **The first available new patient appointment was in 45 days.** If that didn't work, the next slot was in 224 days.

Boston is supposed to be the medical capital of America. It's the birthplace of anesthesia and home to the first successful organ transplant. Per person, we have the most federal health research funding and the largest number of doctors, and there's no shortage of famous hospitals that attract patients from around the world. Massachusetts will soon boast four proton therapy beam systems, each typically worth $50 million or more, to pinpoint radiation at patients' cancerous tumors — more devices than in New York, California, or Texas.

Yet for all its medical prowess, many in the Boston area don't have a primary care clinician, hurting their ability to get treatments, preventive screenings, and timely medical advice. Even those with a doctor can struggle to be seen.

A few years ago, I moved to Boston from Dallas, where I was a health care reporter, to get a master's of public health from the Harvard Chan School. With my knowledge of health care, I thought I could work the system. My Brookline apartment is also within spitting distance of the Longwood medical district, a mecca of gleaming hospital towers, with more doctors in less than one square mile than there are in the entire state of Vermont.

So I conducted an experiment of sorts, calling 150 local doctors' offices to try to schedule a new-patient primary care appointment.

The results were bleak.

DOCTOR, Page A14



The Armstrong Shack in Truro was built in 1926 and has been maintained by the Armstrong family since 1948.

NPS

Sands of time may run out on shack steward

By Lindsay Crudele
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

The future of one of Cape Cod's most remote and storied dune shacks is once again up in the air.

Earlier this month, the National Park Service issued a request for proposals for the public leasing of what is known as the Armstrong Shack, a two-floor seasonal structure built in 1926 and maintained by the same family since 1948. Of the 19 shacks that make up the historic colony on the remote edge of the Cape Cod National Seashore, the Armstrong Shack is the most far-flung.

Eight of the shacks, located in the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District, were previously offered for public bidding through an RFP process held in 2023, which garnered more than 400 applications, accord-

DUNE SHACK, Page A12

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