

# Boston Sunday Globe

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JULY 27, 2025

## One risky decision and a career now under threat

### Harvard scientist from Russia faces deportation

By Chris Serres  
GLOBE STAFF

On the windowsill of a science laboratory high above the clamor of the Harvard Medical School campus, tidy rows of sunflower, avocado, and lemon plants bask in the afternoon sun.

#### INSIDE THE WAR ON HARVARD

Every day, scientists in this brightly lit lab take short breaks from their biological experiments to tend to the garden, hoping that one day the sight of thriving plants will bring comfort to their absent colleague, a young, Russian-born scientist who planted them from seedlings.

The plants belong to Kseniia Petrova, 31, a rising star in the burgeoning field of aging research who has been fighting a high-profile legal battle to return to a renowned laboratory where she and a team of scientists are exploring some of the most abiding mysteries of life: How precisely do organisms age? And is it possible to slow or even reverse the process?

SCIENTIST, Page A13



STAN GROSSFELD/GLOBE STAFF

Canadians no longer frolic on Old Orchard Beach in Maine this season.

## For tourists, a (border) line they won't cross

By Christopher Muther  
GLOBE STAFF

As Steve Wright was waiting to testify before Congress last month, he received a text that underscored the point he had traveled to Washington to make.

The missive came from a group of 140 Canadian golfers who decided to forgo their summer getaway at Jay Peak, where Wright is president and general manager, and boycott the United States. The text was just another in a steady stream of canceled reservations that began last winter at the resort, which is 4 miles south of the Canadian border.

"We are forecasting a potentially catastrophic amount of trouble relating to Canadians' unwillingness to visit this summer, next winter, and for some indeterminate future," Wright testified, adding that visits to the ver-

TOURISTS, Page A12

"IT'S STILL THE SOMBER SCENT THAT LINGERS. TEN PEOPLE, NOT TWO, NOT THREE, BUT 10. THOSE PEOPLE HAD EVERY INTENTION OF WAKING UP THE NEXT DAY, AND IT DIDN'T HAPPEN."

# A NIGHTMARE OF FIRE AND SMOKE



9:38 p.m.

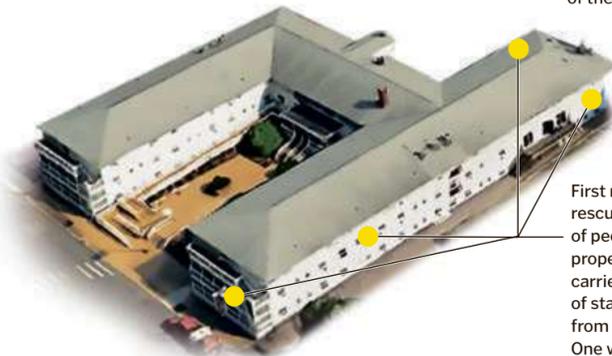
A box alarm sounded. The fire began inside a second-floor room in the east wing. While its cause has not been released, an oxygen concentrator and smoking materials were found inside that room.



Shortly after 10 p.m.

The fire was extinguished, but heavy smoke had traveled as far as the west wing of the building.

First responders arrived about six minutes later as flames reached the front door of the building and people called for help.



First responders rescued dozens of people across the property. Some were carried down flights of stairs or plucked from windows. One was rescued from a third-floor window with the help of a neighbor.

SOURCE: Image by Airbus, Maxar Technologies via Google Earth. Boston Globe research. JOHN HANCOCK AND ASHLEY BORG /GLOBE STAFF

By Danny McDonald, Omar Mohammed, and Claire Thornton  
GLOBE STAFF  
and Jessica Ma and Ava Berger  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

FALL RIVER — It was the kind of pleasant summer night along the South Coast that can make people momentarily forget the vagaries of New England weather.

Temperatures on this Sunday night, July 13, were in the low 70s with a slight breeze to the southwest. Clouds obscured a thumbnail moon. But the tranquility of that summer night would be upended a little after 9:30 when a fire broke out at Gabriel House, an assisted living facility with 69 residents, that quickly sent flames, heat, and a dense, dark smoke through the building.

The first fire alarm, from a control panel inside the home, came in at 9:38 p.m. While it wasn't unusual for alarms to go off, as many residents smoked, this was different.

Some residents were already in bed and panic quickly set in as some felt trapped in their rooms. Many were elderly, and some were in wheelchairs or had limited mobility or other health complications.

Terrified residents made multiple 911 calls, fearful they were going to die surrounded by flames and smoke.

The first firefighters were dispatched at 9:39 p.m. and arrived in five minutes. Fire was visible, and

FIRE, Page A14

Former employees accused the committee behind the unsuccessful ballot question to legalize psychedelics of violating campaign finance law. **B1.**

On Carousel 6, your bags, with a little reggae: Live musicians have been greeting harried Logan travelers at some terminals. **N1.**

Tehran is days away from running out of water as temperatures peak around 120 degrees. **A2.**

For Sox legend Dwight Evans, this fall's vote could represent his last Hall of Fame shot. **C1.**

Drivers and cyclists battle over the streets in Toronto. **A4.**

Kicking the week off with a bang



Sunday: Thunderstorms likely. High 72-77, low 67-72.

Monday: Sun returns, muggy. High 81-86, low 69-74.

Weather, **A22**; obituaries, **A21.**

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