



Playing with fire

WHEN WORKPLACE ROMANCE IS OK AND WHEN IT'S TROUBLE



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The Boston Globe

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009

SWEEPIN' CLOUDS AWAY

TODAY: Warm, clouding up.
High 60-65. Low 43-48.
TOMORROW: Mostly cloudy, colder.
High 46-51. Low 35-40.
HIGH TIDE: 4:59 a.m. 5:17 p.m.
SUNRISE: 6:29 a.m. SUNSET: 4:27 p.m.
FULL REPORT: PAGE B15

In the news

President Obama is nearing a decision to add tens of thousands of troops in Afghanistan with a mission of strengthening the defense of 10 areas, administration officials said. **A6.**

The alleged Fort Hood gunman had sent messages to a radical imam, but counterterrorism specialists who spotted the communications did not consider them a threat. **A2.**

Mayor Thomas M. Menino underwent emergency knee surgery after a fall, forcing him to call off his postelection vacation and perhaps putting him on crutches for weeks. **B1.**

Iran brought espionage charges against three Americans who strayed across the border from Iraq in July in what their families said was an accident during a hiking trip. **A4.**

State-backed MassDevelopment loan to Evergreen Solar of Marlborough despite the company's plans to shift assembly work to China. **B7.**

Soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan said gays would not hurt combat units, according to a survey that could aid foes of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. **A10.**

The Supreme Court refused to block the execution tonight of sniper John Allen Muhammad, who led a 2002 Washington-area spree that killed 10. **A9.**

Miley Cyrus was by turns tween pop star and edgy rocker in a sold-out show at the TD Garden. **Review, B16.**

Dr. Astrid Desrosiers returned home to Belmont two weeks after being stabbed repeatedly by a patient at a clinic. **B3.**



Have a news tip? E-mail newstip@globe.com or call 617-929-TIPS (8477). Other contact information, **B2.**

POINT OF VIEW: STEVEN SYRE

"Unemployment is a more serious problem this time. The official jobless rate is very high and other measures that take into account discouraged people who have given up looking for work is especially bad. Consumers are a bigger part of the economy than ever and jobs aren't their only problem."
Boston Capital, B7.

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Reliving the toppling of the wall



WOLFGANG RATTAY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



TIMUR EMEK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Fireworks exploded over the Brandenburg Gate yesterday as thousands celebrated the 20th anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Large foam plastic dominoes (left) were sent toppling to symbolize the breaching of the barrier and the fall of communist countries in Eastern Europe. Central figures of the era, including former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev and Poland's pro-democracy leader Lech Walesa, joined current leaders in the ceremonies. **A3.**

Lynch's wife tied to agencies he won grants for

By Marino Eccher
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

US Representative Stephen F. Lynch has engineered four federal grants for a community health center and an additional three grants for a nearby substance abuse program, organizations for which his wife, Margaret, is an employee or board member.

Lynch arranged the passage of \$760,430 in federal earmarks for the

South Boston Community Health Center. Margaret Lynch is the center's director of marketing and development. Earmarks totaling \$881,018 were appropriated for the Gavin Foundation, a residential substance abuse program. Lynch's wife was named to the foundation's unpaid board just after it received its first earmark in 2003.

The earmarks for the two organizations totaled \$1.64 million. For both or-

ganizations, the funding was for substance abuse services. Lynch could cite no instance in which he has obtained earmarked funds for any other substance abuse treatment facility in his district, which includes much of the southern part of Boston and 19 other cities and towns.

For the coming fiscal year, Lynch is seeking \$190,000 more for the health **EARMARKS, Page A12**

Hub lab writing the book on face-reading

By Patricia Wen
GLOBE STAFF

Party the Boston car salesman who negotiated across the table from Charles A. Nelson III, a Harvard neuroscience professor who runs the nation's top laboratory studying how people learn to decode facial expressions.

As the two men faced off in the showroom last month, the salesman insisted to Nelson that he had just offered the absolute lowest price for the German car in question, declaring, "This is it."

Then the salesman's eyes darted to a vacant corner, his nose and mouth taking on a configuration that shouted "Bluff." The professor ultimately left the dealership smiling, holding a contract to buy the car at a far lower price, a bargain in his estimation.

Such is one ancillary benefit of Nelson's exhaustive research, which unfolds every day in his \$1.5 million cognitive neuroscience laboratory at Children's Hospital Boston, where he

FACES, Page A11



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

James Peters-Fransen was fitted with plastic-sponge sensors that pick up electrical brain activity at a Children's Hospital Boston neuroscience lab.

Coakley decries health care bill

Points to abortion curbs; 3 rivals call stance wrongheaded

By Matt Viser
GLOBE STAFF

WORCESTER — Opening up a major fissure in the US Senate race, Attorney General Martha Coakley said yesterday that she opposes the landmark health care bill approved by the House Saturday because it contains a provision restricting federal funding for abortion.

► Critics say the bills don't address runaway health care spending. **A10.**

Coakley, in her boldest gamble of the campaign, said that fighting for women's access to abortions was more important than passing the overall bill, despite its aim of providing coverage for 36 million people, establishing a public insurance option, and prohibiting insurers from discriminating against patients with preexisting conditions.

"To pretend that now the House has passed this bill is real progress — it's at the expense of women's access to reproductive rights," Coakley said in an interview, after making similar comments yesterday morning on Boston radio station WTKF-FM.

She said later at a campaign appearance in Worcester, "I refuse to acknowledge that this is the best we can do."

Coakley's opposition to the bill put her squarely at odds with her three rivals for the Democratic nomination, including US Representative Michael E. Capuano, who voted in favor of the plan and blasted Coakley's stance yesterday, calling it "manna from heaven" for **COAKLEY, Page A12**

Treatment units for mentally ill inmates on hold

State cites budget crunch as talks to end suit fail

By Jonathan Saltzman
GLOBE STAFF

The Patrick administration has shelved plans to build special treatment units for hundreds of seriously mentally ill inmates, two years after advocates for prisoners alleged in a federal lawsuit that the state's practice of keeping such inmates in solitary confinement 23 hours a day was inhumane and causing suicides.

Citing the state budget crisis, lawyers for top state prison officials said negotiations to settle the civil rights suit by the Disability Law Center against the Department of Correction out of court have ended. The center has asked a federal judge in Boston to schedule a trial for January 2011, while the state wants it to start a year later.

The collapse of negotiations, made public in court filings Friday, marks a startling reversal from where things stood a year ago. Last November, Harold W. Clarke, the correction commissioner appointed by Governor Deval **INMATES, Page A13**

Same-sex couples make a statement through arts philanthropy

Hope approach sets an example

By Geoff Edgers
GLOBE STAFF

There's symbolism in philanthropy. When a couple donates money to an arts group, the biggest question — besides how

much, of course — is how to be listed in the program. Mr. and Mrs.? First names for each? Hers first, or his?

Last week at the Boston Harbor Hotel, a ballroom full of Opera Boston supporters cheered Daniel Ludden and John Fiske III and Stephen M. Weiner and Donald G. Cornuet

— gay couples who, in cochairing the upstart company's annual gala, were making a cultural as well as a financial statement.

It's no surprise that gays and lesbians are strong supporters of the arts. What has changed in recent years is that they are choosing to be recognized as couples. Quietly in some cases,

more publicly in others, these philanthropists are providing vital support and spurring the organizations to recruit other like-minded couples who in the past might not have developed a deep relationship with a museum, orchestra, or theater troupe.

Weiner said that he and Cornuet, who married last March

on their 20th anniversary together, began to donate as a couple after joining the Opera Boston board in 2004. Founded in 1980, the group has positioned itself as a bolder alternative to the more established Boston Lyric Opera.

"The issue for us has been, **COUPLES, Page A13**

Citing abortion curb, Coakley rips House health bill

► **COAKLEY**
Continued from Page A1

his campaign. "I find it interesting and amazing, and she would have stood alone among all the pro-choice members of Congress, all the members of the Massachusetts delegation," Capuano said in an interview. "She claims she wants to honor Ted Kennedy's legacy on health care. It's pretty clear that a major portion of this was his bill."

He went on: "If she's not going

to vote for any bill that's not perfect, she wouldn't vote for any bill in history. She would have voted against Medicare, the Civil Rights bill. . . . Realism is something you have to deal with in Washington."

A spokeswoman for Capuano, however, declined later to say whether he would definitely vote for the final bill if it includes the abortion provision.

Their dueling stances highlighted key aspects of their campaigns: While Coakley is count-

ing on the backing of women, especially those who support abortion rights, in the Dec. 8 primary, Capuano has cast himself as the only candidate in the race who understands how Capitol Hill works.

The other two Democrats in the race seized on Coakley's comments, as well.

"If the House Democrats listened to Martha Coakley instead of [House Speaker] Nancy Pelosi, health care would be dead right now," Alan Khazei, who released a health care plan yesterday in Springfield, said in an interview. "She's going to be the person that prevents universal health care for every person in this country. This is a big deal. This was the cause of Senator Kennedy's life."

Stephen G. Pagliuca said that "casting a no vote would be to side with [Senator] Joe Lieberman and the insurance companies that want to kill health care reform."

Coakley's opposition to the bill put her at odds with Pelosi and the House Democratic leadership, who said that including the abortion provision was a difficult but necessary trade-off to win the votes of more socially conservative members, thus ensuring the bill's narrow passage. US Representative Niki Tsongas, a Lowell Democrat who just endorsed Coakley, was among those who agreed to that compromise.

"I share Attorney General Martha Coakley's strong objection to the amendment included in the bill that severely restricts access to reproductive health services for women, an amendment that I voted against," Tsongas said in a statement. "At the same time, we have an historic opportunity to expand access to health care for nearly all of our citizens."



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Attorney General Martha Coakley spoke to reporters during a tour of a shelter for homeless veterans in Worcester yesterday.

Still, liberals in the House are now facing a backlash from abortion rights groups. And Coakley appears to have some company: Several dozen House Democrats vowed in a letter to vote against the final package if it includes the abortion provision. Capuano has not signed it; Tsongas has.

At issue is the so-called Stupak-Pitts Amendment, opposed by everyone in the Massachusetts delegation except Stephen Lynch and Richard Neal, which would prohibit abortion from being covered in any plan subsidized by the federal government. All delegation members voted in favor of the final bill.

The health care debate now moves to the Senate, where the abortion provision will surely be a major point of debate.

Some women's groups rose to defend Coakley's position yesterday.

"Either we have full health care for women or we don't," said Terry O'Neill, president of the National Organization for Women. "If women are going to be relegated to second-class status, let's say so. Mr. Capuano may

want women to be in second-class status; maybe he's happy with that. My guess is Mr. Capuano has never worried about missing a period."

But Coakley's opponents and political analysts said that if the debate continues into next year and Coakley wins the election, she could be the deciding 60th vote in the Senate. If Coakley stands firm — and she said yesterday that she would — that could mean Kennedy's successor could end up voting against a bill that might accomplish what he fought for nearly half a century.

Capuano argued that, while he, too, supports abortion rights, gaining universal health care was a more far-reaching goal.

"Am I supposed to turn to all the people who need health care and say, 'Forget it; the bill's not perfect?'" Capuano said.

Coakley countered that there are some things on which she will not compromise.

"Let's be clear on what's principled here," she said. "If it comes down to this in the Senate and it's the health care bill or violating women's rights, where does he stand? If Congressman Capuano

feels that he has to sell one set of constitutional rights for another, then he should say that."

The candidates also squabbled yesterday over how many debates should be held during the final four weeks of the campaign. Pagliuca and Khazei released a letter yesterday to media organizations offering to pick up the considerable production costs associated with staging a televised debate. There has been only one televised debate so far, and it was only broadcast in the Boston media market.

Much of the focus has been on Coakley, who, as the presumptive front-runner, has shown the least enthusiasm for more debates. Coakley said it was not "appropriate for one or more candidates to underwrite a particular debate."

She said there have been a series of candidate forums, but said it was the media's fault there have not been more debates.

"At a minimum, we need one other televised debate before the election," Coakley said. "If media can agree when and how to do it, that's great. We look forward [to] that, and we'll be involved in it. But frankly it's been the media arguing amongst themselves as to who's going to host it and what night."

A consortium of media outlets, made up of The Boston Globe, WBUR, NECN, and WGBH-TV, has issued formal invitations to the four candidates to take part in a debate in the NECN studios at 7 p.m. Dec. 2. The debate, according to the sponsors, will take place with any or all of the candidates.

Andrea Estes of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Matt Viser can be reached at mviser@globe.com.



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Lynch's wife tied to funded agencies

► **EARMARKS**
Continued from Page A1

center and an additional \$350,000 for the Gavin Foundation, according to Lynch's official US House website. This year, for the first time, members of Congress are required to disclose requests for earmarks, which are congressionally mandated expenditures that House and Senate members have long used to fund favored projects in their districts.

In an interview, Lynch said there has been no favoritism involved in the funding, and that his wife has received no financial benefit from the earmarks. He also provided the Globe with a copy of a letter he sought in 2007 from the House Committee on Standards and Official Conduct, five years after the health center's first earmark. The letter concluded that Margaret Lynch had no financial interest in the earmark. Meaghan Maher, a spokeswoman for Lynch, said he had received similar clearance verbally before 2007, the first year in which House members were required to disclose in writing potential financial interests in earmarks.

"I'm proud of the work that my wife does," Lynch said. "She does not benefit by the work I'm doing here in Congress." Lynch said the funding for both organizations has been used to treat and prevent substance abuse and provide mental health services for at-risk young people in South Boston. The programs, he said, "do great work in the community."

Margaret Lynch, in an e-mail Friday, wrote: "My work with the South Boston Community Health Center and my volunteer work with the Gavin Foundation/Cushing House recovery program is intentionally quite public. I believe passionately in the mission of both organizations and am proud of the volunteer work I do with the Gavin Foundation. We are mending families and saving young lives."

Lynch's focus on funding substance abuse programs via earmarks does not extend beyond the two South Boston organizations.

In the Ninth Congressional District, which includes about 10 percent of the state's population, Lynch has been the sole sponsor of just one other earmark for a community health center — a \$329,670 appropriation in 2008 for Harbor Health Services, which operates two health centers in Dorchester.

In 2007, along with Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John F.

Kerry, Lynch was cosponsor of a \$303,294 earmark for the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center. Eleven of the South Boston Community Health Center's 21 current officers and board members have contributed a total of \$18,750 to Lynch's congressional campaigns since his election in 2001, according to federal campaign reports published by the Center for Responsive Politics, which closely monitors the nexus between contributions and federal funding.



BY THE NUMBERS

Margaret Lynch is now paid between \$50,000 and \$55,000 a year for her work at the South Boston center.

Steve Ellis, vice president of programs at Taxpayers for Common Sense, a nonpartisan budget watchdog group in Washington, said any earmark directed to an organization with personal ties to a congressman can be troubling, even if fully disclosed.

"While both of these may be laudable organizations achieving important goals, it always concerns us when lawmakers are directing federal funding towards entities that their family is involved in," Ellis said.

Ellis said Taxpayers for Common Sense is not critical of the goals of the health center or the foundation. Instead, he said, the organization is concerned about an appropriations system with the potential to award funds based on personal ties, rather than merit. He said the current earmark system, which presidential candidate John McCain often derided in the 2008 campaign, is "a broken process."

Lynch's efforts on behalf of the two organizations date to his service in the Massachusetts Senate. He was elected to the House seat in a special election in 2001. William J. Halpin Jr., the health center's chief executive, said that when he came aboard as director in 1998, the center was "in financial crisis." Halpin, in an interview, said that Lynch arranged for state funding of \$771,000 "and got us bailed out."

The year before, the health center had a \$1.8 million deficit, according to Halpin, who said he

had "sleepless nights" about the finances, including whether he would have enough money to pay his staff.

That assistance came two years after Margaret Lynch went to work at the health center. Lynch said in her e-mail that she reduced her hours from 35 to 27.5 hours a week in 2004 because of child-care demands, with a proportionate reduction in her salary. On Friday, Maher, Lynch's spokeswoman, said Margaret Lynch is now paid between \$50,000 and \$55,000 a year.

As director of marketing and development, Margaret Lynch organizes the center's fund-raising events, handles its advertising operations, contributes to its website design, and responds to media requests, Halpin said. John McGahan, president and chief executive of the Gavin Foundation, called Stephen Lynch "the driving force" behind the expansion of the foundation's Cushing House — a residential addiction recovery center for young men and women.

The program has gone from 12 beds in 1999 to 30 beds today. The expansion also added a wing for young women to the previously men's-only program. McGahan said that it was Lynch's intercession, while a state senator in 1999, that generated the state funds that were used to start the Cushing House.

"What Congressman Lynch has done for Cushing House and Gavin Foundation has been done for the right reason, and every dollar has gone to help those youngsters," McGahan said. Margaret Lynch became a board member in April 2003, a month after the foundation sent her husband a letter thanking him for the first federal earmark he sponsored for Cushing House, according to McGahan.

He said Margaret Lynch was invited on the board by the late James Sweeney, the foundation's president at the time. Bringing her on, McGahan said, "seemed like a no-brainer," given the work she and her husband had done for the community.

This article was prepared for a course in investigative reporting at Northeastern University. Marino Eccher's work was overseen and this article was edited by Northeastern journalism professor Walter V. Robinson, former editor of the Globe Spotlight Team. Robinson can be reached at wrobinson@globe.com. Confidential messages can be left at 617-929-3334.

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