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Don't kill that lawn!

Updated May 24, 2020, 7:15 a.m.



A lawn "beauty strip" at Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Del. featured in the Douglas Tallamy book "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard." DOUGLAS TALLAMY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

In ["Why killing your lawn should be a grass-roots effort"](#) (Address, May 17) Jon Gorey's beef is not really with the American lawn. Even he recommends groundcover that "looks like a typical lawn." It's not a lawn he wants to get rid of, it's a monoculture landscape. You can have grass, but also plant shrubs, trees, and flowering plants, for a balanced landscape. That way it's purposeful for people, pets, and the environment. With turf grass, families get a safe and durable place for kids and pets to play, and communities reap its benefits of producing oxygen, sequestering carbon, and absorbing water runoff efficiently. At a time when families are sheltering at home and converting their summer vacations to backyard staycations, the last thing we should do is demonize turfgrass, specifically when people need to be outside, in their yards and de-stressing from weeks of being indoors. Working in your yard, making it purposeful, and viewing it as an extension of your living space, and not just an aesthetic, is what will help people weather these tumultuous times.

Kris Kiser

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The virus's tale

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TRACKING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN MASSACHUSETTS

0:59

Tracking the coronavirus pandemic in Massachusetts. (Produced by Caitlin Healy/Globe Staff, Anush Elbakyan/Globe Staff, Shelby Lum/Globe Staff)

NOW PLAYING

The virus's tale



Baker praises Blue Line work



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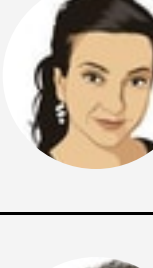
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"Your Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Application has been processed." But you never applied

VIEWS FROM OUR COLUMNISTS

YVONNE ABRAHAM

Remember nurses? They're still on the front lines. And they still need protection



KEVIN CULLEN

Finding Patrick



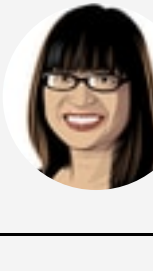
THOMAS FARRAGHER

He's giving back. One 'Resilience' T-shirt at a time



SHIRLEY LEUNG

In this coronavirus spring, a stroll down Newbury Street felt neither leisurely nor luxurious



JENÉE OSTERHELDT

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ADRIAN WALKER

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Dear Scientist, is a vaccine on the way to defend future infants against the illness that sent my baby to the ER?

A mother sat down with a scientist to share the story of her daughter's first ten days and learn what's in progress to fight a far-too-common illness.



When day-care centers reopen, here's what they might look like

Emergency day-care programs, which have kept children healthy and engaged amid the coronavirus pandemic, could emerge as models when day-care centers are eventually allowed to reopen statewide.



For the first time, state divulges death toll by nursing home, and more than 80 have 20 or more COVID-19 deaths

The disclosures from the state had multiple gaps, suggesting the number of deaths in senior care may be significantly higher than state health officials are reporting.



George Floyd had started a new life in Minnesota before he was killed by police

George Floyd moved to Minneapolis from his native Houston several years ago in hopes of finding work and starting a new life, said Christopher Harris, Floyd's lifelong friend. But he lost his job as a bouncer at a restaurant when Minnesota's governor issued a stay-at-home order.



TRAVEL

Are you ready to travel again? Here's what Globe readers said

A surprising number of people are ready to fly, and they're not letting the economy get in the way of summer plans.



A database of long-term-care facilities coronavirus deaths and cases

On Wednesday, the state released for the first time the number of deaths in each of the state's nursing homes and rest homes, as well as each facility's COVID-19 cases.



Even while celebrated as heroes, health care workers are exhausted and struggling with burnout

As the COVID-19 pandemic drags on, doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and other health care workers are struggling with exhaustion from long hours and a crushing emotional toll, even as they're being celebrated as heroes.



Coronavirus has made the supply-and-demand imbalance in Boston-area housing market even worse

If you're looking to sell a house, this spring has turned out to be a surprisingly good time to do so. If you're looking to buy one, well, good luck.



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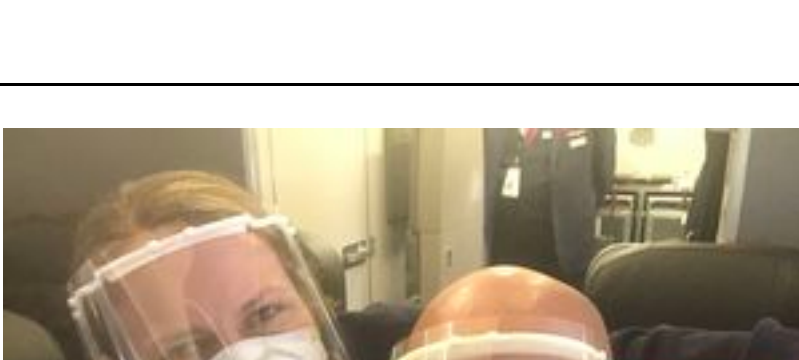
Escape to these hidden lakes of New England

This summer, some travelers will be avoiding the most popular freshwater destinations. Here are some gems off the beaten path.



Airline blocks Boston flight attendant's campaign to wear face shield onboard

A Boston-based flight attendant for American Airlines said she was barred from wearing a face shield because her managers told her it would make passengers uncomfortable.



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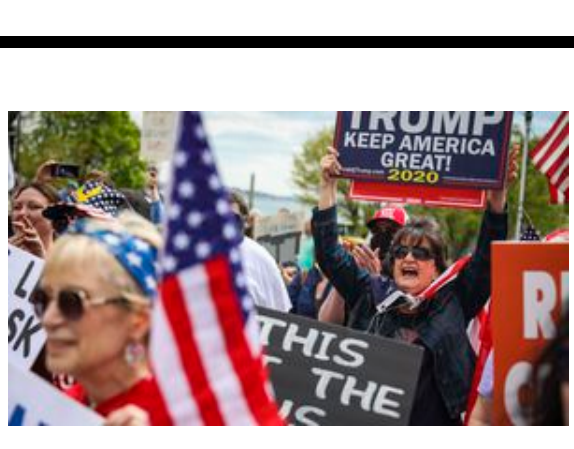
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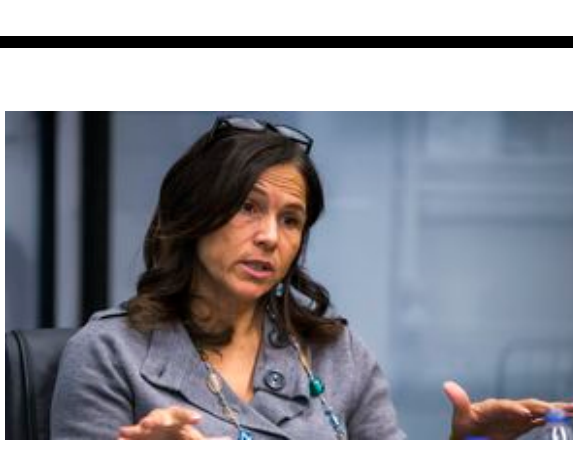
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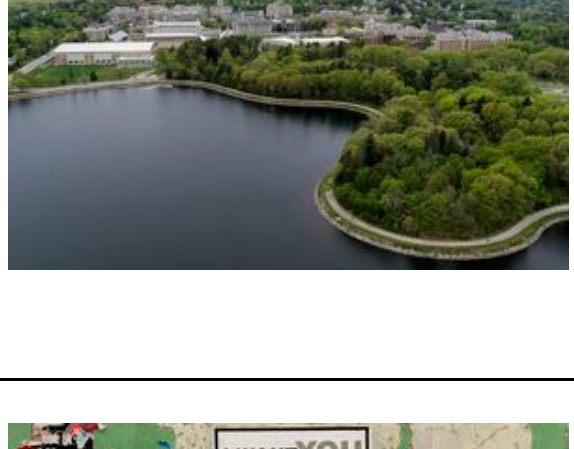
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Ignoring a global response to the coronavirus could be deadly



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Questions loom as colleges look to reopen in the fall



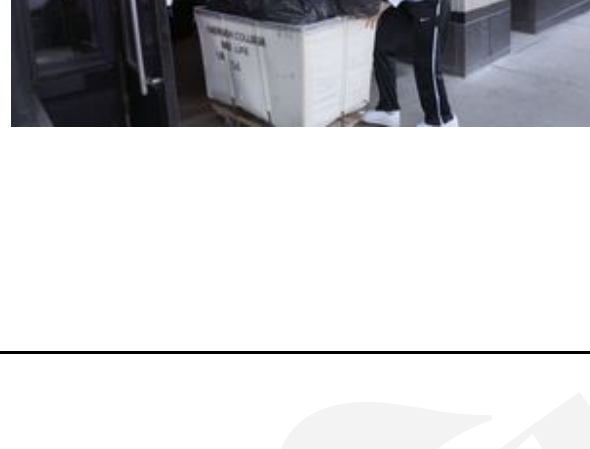
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Biden needs to follow Sanders' playbook with Latinos



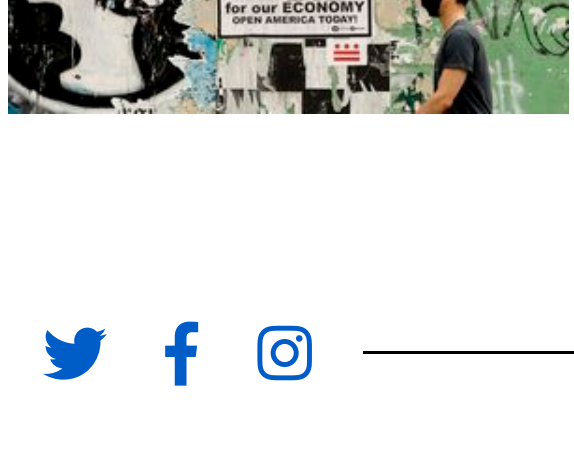
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The steps needed to safely reopen colleges and universities



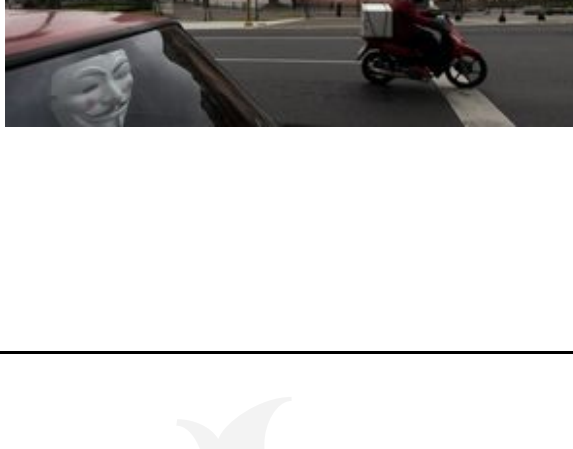
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