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T U E S D A Y , M A Y 2 0 , 2 0 2 5

Senate leaders slip \$10m into pet projects

With no debate or public disclosure, Democrats OK taxpayer surtax funds

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

The final change Massachusetts senators made to a “millionaires tax” spending bill appeared to be a technical one. Without debate, the chamber this month approved a so-called corrective amendment, an addition former lawmakers and staff say is generally used to correct drafting errors or make sure the bill’s bot-

tom line is accurate.

This one, however, did far more than make esoteric adjustments. In that single action, Senate Democrats swept in dozens of earmarks totaling nearly \$10 million, many of which would push money to the towns and cities represented by Senate President Karen Spilka, Senate budget chief Michael Rodrigues, and other Senate leaders.

None of that extra funding had been disclosed publicly in the days before the May 8 vote; the line items were not among the hundreds of amendments senators had days earlier proposed adding to the \$1.3 billion bill, which is designed to spend surplus money generated by a surtax on high earners. The earmarks two of the chamber’s top leaders scored for their districts also far exceeded what most other senators received for theirs.

Senate leaders described that type of budget maneuvering as com-

monplace in the chamber. But the funding — and how it was added — nonetheless surprised former lawmakers and others who track legislative spending, who argued that the move obscures how taxpayers funds are being spent.

“You got my blood boiling,” said Jay Kaufman, a former longtime state representative who chaired the Legislature’s revenue committee and is now part of a coalition that advocates for more transparency in the Legislature.

EARMARKS, Page A7

Trump can move to deport migrants

Supreme Court lifts protections Biden had given to Venezuelans

By Abbie VanSickle and Adam Liptak
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday let the Trump administration, for now, remove protections from nearly 350,000 Venezuelan immigrants who had been allowed to remain in the United States without risk of deportation under a program known as Temporary Protected Status.

The court’s brief order was unsigned and gave no reasons, which is typical when the justices rule on emergency applications. No vote count was listed, although Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson noted that she would have denied the administration’s request.

The justices announced they would allow the Trump administration to end the protections pending appeal of the case, potentially allowing the administration to move ahead with deportations. The justices also appeared to suggest that some of the Venezuelans who had been able to receive documentation of their legal status before the Trump administration terminated the program could sue to challenge their deportations.

In a separate case, the justices Friday criticized the Trump administration for seeking to provide only a day’s warning to a different group of Venezuelan immigrants in Texas it had been trying to deport under the expansive powers of the Alien Enemies Act, an 18th-century wartime law. The

IMMIGRANTS, Page A6

Wu, Kraft spar as mayor race heats up

In early days, 2 hopefuls are already on the attack

By Emma Platoff and Niki Griswold
GLOBE STAFF

Sure, it’s Boston politics.

But even by that bare-knuckle standard, this year’s mayoral race has gotten off to a fiery start.

Mayor Michelle Wu and Josh Kraft, the non-profit executive currently seen as the greatest threat to her reelection, have been sniping at each other since he entered the race three months ago, when he said she had “not risen to” the city’s challenges and she suggested that he doesn’t understand them.

That first day offered an apt preview to the lines of attack that have dominated the race so far. Wu argues Kraft — the third son of billionaire Patriots owner Robert Kraft — is a carpetbagger with no government experience trying to buy City Hall with daddy’s money. Kraft counters that Wu has plastered the city with ill-conceived bike lanes and ignored residents’ concerns about projects such as the White Stadium renovation.

Copy, paste, tweet.

MAYORAL RACE, Page A7

GRADUATES READY FOR THE FUTURE



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

At Boston College’s Alumni Stadium, 4,512 students graduated Monday during the university’s 149th commencement ceremonies. “Fly out of the gates of the college and save the world,” Louise Richardson, an Irish-born scholar and philanthropist, said in her commencement address. Other honorary degree recipients were Boston Archbishop Richard G. Henning and presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. **B1.**

‘Every day ends in a bar. They even buy shots to add to the watered down drinks.’

TRIAL FOLLOWER’S EMAIL, on testimony about heavy drinking

Read case gives Canton reputation a hangover

By Beth Teitell
GLOBE STAFF

The email came from Paris, from a relative who’s succumbed to the Karen Read case. She’d never previously heard of Canton, but now she’s up until 2 a.m., glued to courtroom footage, immersed in the events of a snowy night in a suburb across the Atlantic Ocean. After two years with the trial as her near-constant companion, she’s formed a definite opinion of the town.

“Every day ends in a bar,” she wrote. “They even buy shots to add to the watered down drinks.”

As new episodes of the retri-

al drop most weekdays — and

testimony about frat-boy-level boozing goes viral — Canton is getting a rep that might make even an actual party animal cringe.

But is the perception of Canton as a party town warranted? And fair or not, what happens when a town gets a global rep?

We’ll get to the statistics in a moment. The drunken-driving arrest numbers. The liquor license count. The alcohol-induced ER visits.

The numbers for the town as a whole tell one story: namely, that Vegas doesn’t have anything to worry about.

But the vibes being broadcast around the world from the

CANTON, Page A10

Tariff hikes may push school building costs even higher

Price of construction materials have been disrupting budgets

By Christopher Huffaker
GLOBE STAFF

FRANKLIN — School construction costs have risen sharply in recent years, with inflation and rising interest rates helping to push prices for major projects to eye-watering numbers, such as \$493 million for Revere High School and as much as \$700 million for Boston’s Madison Park.

But at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School and other projects around Massachusetts, another

increase is looming: tariffs. Particularly for steel and lumber, two critical components of school construction that often come from Canada, soaring import duties are disrupting carefully assembled budgets that combine local and state funds.

Leaders at the Franklin-based school are awaiting delivery from Canada of the steel frame of their new building and hoping to be spared an unexpected \$2 million surcharge on the already-expensive project. Thanks to the regional school’s multiple-town structure and the state’s rigid financing system, the only option to pay for that tariff and others is to cut costs elsewhere, said Brian Mushnick, the

SCHOOLS, Page A10

State officials will close all 32 hotels housing families in the emergency shelter system this summer, ahead of schedule, Governor Maura Healey said. **B1.**

The MBTA will pay a \$5 million settlement to the family of Robinson Lalin, the man who was dragged to his death three years ago when his arm got stuck in the doors of a Red Line train, court records say. **B1.**

A majority of the state’s voters back housing development, suggesting opponents are a loud minority, a new poll finds. **D1.**

President Trump backed off his demand that Russia declare a cease-fire with Ukraine after speaking with Vladimir Putin Monday. **A4.**



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

STATE OF THE CELTICS — Celtics president of basketball operations Brad Stevens tackled topics ranging from the health of Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown to what figures to be a busy offseason Monday at his end-of-season press conference at the Auerbach Center. **C1.**



Gloom show

Tuesday: Deep cloud cover. High 55-60, low 47-52.

Wednesday: Possible drizzle. High 51-56, low 45-50.

Sunrise: 5:18. Sunset: 8:04.

Obituaries, **C9.**

Comics and Weather, **D5-6.**

VOL. 307, NO. 140

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Suggested retail price \$4.00



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

The Karen Read trial is leaving many outside observers with the misleading impression that Canton is a big party town.