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CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Demonstrators gathered outside City Hall in Worcester on May 13 to protest the actions of ICE agents and police.

## ICE tactics draw growing resistance

Immigrant advocates joined by co-workers, neighbors in protesting arrests

By Anjali Huynh, Dan Glaun, and Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio

GLOBE STAFF

At a community meeting Monday in Chelsea, a group of immigrant advocates, police, and city officials gathered to address residents' pressing fears about recent immigration enforcement tactics. The broken car windows, the masked agents dragging individuals out of cars, people being whisked off the streets without warrants.

Rosalba Ventura, a mother and lifelong Chelsea resident, told those in the crowd she took video of one such incident that very morning, after dropping her kids off at school.

"Have you shown a warrant?" she asked the officers, multiple times, yelling expletives at them.

Ventura, 36, later told the Globe she felt angry to see the agents covering their faces, and she advised the driver in Spanish, "don't sign anything, and don't say anything," saying she could call someone on their behalf.

"It's scary, people should not live like this," she said.

Across the state, similar encounters of protest — and also resistance — are increasingly playing out. In Acton just over a week ago, as Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were arresting two women — one crying and screaming that her children were at home — roughly 30 people showed up to protest, some who had



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

heard about the action through a hot line that was recently set up to mobilize such groups.

That same weekend, an ICE action in Worcester turned frantic as residents showed up to protest and police were called. City officials released police body camera footage Friday showing residents trying to disrupt the ICE operation, pleading for agents to release a woman they had arrested in front of her daughters.

As ICE has been ramping up arrests in local commu-

ICE, Page A7

Rosalba Ventura asked a question of Chelsea police during a community meeting about ICE enforcement actions held at La Colaborativa.

'There's just not a lot of juice to squeeze here.'

ZHAO ZHANG, a deputy Medicaid director at MassHealth who oversees finance strategy, data analytics, and program integrity

## Officials don't see savings in search for Medicaid fraud

By Jason Laughlin

GLOBE STAFF

As factions of congressional Republicans haggle over the details of Medicaid's budget, part of a megabill slowly traversing the House, reducing fraud has remained a favored pathway to savings.

While health care experts in Massachusetts say Medicaid fraud does exist and should be curtailed, they

add that doing more to identify such waste is unlikely to achieve big savings.

►President Trump pushed his budget bill on Capitol Hill. A2.

"If you were to go with a reasonable definition of waste, fraud, and abuse, there's just not a lot of juice to squeeze here," said Zhao Zhang, a

deputy Medicaid director at MassHealth who oversees finance strategy, data analytics, and program integrity.

Locally, the cost of MassHealth, the state's Medicaid administrator, grew almost 50 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars from 2014 to 2023, according to the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, and accounts for about a third

of the state's total budget.

"The growth that we've seen, that line item year over year, that has to flatten," said state Representative Marc Lombardo, a Billerica Republican.

The proposal passed Sunday by the House Budget Committee would make it more difficult for people to apply for Medicaid, such as by re-

MASSHEALTH, Page A7

## Healey slammed for shelter contracts

Audit blasts use of no-bid deals; governor calls report 'fundamentally wrong'

By Samantha J. Gross and Matt Stout

GLOBE STAFF

Governor Maura Healey's administration did not "adequately" prepare for the escalating strain migrant and homeless families put on the state's emergency shelter system in 2023, prompting officials to deploy "unlawful" no-bid contracts to feed and transport children, women, and others, the state auditor's office charged Tuesday.

In a scathing 74-page report, Auditor Diana DiZogio said state officials excessively relied on multimillion-dollar no-bid deals with vendors, unnecessarily driving up costs when the demand for shelter "could have been addressed through alternative means."

Both Healey officials and shelter operators criticized the audit, noting the state was acting quickly to address a chaotic and fast-changing situation.

DiZogio's report focused in part on a \$10 million no-bid food contract with an East Boston caterer, Spinelli Ravioli Manufacturing. It concluded Healey officials didn't provide enough oversight of the contract and overpaid the caterer on nearly 10 percent of deliveries, totaling more than \$4,000 in overcharges, according to the audit.

The state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities "should have used the normal procurement process" at some point between January 2023, when Healey took office, and that August, when the administration issued emergency,

SHELTERS, Page A10

## FDA moves to limit COVID vaccinations

Only those 65 and over or at high risk would qualify

By Helen Branswell, Matthew Herper, and Lizzy Lawrence

STAT

The Food and Drug Administration Tuesday said it will limit access to COVID-19 vaccines going forward to people 65 and older and others at high risk of becoming seriously ill if they are infected, and will require manufacturers to conduct clinical trials to show whether the vaccines benefit healthy younger adults and children.

After weeks of signaling a shift in thinking, the new leaders of the FDA and its division that regulates vaccines published a commentary in the New England Journal of Medicine laying out their plan for future use of COVID vaccines.

Commissioner Marty Makary and Vinay Prasad, director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, argued the US approach to recommending COVID vaccination for everyone age 6 months and older is out of step with the rest of the world and may no longer be needed, given that many people have developed some protection from the SARS-CoV-2 virus through vaccinations,

COVID, Page A5



### Inside track

Wednesday: Cloudy, cool. High: 50-55. Low: 44-49.

Thursday: Windy, rainy. High: 48-53. Low: 44-49.

Sunrise: 5:17 Sunset: 8:05 Comics and Weather, G6-7.

Obituaries, C9.

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The United Kingdom suspended free trade talks with Israel and hit West Bank settlers with sanctions. A3.

The state education board voted to require the state's popular trade schools to distribute their scarce seats by lottery and approved new high school graduation requisites. B1.



George Wendt, who played the affable Norm on the hit 1980s TV comedy "Cheers," died. Later in his career he made a

successful transition to Broadway. C9.

Tom Brady was named as one of the investors backing a new Boston-based crypto startup called Catena Labs. B5.

## A high-tech lifeline for Macy's in Boston

JON CHESTO

COMMENTARY

Macy's is in the middle of shuttering one-third of its department stores as part of an ambitious consolidation that will leave it with 150 fewer locations by the end of next year.

Could the store at One Summer Street in Boston be on the next hit list?

Fortunately for Downtown Crossing, there is reason for hope that we'll end up on the winning end of this big shuffle. And if our downtown Macy's survives, we may have a 1990s real estate deal to thank.

That's when a developer of data centers bought the building and made the block more about computing power than clothing sales.

The upper floors of the building are now occupied by computer equipment, with Macy's on the lower three levels still serving as an important anchor for Boston's central business district. Losing what was once the flagship of the Jordan Marsh chain would be

MACY'S, Page A10



BRETT PHELPS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

The upper floors of the Downtown Crossing building that houses Macy's hold a vast data center.