



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Midwife Sabrina Pereira checked on Laurie Cormier in early March. Cormier has to pay out-of-pocket for her care from Pereira.

## Massachusetts midwives push for a licensing plan

Supporters say official recognition would improve options for more patients

By Diti Kohli  
GLOBE STAFF

WORCESTER — In a sunlit room, among baby books and potted plants, Sabrina Pereira conducted a typical prenatal exam. She checked the expectant mother's blood pressure and took a glucose test, then asked her to lay on the velvety blue couch to feel for the baby. The head, Pereira found, was tucked into the lower part of Laura Cormier's abdomen, her daughter's legs stretching toward her chest.

"Finding food OK right now?" Pereira asked.

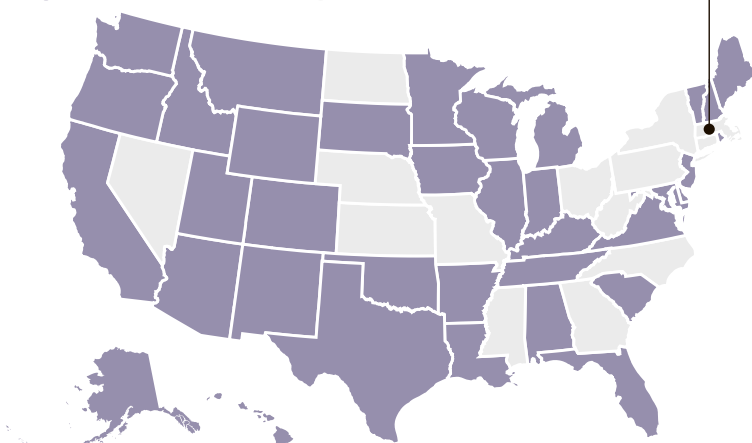
Nearly 30 weeks along, Cormier chuckled. "I eat every two hours," she said.

It was a mundane appointment for an uncomplicated pregnancy, the sort that happens every day in clinics from the Berkshires to Boston. But for Pereira — a midwife — to see this pregnancy through and

### Mass. is one of a few states with no licensure path for midwives

Legislators in 36 states and Washington, D.C., have crafted processes to license professional midwives, childbirth professionals equipped to guide parents through pregnancy and delivery.

Midwives can be licensed    Midwives cannot be licensed



SOURCE: The National Association of Certified Professional Midwives  
DANA GERBER/GLOBE STAFF

deliver the child at Cormier's Hubbardston home, is much more complicated.

While 38 states, including Rhode Island and New Hampshire, have crafted processes to formally license certified professional midwives, Massachusetts has not. That means Pereira cannot accept insurance, write prescriptions, or easily coordinate emergency plans with hospitals in advance of a client's at-home delivery. She is forbidden, too, from working as a professional midwife at birth centers, which offer an alternative to traditional hospital labor.

And Cormier, the mother, is forced to pay out-of-pocket for her pregnancy care with no official stamp of approval from the state that the woman delivering her baby is qualified to do so. (Midwives are still formally trained and credentialed by the

MIDWIVES, Page A10

**Brandeis said longtime women's basketball coach Carol Simon will retire**, days after all 11 returning players asked her to resign. **C1.**

**New quarterback Drake Maye said his Patriot learning curve begins** by absorbing lessons from veteran Jacoby Brissett. **C1.**

**The Biden administration said it was delaying a decision** on whether to ban menthol cigarettes. **A2.**



### Budding genius

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny. High: 57-62. Low: 43-48.  
**Sunday:** Cloudy. High: 62-67. Low: 54-59.  
Sunrise: 5:44 Sunset: 7:40  
Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**  
Obituaries, **C10.**

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## Defense pushes back on publisher

Pecker stays adamant as Trump lawyers seek to discredit description of deals

By Jesse McKinley  
and Jonah E. Bromwich  
NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK — Lawyers for Donald Trump on Friday grilled the former publisher of The National Enquirer, casting doubt on his explanation for why he suppressed salacious stories about the Republican presidential candidate before the 2016 election.

The witness, David Pecker, who has known Trump for decades, faced

a stern cross-examination from one of the former president's defense lawyers, Emil Bove, who pressed Pecker about two deals he had reached in 2015 and 2016 with people who were seeking to sell stories about Trump.

Bove sought to convince the jury of two fundamental points about the stories, which Pecker bought and then buried: Such arrangements, characterized by prosecutors as "catch and kill," were standard for the publisher, and that Pecker had previ-

ously misled jurors about the details of the transactions.

In one particularly tense moment, Bove pushed Pecker to explain a seeming discrepancy between his testimony this week and notes from a 2018 interview with the FBI. Pecker testified that Trump had thanked him after the election for helping to conceal one such story, but the interview notes did not record Trump's expression of gratitude.

Pecker, who ultimately acknowledged the inconsistency, resisted Bove's implication that there was a contradiction and said he had been

TRUMP, Page A7



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Tiffani DeVincent-Clarke and her 2-year-old daughter, Priia, will be moving into a Cambridge apartment.

## New housing program seeks landlords' help — and offers them an incentive

By Andrew Brinker  
GLOBE STAFF

Over the last two years, Tiffani DeVincent-Clarke has shuffled through three different homes within the state shelter system. First, she lived in Salem, then Mattapan, and for the past four months, an apartment owned by a homeless services nonprofit in Cambridge.

It has not been easy going. The shelter in Salem was too far from the doctors who help DeVincent-Clarke manage her Crohn's disease and care for her 2-year-old daughter, who was born prematurely and has spent her whole life in the shelter system. At times, DeVincent-Clarke, who works as a home health aide, felt like there was no way out of her sit-

## Protests continue across campuses

Wu says call to remove Emerson camp was hers

By Sean Cotter and Danny McDonald  
GLOBE STAFF

and Maliya Ellis  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Mayor Michelle Wu acknowledged Friday that she and Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox made the decision to have the pro-Palestinian tent encampment outside Emerson College dismantled

► **A former Boston School Committee student representative who is a leader of the Columbia protest apologized for certain remarks.** **B1.**

in a middle-of-the-night action that led to more than 100 arrests and prompted accusations of excessive force by police officers.

"The Commissioner and I jointly agreed that the growing encampment needed to be removed in order to address the public safety and fire hazards that it presented," Wu said in a statement Friday afternoon.

And in the face of criticism, including from other elected officials in Boston, that the police re-

WU, Page A6

## Sublime Messi is a sight to behold

By Matt Porter  
GLOBE STAFF

He walks the pitch far more often than he runs it these days, patrolling with choppy steps and waiting, waiting, waiting . . .

Until he sees what no one else can. Until he gets the ball at his feet and does what no one thought possible.

► **Excitement builds among Argentinian soccer fans for Messi's appearance.** **B1.**

Lionel Messi, two months before turning 37, still has more magic in him than any other Major League Soccer player, and that is no slight. No offense to the Revolution, but everyone in the stands Saturday at Gillette Stadium will forever remember this above all else:

They saw Messi.

Assuming he plays for Inter Miami — likely, but not guaranteed, given his age and bothersome hamstring — the specta-

MESSI, Page C5



MEGAN BRIGGS/GETTY IMAGES

Lionel Messi is expected to play when Inter Miami visits Gillette on Saturday.