

Senators’ possible deal on border angers left

Progressives concerned some concessions could have long-lasting effects

By Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of senators is on the verge of striking an agreement to overhaul policies for migrants at the border, one so conservative that many on the left are wondering: “What gives?”

The emerging deal marks a dramatic political shift on immigration, with many of the traditional voices for Democrats on the issue feeling shut out and angry, especially given their party’s control of the White House and Senate.

“It’s beyond frustrating,” said Senator Alex Padilla, a Democrat from California, adding that he has tried to stay in contact with negotiators. “My fear, based on what we’re hearing, is that there’s some harmful policies — policies that have been proven to fail.”

Details are still being worked out and any compromise faces a long road to passage. But Senate negotiators, in consultation with the White House, say they are broadly discussing new asylum and admission restrictions at the southern border in exchange for tens of billions of dollars of aid to war-torn US allies Ukraine and Israel. The package would likely also include more money for Massachusetts and other states that are struggling to shelter high numbers of migrants being bused north.

If the deal were to become law, it would be one

IMMIGRATION, Page A7

Healey’s budget boosts MBTA, cuts elsewhere

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

Governor Maura Healey on Wednesday unveiled a \$58 billion budget plan that would pour tens of millions of additional funding into the beleaguered MBTA and new money into child care as well, but is also littered with spending reductions elsewhere to rein in the bottom line.

The proposal fleshes out several pledges the first-term Democrat made last week in her State of the Commonwealth speech to boost spending on transportation and education even though state officials have adjusted revenue collections downward and acknowledged there may not be enough money to cover exploding costs in the emergency shelter system.

Healey would increase spending by about \$2 billion over the current fiscal year budget, or about 3.7 percent — below growth in past years, which Healey said is evidence of officials “tightening our belts” after a period of soaring revenues during the pandemic.

“We can’t spend more than we have. That’s kind of my basic operating principle,” Healey said at a State House news conference Wednesday. “We don’t want to face hard decisions down the line. We want to make the smart choices up front, the smart investments up front. None of these choices are easy.”

The budget proposal would cover the fiscal year beginning July 1, and would need legislative

BUDGET, Page B3

Trump facing a bigger N.H. challenge

Weakness in primary among independents could be an ominous sign for November

By Emma Platoff
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD, N.H. — Though Donald Trump won the Republican primary handily, his showing in New Hampshire Tuesday exposed a weakness that could dog his candidacy in the general election.

The former president lagged among independents, the largest bloc of voters in the state, underscoring how difficult it could be to win New Hampshire in November, a challenge that could extend to other battleground states.

Trump defeated his former United Nations ambassador Nikki Haley by double digits, solidifying his path to the Republican nomination and weakening her case for staying in the race. Now, even as Haley has made clear she will forge ahead, both Trump and President Biden are beginning to pivot toward a general-election contest.

A lot will change between now and November. But this week’s results, as well as exit polls, broader surveys, and interviews with more than 50 New Hampshire voters, show that this purple state — and its four electoral votes

The key question is ‘what happens to the Haley independents. What do they do in the general election?’

DANTE SCALA,
University of New Hampshire

— could be challenging for Trump to carry, as could other swing states.

Trump remains dominant among Republican voters in New Hampshire, but “his performance among independents is a warning sign,” said Jon McHenry, a national GOP pollster who grew up in the state.

“Based on what you saw last night, it seems like he would not be well positioned to win New Hampshire” in the general election, McHenry added.

One independent voter, David Westen, put a rather fine point on it: “I would vote for a chimpanzee before I would vote for Trump,” he said near his polling place in Nashua.

Westen, 73, said he voted for Haley

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Page A6



PHOTOS BY ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

On a Thursday, operations manager Susan Kreis was in at Baystate Financial. The company wants workers back five days.

Revisiting hybrid — if they dare

Some employers are pushing for more days in the office, but it’s a very tough sell

By Katie Johnston
GLOBE STAFF

Dave Porter was ready to bring his people back into the office on Fridays. They’d been working Monday through Thursday at the Seaport headquarters of Baystate Financial for nearly three years, but the workplace just didn’t seem as lively and collaborative as it did when everyone came in five days a week.

When Porter broached the topic at a meeting in November, however, “the body language got really bad,” he said. People slumped in their chairs. One employee did a Google search and announced “nobody is back” five days a week. A new hire proclaimed, “I wouldn’t have taken this job if I’d known I had to come in on Fridays.”

Abigale Shields, the firm’s director of financial planning, was bombarded with messages from staffers after the meeting and conveyed their dismay to Porter. “I think I used the word ‘riot,’” she said.

Nearly four years after the pandemic upended the long-standing Monday-through-Friday commute for many white-collar workers, most employers have settled into a

BACK TO OFFICE, Page A10



Abigale Shields, director of financial planning (shown with Andrew Cleary), said she would miss having breakfast with her son on Fridays.

High hopes for a new tool in cancer fight

AI may help identify more people who should be screened for pancreatic



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

“This translates into saving thousands of lives,” Dr. Limor Appelbaum said of the potential of computer models.

By Felice J. Freyer
GLOBE STAFF

Dr. Limor Appelbaum has seen too many patients whose first sign of a fatal illness came too late.

Often it’s yellowed eyes from jaundice, caused by a cancerous tumor on the pancreas that has grown so large it presses against the bile duct system. By this point, little can be done. “All we can really offer them is something that can prolong life by a few months,” and comfort care, said Appelbaum, a staff scientist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Only 11 percent of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer are alive five years later.

But there’s one group of patients with a better prognosis — the few pancreatic cancer patients who are screened for the illness because they have a known genetic risk. If their cancer is detected early enough, up to 80 percent survive five years.

They’re the only ones known to be at risk, and they make up only 10 percent of pancreatic cancer patients. Surely there are more high-risk people who could benefit from an early warning, and Appelbaum wanted to find them. She thought artificial

CANCER, Page A7

Voters in several communities killed a controversial plan to build a \$444.6 million facility for Whittier Tech, the regional school in Haverhill. **B1.**

Americans are starting to feel better about inflation and the economy, a trend that could boost President Biden’s political fortunes. **A2.**

Israeli forces pushed deeper into the southern Gaza Strip’s largest city, surrounding two hospitals where thousands of people were seeking safety. **A4.**

The best defense against deepfake technology is a healthy skepticism, writes tech columnist Hiawatha Bray. **D1.**

Jon Stewart is returning to “The Daily Show” as host on Monday nights through the election cycle. **C10.**



In the bog

Thursday: Drizzle, fog. High 48-53. Low 37-42.

Friday: A little less rain. High 42-47. Low 34-39.

High tide: 10:52 a.m., 11:31 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:05 Sunset: 4:48

Weather and Comics, D5-6. Obituaries, C9.

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