

‘The hospitals would be open, at least for a period of time.’

KATE WALSH, *health and human services secretary*

Steward nearing crucial deadline

State preparing for a possible bankruptcy filing

By Robert Weisman
GLOBE STAFF

TAUNTON — Massachusetts officials are bracing for a potential bankruptcy filing by Steward Health Care as the cash-strapped hospital system nears a deadline to repay a consortium of lenders.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh said Wednesday that she is going “to bankruptcy school” with outside experts to prepare for what could be a major turn in the long-running struggle of the for-profit chain — one that could lead to new ownership and leadership for its eight hospitals in Massachusetts.

In an interview after testifying to a state Senate field hearing in this working-class city where Steward owns the local hospital, Walsh said she believes a bankruptcy filing could allow its hospitals to continue running while it worked with creditors to turn them over to new opera-

STEWARD, Page A9

MIT reported receiving **\$2.8 million** in grants, gifts, and contracts from Israeli sources between 2020 and 2024

Protesters take aim at MIT’s ties with Israel

By Hilary Burns
GLOBE STAFF

Two years ago, the president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ended a research partnership in Russia after the country’s invasion of Ukraine, he said, provoked “terrible consequences” for civilians.

Now MIT students who are protesting Israel’s war in Gaza are demanding that MIT respond similarly by severing ties

►Students at Harvard, Brown latest to erect tents. B1.

with Israel itself and companies that are advancing its military efforts in Gaza as the death toll grows and the humanitarian crisis deepens. Protesters on other campuses are voicing similar demands.

MIT students have made some specific allegations, including that the school receives money from the Israeli Ministry of Defense for research, and have urged the university to be more transparent about its Israeli ties. A spokesperson for MIT, Kimberly Allen, declined to provide specifics, saying that the school’s faculty and researchers work with scientists and entities across the globe, including in Israel.

Publicly available documents provide some clues: MIT reported receiving \$2.8 million in grants, gifts, and contracts from Israeli entities between 2020 and 2024, according to data from the US Department of Edu-

MIT, Page A8

Trump pushing his luck on gag order

Despite leeway as ex-president, he risks angering judge

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — A gag order in a criminal case is a new experience for Donald Trump, but not the behavior it seeks to rein in. Bullying and intimidation have been part of his playbook for years. He even put it in print.

“When somebody hurts you, just go after them as viciously

and as violently as you can,” he wrote in his 2004 book, “Trump: How to Get Rich.” “Like it says in the Bible, an eye for an eye.”

Now, as the first former president to go on trial on criminal charges, that strategy presents high-stakes risks for him and complex challenges for the judge as Trump pushes the envelope with comments

that experts say would land other defendants behind bars.

Trump has lashed out so frequently against people involved in the New York hush money case that Judge Juan Merchan issued a narrow gag order to try to protect witnesses, attorneys, jurors, even court staff and Merchan’s own daughter from intimidation. Trump remains free to talk

about the judge and the case overall.

But that still hasn’t stopped Trump from aiming his comments at witnesses and others

►Supreme Court will hear arguments today on Trump’s claim of immunity. A6.

protected by the order. He now faces fines, limited to \$1,000 per violation, and possible jail time — although experts say

that is highly unlikely — as Merchan decides whether to hold him in contempt after prosecutors said he violated the order at least 10 times.

“He knows what he’s not allowed to do, and he does it anyway,” prosecutor Christopher Conroy told Merchan on Tuesday during a hearing on the violations, according to the hearing transcript. When one of Trump’s lawyers, Todd

TRUMP, Page A7

Salem hears the call for action on homeless encampment



PHOTOS BY JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Stephanie Mertsiotis (left) and her friend Shannon Donovan have been living at the encampment.

City considers clearing it out, while providing shelter, as situation worsens

By Billy Baker
GLOBE STAFF

SALEM — The encampment sprang up nearly a year ago on the manicured Harbor Walk, next to a playground, just across the South River from a brewery, in the heart of downtown.

It was just a few tents at first, but now up to two dozen people occupy a narrow stretch of city land adjacent to a Wendy’s parking lot. Seemingly every day has been worse than the last, for the city and the people in the camp: Piles of trash and needles are strewn about, rat holes are everywhere, and there is an overwhelming stench of urine and feces.

Facing complaints from residents and businesses, the City Council is developing an ordinance, based on the one used in Boston to dismantle the massive Mass. and Cass encampment last fall, that would ban camping in Salem — but only if the city has a place to put the occupants.

“It’s had an undeniable impact on the surrounding community, and it’s been a significant impact on city resources,” Mayor Dominick Pangallo said. “Police. Fire. Medical response. Public works for cleanup on the regular. But most importantly, it’s been bad for the people who live there.”

Cities in the region and around the country are grappling with homelessness that has been linked to the overlapping crises of addiction and lack of affordable housing.

In Boston, the city banned tent cities and cleared out Mass. and Cass in November, beginning a collaborative effort to connect people struggling with mental health and substance use



Michael Harris, shown with his dog, Bear, lives in a tent during the day and sleeps in a shelter at night.

problems with social services. Most of those living at the sprawling, crime-ridden encampment were moved to temporary housing, though many dispersed to other, less-visible camps and became more difficult for social workers to reach. Some homeless advocates say the effort failed to address the root problems and the region still has a severe shortage of supportive housing.

On Monday, the Supreme Court considered whether banning homeless people from sleeping outside in public spaces

HOMELESS, Page A9

State legislative leaders unveiled a long-debated spending package that would limit how long homeless and migrant families can stay in the shelter system. B1.

President Biden said weapons would be-

gin to flow to Ukraine “within hours” as he signed a \$95.3 billion package of aid to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. A4.

Thirty-one employees at WBUR, roughly 14 percent of the station’s staff, are leav-

ing through layoffs and buyouts. D1.

Helen Vendler, one of the most influential poetry critics in the country, died at 90. She taught at Harvard for over 30 years and wrote or edited some 30 books. B1.



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

AN UP AND DOWN NIGHT FOR BOSTON FANS

The Celtics were stunned at home in Game 2 against Miami, falling 111-101, and are now tied in their series, while the Bruins stopped the Maple Leafs in Toronto in Game 3, 4-2, to take a 2-1 lead. C1.

Let’s go rayzy

Thursday: Clear but cool. High 49-54. Low 36-41.

Friday: More of the same. High 52-57. Low 39-44.

Weather and Comics, D5-6. Obituaries, C11-12.

VOL. 305, NO. 116

Suggested retail price
\$3.50

