

Trump’s towering real estate tie

When AG raised possibility of seizing his property, he found a fund-raising message

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Of all the properties in former president Donald Trump’s real estate empire, one stands head and shoulders above the rest: Trump Tower.

The 58-story Manhattan skyscraper occupies a prime location on Fifth Avenue that Trump has said he planned to build on since he was a child. Opened

to great fanfare in 1983, it exemplifies both Trump’s flamboyance — the building’s name screams from giant brass letters while a five-story atrium features a 60-foot waterfall cascading down pink marble — and his often fact-averse braggadocio: He has long asserted Trump Tower is actually 68 stories tall by liberally counting the unconventional lower floors.

The glass tower played a pivotal

role in vaulting Trump to fame, first in business, then reality TV (it was the set for “The Apprentice”), and finally politics, when he announced his presidential candidacy in 2015 after riding down the atrium’s gleaming escalator.

So with the possibility that some of his properties could be seized by New York’s attorney general, Letitia James, to pay a \$454 million civil fraud penalty, Trump zeroed in on his most cherished one. In recent days, he’s used Trump Tower as a symbol of what he calls the unfair legal attacks and as a

TRUMP TOWER, Page A7

‘He views Trump Tower as the place where it all began, and it won’t be the place where it all comes to an end.’

ALICE STEWART,
Republican
political consultant

450 state bridges ‘at end of their useful life’

But officials, experts say that doesn’t automatically mean they are unsafe

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

More than 400 Massachusetts bridges, including the largest one in New England, are considered to be in such poor condition that they either need major work or need to be replaced outright, according to state and federal data, underscoring the challenges the state faces keeping up with its aging infrastructure.

In all, 450 of the more than 5,280 bridges tracked by the Federal Highway Administration — roughly 8.5 percent — are rated as poor, or, put more bluntly, are “at the end of their useful life,” according to state officials. State data show that 676 bridges in total are considered “structurally deficient,” meaning at least one major component has enough serious problems it needs to be repaired or replaced.

Either designation doesn’t inherently mean the spans are unsafe, transportation officials and experts say. But officials in Massachusetts and elsewhere are taking stock of their infrastructure and safety protocols after a cargo ship rammed into a pillar of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, causing it to collapse. Two construction workers are dead, and four others are presumed dead.

Massachusetts has its own unique challenge: Its bridge system is the oldest in the country, according to state highway officials. As of 2022, it

BRIDGES, Page A7

Israeli recycling company has Mass. in mind

Says its technology makes usable material from trash

By Erin Douglas
GLOBE STAFF

MARLBOROUGH — Strong school systems and a highly educated workforce can attract companies to Massachusetts, while a high cost of living and taxes can push them away.

But one Israeli startup’s ambitions to build a new recycling plant here have zeroed in on an unusual business opportunity: Trash. We have a lot of it.

UBQ Materials says it can transform regular household trash — from stale half-eaten muffins in plastic wrap to food-soiled Tupperware — into a new type of plastic-like material. The company plans to build an industrial-scale recycling facility in the United States within the next three years.

“Massachusetts is at the top” of the list, said Jack Tato Bigio, cofounder and co-chief executive of UBQ Materials, a new type of chemical recycling company that uses hard-to-recycle or difficult-to-compost items for its product.

Massachusetts disposed of about 6 million tons of waste in 2022, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection. Though the state produces less trash than larger, more popu-

RECYCLING, Page A10



People left the Brighton shelter run by Catholic Charities on Friday after mold was discovered in the building.

After mold complaints at shelter are confirmed, families are relocated

Residents say they have spoken to authorities about the issue for months



A young boy smiled from a bus window as he left the Brighton site for another shelter.

By Stephanie Ebbert and Deirdre Fernandes
GLOBE STAFF

Two dozen families staying in the Catholic Charities Inn in Brighton were relocated Friday to other state shelters after officials confirmed residents’ longstanding complaints about a mold infestation.

Parents, some carrying infants, others with suitcases and bags of clothing, were loaded onto two school buses bound for other emergency shelters in Greater Boston. Many of them were migrants and temporarily living in the emergency shelter as part of a massive statewide

aid effort spawned by an influx of people from other countries over the last 18 months.

A spokesman for the state office responsible for securing shelters said the health and well-being of the families was a top priority.

“As soon as we were made aware of mold at this site, we took steps to temporarily relocate the families and directed the operator of the facility to remediate the situation,” said Kevin Connor, of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

The motel is owned by JHM River LLC, a Lexington-based firm.

MOLD, Page A6



Bright club

Saturday: Breezy, sunny. High: 51-56. Low: 36-41.

Sunday: Sun and clouds. High: 49-54. Low: 38-43.

Sunrise: 6:29 Sunset: 7:08

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**

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A Brockton city councilor is calling for dismantling deals with the police unions that grant them premium rates for city detail assignments. **B1.**



Louis Gossett Jr. died at 87. He was the first Black man to win a supporting actor Oscar and won an Emmy for his role in the TV miniseries “Roots.” **C10.**

Does there have to be an ocean?
Or does close proximity count?
And what about fried clams?

By Billy Baker
GLOBE STAFF

The argument — or at least the latest version of it — began with a silly online poll: Vote for your favorite North Shore town.

There were 32 candidates, paired against one another in a faux March Madness bracket hosted by the popular Instagram page northshorememes, and the large field immediately kicked up a narrow debate, one that will spin for eternity on the North Shore. And that is: What is the North Shore?

Let’s start, as this row often does, with the contention that says to be on the North Shore, you need to *be* on the shore. It’s not that simple, but suppose it were. You’ll immediately arrive at sub-argument one, which is: Where does the North Shore start and end?

Is it simply everything north of Boston? Starting in Winthrop? Or is that still “Boston”? Or does it start in Revere, which calls itself the “gateway to the North Shore”? Or is that still “metro Boston”? all the

NORTH SHORE, Page A10

CAPTIONS BILLY BAKER, ILLUSTRATION ALLY RZESA/GLOBE STAFF